

POLK COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA BOARD MEETING
United Way of Central Iowa – Leadership Room
Des Moines, Iowa
August 11, 2011

Voting Members Present: Dave Arens, Mary Gesiriech (via telephone), Misty Hansen, Debbie Hubbell, Ka'Meka Lowery, Becky Miles-Polka, Dave Stout, Chaney Yeast

Voting Members Absent: Connie Boesen, Dave Discher, Mike Farrell, Terry Harrmann, Kittie Weston-Knauer,

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Judy McCoy Davis

Guests Present: Lynn Graves, Leslie Stonehocker, Cathy Wheatcraft

Staff Present: Kate Bennett, Linda Dahlman, Sarah Witt

Dave Arens welcomed everyone to the Polk County Empowerment Board meeting at 11:40a.m. Quorum was NOT met at this time.

Administrative Update:

The Legislature adjourned Sine Die on Thursday, June 30th. The Governor had 30 days to sign the bills and make any veto decisions.

HF 645 (Education appropriations):

\$825,000 for professional development

HF 649 (Health and Human Services appropriations):

- Child Care Assistance - \$53,237,662 (\$32,325,964 last year) - Of this amount, \$432,452 for CCR&R and \$936,974 for QRS.
- Child Care Assistance (federal) - \$16,382,687- of this amount, \$200,000 for educational opportunities for providers.
- *hawk-i* Outreach - \$128,950 (same as last year)
- HOPES - \$739,318 (\$738,203 last year)

Additional Policy Changes

HF 645:

- Expanded the age ARRA infant and toddler quality dollars - affecting ECI areas with contracts. The issue with the language is that the contracts expired on June 30th. See attached letter.
- It is the intent of the general assembly that priority for home visitation program funding be given to programs using evidence-based or promising models for home visitation. (This language is also in HF 649).

SF 533:

- Child Abuse Iowa Task Force: The Conference Committee recommends requiring Prevent Child Abuse Iowa to convene a task force to provide recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by January 16, 2012, for the prevention of sexual abuse of children.
- Establishes session law that prohibits school districts from using more than 5.0% of preschool formula funding for administration of the Program.

Other items discussed in the administrative update include:

- Governor Branstad vetoed the increase in the EITC. This was a priority issue for United Ways of Iowa. We anticipate the issue being part of the discussion surrounding a larger tax package during the 2012 session.
- Outlining a structure for adult mental health and disability services reform was one of the top issues that made its way through the Legislature. The current system contains inequities in quality and access across the state
- We continue to see increasing diversity among program participants. In the last fiscal year, we served over 700 families.
- Two case managers, formerly employed with Young Women's Resource Center, have been hired by VNS. Another case management position is currently posted and in the process of being filled.
- Kate shared some information about the Capital Crossroads initiative.

Misty Hansen arrived at 11:59 – Quorum was met at this time.

Year to Date Financial Statements and Audit Update:

The June 2011 financial statements present an accrual presentation of the financial transactions which have taken place through fiscal year 2011. It should be noted that these numbers are considered preliminary until the completion of the United Way of Central Iowa audit. Field work for the A-133 compliance portion was performed the second week of July.

Early Childhood

- Overall spending on the budget was 93.4%, resulting in a carry forward of \$75,953.59. This carry forward is acceptable under the guidelines of the funding.

School Ready

- Overall spending on the budget was 96.55% resulting a carry forward of \$151,133.18. This carry forward is acceptable under the guidelines of the funding.

ARRA

- On August 4, 2011, the unspent ARRA funds were returned to the Iowa Department of Human Services. This remittance amount included \$213.36 of interest earnings.

It was moved by Dave Stout and seconded by Becky Miles-Polka to approve the financials for the period ending June 30, 2010. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Approval of April 2011 Minutes:

It was moved by Mary Gesiriech and seconded by Chaney Yeast to approve the minutes of June 28, 2011. After some minor changes, THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Final Preschool Budget:

A final preschool budget was shared with board members. Due to an increase amount in preschool funds received, the proposed amount went from \$493,800 to \$791,500.

Becky Miles-Polka asked about the unspent funding amount for Southeast Polk. Kate Bennett informed the board that Southeast Polk and Bondurant were doing summer programs and funding will come out of the unspent carry-forward funds.

A motion to approve the newly proposed preschool budget was made by Debbie Hubbell and seconded by Ka'Meka Lowery. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Approval of Current Board Member List with Terms:

Dave Arens shared a current board membership list with the board. This list includes board terms in accordance with our new bylaws that went into effect 7/1/11. One, two, and three year terms are listed for members. Debbie Hubbell announced that she will be stepping down after the meeting. New members include Kari Lebeda Townsend, Claudia Hawkins, Natali Justiniano-Pahl, and Joyce Pingel. Donald Doudna will be a new non-voting ex officio board member. A motion to approve the four new voting members was made by Becky Miles-Polka and seconded by Debbie Hubbell. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

First Children's Finance - Polk County Growth Fund:

Dave Arens welcomed Lynn Graves, Leslie Stonehocker, and Cathy Wheatcraft to the meeting.

Lynn Graves shared what First Children's Finance is looking to achieve by the growth fund project. She explained that the purpose of the project is to increase the supply of quality child care in central Iowa by addressing business, quality, and sustainability barriers and issues of existing eligible child care centers. Key partnerships for this program include Child Care Resource and Referral, Early Childhood Iowa, United Way, businesses, private and community foundations, Head Start, universities, chambers of commerce, and others. This funding will cover two classes of five centers and will start in January 2012.

Leslie Stonehocker spent 20 years in the child care field and felt that the business component to running a child care center was a weakness for her, so she decided to join the project. She gained knowledge in four areas including board development, fundraising, and marketing. She explained that the business improvement plan was most helpful and helped her understand the term "cash on hand." Her center went from having 13 days of cash on hand to 72 days, which is quite remarkable in the child care center business.

Chaney Yeast asked about evaluation and measurement. Cathy Wheatcraft answered that the state directors of the program are responsible for evaluating and measuring applicants to make sure they are able to sustain once they are finished with the project.

Chaney asked that we add an extra point to the application for the centers United Way WLC and ECI centers fund should they apply.

A motion to approve the funding for the Des Moines Area Growth Fund with an extra point going toward United Way WLC and ECI funded centers was motioned by Debbie Hubbell and seconded by Ka'Meka Lowery. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

New Business:

- Kate Bennett shared that we will be sending a meeting doodle to help schedule the September Board meeting in early September.
- Dave announced that it is time to go through the annual review process for Kate's director position. He is hoping to have an electronic form this year.
- Dave will share a compliance document that outlines the areas Polk County is compliant with.

Old Business:

None reported

Public Comment:

None reported

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 1:21pm.

DA:sw (8/12/11)