



POLK COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA BOARD MEETING
United Way of Central Iowa – Leadership Room
Des Moines, Iowa
October 25, 2017

Voting Members Present: Matt Knoll, Sam Carrell, Cindy Elsbernd, Jem Gong-Browne, Rocio Hermosillo, Josh Mandelbaum, Judy McCoy Davis, Marianka Pille, Jana Shepherd, Georgia Sheriff, Emily Westergaard

Voting Members Absent: Ahmed Agyeman, Marvin DeJear, Nick Dial, Bryan Huggins, Shane Schulte, Craig Sieverding, Mee Yang-Lee

Ex-Officio Members Present: None

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Dave Arens, Terry Harrmann, Brook Rosenberg

Staff Present: Barb Bremner, Jody Kanne

Guests Present: Ashley Bertsch, LMHC, Mental Health Consultant, Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children; Amy Curtis, Child Care Consultant, Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children; Jillian Herink, Executive Director, Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children; Johnna Haggerty, Child Care Center Consultant, Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children; Lynette Nelson, Healthy Start Outreach Manager, Visiting Nurse Services of Iowa; Lora Patton, Regional Director, Child Care Resource & Referral; Lisa Stocksleger, Literacy Consultant, Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children; Jennifer Stritz, Child Care Center Consultant, Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children; Kay Tannant, Healthy Start Intake Manager, Visiting Nurse Services of Iowa; Stacey Walter, Early Child Care Coordinator, Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children

Welcome and Introductions

Board Chair Matt Knoll welcomed board members and guests to the Polk County Early Childhood Iowa Board meeting at 11:36 a.m. Guest introductions were made. Quorum was met at this time.

Approval September Minutes

The September 27, 2017 minutes were presented to the board. There were no additional comments or corrections.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Emily Westergaard and seconded by Josh Mandelbaum. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Monthly Financial Statements

Barb Bremner presented the financial statements for September 2017. These statements are a cash presentation of financial transactions which took place through September 30th of fiscal year 2018.

School Ready

- FY18 Polk County ECI School Ready funding is \$2,647,000.
- Carry Forward funds total \$68,842. These have been budgeted into the Healthy Start & Empowerment contract line within the budget and will be expended before FY18 funds.
- Total funds for the School Ready Budget equal \$2,715,842.14.
- Year to date receipts total \$661,750. First quarter payment received in July.
- Additional receipts of \$2,100.68 interest.
- At end of September School Ready funds of \$143,662.05 had been expended.
- Expenditures were 5.3% of total School Ready funds. Last year at end of September 2016 9% of funds had been expended.

Early Childhood

- FY18 Polk County ECI Early Childhood funding is \$1,099,883.
- Carry Forward funds total \$124,973. These have been budgeted into the IAIEYC EQUIP and the CCRR Consultants contract lines within the budget and will be expended before FY18 funds
- Total funds for the Early Childhood Budget equal \$1,224,856.00.
- Year to date receipts total \$274,970.75. First quarter payment received in July.
- Additional total receipts of \$1,204.10 interest.
- At end of September Early Childhood funds of \$81,719.09 had been expended. Spending is approximately 6.7% of total Early Childhood funds. Last year at end of September 2016 8% of funds had been expended.

Bremner reported that with \$124,973 in carry forward funds for the early childhood grant there is \$105,711.85 non-contracted for FY18. Bremner requested approval to use \$50,000 of the non-contracted funds to support the coalition child care centers for needs beyond those focused on staff retention. These funds would be used to meet needs identified by the ECQUIP consultants and would be used for the cohort of the coalition centers for materials, business planning, and professional development as needed. Expenditures would be in consultation with Stacey Walter. The board would be updated monthly on the expenditure of these funds. Members requested more information on anticipated use of funds and requested a proposal be presented at the November meeting and that this be considered at that time. Bremner will consult with the fiscal agent how amendments to the original budget should appear on the expenditure report. Members agreed to table moving the additional \$50,000 to the Capacity Building – Quality Support Pilot Centers funding line to the November meeting.

