



POLK COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA BOARD MEETING
United Way of Central Iowa – Leadership Room
Des Moines, Iowa
November 15, 2017

Voting Members Present: Matt Knoll, Jem Gong-Browne, Bryan Huggins, Judy McCoy Davis, Shane Schulte, Georgia Sheriff, Mee Yang-Lee; Ahmed Agyeman, Cindy Elsbernd, Rocio Herмосillo participated via teleconference; Jana Shepherd arrived at 8:05 a.m.; Marvin DeJear and Marianka Pille arrived at 8:06 a.m.; Craig Sieverding arrived at 8:25 a.m.; Josh Mandelbaum arrived at 8:40 a.m.

Voting Members Absent: Sam Carrell, Nick Dial, Emily Westergaard

Ex-Officio Members Present: Dave Arens, Terry Harrmann

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Brook Rosenberg

Staff Present: Barb Bremner, Jody Kanne

Guests Present: Leann Andre, Child Care Consultant Coordinator, Child Care Resource and Referral; Erin Casey, Child Care Consultant, Child Care Resource and Referral; Dara Madigan, WAGE\$ Coordinator, Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children; Jessie Mireles, Regional Quality Initiatives Specialist-ChildNet Certification, Child Care Resource and Referral; Brenda O'Halloran, Child Care Recruitment and Retention Specialist, Child Care Resource and Referral; Lora Patton, Regional Director, Child Care Resource & Referral; Jenny Schreck, Child Care Consultant, Child Care Resource and Referral; Alicia Soppe, Program Director, EMBARC; Abigail Sui, Program Manager, EMBARC; 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; Cindy Winn, Healthy Start Team Lead, Visiting Nurse Services of Iowa

Welcome and Introductions

Board Chair Matt Knoll welcomed board members and guests to the Polk County Early Childhood Iowa Board meeting at 8:04 a.m. Quorum was met at this time.

Approval October Minutes

The October 25, 2017 minutes were presented to the board. There were no additional comments or corrections.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Judy McCoy Davis and seconded by Jem Gong-Browne. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Jana Shepherd arrived at 8:05 a.m.

Monthly Financial Statements

October financials were not available from the fiscal agent in time for this meeting which was moved up one week. October financials will be reviewed at the December meeting. Bremner reported the fiscal agent to address mid-year budget changes, they determined adding a new column on the expenditure report titled Budget Adjustment would be the best solution to highlight any budget changes made throughout the fiscal year.

Marvin DeJear and Marianka Pille arrived at 8:06 a.m.

FY18 Proposal: Expenditures to Support Coalition Funds

Members were presented with a FY18 Proposal: Expenditures to Support Coalition Child Care Centers. This proposal addresses anticipated needs identified by the ECQUiP consultants for the 15 coalition centers. The proposal was broken down into five specific projects detailing each project's expenses. Funding for this proposal would come from the Early Childhood grant non-contracted funds and would not exceed \$50,000.

Stacey Walter confirmed only ten Samsung tablets are needed because five centers currently have tablets. Georgia Sheriff asked how program materials would be distributed equitably because \$25,000 for program materials will not go far across 15 centers. Bremner stated materials would be approved through consultation with the ECQUiP team and be reviewed by Stacey Walter and Bremner for final approval. Expenditures will be reported to the board via the financial reports.

A motion to approve the FY18 Proposal: Expenditures to Support Coalition Funds was made by Judy McCoy Davis and seconded by Mee Yang-Lee. THE MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Child Care Resource & Referral: Overview

Leann Andre, Child Care Consultant Coordinator, reported Child Care Resource and Referral focuses on four areas: family information regarding providers, provider and program consulting, provider and workforce retention, and training. Board funding for consultants is used for a portion of the costs for two home consultants, one center consultant, and one Latino outreach consultant. Comprehensive Training funding is used to cover provider training that is not included in Department of Human Services core training.

