



POLK COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA BOARD MEETING
United Way of Central Iowa
Conference Room F
January 24, 2024

Voting Members Present: Kevin Abler, Deanna Bennigsdorf, Jessica Bruning, Sandy Carter, Alicia Chilton, Suzanne Cohrs, Sam Early, Eva Morales, Marianka Pille, Christian Ramirez, Shay Scholte; participating via teleconference: Rob Barron, Stephen White

Voting Members Absent: Dave Arens, Tabitha Choquette, Matthew Klemme, Adam Montufar, Eric Tubbs, Emily Westergaard

Ex-Officio Members Present: None

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Aaron Johnson, Barb Merrill

Staff Present: Barb Bremner, Jody Kanne

Guests Present: Lanette Nelson, Healthy Start & Empowerment Outreach Manager, EveryStep; Lora Patton, Regional Director; and Christy Vasey, Child Care Consultant Supervisor, both from Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R)

Welcome

Board Chair Sam Early welcomed members and called the Polk County Early Childhood Iowa Board meeting to order at 8:02 a.m. Quorum was met at this time. Teleconference participant and guest introductions were made.

Approval December Minutes

Minutes of board meeting December 20, 2023, were presented. Early asked for changes or corrections to the minutes as presented.

A motion to approve the December 2023 minutes was made by Marianka Pille and seconded by Deanna Bennigsdorf. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

December FY24 Financial Report

Alicia Chilton presented the December FY24 financial report. Expenditures are tracking as expected. The Early Childhood child care center Capacity Building quarterly bonuses will be reflected in the January report. Young Women's Resource Center, LSI and EveryStep's CCNC are a bit behind for invoicing; Bremner will follow up with these programs.

As approved last month, this budget reflects the partial reallocation of funds being held for EMBARC to Mary's Helping Hands and Knock & Drop Iowa. A final agreement between RIVA and EMBARC should have been signed January 20th. EMBARC should contact Bremner soon.

School Ready

- FY24 School Ready funding is \$2,965,062
- Carry Forward funds total \$304,473.51
- FY24 Total School Ready funds \$3,269,535.51
- Interest accrued through December 2023 totals \$4,810.73
- Expended School Ready funds end of December 2023 total \$948,323.11
- At the end of December 2023 29% of School Ready had been expended. End of previous December 2022 34% of funds had been expended.

Early Childhood

- FY24 Early Childhood funding is \$969,361
- Carry Forward funds total \$141,469.91
- FY24 Total Early Childhood funds \$1,110,830.91
- Interest accrued through December 2023 totals \$1,874.79
- Expended Early Childhood funds at end of December 2023 total \$338,161.96
- At end of December 2023 30% of Early Childhood had been expended. End of previous December 2022 35% of funds had been expended.

A motion to approve the December FY24 Financial Report was made by Suzanne Cohrs and seconded by Kevin Ablor. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Why Before the How: Information and Discussion

Early introduced the topic and the goal to provide a shared context prior to beginning the program review and budgeting process. It will be beneficial to identify the “why” behind investing in early childhood and to focus on the specifics of board investments.

Bremner presented information regarding the importance of the first 2,000 days in which 92% of brain growth occurs. Early Childhood Iowa was set up in the early 2000s under Governor Vilsak to provide local decision making to meet local community needs.

Members were split into groups based on committees:

Early Childhood- Sandy Carter, Alicia Chilton, Dave Arens, Matthew Klemme, Christian Ramirez, Adam Montufar, Shay Scholtes

School Ready-Rob Barron, Deanna Bennigsdorf, Jessica Bruning, Tabitha Choquette, Eric Tubbs, Stephen White, Emily Westergaard

New Applications-Kevin Ablor, Suzanne Cohrs, Sam Early, Eva Morales, Marianka Pille

The three committee groups discussed topics and reported to the whole group:

- Topic 1 – Focus Areas and Priorities-do they align with mission, vision, priorities
- Topic 2 – Info needed from applicants for funding (renewal & new)
- Topic 3 – Specific funding considerations-how to prioritize funding requests

Eva Morales departed the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

Administrative Report

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

Marianka Pille departed the meeting at 9:25 a.m.

Old Business

- None

New Business

Early will contact members to create the Nominating Committee. Pille and Bennigsdorf will end their second terms on the board June 30, 2024. There is one additional position to fill. The Nominating Committee will be responsible for recruiting three new members.

Public Comment

- Lanette Nelson, EveryStep, thanked the board for their work and continued support.

Adjournment

Kevin Abler made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Suzanne Cohrs seconded. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Early adjourned the meeting at 9:27 a.m.