



**POLK COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA BOARD MEETING**  
**United Way of Central Iowa**  
**1111 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Leadership Room**  
**October 26, 2022**

**Voting Members Present:** Deanna Bennigsdorf, Kevin Abler, Sandy Carter, Alicia Chilton, Suzanne Cohrs, Sam Early, Matthew Klemme, Adam Montufar, Marianka Pille, Eric Tubbs, Jana Shepherd, Emily Westergaard; Dave Arens joined via teleconference at 11:56 a.m.

**Voting Members Absent:** Ahmed Agyeman, Rob Barron, Tabitha Choquette, Eva Morales, Jessica Trinidad

**Ex-Officio Members Present:** None

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

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

**Guests Present:** Tammy Engebretson, ECQuIP Manager, Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children; Laurie Parker, ECQuIP Consultant, Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children; Carly Ross, Executive Director, Dental Connections; Courtney Wolterman, Director Community Programs, Dental Connections

**Welcome**

Board Chair Deanna Bennigsdorf called the Polk County Early Childhood Iowa Board meeting to order at 11:34 a.m. Quorum was met at this time.

Guest introductions were made.

**Approval September Minutes**

Minutes were presented of board meeting September 28, 2022. There were no comments or corrections.

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

**September FY23 Financial Report**

Adam Montufar presented the September FY23 financial report. Expenses are tracking as expected for the first quarter. Bremner expects School Ready Preschool Programming Support invoicing to begin increasing. Knock and Drop has expended 54% of their funding through purchases of diapers, formula and the seasonal purchase of winter coats, hats, mittens. 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 September 2022 totals \$2,925.50
- Expended School Ready funds end of September 2022 total \$333,821.39
- At the end of September 2022 10% of School Ready had been expended. End of September 2021 9% 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 September 2022 totals \$1,255.87
- Expended Early Childhood funds at end of September 2022 total \$99,218.21
- At end of September 2022 9% of Early Childhood had been expended. End of September 2021 10% of funds had been expended.

*A motion to approve the September FY23 Financial Report was made by Kevin Abler and seconded by Suzanne Cohrs. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.*

### **Community Plan**

Bremner shared the accreditation process requires Polk County ECI to provide the Community Plan to ECI state staff by October 31. The Plan contains geographic/demographic information and highlights the increasing diversity in Polk County's population. The information in the plan helps drive the work of the Board.

*A motion to approve the Community Plan was made by Emily Westergaard and seconded by Marianka Pille. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.*

Westergaard asked what the schedule is for accreditation. It is a five-year accreditation. ECI state staff will schedule a site visit to meet with the board and funded partners. State renewal will be in May/June. Bremner will share the site visit date with members when she receives them. Bennigsdorf encouraged members to attend the site meetings if possible.

### **Administrative Report**

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

Bremner reported in fall of 2021, Health and Human Services reduced the Collaborative Service Areas (CSA) from 28 to 15. Warren and Madison counties were added to the Polk and Dallas County service area and became CSA 8. These service areas control RFPs for services for many programs serving children and families. This move is starting to impact services in Polk County. Warren County Health Services and EveryStep submitted applications for the Child Health Services, which includes Child Care Nurse Consultants; Warren County was awarded the contract.

EveryStep and Warren County could not come to terms on a MOU. EveryStep had to stop providing CCNC services by October 1. EveryStep filed an appeal.

Dave Arens arrived via teleconference at 11:56 a.m.

Bremner received an email on October 25<sup>th</sup> from HHS stating they repealed the award for CSA 8 and will reissue the RFP by October 31. We are awaiting word on when EveryStep can resume providing CCNC services.

Bennigsdorf thanked Bremner for her commitment to finding a solution to the situation and asking the right questions.

Westergaard asked if this is an area that the Association of ECI Areas and Advocates can get involved with. Bremner shared ECI directors have been discussing what they and the Association can do to make legislators aware of the situation.

An update on the Des Moines Public Library 5 Simple Steps program from Ashley Molzen is included in the report. The program is sharing and collaborating with West Des Moines Public Library. New photos from their updated campaign are included.

Knock and Drop shared photos of children receiving their new winter gear. Bremner will share pictures when she sends out the minutes for review.

Bremner met with the Preschool Administrators this month. Susie Guest with DMPS is retiring in June of 2023. She will be on contract with the district to train the new Early Childhood Program Administrator.

Westergaard shared Axios had an interesting article today regarding the Des Moines City Council consideration of funding DMPS preschool. Bremner will share the link.

### **Old Business**

- Bennigsdorf reminded members that donations are being accepted to offset the costs of membership in the Association of ECI Areas and Advocates. Deadline is November 1.
- Bennigsdorf thanked members for attending the breakfast social. A lunch event will be scheduled for January. Please reach out to Bremner or Bennigsdorf with location ideas.

### **New Business**

- Bennigsdorf encouraged members to vote.

### **Public Comment**

None.

### **Dental Connections:**

Executive Director Carly Ross presented a PowerPoint on the history of Dental Connections. Director of Community Programs Courtney Wolterman shared data on the Smile Squad program. Polk County ECI's funding supports this program in coalition child care centers.

Pille asked if there is an opportunity for kids needing urgent care to be seen at the clinic in the United Way building. Dental Connections does have a pediatric dentist on staff; however, she will be on maternity leave soon. Children needing additional dental services will be referred to other pediatric dentists in the Des Moines area who accept Medicaid or the University of Iowa during her leave.

Westergaard inquired about the agencies fundraising efforts. Ross shared the agency is working to increase grant funding and looking to diversify individual giving programs. The mobile dental clinics are 20 years old and will cost \$414,00 each to replace.

### **Adjournment**

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

Bennigsdorf adjourned the meeting at 12:29 p.m.

Wolterman and Ross led members on a tour of the Dental Connections mobile clinic and dental clinic in the United Way building.

November meeting will be held at Conmigo Early Education Center.