



POLK COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA BOARD MEETING
United Way of Central Iowa – Leadership Room
Des Moines, Iowa
September 28, 2016

Voting Members Present: Matt Knoll, Sam Carrell, Cindy Elsbernd, Bryan Huggins, Josh Mandelbaum, Judy McCoy Davis, Joyce Pingel, Tom Slater, JoEllen Spriggs-Dixon, Mee Yang-Lee; Nick Dial arrived at 11:45 a.m., Natali Justiniano Pahl arrived at 11:58 a.m.

Voting Members Absent: Marvin DeJear, Jem Gong-Browne, Claudia Hawkins, Kimberly Peterson, Shane Schulte, Georgia Sheriff, Craig Sieverding

Ex-Officio Members Present: Brook Rosenberg; Dave Arens arrived at 12:19 p.m.

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Terry Harrmann

Staff Present: Barb Bremner, Jody Kanne

Guests Present: Amy Curtis, Child Care Consultant, Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children; Dara Madigan, WAGE\$ Coordinator, Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children; Leslie Stonehocker, Child Care Consultant Coordinator, Child Care Resource & Referral; Stacey Walter, Early Child Care Coordinator, Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children

Welcome and Introductions

Board Chair Matt Knoll welcomed board members and guests to the Polk County Early Childhood Iowa Board meeting at 11:40 a.m. Quorum was met at this time.

Approval September Minutes

The September 28, 2016 minutes were presented to the board. There were no comments or corrections.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Joyce Pingel and seconded by Sam Carrell. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Monthly Financial Statements

Barb Bremner presented the financial statements through the end of September. These statements are a cash presentation of financial transactions which took place through September of fiscal year 2017.

School Ready

- FY17 Polk County ECI School Ready funding is \$2,731,452.00.
- Carry Forward funds total \$84,345.64. These will be expended before FY17 funds.

- Year to date receipts as of end of September total \$682,863.00. (First quarter payment received.)
- Additional receipts of \$1,979.80 interest.
- At the end of September, School Ready funds of \$255,712.79 had been expended.
- Spending is approximately 9% of total School Ready funds. Last year at end of September 2015 9.6% of funds had been expended

Early Childhood

- FY17 Polk County ECI Early Childhood funding is \$1,202,320.00.
- Carry Forward funds total \$215,459.24. These have been budgeted into contract lines within the budget and will be expended before FY17 funds.
- Year to date receipts as of end of September total \$300,580.00 (First quarter payment received).
- Additional receipts of \$1,473.18 interest.
- At the end of September Early Childhood funds of \$116,071.19 had been expended.
- Spending is approximately 8% of total Early Childhood funds. Last year at end of September 2015 8% of funds had been expended

Nick Dial arrived at 11:45 a.m.

A motion to approve the September 2016 financials was made by Judy McCoy Davis and seconded by JoEllen Spriggs-Dixon. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Iowa AEYC WAGE\$ Request for Additional Funds

At the September 28th board meeting Barb Merrill, Iowa AEYC Executive Director addressed presented a request for additional funding of \$28,000 for WAGE\$. At that meeting Merrill answered members' questions and members discussed the request. Members were presented with Iowa AEYC's request for additional funding for the WAGE\$ program along with documentation of the programs funding history. The agency is requesting additional funding to cover payments to existing program participants and a portion of the individuals on the waiting list. Dara Madigan, WAGE\$ Coordinator, Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children, stated along with the funding the program receives from Polk County ECI they currently receive money from 11 funding sources including \$125,000 from United Way of Central Iowa, approximately \$25,000 from 4RKids and the Kellogg Grant, which has just been renewed for another 3 years. Statewide funding for the program is around \$500,000. Madigan shared Polk County ECI's funding is approximately one-fourth of total funding dollars for Polk County. UWCI's funding is first applied to the coalition centers, any additional dollars support centers in Polk, Dallas and Warren counties. The Kellogg Grant funding supports administrative and advocacy costs. The agency is working toward more public funding and has been in conversations with the Department of Human Services to secure more state funding. The program currently has approximately 50 active participants, 20 on the waiting list and another 12 that would be eligible for the program beginning in January. The agency estimates a current shortfall of \$20,000 to pay current participants.

Natalie Justiniano Pahl arrived at 11:50 a.m.

