



**POLK COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA BOARD MEETING**  
**United Way of Central Iowa**  
**1111 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Conference Room F**  
**October 27, 2021**

**Voting Members Present:** Ahmed Agyeman, Kevin Abler, Dave Arens, Rob Barron, Sandy Carter, Suzanne Cohrs, Sam Early, Bryan Huggins, Matthew Klemme, Adam Montufar  
Participation via teleconference: Tabitha Choquette, Charles Mercer, Eva Morales, Marianka Pille, Eric Tubbs and Jana Shepherd; Deanna Bennigsdorf joined via teleconference at 12:05 p.m.

**Voting Members Absent:** Jem Gong-Browne, Emily Westergaard

**Ex-Officio Members Present:** None

**Ex-Officio Members Absent:** Aaron Johnson, Barb Merrill

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

**Guests Present:** Leanne Andre, Child Care Consultant Supervisor, Child Care Resource & Referral; Katie Champlin, Program Chair and Professor, Early Childhood Education, DMACC; Adriana Flores, Healthy Start Manager, EveryStep; Lora Patton, Regional Director, Child Care Resource & Referral, Cindy Winn, Healthy Start Director, EveryStep

**Welcome**

Board Chair Ahmed Agyeman called the Polk County Early Childhood Iowa Board meeting to order at 11:40 a.m. Quorum was met at this time.

**Approval September Minutes**

Minutes of September 22, 2021 meeting were presented. There were no comments or corrections.

*A motion to approve the September 2021 minutes was made by Bryan Huggins and seconded Sam Early. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.*

**Financial Report September 2021**

Adam Montufar presented Audit Committee report. Administrative expenses are within budget at 23% at end of September/end of first quarter. School Ready has expended 8.9% of budget, compared to 10.6% at this time last year. Early Childhood has expended 9.56% of budget, compared to 5.5% last year.

Members suggested a projection of seasonal expenditures. They also suggest a comparison of also presenting monthly expenditures during this fiscal year compared with the fiscal year before the pandemic.

Meeting materials included the financial expenditure reports for September 2021. Reports are a cash presentation of financial transactions through September of fiscal year 2022.

### **School Ready**

- FY22 Polk County ECI School Ready funding is \$2,865,988.<sup>00</sup>
- Carry Forward funds total \$337,907.<sup>95</sup>
- Total School Ready funds in FY22 budget are \$3,203,895.<sup>95</sup>
- Interest accrued through September 2021 totals \$1,012.<sup>07</sup>
- Expended School Ready funds at end of September 2021 total \$284,724.07 or 8.9% of the budget total.
- At the end of September 2021 10.6% of School Ready had been expended.

### **Early Childhood**

- FY22 Polk County ECI Early Childhood funding is \$947,808.<sup>00</sup>
- Carry Forward funds total \$118,891.<sup>75</sup>
- Total Early Childhood funds in FY22 budget are \$1,066,699.<sup>75</sup>
- Interest accrued through September 2021 totals \$348.<sup>26</sup>
- Expended Early Childhood funds at end of September 2021 total \$102,345.<sup>00</sup> or 9.6% of budget total.
- At end of September 2021 9.6% of Early Childhood had been expended.

*A motion to approve the September 2021 financials was made by Dave Arens and seconded by Matthew Klemme. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.*

### **Association: Delegate for Annual Meeting**

Agyeman asked board to assign one delegate to attend the Association of Early Childhood Iowa Area Board's Annual Board Meeting November 4<sup>th</sup>. Delegates will vote for new executive committee and on legislative agenda.

*A motion to approve Bremner representing the Polk County ECI board at the Association Annual Meeting was made by Dave Arens and seconded by Suzanne Cohrs. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.*

Agyeman reported \$1,200 in nine total donations to support Association membership dues. He thanked members for their donations.

### **Iowa's Child Care Workforce**

Lora Patton and Leanne Andre with Child Care Resource & Referral presented.