A motion to approve the September 2017 financials without the Quality Support Pilot Centers funding line was made by Judy McCoy Davis and seconded by Rocio Hermosillo. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

FY18 Stay Bonus Pilot Update

Stacey Walter, Early Child Care Coordinator, Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children reported the first quarter pilot stipends have been paid to centers and are being distributed to center staff. A brief survey was sent to participants to determine how they plan to use the bonus dollars and if the stay bonus is a positive influence to remain at their current center. Most participants responded they would either pay bills or save the additional dollars from the bonus. Approximately 60% of the respondents stated the stay bonus would impact their decision to leave their current center. Walter stated five staff left the pilot centers between July and September 30th. She has received feedback from the center directors regarding the employees who left, but has not been able to have a phone conversation with any of the individuals to conduct exit interviews. She will attempt to reach these individuals via email.

Georgia Sheriff asked if center staff was well informed of the pilot program. Did existing staff receive a clear explanation of the pilot and are they aware of the exit interview process? Walter reported all staff received a document outlining the pilot program, including the exit interview expectation. The EQuIP team will be in charge of exit interviews for the pilot program in order to provide a neutral line of communication for the participants.

To support the pilot and direct work with the directors of all coalition centers Walter would like to utilize an online survey "Early Childhood Job Satisfaction Survey and the Early Childhood Work Environment Survey" through McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership." This survey would be distributed to all directors and staff at the 17 coalition centers. Walter has been communicating with First Children's Finance to design training for center directors focused on the business planning and annual budgets.

Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children: ECQuIP Consultation Team

Walter reported team members were moved to IAEYC as employees of that agency in July 2016 and rebranded the Early Childhood Quality Improvement Project (ECQuIP). Having all members in one location has been a tremendous help in strategizing, identifying issues earlier, and providing immediate services to centers and families. ChildTime has been brought back into the coalition of centers. New Horizons Academy in Valley Junction in West Des Moines is a new coalition center. The center serves birth through age five. The team is in the process of implementing a new staff orientation procedure for all teachers hired by any coalition center. These will be the universal orientation components. Center directors will assist in developing the training to ensure consistency throughout the coalition.

Lisa Stocksleger, Literacy Consultant, prepares classroom management and literacy tools and holds trainings for the center classroom staff. She conducts "Get Ready to Read" screenings for all enrolled 4-year-olds to determine school readiness. She then works in classrooms individually and in small groups with the low-performing children to get them ready for kindergarten. This fall she has assessed 163 children and 104 of these have scored below average on literacy skills. They have identified rhyming as a skill that seems to be low across many students. Josh Mandelbaum asked if coalition centers are utilizing the Des Moines Public Library's 5 Simple Steps materials. Stocksleger reported materials are posted in some of the centers. She will work with center directors and DMPL to include program information in center family nights and to expand the distribution of materials.

Ashley Bertsch, LMHC, Mental Health Consultant, works in all coalition centers with children exhibiting behaviors which are interfering with their participation in learning. Her overarching goal is to prepare students to be socially and emotionally ready for kindergarten. She helps centers administer the “Ages and Stages Questionnaire” (ASQ), logging scores and referring families on for necessary services.

Johnna Haggerty, Child Care Center Consultant, works with infants and toddlers through age two. Haggerty expressed the value of having the team in one office and their ability to work together and intervene at an earlier age if a child is in need of support services. Through the ITERS rating scale she observes classroom environments and child/teacher interactions to recommend changes the center can make in the classrooms to build better relationships with the children, teachers, and families.

Jennifer Stritz, Child Care Center Consultant, works with preschoolers. She helps centers utilize the GOLD assessment tool to document individual and classroom needs and to provide individualized programming for children not at age appropriate levels. Through the ECERS tool she is able to address classroom programming issues as a whole.

Amy Curtis, Child Care Consultant, works directly with the directors and teachers as a contact point. Her direct contact brings immediate awareness to a child’s needs resulting in a quicker intervention and referral for services. Curtis is also working with centers on their QRS applications.

Sam Carrell departed at 12:45 p.m.

Committees: Scheduling Meetings

Members broke into their School Ready and Early Childhood committees to discuss tasks for FY18 and set meeting dates for the upcoming year.

Administrative Report

Bremner’s September/October Administrative Report was included in today’s packet. Bremner reported September included the State ECI Board, ECI Directors and ECI Regional Directors meetings. Bremner’s full report will be shared with members electronically along with the meeting minutes.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Public Comment

None reported.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Rocio Hermosillo and seconded by Jem Gong-Browne. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. The meeting adjourned at 1:03 p.m.