The Early Childhood grant currently has \$53,605.70 in non-contracted funds that could be used to support this funding request. Knoll asked members to consider budget constraints going forward if the request is granted, the past funding history of the program because it was increased substantially from FY15 to FY16 and members' comments during the past review process.. Knoll made the recommendation of maintaining current funding levels. Nick Dial agreed with Knoll's suggestion, making the two points that this program will always have a need for more funding and it is early in the fiscal year to commit a large amount of Polk County ECI's non-contracted funds.

McCoy Davis suggested the board revisit the request at the December meeting. Iowa AEYC can provide updated data at that meeting. Members supported this suggestion and asked Bremner to add the funding request to the agenda for the December meeting.

ECI Early Childhood Funding Formula Review

Josh Mandelbaum provided an update on the state committee which is reviewing the Early Childhood Funding Formula. The first meeting of the committee was Monday, October 24. The passage of ECI Legislation SF2299 last legislative session gave the ECI State Board the capacity to change the funding formula used to determine funding allocations for the Early Childhood grant. The review committee discussions focused on a range of factors from the number children at various poverty levels, percentage of children 0-5 on waiting lists and equal base funding for each county. The 2013 funding formula discussions will also be a part of the committee's review. The committee plans to allow local ECI boards to provide input and feedback when determining the formula. Currently Early Childhood grant amounts to local ECI areas can vary greatly from year-to-year because the current formula relies on an enrollment program, FIP (Family Investment Program) which takes a count at a point in time the previous year. Committee discussion included utilizing a 3-year average when determining the 0-5 population to provide more stability for smaller ECI local areas. The committee created 12 new funding formulas and kept the formula recommended in 2013 and asked the Legislative Services Agency to use these 13 formulas to model how areas would be affected by each formula

The committee's next meeting is November 15th to review the suggested funding scenarios and come to agreement on two recommendations. Their recommendations will then be presented to all ECI boards to provide input. The State Board will review the recommendations at their January meeting. Once approved by the ECI State Board the new funding formula for the Early Childhood grant would be implemented in fiscal year 2019. Mandelbaum will keep the board updated on the committee's progress.

Dave Arens reported state members have met with Director Palmer of the Iowa Department of Human Services, Director Wise of the Iowa Department of Education and Director Clabaugh of the Department of Public Health to look at the system of services in place, evaluate gaps in services for children and families with the goal of increasing the role of local areas to meet the needs of children and families.

Brook Rosenberg updated the board on the Level of Excellence review Committee's progress. The committee has had one conference call and discussed redundancy in the review process and how information is shared with the review teams and ECI boards. Jeff Anderson, State ECI TA Team Member, has asked for local board input into the LOE process to provide continued improvement

and team support. Rosenberg reported a productive initial conversation and hope that the process would support continuous improvement for local areas.

Committee Work: Preschool and Child Care Centers

Committee workgroup assignments were presented to members for Preschool funding review; Child Care center funding review; Governance; and Public Awareness and Advocacy. Bremner will create a folder on the Google drive for each committee and email the link to each committee member so workgroups can document their updates. Background documents for the child care centers and preschool programming will be added to those folders as well. Knoll requested members determine additional resources required for making their recommendations at their first meeting and forward those requests to Bremner as soon as possible. Committee's will be reporting their recommendations at the February meeting.

Bremner will assign Dial to two subcommittees.

Administrative Update

Bremner's Administrative Report will be shared electronically. Briefly discussed:

- Bremner attended the OpportUNITY Summit held Tuesday, October 25 at the Des Moines Botanical Gardens. The summit focused on the Child Care Cliff Effect and included both a state and national speaker. There was great interest and turnout for this session.
- Bremner reported she and a small group of advocates met with Director Palmer regarding the cliff effect. They discussed the data for families receiving Child Care Assistance Plus DHS is collecting as part of the changes for the Child Care Development Block Grant. The meeting discussed was to transition families so they don't experience a dramatic drop in assistance.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Rosenberg raised the issue of a lack of involvement of business leaders in early childhood investment and suggested creating a partnership with the business community to bring ECI and early childhood issues to the forefront. He mentioned there might be a way inspire public/private partnerships to increase resources available. Members suggested the Public Awareness, Events, Advocacy, Marketing Committee explore this suggestion.

Public Comment

None reported.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Sam Carrell and seconded by Nick Dial. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.