



POLK COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA BOARD MEETING
United Way of Central Iowa – Leadership Room
Des Moines, Iowa
February 22, 2017

Voting Members Present: Matt Knoll, Nick Dial, Bryan Huggins, Natali Justiniano Pahl, Josh Mandelbaum, Judy McCoy Davis, JoEllen Spriggs-Dixon; Sam Carrell and Craig Sieverding participated via teleconference; Cindy Elsbernd arrived at 11:40 a.m., Mee Yang-Lee arrived at 11:50 a.m.

Voting Members Absent: Jem Gong-Browne, Marvin DeJear, Claudia Hawkins Joyce Pingel, Shane Schulte, Georgia Sheriff

Ex-Officio Members Present: None

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; Amy Curtis, Early Childhood Education Consultant, Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children; Linda Roe, Deputy Director, Des Moines Public Library

Welcome and Introductions

Board Chair Matt Knoll welcomed board members to the Polk County Early Childhood Iowa Board meeting at 11:35 a.m. Quorum was met at this time.

Approval January Minutes

The January 25, 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 Nick Dial. THE MINUTES APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Cindy Elsbernd arrived at 11:40 a.m.

Monthly Financial Statements

Barb Bremner presented the financial statements through the end of January. These statements are a cash presentation of financial transactions which took place through January 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 January total \$1,365,726. (First and second quarter payments received.)
- Additional receipts of \$6,423.08 interest.
- At the end of January, School Ready funds of \$972,354.93 had been expended.
- Spending is approximately 35% of total School Ready funds. Last year at end of January 2016 34% 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 January total \$601,160. (First and second quarter payments received).
- Additional receipts of \$4,227.63 interest.
- At the end of January Early Childhood funds of \$530,381.23 had been expended.
- Spending is approximately 37% of total Early Childhood funds. Last year at end of January 2016 34% of funds had been expended.

A motion to approve the January 2017 financials was made by Nick Dial and seconded by Natali Justiniano Pahl. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ECI Early Childhood Funding Formula -- Recommendation for Survey Response

Discussion of the early childhood formula committee work has been an agenda item for the past three board meetings. All ECI areas have been asked to complete a survey regarding the three options by March 1st. After the January meeting members received the background documentation sent by the state technical assistance team. Members had opportunities to discuss the options and the benefits and problems with each. Bremner and Josh Mandelbaum worked together to formulate a draft response to the survey regarding the two new options and the current formula. The drafted response attempts to reflect the major points discussed and supported by members. The discussion has acknowledged that there are significant problems with the current formula which does not provide sufficient stability or equity across the state. Throughout discussion the board has supported Option 7 because it is the formula that most effectively directs resources to those most in need and improves equity across ECI areas. It was acknowledged in discussion that supporting Option 9 would result in a lesser reduction of funds than Option 7 for our local area. Members agreed that utilizing an enrollment program is poor policy for the state and negatively impacts the desired outcome of this formula review and improvement process. Discussion acknowledged that Option 7 has a much stronger emphasis on directing funds to the population most in need (those at 185% of FPL) and does a better job leveling the dollars per child as well. Members supported Option 7 as representing the greatest improvement in the formula used to distribute Early Childhood funds.

A motion to approve the recommendation of funding Option 7 and the survey response narrative was made by Sam Carrell and seconded by Judy McCoy Davis. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Bremner reported she would submit Polk County's response via the online survey by the March 1 due date. She will keep the board apprised of the survey results and subsequent ECI State Board discussion and action at the next state board meeting scheduled for April 7th.

Members thanked Mandelbaum for his time and thoughtful contributions to the ECI State Early Childhood Formula Committee.

Mee Yang-Lee arrived at 11:50 a.m.

FY17 Budget Cuts

Bremner reported she participated last Friday, February 17th, in a conference call led by ECI technical assistance staff with all area directors regarding the de-appropriation of fiscal year 2017 funds. During the call Shanell Wagler again reported an anticipated reduction of 3-5% in School Ready funding for the current fiscal year. The total reduction of funds will be taken out of fourth quarter payments. Wagler reaffirmed that implementing funding cuts would be at the local boards discretion and would not have to follow the state funding mandates for specific categories of spending. Wagler credited DHS Director Palmer for working so that Early Childhood grants would not be cut for FY17. She stated that SF130 signed by the Governor on February 1, 2017, contained an amendment for an additional \$11.5 million in reductions. Wagler said it is possible some of these cuts may be passed on to the Early Childhood grant. Wagler thought the final FY17 reductions would be known by the end of this week. The final School Ready funding for FY17 after cuts is anticipated to be the maximum funding level for FY18 and FY19. Wagler reported that Early Childhood grant will be the current total reduced 3-5% for FY18 and FY19.

