



POLK COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA BOARD MEETING
United Way of Central Iowa – Leadership Room
Des Moines, Iowa
January 24, 2018

Voting Members Present: Matt Knoll, Ahmed Agyeman, Jem Gong-Browne, Judy McCoy Davis, Marianka Pille, Jana Shepherd, Craig Sieverding, Emily Westergaard, Mee Yang-Lee; Sam Carrell and Marvin DeJear arrived at 8:11 a.m.; Cindy Elsbernd arrived at 8:16 a.m.; Georgia Sheriff arrived at 8:40 a.m.

Voting Members Absent: Nick Dial, Rocio Hermosillo, Bryan Huggins, Josh Mandelbaum

Ex-Officio Members Present: None

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

Staff Present: Barb Bremner, Jody Kanne

Guests Present: Dara Madigan, WAGE\$ Coordinator, Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children; Lora Patton, Regional Director, Child Care Resource & Referral; Kay Tannant, Healthy Start Intake Manager, 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 8:05 a.m. Quorum was met at this time.

Knoll reported Shane Schulte submitted his resignation. Schulte cited increased his new role at work which will not allow the time commitment necessary to fulfill his board responsibilities. Bremner reported Schulte's resignation brings the board total to 17 members: 8 men and 9 women. By laws require 15-20 members with gender balance. Bremner and Knoll will work on a board matrix for member recruitment this spring.

Approval December Minutes

The December 13, 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 Mee Yang-Lee. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Monthly Financial Statements

Bremner presented the financial statements for November and December 2017. Statements are a cash presentation of financial transactions which took place through December 31st of fiscal year 2018.

School Ready

- FY18 Polk County ECI School Ready funding is \$2,647,000.
- Carry Forward funds total \$68,842. These were budgeted to the Healthy Start & Empowerment contract line and were fully expended in September.
- Total funds for the School Ready Budget equal \$2,715,842.14.
- Year-to-date receipts total \$1,323,500. Second quarter payment was received in October.
- Additional receipts of \$5,579.26 interest.
- At end of December School Ready funds of \$829,096.75 had been expended.
- Expenditures are 30.5% of total School Ready funds. Last year at end of December 2016, 27% of funds had been expended.

Sam Carrell and Marvin DeJear arrived at 8:11 a.m.

Early Childhood

- FY18 Polk County ECI Early Childhood funding is \$1,099,883.
- Carry Forward funds total \$124,973. These were budgeted into IAEYC ECQUIP and CCRR Consultants contract lines and will be expended will be expended before FY18 funds
- Total funds for Early Childhood Budget equal \$1,224,856.00.
- Year-to-date receipts total \$549,941.50. Second quarter payment was received in October.
- Additional total receipts of \$2,922.97 interest.
- At end of December Early Childhood funds of \$368,301.7 had been expended. Spending is approximately 30% of total Early Childhood funds. Last year at end of December 2016, 27% of funds had been expended.

Cindy Elsbernd arrived at 8:16 a.m.

Judy McCoy Davis asked about the distribution of the Early Childhood Capacity Building Child Care Center Pilot funds and if there a plan to redistribute the funds not expended. Bremner stated the first quarterly bonus statement was only \$200 per staff and is approximately half of subsequent payments. The centers submitted invoices for second quarter bonuses of \$400 per retained staff which will appear on the January financials. When the third quarterly payment is distributed in April the board will be able to evaluate expenditures to-date and evaluate the situation of remaining funds.

Mee Yang-Lee asked if we have received data from center staff during exit interviews. Bremner stated Stacey Walter, Early Child Care Coordinator, ECQUIP, Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children, will report out on the pilot and the exit interviews she has conducted at the February meeting. Oak Academy received a wavier to use their funds for operational costs, their available funds are calculated quarterly on staff retention the same as the pilot centers. Emily Westergaard requested Bremner provide an update on how Oak Academy's retention rate compares to the other pilot centers at a future meeting.

Bremner reported she took part in an ECI Director's conference call January 16th with Shanell Wagler, State TA Team. Wagler reported the Governor's current recommendations do not include funding reductions for Early Childhood Iowa. Area ECI's who were holding back funds due to potential cuts were encouraged to distribute those funds.

A motion to approve the November and December 2017 financials was made by Sam Carrell and seconded by Jem Gong-Browne. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Observations on Early Childhood Health

Scheduled guest speaker Rick Kozin, Director, Polk County Public Health is ill and not able to attend today's meeting. Kozin will be retiring on Friday, February 2. Expect to see him active in the community through his work with ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) and the Kiwanis childhood hunger work. Members requested Bremner ask to see if Kozin might present to the board at a later date.

Committee Updates: Early Childhood and School Ready

Knoll reported the Early Childhood committee met on January 9. The committee is looking at the priorities, reviewing and adjusting the program review rubric scoring weights to better align with board priorities. Marvin DeJear is on the state 2Generation Committee and suggested the committee consider the importance of the two generation approach to improve the lives of both the children and their parents. An example to consider is how coalition child care centers can provide resources to support parents?

