



POLK COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA BOARD MEETING
United Way of Central Iowa
1111 9th Street, Conference Room A
September 28, 2022

Voting Members Present: Deanna Bennigsdorf, Dave Arens, Alicia Chilton, Sam Early, Matthew Klemme, Marianka Pille, Emily Westergaard; Participation via teleconference: Tabitha Choquette, Adam Montufar, Jana Shepherd; Kevin Abler joined via teleconference at 8:09 a.m.; Rob Barron arrived at 8:10 a.m.

Voting Members Absent: Ahmed Agyeman, Sandy Carter, Suzanne Cohrs, Eva Morales, Jessica Trinidad, Eric Tubbs

Ex-Officio Members Present: None

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Aaron Johnson, Barb Merrill

Staff Present: Barb Bremner, Jody Kanne

Guests Present: Brianne Emunah, Healthy Start Coordinator, EveryStep; Tammy Engebretson, ECQuIP Manager, Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children; Lora Patton, Regional Director, Child Care Resource and Referral; Kay Tannatt, Friends of YJI; Cindy Winn, Healthy Start Director, EveryStep

Welcome

Board Chair Deanna Bennigsdorf called the Polk County Early Childhood Iowa Board meeting to order at 8:02 a.m. Quorum was met at this time.

Guest and board member introductions were made.

Approval June Minutes

Minutes were presented of board meeting August 24, 2022. There were no comments or corrections.

A motion to approve the August 2022 minutes was made by Emily Westergaard and seconded by Dave Arens. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Kevin Abler joined at 8:09 a.m. via teleconference

Rob Barron arrived at 8:10 a.m.

July/August FY23 Financial Report

Sam Early presented the July/August FY23 financial report. End of August is 17% through the fiscal year. Expenditures are tracking with historical data. Invoicing really is beginning and will increase. No concerns with expenditures.

School Ready

- FY23 School Ready funding is \$2,980,513
- Carry Forward funds total \$293,103.61
- FY23 Total School Ready funds \$3,273,616.61
- Interest accrued through August 2023 totals \$2,013.82
- Expended School Ready funds end of August 2023 total \$149,398.42
- At the end of August 2022 4.56% of School Ready had been expended. End of August 2021 4.84% of funds had been expended.

Early Childhood

- FY22 Early Childhood funding is \$970,864
- Carry Forward funds total \$96,154.88
- FY23 Total Early Childhood funds \$1,067,018.88
- Interest accrued through August 2022 totals \$656.22
- Expended Early Childhood funds at end of August 2022 total \$39,150.04
- At end of August 2022 3.67% of Early Childhood had been expended. End of August 2021 4.88% of funds had been expended.

A motion to approve the July/August FY23 Financial Report was made by Emily Westergaard and seconded by Rob Barron. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Contract Template and Updates

Bennigsdorf reported a Board Chair responsibility is to sign each program contract. Participating in this was her first exposure to the contracts and the information contained in each contract. The EveryStep contract was included in the meeting materials for member review.

Bremner reported all FY23 contracts have been fully executed. The contract template comes from the state. She reviews and updates agency information, funding amounts, contract length, invoicing details, scope of services, performance measure details annually. This is the third year the contracts were executed electronically.

FY23 Contract Monitoring Schedule

The FY23 Contract Monitoring Schedule was presented. The highlighted programs represent contracts Bremner will meet with. The Contract Monitoring Schedule will be submitted to the state by September 30th.

Westergaard questioned if any issues are uncovered through the agency meetings. Bremner shared no issues have been uncovered in the past. This process is especially beneficial for our new/smaller agencies. It is an opportunity to have agencies address questions the board may have.

Arens shared these visits are crucial on the state level. The money comes from the state and legislators care where the money is being spent. As a distributing agency, the state wants to be sure the funding is being monitored.

A motion to approve the FY23 Contract Monitoring schedule was made by Sam Early and seconded by Marianka Pille. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

EveryStep Healthy Start & Empowerment - Updates

The Healthy Start & Empowerment program provides one-on-one case management services. This year they are developing community outreach events. Cindy Winn, Healthy Start & Empowerment Director, provided an update on the agency's community events.

- Baby Bloom – This event was held at Martin Luther King Jr. Park in June and addressed maternal mortality. EveryStep works closely with community partners on events to leverage dollars. This event had great participation. Community members appreciated bringing resources to them in underserved areas. Winn shared data on the event.
- Roll Baby Roll is scheduled for today, September 28th. This will be a 1-mile walk, starting at the capital, to raise awareness on infant mortality prevention.
- Due to the diverse population the Healthy Start & Empowerment program serves, the program received new funding for a pilot that connects Black community members with community-based doulas. The program will also provide doula training to provide trained doulas for families.

Results Areas and Board Priorities

Bremner presented the section of Iowa Legislative Code that defines the five result areas which are a focus of all ECI areas. Bremner reviewed the boards' Vision and Mission statements and a breakdown of Polk County ECI's funded programs by Result Area.

Members split into three work groups to discuss board priorities and draft language of priorities linked to Results Areas. Members were asked to send their notes/feedback to Bremner.

After the small group work Westergaard mentioned that they talked about a frame of outcomes per dollar. She shared Oak Academy recently raised their minimum wage to \$15.00 per hour. Patton and Engbretson shared many centers cannot afford to raise wages, and staff shortages continue. Broadlawn received federal funding and has a contract with CFI for 16 child care spots at their location, however CFI does not currently have staff to fill the site. Members were asked to share other feedback and notes with Bremner.

Administrative Report

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

- Engbretson met with directors and asked them about their response to 2022 legislative changes in the child care. Center input is included in the report.
- Patton shared some centers are charging families the rate difference. If the CCA reimbursement rate was market rate that would help centers meet bottom line.

- DMPS is being considered to receive \$4.9 million in ARPA funds from the city of Des Moines to expand preschool access. Susie Guest will meet with the city council during a working session to develop a plan to expand enrollment.
- Shalom Community Impact Center is holding its 2nd Annual fundraiser November 17th. This is a new program for the board. The program is on a 6-month contract and Bremner continues to work with Pastor Eugene to connect him with resources and monitor the contract. She will be doing a site visit in the upcoming weeks.

Old Business

- Bennigsdorf distributed a letter requesting member donations to cover a portion of the membership fees for the Association of Early Childhood Iowa Area Boards & Advocates. Donations can be made through the United Way of Central Iowa and are voluntary, anonymous, and tax deductible.
- A breakfast social has been scheduled for October 11 at 7:15 a.m. at Smokey Row in Des Moines. A lunch social event will be planned for March and an evening social for June.

New Business

None

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

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

Bennigsdorf adjourned the meeting at 9:25 a.m.