Day on Hill

Bremner reported the annual advocacy and education event this year is titled Early Childhood Day on the Hill and will occur February 28th. It is not being staffed by state ECI support staff as it has been in the past. The event will take place in the Capitol Rotunda and include ten tables representing early childhood stakeholders. ECI State Board members will have a table. The event will be an opportunity to educate legislators about ECI and funded programs.

Craig Sieverding left the meeting via phone at 11:50 a.m.

Des Moines Public Library Simple Steps – early literacy public awareness campaign

Linda Roe, Deputy Director, Des Moines Public Library presented on behalf of the Des Moines Public Library's currently funded early literacy program: Simple Steps. Roe reported they formed an Advisory Committee of community partners to provide input on messaging and marketing. Roe shared the list of members on the Advisory Committee. Six commercials along with print materials have been produced in both English and Spanish. A template has also been produced to be distributed to providers and community partners for easy translation of the message into different languages. Advertisements have run on local TV channels 5, 8, 13 and KCWI and also on radio stations. A piece appeared in the Des Moines Register (February 15, 2017). Roe indicated most of

the stations doubled the ad time for this important message and so represents an in kind donation of the purchase of playing time and increases the spread of the message.

Members viewed one of the videos posted on the DMPL website <http://dmpl.org/simplesteps> and received samples of the print materials and flash drives containing all of the campaign materials. Mandelbaum inquired about next steps for the program. How do they plan on pushing the program out to the business community for distribution to their workers? Do they have a plan to develop a relationship with the medical community? Roe reported currently community partners and library staff are underway distributing the print materials at area festivals, laundry mats, churches, etc. along with pushing the information out on their social media sites. She stated the Advisory Committee is continuing to meet every six weeks and will be addressing how to expand the reach of the program. They are also developing a survey to track outcomes regarding the number of children and families reached.

Committee Work and Program Review

Bryan Huggins reported the Early Childhood/Child Care Committee met on Monday, February 20th. The committee is taking an in-depth look at Polk County's Community Plan Priorities and how funded programs align with these priorities as a start of the work. The committee is now looking at all programs funded with Early Childhood funds. The committee will rank priorities and distribute an online survey to members. The committee will continue to use the Google drive for all related files.

Bremner is working with Craig Sieverding to set an upcoming Preschool Committee meeting date. Currently all materials and committee updates are stored on Google Drive for members to review. Members will be given additional time at the March meeting for committee reports and discussion.

Nick Dial departed at 12:30 p.m.

There was discussion around the additional funding available to programs. Bremner reported programs supply annual budgets listing all additional revenue sources. These sources are a part of the program review documents members receive annually. McCoy Davis inquired about programs other community organizations are funding and asked if there is a resource or matrix for the Polk County area that would determine where funding holes exist?

Administrative Update

Bremner reported she will be meeting Friday, February 24th, with central regional ECI directors to discuss how they are handling the anticipated funding cuts. She has begun working with Dr. Amy Shriver, Blank Hospital and Reach Out and Read on convening the Early Literacy Metro Coalition (ELM). This is a new coalition that has formed out of the Des Moines Public Library Simple Steps Advisory Committee and members of the OpportUNITY Education Workgroup. ELM first met in December and is meeting monthly.

Bremner convened the OpportUNITY Education Workgroup Tuesday, February 21st. This stakeholder group meets bi-monthly. At this meeting members were introduced to the Simple Steps campaign by Sue Woody. They received a legislative update on all bills relating to education provided by Dave Stone, United Way of Central Iowa.

Bremner updated members on legislative bill HF 25 submitted by Representative Kevin Koester (R-Ankeny). This is based on the preschool ask presented by the OpportUNITY Preschool group. This bill allows more flexibility for local school districts to determine how to spend Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program funds and provides expanded funding of 1.0 for children in families living at or below 185% of the federal poverty level. Currently four-year-olds are funded at .5 per enrolled student while K-12 students are funded at 1.0. This bill is currently in committee.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None

Public Comment

None reported.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Judy McCoy Davis and seconded by Natali Justiniano Pahl. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. The meeting adjourned at 12:39 p.m.