



POLK COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA BOARD MEETING
United Way of Central Iowa
Conference Room F
November 15, 2023

Voting Members Present: Kevin Abler, Dave Arens, Deanna Bennigsdorf, Jessica Bruning, Sandy Carter, Alicia Chilton, Suzanne Cohrs, Sam Early, Adam Montufar, Eva Morales, Christian Ramirez, Shay Scholtes, Emily Westergaard, Stephen White; no call in was available for this meeting

Voting Members Absent: Rob Barron, Tabitha Choquette, Matthew Klemme, Marianka Pille, Eric Tubbs

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 & Referral; Tammy Engebretson, Director of Quality Initiatives; Lisa Stockslager, Literacy Specialist; Jennifer Stritz, Preschool Consultant, all from the ECQuIP team at Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children (IAEYC)

Welcome

Board Chair Sam Early welcomed members and called the Polk County Early Childhood Iowa Board meeting to order at 8:08 a.m. Quorum was met at this time.

Approval September Minutes

Minutes of board meeting October 25, 2023, were presented. Early asked for any changes or corrections to the minutes as presented.

A motion to approve the October 2023 minutes was made by Emily Westergaard and seconded by Deanna Bennigsdorf. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Financial Report

October financial statements were not available because this meeting is one week earlier than normal. The fiscal agent closes the month on the 15th. October will be reviewed at the next board meeting.

Shalom Community Impact Funding Request

An application for one-time funding of \$20,500 for classroom materials for the Play Learn Grow Together preschool program was included with meeting materials. Shalom would like funding to add a three-year-old classroom. They have parents waiting. They are in process of being licensed through HHS. They have applied to United Way of Central Iowa for operational funds

for this classroom. They have applied to receive this funding for January 2024 through June 2024. This classroom would have the same hours of Monday, Tuesday, Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Children will be transported as they are currently.

A panel presented the evolution of the preschool program and Shalom's plan for the future of the program. The panel included: Pastor Eugene Kiruhura, Director of Shalom Community Impact Center; Abdullah Hiret, Board of Directors of Shalom Community Impact Center, Benjamin Matabaro, parent with a son who participated in the program and is now in first grade and a three-year-old daughter who would like to attend when the three-year-old classroom opens; Deb Kellogg, lead teacher and Kathy Morrow, a volunteer assistant teacher. The long-term plan is to become licensed, be able to receive Child Care Assistance for enrolled children, and eventually expand days and hours. After the meeting is concluded members will visit the preschool classroom which is holding a special class today.

Funding Request Discussion and Vote

Early opened discussion with members. The main concern expressed was that the board does not want to be the sole funder. Approval of the materials grant would demonstrate to other funders, including United Way of Central Iowa, board support for the program. An MOU would be agreed upon and signed so that if Shalom did not open the classroom or closed the classroom in the future the ECQuIP team at IAEYC would distribute the materials to coalition centers.

A motion was made to approve funding of the request for one-time funding of \$20,500 for classroom materials was made by Suzane Cohrs and seconded by Adam Montufar. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Administrative Report

Administrative Report included with today's materials.

Old Business

- Eva Morales told members that the Des Moines Public Library set up Simple Steps stations at the Justice Center yesterday. She sent photos to Bremner who will share them with members.

New Business

- None

Public Comment

- None

Adjournment

Eva Morales made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Sandy Carter seconded. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Early adjourned the meeting at 9:00 a.m. Board members visited the classroom after the meeting.