



## **POLK COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA BOARD MEETING**

**Jesse Franklin Taylor Learning Center**

**1801 16<sup>th</sup> Street**

**Des Moines, Iowa**

**November 20, 2019**

**Voting Members Present:** Rob Barron, Deanna Bennigsdorf, Sandy Carter, Bryan Huggins, Matt Knoll, Marianka Pille, Jana Shepherd, Craig Sieverding, Emily Westergaard, Mee Yang-Lee; Marvin DeJear and Jeanie McCarville Kerber arrived at 8:25 a.m.; Ahmed Agyeman arrived at 8:40 a.m.

**Voting Members Absent:** Nick Dial, Jem Gong-Browne, Josh Mandelbaum, Charles Mercer, Eva Morales, Georgia Sheriff

**Ex-Officio Members Present:** Dave Arens

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

**Staff Present:** Barb Bremner, Jody Kanne

**Guests Present:** Leann Andre, Child Care Consultant Supervisor, Child Care Resource and Referral; Erin Casey, Child Care Consultant, Child Care Resource & Referral; Susie Guest, Early Childhood Programs Administrator, Des Moines Public Schools; Celeste Kelling, Administrator, Early Childhood Programs, Des Moines Public Schools; Gina Wells, Child Care Consultant Supervisor, Child Care Resource & Referral

### **Welcome**

Board Chair Craig Sieverding called the Polk County Early Childhood Iowa Board meeting to order at 8:09 a.m. Quorum was met at this time.

### **Approval October Minutes**

Minutes of the October 23, 2019 meeting were presented. There were no comments or corrections.

*A motion to approve the October minutes was made by Emily Westergaard and seconded by Deanna Bennigsdorf. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.*

### **FY20 Financial Statements**

Barb Bremner presented the financial statements for October 2019. These statements are a cash presentation of financial transactions which took place through October of fiscal year 2020.

### **School Ready**

- FY20 Polk County ECI School Ready funding is \$2,818,639.00.
- Carry Forward funds total \$80,629.94.
- Total School Ready funds in FY20 budget are \$2,899,268.94.

- First quarterly payment of \$704,659.50 received September 11<sup>th</sup>. Second quarterly payment received the first week of October.
- Interest accrued \$2,651.75.
- At end of October 2019 School Ready funds of \$498,517.23 had been expended.
- Expenditures are 17% of FY20 School Ready funds. In previous fiscal year at end of October 18% of funds had been expended.

### **Early Childhood**

- FY20 Polk County ECI Early Childhood funding is \$954,796.00.
- Carry Forward funds total \$139,252.23.
- Total Early Childhood funds in FY20 budget are \$1,094,048.23.
- First quarterly payment of \$238,699.00 received in July. Second quarterly payment received first week of October.
- Interest accrued \$2,276.36.
- At end of October Early Childhood funds of \$219,390.13 had been expended.
- Expenditures are 20% of FY20 Early Childhood funds. In FY19 20% of funds had been expended.

No comments or changes were required.

*A motion to approve the October 2019 financials was made by Craig Sieverding and seconded by Marianka Pille. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.*

### **Association of ECI Area Boards and Advocates**

Bremner, Emily Westergaard, and Jana Shepherd participated in a conference call with the Association of ECI Area Boards and Advocates. Association bylaws were approved. Bremner will distribute them to members. Association Executive and Advocacy Committees have been established. Bremner is not on the Executive Committee but is on the Advocacy Committee and anticipates leading the committee. There is an association meeting scheduled for Friday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> at the United Way building with the lobbyists selected by the association, Matt Eide and Katie Walton, to discuss legislative agenda items.

The association is in the process of setting up a bank account to begin receiving contributions. Members discussed whether to ask individuals to directly donate to the Association or to work through the board's fiscal agent, United Way. United Way has proposed an administrative fee of 4% to process donations to the board for the fees. Using United Way would allow the donations to be tax deductible for donors. This would allow use of established internal procedures for tracking donations. Donations submitted directly to the Association, which is a 501(c)(4) organization, would not be tax deductible for donors. Polk County ECI would not have control over messaging nor the ability to readily track donations.

This was not an action item. Discussion broadly supported using United Way to accept donations, and consensus arrived at was this will be the method of donations for the board.

### **Administrative Report**

A written report was included with meeting materials. Highlights include:

- EveryStep completed their required credentialing visits in November for the Iowa Family Support Credential. Bremner met with two of the credentialing experts as a part of the review process.

Marvin DeJear and Jeanie McCarville Kerber arrived at 8:25 a.m.

- Bremner participated in the November 1st Caucus for Kids campaign meeting with Senator Cory Booker at Conmigo Early Learning Center. Member Rob Barron was there as well.
- Stacey Walter has submitted her resignation to IAEYC as the Project Manager of ECQuIP. Bremner and Kate Bennett, Community Impact Officer – Education for United Way, have requested a meeting with Jillian Herink to discuss the ECQuIP project and the role.
- Child care issues appear to be receiving more attention than in recent years. November 22<sup>nd</sup> Bremner will participate in a stakeholder roundtable discussion with Representative Cindy Axne. On December 3<sup>rd</sup> child care advocates will meet to determine priorities and common language for communication with state legislators.

### **Old Business**

None.

### **New Business**

None.

### **Public Comment**

None reported.

### **Taylor Learning Center**

Susie Guest, Des Moines Public Schools Early Childhood Programs Administrator, presented information on the Des Moines Public Schools Early Childhood Programs. Currently the district has preschool programming in four buildings, seven elementary schools, and 15 community partner locations. The district has a common curriculum across all classrooms, which is critical because of the high rate of mobility of families during the school year. Guest reported the DMPS legislative agenda includes a request to increase weighting of funding of Statewide Voluntary Preschool Programming for children living at or below 200% of Federal Poverty Level. Guest shared the assessment data for Kindergarten students this fall. She is seeking ways to help four-year-olds who have not had any preschool experience transition to Kindergarten. These students are identified in April when they register for Kindergarten. Some of Guest's ideas:

- What kind of programming can be created to help children from May – August? According to data collected from the United Way Book Buddy program, 68% of the children that participated in the program are kindergarten ready based on the Concepts of Print assessment. Can this program be extended into during May – August for incoming Kindergarteners who've not had any preschool experience using more volunteers or AmeriCorps members?
- Create a "summer school" for preschoolers.

- Early Access as model (DHS program where AEA staff support parents in their homes – Perhaps school staff go into homes to provide parents with information about school readiness and literacy.

Guest reported for the first time she could remember the preschool program did not have a waiting list this year, thanks in part to Rob Barron's work to add another district classroom. The district works to raise awareness with families on the importance of preschool. They work with the enrollment office to identify younger siblings eligible for preschool, run radio spots, and hold registration events at apartment complexes targeting specific populations to relay the importance of preschool.

Celeste Kelling, Des Moines Public Schools Administrator Early Childhood Programs, talked about the students and families enrolled at Jesse Franklin Taylor Learning Center. The district worked with the neighborhood when they built the center to meet the neighborhood's needs. The center houses both the child care center and an alternative middle school. The preschool serves 250 students and includes full and half day programming, Head Start, Shared Visions, and a medically fragile classroom. The needs of the students and their families are extensive and support staff such as board supported Family Support Services Team are critical in connecting students and families to needed resources.

### **Adjourn**

*A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Matt Knoll and seconded by Jeanie McCarville Kerber. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.* The meeting adjourned at 9:12 a.m.

Following adjournment, Jesse Franklin Taylor staff provided tours of preschool classrooms.