



**POLK COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA BOARD MEETING**  
**United Way of Central Iowa – Leadership Room**  
**Des Moines, Iowa**  
**November 14, 2018**

**Voting Members Present:** Craig Sieverding, Ahmed Agyeman, Rob Baron, Deanna Bennigsdorf, Sam Carrell, Jem Gong-Browne, Bryan Huggins, Matt Knoll, Jeanie McCarville Kerber, Georgia Sheriff, Emily Westergaard; Josh Mandelbaum and Jana Shepherd, arrived at 8:15 a.m.

**Voting Members Absent:** Marvin DeJear, Nick Dial, Marianka Pille, Mee Yang-Lee

**Ex-Officio Members Present:** None

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

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

**Guests Present:** Deann Cook, Executive Director, United Ways of Iowa; Adriana Flores, Healthy Start Manager, EveryStep; Lanette Nelson, Healthy Start Outreach Manager, EveryStep; Lora Patton, Regional Director, Child Care Resource & Referral

**Welcome and Introductions**

Board Chair Craig Sieverding 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 24, 2018 minutes were presented. There were no comments or corrections.

*A motion to approve the minutes was made by Emily Westergaard and seconded by Deanna Bennigsdorf. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.*

**FY19 Financial Statements**

As a result of the November meeting occurring one week earlier because of Thanksgiving, the October financials were not yet available from the fiscal agent. The October financials will be available for review at the December meeting.

Jana Shepherd and Josh Mandelbaum arrived at 8:15 a.m.

**ALICE Report**

Deann Cook, Executive Director, United Ways of Iowa presented the ALICE Report. Cook represents the 25 United Way associations statewide. ALICE, Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed, places a spotlight on a large population of hardworking Iowans who work at low-wage

jobs, have little or no savings, and are one emergency away from falling into poverty and crisis.

The United Way ALICE Report is a comprehensive depiction of financial needs in the state to date, using data from a variety of sources, including the US Census. Data is available on the state, county, and municipal level. The report unveils measures, based on present-day income levels and expenses that show how many Iowa workers are struggling financially, and why. ALICE represents a growing number of individuals and families who are working but are unable to afford the basic necessities of housing, food, childcare, health care and transportation. Although ALICE is earning income, pays taxes, and contributes to Iowa's economy, the household income is not enough to meet a basic survival budget in these categories.

Cook walked members through the history and methodology used to determine the survival budgets. She then shared statewide and Polk County data.

Sam Carrell departed at 8:45 a.m.

Rob Barron asked if information was available by zip codes. Cook will ask and share information with staff for distribution

After the ALICE presentation Cook facilitated use of the online "Making Tough Choices" interactive which simulates situations faced by ALICE households based on a month of income and expenses. Cook offered to present the ALICE information to groups board members participate in.

### **Administrative Report**

- Bremner reported the Early Childhood Committee met last Friday and the School Ready Committee will meet Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. December's board meeting will be held in Rooms 200 and 205 on the second floor of the United Way building. The meeting will include working time for the Early Childhood and School Ready committees.
- The United Way offices will be remodeled in December using office furniture donated by Kum & Go.

### **Old Business**

None reported.

### **New Business**

None reported.

### **Public Comment**

None reported.

### **Adjourn**

*A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Josh Mandelbaum and seconded by Jeanie McCarville Kerber. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.* The meeting adjourned at 9:22 a.m.