



POLK COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA BOARD MEETING
United Way of Central Iowa
1111 9th Street, Conference Room F
February 23, 2022

Voting Members Present: Ahmed Agyeman, Kevin Abler, Deanna Bennigsdorf, Sam Early, Adam Montufar, Emily Westergaard; Participation via teleconference: Tabitha Choquette, Suzanne Cohrs, Jem Gong-Browne, Eva Morales, Marianka Pille, Jana Shepherd; Rob Barron and Matthew Klemme arrived at 11:46 a.m.

Voting Members Absent: Dave Arens, Sandy Carter, Bryan Huggins, Charles Mercer, Eric Tubbs

Ex-Officio Members Present: None

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Aaron Johnson and Barb Merrill

Staff Present: Barb Bremner, Jody Kanne

Guests Present: Julia Clark, Christ Apostolic Temple Community Outreach Services; Adriana Flores, Healthy Start Manager, EveryStep; Ann Kelly, Community Volunteer; Danielle Martin, Finance Officer, United Way of Central Iowa; Lanette Nelson, Healthy Start Manager, EveryStep; Jake Roberts, Senior Accountant, United Way of Central Iowa; Jen Stout, Vice President of Community Health, EveryStep; Leslie Taft, Healthy Start Manager, EveryStep; Kay Tannatt, Friends of YJI; Tray Wade, President & CEO, EveryStep; Cindy Winn, Healthy Start Director, EveryStep

Welcome

Board Chair Ahmed Agyeman called the Polk County Early Childhood Iowa Board meeting to order at 11:32 a.m. Quorum was met at this time.

Approval January Minutes

Minutes of the January 26, 2022, meeting were presented. There were no comments or corrections.

A motion to approve the January 2022 minutes was made by Emily Westergaard and seconded by Sam Early. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Financial Report January 2022

Adam Montufar presented the Audit Committee report. Administrative expenses for both grants are tracking to budget. School Ready and Early Childhood total expenditures are on track with past years.

School Ready

- FY22 Polk County ECI School Ready funding is \$2,865,988.00
- Carry Forward funds total \$337,907.95
- Total School Ready funds in FY22 budget are \$3,203,895.95

- Interest accrued through January 2022 totals \$3,127.66
- Expended School Ready funds at end of January 2022 total \$1,166,774.32
- At the end of January 2022 36% of School Ready had been expended. Previous FY21 at end of January 2021 37% of funds had been expended.

Early Childhood

- FY22 Polk County ECI Early Childhood funding is \$947,808.00
- Carry Forward funds total \$118,891.75
- Total Early Childhood funds in FY22 budget are \$1,066,699.75
- Interest accrued through January 2022 totals \$979.42
- Expended Early Childhood funds at end of January 2022 total \$441,731.86
- At end of January 2022 41% of Early Childhood had been expended. Previous FY21 at end of January 2021 35% of funds had been expended.

A motion to approve the January 2022 financials was made by Adam Montufar and seconded by Kevin Abler. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Audit 2021

Danielle Martin, Finance Officer, United Way of Central Iowa introduced the new Senior Accountant Jake Roberts. As Senior Accountant, Roberts works closely with Bremner tracking PCECI's financials. Martin presented the audit completed by BerganKDV.

Martin reported because United Way of Central Iowa exceeded the Federal Grant Funds threshold of \$750,000, they were required to submit a single audit. Due to clean single audits the past two years, UWCI is designated a low-risk auditee. The audit process was conducted virtually with a couple of on-site visits to review documentation. The audit addresses United Way of Central Iowa being Polk County ECI's fiscal agent and includes a breakdown of Polk County ECI's grant dollars. The auditor's overall notes can be reviewed on page 34.

Members should let Bremner or Kanne know if they would like a hardcopy of the audit.

Healthy Start & Empowerment Program - EveryStep

Introductions of EveryStep staff: Adriana Flores, Healthy Start Manager; Lanette Nelson, Healthy Start Manager; Jen Stout, Vice President of Community Health; Leslie Taft, Healthy Start Manager, Tray Wade, President & CEO; Cindy Winn, Healthy Start Director.

Wade provided an overview and history of EveryStep. The agency has grown over the years into an organization housing a wide range of programs addressing community needs. Program services range from statewide programs down to a specific zip code depending on the need.

Rob Barron and Matthew Klemme arrived at 11:46 a.m.

Cindy Winn, Healthy Start Director, provided history and data on Healthy Start & Empowerment. Federal funding runs through 2024. Polk County ECI's funding allows the program to support kids up to age 6 in Polk County zip codes not supported by the federal grant. Families in the program

are assigned a team of individuals to address their needs. She shared information on the Community Action Networks (CAN) new campaign aimed at lowering maternal mortality rates in the black community.

Lanette Nelson, Healthy Start Manager, shared information on partners, events, and different platforms used for program outreach and client recruitment. With COVID restrictions loosening, they are able to start holding events and community canvassing again.

Adriana Flores, Healthy Start Manager, leads the case management teams providing home-based services to the families. Team members continued weekly meetings with the families virtually throughout COVID. In July of 2021 they transitioned back to in-person visits.

Leslie Taft, Healthy Start Manager, works with the Fatherhood Consultant who works focuses on educating the father (male figure) in the homes on early childhood development and engagement. She also supports the Nest programs which provide essential supplies to the families they serve:

- Storks – Provides supplies (cribs, mattresses, car seats) for pregnant women and their baby up to age 1.
- Family – Provides supplies (household items, sheets, diapers) to families with children under age 6.
- Emergency – Emergency supplies (cribs, car seats) for any family in Polk County under 200% of FPL.

Discussions:

- Members appreciated the program presentation and clarification of how funding is braided together to provide services.
- How much of your work deals with financial counseling?
 - We connect families with resources in the community to help with their needs. Case managers will create a goal around that work to help the individuals address the need and stay on track.
- EveryStep does not provide services for individuals who are wanting to start a family. They only work with families once they become pregnant or if they are already working with a family with small children.
- EveryStep is setting up a pilot Black Prenatal class. Participants will be limited to individuals currently enrolled in one of their programs that identify as black and speak English. Data from that pilot will be analyzed to determine how to scale the program in the future.

Jem Gong-Browne departed at 12:45 p.m.

Bremner reported EveryStep's full FY23 application is included in today's packet.

Old Business

Abler shared his family attended the Knock & Drop event last Saturday from 10 – 2 p.m. at Franklin Jr. High. Volunteers were giving out winter coats and food boxes to community members. It was a

very positive experience for his family. Zuli thanked the board for their support. Bremner reported the agency has already fully expended their funds.

New Business

None

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

Westergaard made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Early seconded. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agyeman adjourned the meeting at 12:52 p.m.