



POLK COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA BOARD MEETING
United Way of Central Iowa
Conference Room B/C
May 24, 2023

Voting Members Present: Deanna Bennigsdorf, Dave Arens, Sandy Carter, Alicia Chilton, Suzanne Cohrs, Sam Early, Marianka Pille, Jana Shepherd, Eric Tubbs, Emily Westergaard. Participating via teleconference: Kevin Abler, Ahmed Agyeman, Rob Barron, Tabitha Choquette, Eva Morales; Adam Montufar joined via teleconference at 8:06 a.m.

Voting Members Absent: Matthew Klemme

Ex-Officio Members Present: None

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Aaron Johnson, Barb Merrill

Staff Present: Barb Bremner, Jody Kanne

Guests Present: Leann Andre, Child Care Consultant Supervisor, Child Care Resource and Referral; Tammy Engebretson, ECQuIP Manager, Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children; Cindy Winn, Healthy Start Director, EveryStep

Welcome

Board Chair Deanna Bennigsdorf welcomed members and called the Polk County Early Childhood Iowa Board meeting to order at 8:01 a.m. Quorum was met at this time.

Approval April Minutes

Minutes of board meeting April 26, 2023, were presented. There were no comments or corrections.

A motion to approve the April 2023 minutes was made by Emily Westergaard and seconded by Suzanne Cohrs. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

April FY23 Financial Report

Sam Early presented financials through April FY23. Expenditures are tracking on schedule with end of April being 83% through fiscal year. Des Moines Public Schools' Preschool Programming and Parent Engagement contracts are the largest School Ready contracts. Expenditures for these DMPS contracts are slightly below the 83% tracking due to some staffing turnover in the business office; the contracts will be fully expended.

Adam Montufar joined via teleconference at 8:06 a.m.

School Ready

- FY23 School Ready funding \$2,980,513
- Carry Forward funds total \$293,103.61
- FY23 Total School Ready funds \$3,273,616.61
- Interest accrued through April 2023 totals \$7,742.27
- Expended School Ready funds end of April 2023 total \$2,114,890.22
- At the end of April 2023 65% of School Ready had been expended. End of April 2022 59% of funds had been expended.
- 100% of carry forward expended

Early Childhood

- FY23 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 April 2023 totals \$2,722.89
- Expended Early Childhood funds at end of April 2023 total \$722,393.01
- At end of April 2023 68% of Early Childhood had been expended. End of April 2022 70% of funds had been expended.
- 100% of carry forward expended

A motion to approve the April FY23 Financial Report was made by Suzanne Cohrs and seconded by Marianka Pille. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

FY24 Budget Drafts v2

Bremner presented review committees notes and scoring from the investment review sessions. Bremner reviewed the Early Childhood and School Ready FY24 Budget Draft v2. Health and Human Services confirmed allocation amounts are final. Legislative changes mean all funds are in Health and Human Services budget. Guidance and restrictions for use have not been changed. Both School Ready and Early Childhood budgets include estimated Carry Forward funds.

Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children received state funding for the next three years for the T.E.A.C.H. program. They are not seeking funding from the board. Contract was \$92,000 which is available for use in FY24.

Two new line items were added to the Early Childhood budget; Oakridge Neighborhood Prepare 2 Care Provider Support \$17,500 and Classroom/Instructional Materials Startup Child Care \$30,000.

Bremner reported EMBARC Executive Director Henny Ohr has filed for a new non-profit called RIVA. RIVA is expanding services to all refugees; EMBARC continues to focus on the Burmese community. Release of the EMBARC Parent Navigator contract may be delayed due to the reorganization.

LSI's Healthy Families American HOPES is a family support case management program. This is their second request for funding for the program.

Board members are encouraged to send any follow-up questions to Bremner. Members will vote on the final FY24 budget at the June 28th meeting.

Executive Director Compensation Committee Update

Bennigsdorf will send out a meeting invitation for June 1st from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. to committee members Westergaard, Early, Cohrs, and Pille. She thanked members who participated in the Executive Director survey. The committee will use the survey results along with additional compensation data to determine a fair Executive Director compensation package for the upcoming year. The committee will share their recommendation at the June meeting.

Board Self Evaluation (Policy 2.12)

Bennigsdorf discussed the annual Board Self-Evaluation survey. Bremner will send out a link to the short survey to members following today's meeting.

Administrative Report

- Bremner reported May 12 and May 23 ECI director meetings were cancelled. She will attend the State ECI Board meeting June 2nd and will share updates with members.
- Bremner reviewed legislative updates and sees no immediate changes caused by all funding being moved to Health and Human Services.
- LSI's Child Care Business Development program is being duplicated in Black Hawk, Buena Vista and Scott counties. Polk County ECI has funded this project for many years.
- EveryStep underwent restructuring in April. As a result, Jeanette Luthringer's Community Health Director position was eliminated. CCNC's have been moved under the Maternal Health program. Bremner met with Jen Stout, Vice President of Community Health Services, to request details of staff reporting and a new budget for the program. Bremner will update board members at the June meeting.
- Bremner has met with RIVA and EMBARC regarding the new non-profit and impacts on Parent Navigator

Old Business

- Final board social was May 11th at 4:30 p.m. at Big Grove. Bennigsdorf appreciated getting to know members in a more informal setting and recommends continuing the socials next year.
- Early inquired about year-end work for next month's meeting. Bremner shared items for the June meeting:
 - Nomination Committee will present their slate of Chair/Vice Chair and new board members for approval.
 - Executive Director Compensation Committee will present their FY24 compensation package recommendation for approval.
 - FY24 budget be approved.
 - All committees will be dissolved until next year.

New Business

None

Public Comment

- Cindy Winn with EveryStep reported on the Baby Bloom event held May 13th at Hiatt Middle School in partnership with The Supply Hive. Even with the inclement weather 281 people attended: 119 families, 57 pregnant individuals and 42 children under the age of one. They collaborated with many community agencies to provide resources, gave out cribs and diapers and The Supply Hive hired two food trucks for the event. She thanked Polk County ECI for their continued support which allows them to put on these events.
- Leann Andre with CCR&R shared the number child care centers registering for IQ4K continues to increase.
- Tammy Engbretson with IAEYC shared the ECQuIP team has been busy in child care centers. Many centers are staffed with staff in rooms with high-needs children. The team has been spending a lot of time helping directors and staff address classroom management.

Adjournment

Cohrs made a motion to adjourn the meeting. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Bennigsdorf adjourned the meeting at 9:14 a.m.