Jenny Schreck, Child Care Consultant, works with child care centers in Polk County. She assists centers working towards increasing their QRS rating and applications for the Reach for the Stars grants. She is a support for centers who have children with challenging behaviors and works to connect them with proper support services.

Craig Sieverding arrived at 8:25 a.m.

Schreck reported they are experiencing an increase in centers applying for Reach for the Stars funding, including several new center requests. Many centers use this funding to update classroom furnishings and materials.

Erin Casey, Child Care Consultant, works with home providers. She assists providers applying for Reach for the Stars grants to focus on increasing their QRS rating. Preference for these grants is given to new providers and providers serving low-income children. She works with providers who have not previously participated in the program to utilize the Bridges to Quality funding. They are developing emergency grant funding to support immediate safety needs. These funds have provided materials to the increasing number of refugee providers.

Jessie Mireles, Regional Quality Initiatives Specialist-ChildNet Certification, reported the Department of Human Services is revising the current QRS rating system. The new system, Iowa Quality for Kids, is projected to take effect July 2018. The system will shift to a more balanced, evidence-based approach. Mireles continues to follow the changes to the system and works with providers to inform them of the upcoming changes. The state plans to roll out a marketing campaign with the new system in order to increase parent awareness and provider participation.

Josh Mandelbaum arrived at 8:40 a.m.

Marvin DeJear and Terry Harrmann departed at 8:40 a.m.

Brenda O'Halloran, Child Care Recruitment and Retention Specialist, works with communities to address their unique child care needs. She reported child care deserts are a reality across the country and Iowa. Iowa does fall below the national desert average of 50% at approximately 34%. Members were presented with 5-year child care data trends for Polk County and Iowa.

Lora Patton, Regional Director, reported CCR&R is required to submit a proposal Department of Human Services every five years. Her focus has been completing the current RFP process to renew their contract. The new contract focuses on quality improvement and supportive services, the new QRIS program, and engaging more non-registered providers.

Judy McCoy Davis asked if they had data regarding how many centers/home providers are in operation every year and how long they have been open. Child Care Resource and Referral has just recently started tracking why providers are leaving the industry and could provide some data for this request.

Schulte asked how many centers/home providers participate in the rating system. Mireles reported approximately 25% of centers and home providers across the state currently participate in the QRS rating system. That number could see an initial decrease with the new rating system due to the new regulations. Centers and home providers will keep their existing rating until it expires so they are encouraging centers to apply by the January deadline to give them time to accommodate the new system changes.

Jem asked if there are guidelines placed on the funding dollars the providers receive and if they track center specific data. Providers are informed if their center closes before three years any supplies and materials will be returned to CCR&R. Those supplies are then offered to current providers for their use. Center specific data can be accessed through the CCR&R data base as requested.

Dave Arens departed at 9:16 a.m.

Administrative Report

Bremner and Knoll congratulated Josh Mandelbaum on his recent election to the Des Moines City Council.

Bremner's Administrative report will be shared at the December meeting.

Abigail Sui, Program Manager, EMBARC, and Alicia Soppe, Program Director, EMBARC shared the journey of a homeless mother from Waterloo highlighting how Polk County ECI's continued support of the Parent Navigator program supported this family through a difficult time. This mother was homeless in Waterloo and was able to get connected to EMBARC. Their staff was able to bring the family to Des Moines after finding space at a shelter for her and her children. Eventually the family was invited to stay with the Parent Navigator while staff worked with Polk County ECI to find child care for the children so the mother could work. As a result of these supports, the children are thriving in their new center and the family is now in their own apartment.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Sheriff requested a presentation on the Child and Adult Care Food Program be added to an upcoming meeting agenda. McCoy Davis suggested inviting Rick Kozin, Director of Public Health, Polk County Health Department, to present his outlook and perspective at the January meeting before his February retirement.

Public Comment

None reported.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Georgia Sheriff and seconded by Jem Gong-Browne. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.