



POLK COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA BOARD MEETING
United Way of Central Iowa – Room F
Des Moines, Iowa
April 26, 2017

Voting Members Present: Matt Knoll, Sam Carrell, Marvin DeJear, Cindy Elsbernd, Bryan Huggins, Josh Mandelbaum, Judy McCoy Davis, JoEllen Spriggs-Dixon; Georgia Sheriff participated via teleconference; Natalie Justiniano Pahl arrived at 11:46 a.m.

Voting Members Absent: Jem Gong-Browne, Nick Dial, Claudia Hawkins, Joyce Pingel, Shane Schulte, Craig Sieverding, Mee Yang-Lee

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Dave Arens, Terry Harrmann, Brook Rosenberg

Staff Present: Barb Bremner, Jody Kanne

Guests Present: Leanne Andre, Child Care Consultant Coordinator, Child Care Resource and Referral; Natalie Hahn, senior at Roosevelt High School.

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. Introductions around the room were made. Natalie Hahn, a senior from Roosevelt High School who is shadowing Cindy Elsbernd for a school government project, was welcomed to the meeting.

Approval March Minutes

The March 22, 2017 minutes were presented to the board. There were no comments or corrections.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Judy McCoy Davis and seconded by Sam Carrell. THE MINUTES APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Monthly Financial Statements

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

School Ready

- FY17 Polk County ECI School Ready funding was \$2,731,452.00. After de-appropriation funding for FY17 is \$2,629,099.
- Carry Forward funds total \$84,345.64. These will be expended before FY17 funds.

- Year to date receipts as of end of March total \$2,048,589. (First, second and third quarter payments received.) 4th payment will be \$580,510. Previous payments were \$682,863
- Additional receipts of \$8,792.09 interest.
- At the end of March, School Ready funds of \$1,524,107.54 had been expended.
- Spending is approximately 56% of total School Ready funds. Last year at end of March 2016 55% of funds had been expended.

Reductions of 1% have been implemented to all School Ready Contracts, and these are reflected on the financial reporting spreadsheet. Contract amendments have been issued and only two remain to be returned

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 March total \$901,740. (First, second and third quarter payments received).
- Additional receipts of \$5,309.11 interest.
- At the end of March Early Childhood funds of \$720,990.15 had been expended.
- Spending is approximately 51% of total Early Childhood funds. Last year at end of March 2016 52% of funds had been expended.

Natalie Justiniano Pahl arrived at 11:46 a.m.

A motion to approve the March 2017 financials was made by JoEllen Spriggs-Dixon and seconded by Marvin DeJear. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Appoint Governance Document Review Committee (Policy 2.15)

Knoll asked for three members to sit on the Governance Document Review Committee. This committee will review the current Polk County ECI Policy and Procedures Manual and Bylaws and report any potential changes to the board at the May meeting. Judy McCoy Davis, Sam Carrell, Bryan Huggins and Marvin DeJear volunteered to serve on the committee. Bremner reported the two governance documents were extensively revised prior to the submission of Levels of Excellence December 2014. Bremner has been advised by the state staff that every area should have a policy to guide credit card use. She will forward the necessary documents to committee members for their review.

Appoint committee to review Executive Director Compensation (Policy 3.6)

Knoll asked for three members to sit on the Executive Director Compensation review committee. This committee will review the Executive Director Evaluation results and make salary recommendations to the board at the May meeting. The board will vote on the compensation recommendation at the June meeting. Josh Mandelbaum, Matt Knoll and Cindy Elsbernd volunteered to serve on the committee. Matt will email the members to schedule a meeting time.

Governance Committee Update

The Governance Committee includes Knoll, Josh Mandelbaum, Shane Schulte, Natali Justiniano Pahl and JoEllen Spriggs-Dixon. The committee met Monday, April 3rd, to begin the process of recruiting new members for fiscal year 2018. Members are talking with potential candidates. For full membership of 20 at the June meeting one man and four women may be nominated. Bremner reported the committee has received two applications; Emily Westergaard, Executive Director of “I Have a Dream” Foundation and Dr. Marianka Pille, pediatrician with Blank Children’s Hospital and a faculty member of Des Moines University. McCoy Davis raised conflict of interest concerns due to the funding relationship with LaClinica. Bremner will consult with the state technical assistance staff on potential conflicts with nominating Dr. Pille. Bremner asked all members to continue to forward potential candidates so she or committee members can meet with them. Nominations for new members and the board chair and vice chair will be made at the June meeting.

