

POLK COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA BOARD MEETING
United Way of Central Iowa – Leadership Room
Des Moines, Iowa
February 27, 2013

Voting Members Present: Judy McCoy Davis, Dave Arens, Cindy Elsbernd, Matt Knoll, Ka'Meka Lowery, Becky Miles-Polka, Natali Justiniano Pahl, Shane Schulte, Tom Slater, Chaney Yeast

Voting Members Absent: Misty Hansen, Terry Harrmann, Claudia Hawkins, Terri Henkels, Joyce Pingel

Incoming Board Members Present: Marvin DeJear, Georgia Sheriff

Ex-Officio Members Present: None

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Dave Discher, Donald Doudna, Brook Rosenberg

Guests Present: Nick Wuertz, Lutheran Services in Iowa

Staff Present: Barb Bremner, Linda Dahlman, Vanessa Sedrel, Terie Taylor-Wolf

Welcome & Introductions:

Judy McCoy Davis welcomed everyone to the Polk County Early Childhood Iowa Board meeting at 11:35 a.m. Quorum was met at this time. Introductions were made around the table, welcoming new members: Matt Knoll, Shane Schulte and Tom Slater.

Approval of January 2013 Minutes:

A motion to approve the January 2013 minutes was made by Dave Arens and seconded by Becky Miles-Polka. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Monthly Financial Statements:

Linda Dahlman, United Way of Central Iowa, presented the January 2013 financials. These statements presented an accrual presentation of the financial transactions which took place during the first seven months of FY13.

Early Childhood

- Year to Date receipts totaled \$752,303.25 as of January 31, 2013. This amount represents 75% of the annual funding for FY13. Annual funding for the early childhood area is \$1,003,071.
- At this point in the fiscal year the early childhood initiative has expended \$502,162.72, including carry forward dollars.
- These expenditures are approximately 50% of the fiscal year 2013 budgeted expenditures.

School Ready

- Year to Date Receipts totaled \$1,989,673.50 as of January 31, 2013. This amount represents 75% of the annual funding for FY13. Annual funding for the school ready area is \$2,652,898.
- During the first seven months of this fiscal year the school ready initiative has expended \$1,288,318.02.
- These expenditures are approximately 45% of the fiscal year 2013 budgeted expenditures.
- Carry forward dollar amount for the current fiscal year was \$209,250.46. Per the report, these dollars have been strategically budgeted in each of the school ready areas. These carry forward dollars will be expended later in the fiscal year.
- Invoices have been submitted for Blank Children's Hospital and La Clinica. These expenditures will be reflected in the February report.

Approval of January 2013 Financial Statements:

A motion to approve the January 2013 financials was made by Chaney Yeast and seconded by Cindy Elsbernd. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Board Membership – Nominations:

Judy recognized four new board members elected in January: Terri Henkels, Matt Knoll, Shane Schulte and Tom Slater.

Nominations have been made for new members to replace members Dave Arens and Ka'Meka Lowery, whose terms have expired. A motion to elect Marvin DeJear and Georgia Sheriff to the PCECI board was made by Becky Miles-Polka and seconded by Ka'Meka Lowery. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Judy welcomed Georgia and Marvin to the board and thanked Ka'Meka and Dave for their years of service.

The PCECI Board continues to seek nominations for board membership which will be voted on at the Annual Meeting in June. Misty Hansen and Becky Miles Polka will be retiring at the end of June, and Judy stated that she would like to see our board have at least 18 voting members so that a resignation does not require an immediate replacement.

ECI Board – Letter of endorsement for Dave Arens:

Part of the application to serve on the state Early Childhood Iowa Board is a requirement for each applicant's local ECI board to provide a letter of endorsement. Dave Arens has submitted his application to the Governor's office and has asked for our letter of recommendation. The Governor's Office will make a decision by March 1. Because the review was ongoing throughout February, Judy submitted her personal letter of recommendation in mid-February and indicated that the board would vote on it at this meeting.

A motion to approve a letter for Dave Arens representing the endorsement of the PCECI Board was made by Chaney Yeast and seconded by Natali Justiniano Pahl. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Dave excused himself from the room during this portion of the meeting.

