



POLK COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA BOARD MEETING
United Way of Central Iowa – Leadership Room
Des Moines, Iowa
December 21, 2016

Voting Members Present: Matt Knoll, Jem Gong-Browne, Sam Carrell, Nick Dial, Cindy Elsbernd Bryan Huggins, Natali Justiniano Pahl, Josh Mandelbaum, Shane Schulte; Joyce Pingel participated via teleconference; Georgia Sheriff arrived at 11:50 a.m.

Voting Members Absent: Marvin DeJear, Claudia Hawkins, Judy McCoy Davis, Kimberly Peterson, Craig Sieverding, Tom Slater, JoEllen Spriggs-Dixon, Mee Yang-Lee

Ex-Officio Members Present: Dave Arens, Terry Harrmann

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Brook Rosenberg

Staff Present: Barb Bremner, Jody Kanne

Guests Present: Barb Merrill, Executive Director, Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children; Lora Patton, Regional Director, Child Care Resource & Referral

Welcome and Introductions

Board Chair Matt Knoll welcomed board members to the Polk County Early Childhood Iowa Board meeting at 11:38 a.m. Quorum was met at this time.

Iowa AEYC EQUIP

Barb Merrill, Executive Director, Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children updated members on the new contract Early Childhood Quality Initiative Program (EQUIP). The initiative brings together the early child care consultant, child care coordinator, literacy specialist and mental health consultant who were previously housed in separate locations and employed by separate agencies. Team members joined IAEYC July 1, 2016 bringing all team members under one roof allowing them to work more closely with each other and the coalition centers. Merrill reported on the challenges the team has faced this fiscal year with the eight centers partnering with the Early Head Start grant. Thirteen center staff graduated this month from DMACC with required Early Head Start CDA certification. Due to staff changes at Capitol Park Early Learning Center, team members spent a significant amount of time at that center over the summer. A new executive director has now been hired for the center and some of the classroom staff who had left have returned. Intensive training has been ongoing with center directors. Merrill reported eight of the eighteen center directors have been at their current location less than a year. The June 30th closing of the Evelyn K. Davis Center for Early Learning also required a time commitment from the early child care coordinator. Iowa AEYC staff are currently working to redistribute the center's furnishings and supplies to remaining coalition centers.

Early Childhood Coordinator Stacey Walter leads the work of the team and directly reports to Merrill. One of Walter's goals will be to visit five centers with high percentage of child care assistance children that is not currently participating in the coalition to discuss their participation in consultation and services. Merrill stated IAEYC has worked hard with the team to maintain a consistent work environment and benefit packages. She feels team members are pleased with the transition process.

Georgia Sheriff arrived at 11:50 a.m.

Approval November Minutes

The November 16, 2016 minutes were presented to the board. There were no comments or corrections.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Bryan Huggins and seconded by Jem Gong-Browne. Cindy Elsbernd abstained because she was not present for the November meeting. THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED.

Monthly Financial Statements

Barb Bremner presented the financial statements through the end of November. These statements are a cash presentation of financial transactions which took place through November 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 November total \$1,365,726.00. (First quarter and second quarter payments received.)
- Additional receipts of \$4,355.90 interest.
- At the end of November, School Ready funds of \$524,923.42 had been expended.
- Spending is approximately 19% of total School Ready funds. Last year at end of November 2015 19% 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 November total \$601,160.00 (First quarter and second quarter payments received).
- Additional receipts of \$3,035.10 interest.
- At the end of November Early Childhood funds of \$294,731.81 had been expended.
- Spending is approximately 21% of total Early Childhood funds. Last year at end of November 2015 21% of funds had been expended

A motion to approve the October and November 2016 financials was made by Sam Carrell and seconded by Nick Dial. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Iowa AEYC WAGE\$ Request for Additional Funds

Members were presented with the additional funding request from Iowa AEYC for their WAGE\$ program. They are requesting an additional \$28,000 to cover payments to current program participants as well as a portion of the individuals on the waiting list. Approval of this request would bring the program's total funding for FY17 to \$125,000. Funding for this request would come the Early Childhood non-contracted funds line item of \$53,605.70. Knoll reiterated the board's previous remarks noting this is a program that will always be in need of additional funding, stating he feels the board should agree on a set funding level they would like to commit to the program.

