



POLK COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA BOARD MEETING
United Way of Central Iowa – Leadership Room
Des Moines, Iowa
October 24, 2018

Voting Members Present: Matt Knoll, Ahmed Agyeman, Deanna Bennigsdorf, Sam Carrell, Jem Gong-Browne, Bryan Huggins, Jeanie McCarville Kerber, Marianka Pille, Jana Shepherd, Georgia Sheriff; Josh Mandelbaum, arrived at 11:42 a.m.; Marvin DeJear arrived at 11:55 a.m.; Rob Barron arrived at 12:03 p.m.; Mee Yang-Lee participated via teleconference.

Voting Members Absent: Nick Dial, Craig Sieverding, Emily Westergaard

Ex-Officio Members Present: None

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

Staff Present: Barb Bremner, Jody Kanne

Guests Present: Adriana Flores, Healthy Start Manager, EveryStep; Leslie Stonehocker, Child Care Consultant Supervisor, Child Care Resource & Referral; Kay Strahorn, Director, Bidwell-Riverside Child Development Center; Kay Tannant, Healthy Start Intake Manager, EveryStep; Laura Trainer, Director, Wonder Years Academy; Stacey Walter, ECQuIP Project Manager, Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children

Welcome and Introductions

Board Vice 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 August Minutes

The September 26, 2018 minutes were presented. There were no comments or corrections.

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

FY19 Financial Statements

Barb Bremner presented the financial statements for September 2018. These statements are a cash presentation of financial transactions which took place through September of fiscal year 2019.

School Ready

- FY19 Polk County ECI School Ready funding is \$2,470,722.00.
- Carry Forward funds total \$76,850.44.
- Total School Ready funds in FY19 budget are \$2,668,330.27.
- First quarterly payment of \$685,181.00 received in August.

- Interest accrued \$1,791.72.
- At end of September 2018 School Ready funds of \$301,169.89 had been expended.
- Expenditures are 10.69% of FY19 School Ready funds. In previous fiscal year at end of September 5.29% of funds had been expended.

Early Childhood

- FY19 Polk County ECI Early Childhood funding is \$1,010,158.00.
- Carry Forward funds total \$126,061.40.
- Total Early Childhood funds in FY19 budget are \$1,075,797.88.
- First quarterly payment of \$252,539.50 received in August.
- Interest accrued \$1,131.19.
- At end of September Early Childhood funds of \$116,737.10 had had been expended.
- Expenditures are 10.27% of FY19 Early Childhood funds. In FY18 6.7% of funds had been expended.

Josh Mandelbaum arrived at 11:42 a.m.

Knoll asked for any comments or changes to the September 2018 financials. There were no comments or changes.

A motion to approve the September financials was made by Deanna Bennigsdorf and seconded by Jem Gong-Browne. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Community Plan

The revised 3-year accreditation process requires Polk County ECI to submit an updated *Community Plan* to the state by October 31st. The *Community Plan* is a tool used to guide the work of the board. Previously members received and discussed a draft at the September meeting. Bremner stated no updates or changes were reported after this meeting. Bremner shared the draft with the State ECI TA Team in September for their review and feedback. Bremner received no feedback from the team.

A motion to approve the Community Plan was made by Sam Carrell and seconded by Deanna Bennigsdorf. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Bremner will submit the approved *Community Plan* to the state following today's meeting.

Child Care Centers and Stay Bonus Feedback

Bremner reported following the September meeting she met with Stacey Walter, Early Child Care Coordinator for ECQuIP, Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children, and Marian Godwin, Research Associate, United Way of Central Iowa to review the pilot data presented at the meeting. Walter shared her coalition center spreadsheet and shared she collects monthly information, which in FY18 included a few employees employed for extremely short period of time. Because of the fact these employees weren't eligible for the bonus the directors may not have included them in the info they reported to Bremner.

Walter presented the information regarding enrollment and demographics for the centers participating in the stay bonus.

Marvin DeJear arrived at 11.55 a.m.

Kay Strahorn, Director, Bidwell-Riverside Child Development Center reported on the history of her center and staff retention. She has been the sixth director in six years. Walter tied this to a period of transition which was a financial struggle when the center was a stand alone nonprofit. Strahorn reported teachers remain consistent, with most being at the center for four-plus years. Since being combined under the Hawthorn Hill umbrella three years ago the center has become financially more stable and is able to provide competitive wages and benefit packages. Many center staff are enrolled in the T.E.A.C.H. program to increase their education levels. The center is working on their QRS application for a Level 5 rating and plans to submit their application in November. Strahorn shared a story on how they were able to work with a family owing back tuition to keep their 4-year-old in the program. The father was an outside laborer and hadn't been working because of the weeks of rain so they had not been bringing the child to the center not realizing they would still be responsible for paying. The center worked with the family to create a compromise plan so that the child could return. Regarding the bonus Strahorn shared the bonus are benefitting staff and reported most staff use them for larger expenses, like home or vehicle repairs, they would normally have to put off.

Rob Barron arrived at 12:03 p.m.

Laura Trainer, Director, Wonder Years Academy shared information on her center. Trainer has been with the center for 27 years. The center staffs a teacher with their CDA in each classroom. Center staff participate in the T.E.A.C.H. and WAGE\$ programs. She attributes her centers high staff retention to the family atmosphere. She shared a story of one of her staff that eventually came to the center after enrolling her son at the center. At the time she was working a minimum wage job. Eventually she went to work at a child care center and came to Wonder Years Academy when they had opening. She is now enrolled in classes at DMACC and recently purchased a home. With the stay bonuses she is able to do repairs and upgrades to her home.

Deanna Bennigsdorf departed at 12:35 p.m.

Trainer reported she does hire summer staff that would be reflected in her turnover rates. She also said there are times when a hire does not work out. In FY18 this included two staff who were employed less than a month each. Members would like to discuss how to drill down into the data more to allow for these types of situations.

Walter updated the members on the ECQuIP team.

- The team holds monthly Director's meetings, the next seven will focus on specific training topics.
- Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children is conducting the professional development opportunities in-house this year.
- With the help of Polk County ECI, 65 teachers were able to participate in the IAEYC Fall Institute.

- Walter will be sharing information about the impact on centers of the new Child Care Assistance reimbursement rates taking effect January 1.
- Strahorn thanked Walter and her team for their assistance after coming to Bidwell-Riverside. She stated they are very responsive and helpful, especially for a new director.

Committees: Scheduling Meetings

The FY19 Polk County ECI Board Committees document was presented to members. Bremner reported she will be setting meetings for the committees in November to begin setting goals for the year. She will send out calendar invitations for the meeting dates.

Administrative Report

- Bremner attend the Early Childhood Summit and Celebration October 3rd. EveryStep (formerly VNS) sent a team of nurses and program managers to attend both sessions. New board member Deanna Bennigsdorf was thanked for attending the evening celebration.
- The *Des Moines Business Record* reported Oak Academy received a \$100,000 grant from Prairie Meadows and Dahl Family Trust to provide a full-day preschool experience for more low-income children.

Mee Yang-Lee and Josh Mandelbaum departed at 12:55 p.m.

- State ECI is exploring share business services at a state level. CCR&R Region 2 (Waterloo) identified a need for insurance among providers and is researching possible provider options.
- The January board meeting is being moved from January 23rd to January 16th.

Old Business

None reported.

New Business

None reported.

Public Comment

None reported.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Sam Carrell and seconded by Marvin DeJear. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. The meeting adjourned at 12:57 p.m.