Approval of contract with DMARC:

The Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC) has approached PCECI to assist them with donations they receive directed towards child care assistance. A contract with DMARC, to run through FY13 and representing \$17,000, was presented to the board for PCECI to facilitate the processing and enrollment of families in quality child care centers using the funds donated to DMARC. Michelle Greenough, PCECI-funded Preschool Quality Coach, will assist in this process through June 30th.

Families will be asked to complete an application after contacting DMARC for assistance. The contract states that families may seek DMARC Childcare Assistance funds while:

- Looking for work
- Enrolled in school
- Experiencing a crisis (medical, employment, housing, change in family status)
- Waiting to receive childcare subsidies
- Employed, but making too much to qualify for other childcare subsidies (240% of FPL or lower)

Families must reapply every six months. Funds are available by a first come-first served basis; there is currently no limit set for funding to families.

Discussion included questions regarding liability, responsibility for placement in quality care centers, and the reason for PCECI involvement in facilitating. It was noted that United Way will receive 3% of funds as fiscal agent, and PCECI will be providing the necessary staffing but receives no funding. This contract was discussed as a stopgap measure to allow families to receive assistance. There will be further discussion before a FY14 contract is considered.

A motion to approve the contract between PCECI and DMARC for administering funds for child care assistance through June 30, 2013, was made by Tom Slater and seconded by Shane Schulte. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Community Programs Scorecard Overview:

Terie Taylor-Wolf, United Way of Central Iowa, presented an overview of the program scorecard used during the investment review process for programs. She shared an example of a program's Scorecard and Performance Measures Analysis report (Smile Squad). This is an example of what PCECI Board members will see when they review program data as part of the investment process this spring. With changes made at the state-level by ECI to program performance measures in 2012, it will be difficult this year to compare data to identify trends. The rationale for the changes in performance measures was to make it easier to document and compare service provision and

programs across the state. Many PCECI-funded programs also receive UWCI funds and report on UW performance measures. United Way is available to partner with PCECI for a better understanding of the aggregate data.

Community Programs Reapplication – Process, Timeline, Assignments for Review:

- **Investment Process Timeline:** FY13 ends June 30, 2013. Programs will be asked to complete their reapplication on UWCI Results Scorecard by March 25th. Board member review teams will meet in April. State legislature should release budget in mid-May, allowing PCECI Board to make funding decisions in late May, early June.
- **Conflict of Interest:** Members were asked to read through, and sign, the provided PCECI Conflict of Interest Disclosure
- **Investment Process Review Teams:** A tentative board member review team list was distributed. Review teams are divided by Preschool/Childcare Centers, Family Support and Respite, Child Care, and Health. A revised list will be distributed via email before next board meeting
- **Program Review Assessment Form:** A copy of the scoring sheet for program reviews was handed out. Board members were asked to review and contact Barb with any feedback.

Speaker: Nick Wuertz:

The director of the Refugee Community Services at Lutheran Services in Iowa shared background and insight to the program offered historically and currently by LSI. Current services to refugees include: work readiness training, community development and capacity building, community gardens, senior companionship and childcare business development. A major barrier to work ready refugees is finding childcare that is quality and accessible. LSI has a two-year grant to provide cohorts for individuals to participate in training to become licensed in-home providers. LSI has teamed up with CCR&R and ISED to provide a wraparound support system for individuals to start up their own child care site. This spring they will work with two cohorts (a total of 15 participants). After completing the program participants will be provided with ongoing technical assistance for 16 weeks. There are plans for three more cohorts in the fall.

Administrative Update:

Because the agenda ran the full time, Barb will send her Administrative Update via email.

Old Business:

Judy reminded members of ECI Day on the Hill will be 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. on March 12th. Barb will send an email reminder. Interested Board members are encouraged to participate and to meet with their legislators. Rob Grunewald, Economist with the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, will be the special guest. He will conduct a press conference at 10:00 that morning in the Capitol rotunda, addressing the economic benefits of investing in early childhood. He will also address the Senate Economic

Growth Committee at 2:00 p.m. In addition, early childhood advocates will be stationed around the rotunda with information supporting the following key messages:

- Invest in early learning
- Invest in positive relationships
- Invest in safe, nurturing environments
- Invest in family support
- Invest in quality child care
- Invest in early intervention
- Invest now and see the reward

New Business:

None reported

Public Comment:

None reported

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 1:15. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 27th at 8:00 AM in the Leadership room.