Nick Dial questioned what would happen to the remaining non-contracted funds at the end of the fiscal year. Bremner stated any remaining funds at fiscal year-end would roll over to the next year's Carry Forward Funds. Members discussed the possibility of a funding cut by the State Legislature in January to make up for the reported \$96 million budget short-fall. A cut in Early Childhood funding could possibly result in Polk County ECI needing to dip into the non-contracted funds to cover existing contracts. Josh Mandelbaum recommended delaying a vote until after we have a clearer picture of how the legislature will be making cuts once they convene in January.

A motion to table a vote on the additional funding for Iowa AEYC WAGE\$ program until the board has more clarity on the legislative cuts was made Nick Dial and seconded by Sam Carrell. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Funding Formula Discussions

Josh Mandelbaum updated board members on the state committee review of the Early Childhood funding formula. The first option would create more stability by giving each county a 5% base allocation, consider an area's overall 0-5 population and 0-5 population at 185% of FPL. The second option comes from the 2013 recommendation with no base allocation, using the 0-5 population, 0-5 population at 185% FPL and the number of children eligible for child care assistance. Members raised concerns over the second option noting this is also an eligibility criteria which is more indicative of the family not as many providers accept children on assistance therefore there is not as big of a push to sign up children.

Mandelbaum explained with the current funding formula the per child rate ranges from \$125 to \$25. Under the two new recommendations Option 1's per child base would be \$79-\$61, Option 2 would be \$85-\$54. He noted Polk County would receive a cut in funding with either funding recommendations. Looking at FY17's allocation of \$1.2 million Polk County ECI would have received \$970 million with Option 1 and \$1.128 million with Option 2. Mandelbaum stated the committee has sent their recommendations to the TA Team who will then be sending the recommendations to all ECI Directors. Local boards will then review the recommendations and provide input on the proposals. The committee will then review the local boards input and provide a recommendation to the State Board. He urged members to contact him with any questions once they receive the recommendations from Bremner. The board will need to put much thought and

discussion into whether they advocate for Polk County or recommend an option which provides statewide and overall stability and equity.

Administrative Update

Bremner's Administrative update will be included with January update.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Cindy Elsbernd shared that Bremner has spent time leading the OpporTUNITY work focused on advocating for preschool access for low-income children. The OpporTUNITY work group is currently partnering with DMPS on a legislative ask to provide a full day of preschool for children at or below 200% of poverty and allow increased flexibility in how preschool funds are used. Elsbernd invited members to the Preschool Legislative Day at the Capitol Tuesday, January 17th from 7 a.m. – 9 a.m.

Bremner reported Tom Slater has submitted his resignation from the board effective December 31, 2016. Slater has recently retired and will be traveling more frequently. Kimberly Peterson also submitted her resignation from the board effective December 20, 2016. With her busy teaching schedule she is not able to meet the time commitment required to fulfill her board duties. With Peterson's resignation, our Education Representation will move to Elsbernd. Bremner noted this brings the board membership to 17, which is still in compliance with board policy which requires membership of 15 - 20. Please refer any potential board members to Bremner.

Dave Arens reported all area ECI's will receive the state committee's funding recommendations to provide feedback on the funding formulas. The state board has also been reaching out to area directors encouraging them to attend the state meetings. Attending state meetings gives area directors the opportunity to provide input and keep their boards up-to-date on current developments. Arens also reported that state board members are encouraged to attend their local ECI board meetings to understand the issues faced at the local level.

Mandelbaum reported he volunteered to present the funding formula recommendations and their rationale to the state board once the committee has selected its recommendations.

Public Comment

None reported.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Sam Carrell and seconded by Bryan Huggins. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. The meeting adjourned at 12:48 p.m.