Westergaard reported the School Ready committee met January 17th with the Preschool Advisory Board to gather information from the public school districts to assist in developing a new application process for the School Ready Preschool Programming funding.

Georgia Sheriff arrived at 8:40 a.m.

Highlights shared from Preschool Advisory meeting and member discussions:

- State funded preschool only supports 10 hours per week. Difficult for parents and/or centers to transport students to schools. Centers are not always willing to transport students or have districts place preschool teachers in their centers due to loss of revenue for those 10 hours.
- Preschool registration starts at the beginning of the calendar year. Polk County ECI would need to be timely in funding decisions because scholarships are being awarded and district budgets finalized early in each calendar year.
- Should the board give districts more guidance on spending? How to approach guidance without being prescriptive in the districts use of funds.
- Transportation continues to be a roadblock for families. If districts provided funding for transportation that would greatly reduce the number of students served. Districts believe transportation restricts low-income families from enrolling in preschool.
- Des Moines Public Schools reports 1,000 children started kindergarten last fall without a preschool experience. Can Polk County ECI partner with college interns or other agencies to conduct a study into preschool enrollment and explore why the families did not enroll

children in preschool? If children attended preschool, how did the families hear about the programming and how did they make it work into their schedules?

- Ahmed asked how the districts get information out to families. Should Polk County ECI embark on an education campaign to help families understand the difference between child care and a preschool experience? Lora Patton, CCR&R, suggested including information educating parents about quality child care as well.

Mee Yang-Lee departed at 8:45 a.m.

- At what point/age are parents made aware of the preschool experience for their children? What types of questions must the parents answer on the application? In today's political environment many parents who are immigrants or refugees may not feel comfortable filling out applications.

Marvin DeJear departed at 9:00 a.m.

- Patton reported Washington State sends out quarterly cards to parents with information regarding how a child's development should be progressing. These updates are tied to a child's immunization records, so the materials contain age appropriate milestones.
- Members had concerns with districts not being fully aware of the need in their community. How many students are open enrolled in other districts programs when their program is full? Are they providing families with additional resources and options if their program is full?
- Sheriff suggested providing promotional items to districts with collective information and resources. This would allow families to receive consistent messaging throughout Polk County.

Program Reapplication for Funding: Forms, Process, Timeline

Members were presented with the Program Reapplication and Review Timeline and the Program Review Rubric for spring 2018. Due to possible budget reductions again this year, the open RFP process has been moved to May. The board expects to have a clearer picture of the FY19 budget after the state legislature passes their budget in mid-May. Once the FY19 budget is set, members can revisit fulfilling any new funding requests with remaining budget dollars. Visiting Nurse Services Healthy Start and Empowerment, School Ready's largest contract, will present their annual update at the March 28th meeting. Committee's will meet with programs seeking FY19 funding in April.

Sam Carrell and Cindy Elsbernd departed at 9:20 a.m.

Bremner presented suggested revisions to the Program Review Rubric for spring 2018. Strategies and collaboration have been combined into one scoring criteria, and item weights have been adjusted:

Criteria	Previous Weight	New Weight
Outcomes Statement	X2	X4
Program Goals	X8	X8
Evidence or Research Based	X3	X1
Need	X10	X8
Strategies & Collaboration	X8 (strategies 7/collaboration 1)	X10
Sustainability	X4	X9
ECI Performance Measures	X6	X6
Overall & Historical Measurable Results	X9	X4
Budget & Justification	X5	X5

McCoy Davis raised concern regarding the high sustainability score, stating our most vulnerable agencies are also our most fragile. Many of these details come out during investment review conversations. Bremner encouraged board members to continue to stress sustainability plans with agencies during review time.

Administrative Report

Bremner's Administrative Report was included in today's materials. From the January meeting of the ECI state board she reported the ECI Annual Report should be available soon. She also reported revisions to the State's QRS rating system are continuing and the anticipated launch has now been moved to January 2019. Early Childhood Iowa Day on the Hill is scheduled for March 19 from 11:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Bremner will share more details as they become available.

Jem Gong-Browne and Marianka Pille departed at 9:30 a.m.

Bremner included a link to a KCCI story addressing the transportation challenges for the residents of Deer Ridge Apartments on the southwest edge of Des Moines. Bremner credited the board's engagement over several fiscal years in finding creative solutions for the transport of the four-year-olds living there to preschool classrooms for elevating this community problem. Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority has funded a shuttle for residents to connect with bus routes.

The report includes a link to a January 9th NY Times Magazine article providing a national perspective on the early childhood workforce.

Old Business

None

New Business

None.

Public Comment

None reported.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:34 a.m.

MK/jk 1/24/18