

**POLK COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA BOARD MEETING**  
**United Way of Central Iowa – Leadership Room**  
**Des Moines, Iowa**  
**December 5, 2014**

**Voting Members Present:** Judy McCoy Davis, Marvin DeJear, Claudia Hawkins, Rocio Herмосillo, Bryan Huggins, Matt Knoll, Kevin McCarthy, Tom Slater, JoEllen Spriggs-Dixon; Cindy Elsbernd arrived at 11:15 a.m.; Kimberly Peterson arrived at 11:20 a.m.; Craig Sieverding arrived at 11:30 a.m.; Rocio Herмосillo left at 11:45 a.m. after the action item on agenda.

**Voting Members Absent:** Jem Gong-Browne, Mike Bandstra, Sam Carrell, Natali Justiniano Pahl, Joyce Pingel, Shane Schulte, Georgia Sheriff

**Ex-Officio Members Present:** Dave Arens, Dave Discher

**Ex-Officio Members Absent:** Brook Rosenberg

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

**Welcome and Introductions**

Board Chair Judy McCoy Davis welcomed everyone to the Polk County Early Childhood Iowa Board meeting at 11:05 am. Quorum was not met at this time. Davis opened the meeting with general discussion of the Community Plan and the Levels of Excellence process. Davis explained that this meeting was added to the schedule of monthly meetings to ensure that members had an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback on the Community Plan before the final draft was circulated for review.

**Community Plan**

Tool NN was provided to members. It was explained that this tool is the State's outline for the information to be included in the Community Plan. The Community Plan will be submitted as a part of the Levels of Excellence (LOE) materials. Davis announced the state ECI TA team will review all LOE materials and then will meet with staff and the Board in March or April to review any questions or issues they have; community partners will also be invited to attend this review meeting. In June the State ECI Board will vote on accreditation for each ECI area submitting LOE materials this cycle.

**Quorum Met**

Cindy Elsbernd arrived at 11:15 a.m. Quorum was met at 11:15 a.m. Kimberly Peterson arrived at 11:20 a.m., Craig Sieverding arrived at 11:30 a.m.

**Policy and Procedure Manual**

The Policy and Procedure Manual was presented to the board for their final approval. All policies have been reviewed and approved by the Board over the previous months. Davis noted this manual will now be annually updated in the spring along with Bylaws. JoEllen Spriggs-Dixon noted a typographical correction on page 21 under procedures bullet three.

*A motion to approve the Policy and Procedure Manual with the above correction was made by Matt Knoll and seconded by Marvin DeJear. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.*

## **Community Plan**

The Community Plan was presented to the board for discussion and suggestions for any changes or additions. A discussion around each of the sections followed. Cindy Elsbernd noted in Section 1 for demographics that recent data from Des Moines Public Schools shows that there are at least 80 countries represented in the Des Moines District. Davis indicated the data available on private schools was added. Members then discussed home schooling numbers. Bremner will contact the districts in Polk County to confirm the most current home schooling data. Sections 3, 4, and 5 look at the funding of programs in Polk County, community collaborations and how the Board will use the information within the Community Plan. There were minimal questions or comments of these sections. An in-depth discussion of Section 2 then took place. David stated this section is the heart of how the Board determines where to invest funds. The Priorities, Rationale and Strategies were discussed in depth. These had been circulated to the small work groups prior to inclusion. These reflect the results from the parent and partner surveys as well as are a result of the meeting with community partners.

Discussion included member ideas for effective advocacy and the information needed for advocacy efforts. Requests were made for data on the number of kids on the waiting list for preschool and the number of additional children that could be served if funding was restored to 2008 levels for all programs. Davis indicated our preschool programming funds can be used for transportation while public school district DOE funds cannot. Districts have indicated if we can get more funds for transporting the children, they can provide the slots for enrollment.

A discussion arose around the QRS system and whether there are other more relevant standards of quality to include as indicators and strategies. Members mentioned a lack of importance placed on QRS by members of the community they have discussed child care and early education with. The GOLD assessment was discussed. A general lack of support and awareness of QRS within the general populace was noted. Davis reported that previously the State provided incentives for centers to achieve a higher QRS rating, however with funding being cut there is no incentive for centers to increase their rating or to participate. Member Kimberly Peterson provided her perspective as a child care professional who has worked for several centers in Polk County.

A common thread of discussion of all the priorities was how to get the information out to the families and parents and how to make them aware of the resources currently available. Discussions also included the need to connect families with resources.

Davis asked members to review the Community Plan one more time and forward any additional changes or thoughts to Bremner as soon as possible. The final document will be circulated to the Board and will be an action item for approval at the December 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m. The next board meeting will be Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. in the Leadership Room.