CCR&R Region 4 covers central Iowa including Polk County and is a part of Orchard Place. Region 4 has a staff of 23 with 7 child care consultants providing services for the 872 child care providers listed in Polk County. Funding from Polk County ECI helps cover the consultants that work with both centers and in-home providers. Training dollars are used to offer in-depth trainings not funded through DHS. The Reach for the Stars contract are quality improvement dollars used to support in-home and center needs as providers participate in consultation. CCR&R staffs a Child Care Referral line for families throughout Iowa to call to find licensed child care.

Leanne Andre shared data on key partners LSI, EveryStep and Polk County ECI. DHS provided additional support to providers throughout the pandemic which covered additional supplies needed to keep centers operating, provided stipends and child care assistance payments without deductions for absences. Andre noted the unlimited assistance reimbursement has ended for providers. CCR&R staff currently working to distribute the *Invest in Iowa Child Care* funds to approximately 75 programs.

Deanna Bennigsdorf joined via teleconference at 12:05 p.m.

CCR&R received a City of Des Moines grant of \$84,000 to support basic expenses for in-home providers and centers located in Des Moines. Andre shared 47 centers have submitted quality rating applications in the last three months. Consultants are working with centers to get applications in before the new quality rating system begins April 1, 2022. CCR&R will be offering trainings for the new Iowa Quality 4 Kids (IQ4K) system. DHS has indicated bonuses for participation by providers will be increased.

Discussion:

- How much do you help with the business side of the organization?
  - Trainings are offered with a child care tax professional.
  - CCR&R works with All Our Kin, which offers home child care business training classes. This is a 32-hour online course offered to small cohorts at a time. They will be offering a class in Spanish in November.
  - LSI offers a business training course for providers
- What are the different levels of engagement you have with the 872 programs listed for Polk County?
  - Engagement varies based on the provider. Some feel they do not need assistance. Consultants make cold calls to programs to let them know the services CCR&R offers.
- What is keeping centers from applying for the grants?
  - CCR&R received more applications than they had funding for. They reopened the process in September and revisited previous applicants to approve funding. Many are seeing delays with building/expansion projects due to supply issues. Funds need to be expended by December 2022. In Central Iowa there were more applications than could be funded

Katie Champlin shared information on DMACC's childhood education programs and Child Development Center on the Ankeny campus. This center is a QRS5 lab school with three classrooms (infants, 2-year-old and a 3/4/5-year-old) any student who participates in the Early Education programming has the opportunity to work at the lab school. DMACC offers 4 certificate/degree options with transferrable credits. Champlin reported 76 degrees/certificates were awarded in 2021. Currently Iowa does not have a degree requirement to work in child care; she hopes to see a certificate level requirement in the future. She is beginning to shift their recruiting focus to high school and work-based learning partnerships. She would like to find alternative pathways for students to get their CDA or certificates upon leaving high school. DMACC early education partners with T.E.A.C.H. and WAGE\$ programs and collaborated with Drake Early Head Start on a cohort program which they are hoping to duplicate. They have worked with individual centers to set up a cohort training model for their staff which allows for one professor to teach the cohort. DMACC's Perry location is recruiting a Spanish speaking instructor for a cohort.

Rob Barron departed at 12:50 p.m.

### **Administrative Report**

Bremner's Administrative Report was included in today's packet.

- Cindy Winn with EveryStep shared the Healthy Start & Empowerment team has implemented a new project in conjunction with the Forest Avenue Library. Four events have been scheduled that focus on literacy and bring attention to the services the Healthy Start & Empowerment program provides.

### **Old Business**

Agyeman asked for volunteers to join the Grant Review Committee. This will require reading all applications, identifying further information needed. It is anticipated there will be one 90-minute meeting prior to the November board meeting and a shorter meeting in December prior to that month's meeting. Bryan Huggins and Deanna Bennigsdorf both volunteered.

### **New Business**

None

### **Public Comment**

None

### **Adjournment**

Adler made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Montufar seconded. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agyeman adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p.m.