Board Self-Evaluation (Policy 2.12) and evaluation of Executive Director

Annually the board completes a self-evaluation. Each member is asked to evaluate the board as a whole and their role as an individual member. Bremner and Knoll reviewed the form used last year and the evaluation used by the ECI State Board this year. Several questions were added to this year’s evaluation form. Members will receive a link to complete the evaluation online via SurveyMonkey. The results will be shared with members at the May meeting.

Members annually provide an evaluation of the Executive Director. The Executive Director Evaluation results will be part of the materials considered by the Executive Director Compensation Committee. The results will be shared with the full board at the May meeting when the committee presents its recommendations.

Community-wide indicators, trend data

Members were presented with the Polk County ECI Priorities rankings from the survey conducted in April. Georgia Sheriff requested a spreadsheet detailing the responses in order to better understand the rankings. Bremner will send the spreadsheet of data to all members.

Members were presented with updated Polk County Early Childhood Indicators. These are the indicators to board chose to focus on when updating the Community Plan. Bremner noted the decline in 2-year olds up-to-date on immunizations. This indicator has been on a downward trend since 2000. Mandelbaum suggested the board dive into this issue to understand the causes and implications of this data. Bremner will work to include this information for the board in August. The boost providers with QRS ratings of 3-5 reflect the change in the state reimbursement for Child Care Assistance to providers with a QRS 5. Leanne Andre shared the drop in number of registered in-home providers may be a result of the low reimbursement for subsidized childcare and increased regulations.

Program Data (School Ready funds and Early Childhood funds)

Members were presented with School Ready and Early Childhood committee program review timelines. Bremner noted both committees have met in the past months and have determined they would like to meet with programs again this year. Each member will meet with and review three to four programs. The program information and the review rubric are the same as utilized last year. Elsbernd asked to be moved to the other review group so that she is not a reviewer of the DMPS

Parent Engagement in Early Learning program. Program materials will be emailed to members. Bremner will email Doodle polls to the smaller groups to schedule times to meet with programs.

Marvin DeJear departed at 12:30 p.m.

Administrative Report

Bremner's administrative report was shared with members and will be included with the email of minutes. The ECI State Board voted to accept the "Option 7" for the revision of the early childhood funding formula. FY18 early childhood funds will be distributed as they have in past. A roll out of the new formula will take place over four years and begin in FY19.

Language in the education appropriations HF642 removes spending categories for the School Ready funds. ECI areas must continue to fund family support and preschool programming, however the change in language gives boards more discretion determining the distribution of funds.

April 25th Bremner discussed next fiscal year funding with Shanell Wagler. Wagler expects to share final numbers within the next week. Preliminary reports indicate estimated School Ready funding at \$2,647,000, approximately 1.3% above this year's de-appropriated funding. Early Childhood funding will be reduced \$500,000 statewide which is an approximately 7.5% reduction in funding. The new early childhood funding formula will be implemented in FY19, phased-in over four years and result in a decrease in funding for Polk County.

Barb Merrill, Executive Director of the Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children has announced her retirement effective June 30, 2017. Their board is currently conducting a search for her replacement.

As a direct result of her participation in the Zero to Three conference in New Orleans last December, Bremner has been invited to attend a Zero to Three advocacy event in Washington D.C. on May 1st and May 2nd. This is being called "Strolling thunder". A representatives from each state have been invited to DC to participate and to meet with members of Congress to discuss the importance of investing in early childhood. All of the expenses related to this trip are being paid by Zero to Three.

HF564 and HF565 passed. This legislation allows school districts more flexibility when spending statewide voluntary preschool funds. There is no additional funding but the flexibility will be helpful to districts in Polk County

Bremner and seven other ECI directors collaborated to host a lunch for legislators on April 4th at the Capitol. The event was attended by 11 senators and 15 representatives. The focus was to continue to make connections with legislators and build relationships with other ECI areas.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None

Public Comment

None reported.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Bryan Huggins and seconded by Josh Mandelbaum. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.