



POLK COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA BOARD MEETING
EveryStep Conference Room, 1111 9th Street, Suite 320
Des Moines, Iowa
September 25, 2019

Voting Members Present: Deanna Bennigsdorf, Sandy Carter, Josh Mandelbaum, Charles Mercer, Georgia Sheriff, Emily Westergaard, Mee Yang-Lee; Nick Dial, Eva Morales, Marianka Pille and Jana Shepherd participated via teleconference; Ahmed Agyeman arrived at 8:09 a.m.; Jeanie McCarville Kerber arrived at 8:18 a.m.; Marvin DeJear arrived at 8:21 a.m.; Jem Gong-Brown participated via teleconference at 8:10 a.m.; Rob Barron participated via teleconference at 8:42 a.m.

Voting Members Absent: Bryan Huggins, Matt Knoll, Craig Sieverding

Ex-Officio Members Present: Brook Rosenberg

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

Staff Present: Barb Bremner, Jody Kanne

Guests Present: Leann Andre, Child Care Consultant Supervisor, Child Care Resource and Referral; Adriana Flores, Healthy Start Manager, EveryStep; Pam Kracht, Healthy Start Case Manager, EveryStep; Tabby Kuehl, Intake Manager, EveryStep; Laura Linnenbrook, T.E.A.C.H. & WAGE\$ Coordinator, Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children; Lanette Nelson, Healthy Start Outreach Manager, EveryStep; Lora Patton, Regional Director, Child Care Resource & Referral; Jenny Schreck, Child Care Consultant, Polk County, Child Care Resource and Referral; Leslie Taft, Stork's Nest Manager, EveryStep; Darby Taylor, Vice President of Community Health Services, EveryStep; Tray Wade, President and CEO, EveryStep; Cindy Winn, Healthy Start Director, EveryStep

Welcome

Board Vice Chair Emily Westergaard called the Polk County Early Childhood Iowa Board meeting to order at 8:03 a.m. Quorum was met at this time. Introductions were made around the room.

Resignation of Board Member Tavera

Westergaard reported new board member Oscar Tavera submitted his resignation from the board due to scheduling conflicts. Tavera's resignation leaves board membership at 19. Membership continues to meet Bylaw and state requirements.

Approval August Minutes

Minutes of the August 28, 2019 meeting were presented. There were no comments or corrections.

A motion to approve the August minutes was made by Mee Yang-Lee and seconded by Deanna Bennigsdorf. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

FY20 Financial Statements

Barb Bremner presented the financial statements for July and August 2019. These statements are a cash presentation of financial transactions which took place through August of fiscal year 2020.

School Ready

- FY20 Polk County ECI School Ready funding is \$2,818,639.00.
- Carry Forward funds total \$80,629.94.
- Total School Ready funds in FY20 budget are \$2,899,268.94.
- First quarterly payment of \$704,659.50 received September 11th.
- Interest accrued \$285.81.
- At end of August 2019 School Ready funds of \$160,266.86 had been expended.
- Expenditures are 5.53% of FY20 School Ready funds. In previous fiscal year at end of August 5.3% of funds had been expended.

Ahmed Agyeman arrived at 8:09 a.m.

Early Childhood

- FY20 Polk County ECI Early Childhood funding is \$954,796.00.
- Carry Forward funds total \$139,252.23.
- Total Early Childhood funds in FY20 budget are \$1,094,048.23.
- First quarterly payment of \$238,699.00 received in July.
- Interest accrued \$1,034.20.
- At end of August Early Childhood funds of \$57,142.78 had been expended.
- Expenditures are 5.22% of FY20 Early Childhood funds. In FY19 5.32% of funds had been expended.

Jem Gong-Browne joined the meeting via teleconference at 8:10 a.m.

No comments or changes were required.

A motion to approve the July and August 2019 financials was made by Georgia Sheriff and seconded by Josh Mandelbaum. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

FY20 Contract Monitoring Schedule

The FY20 Contract Monitoring Schedule was presented and includes Child Care Resource & Referral programs and the eight child care centers participating in the Pilot Program. Bremner will conduct site visits to meet with agency staff and review documentation. She plans to complete site visits by the end of December. She will share site visit dates with members and welcomes members to join.

Westergaard asked for any comments or changes to the Contract Monitoring Schedule. No comments or changes were presented.

A motion to approve the FY20 Contract Monitoring Schedule was made by Georgia Sheriff and seconded by Josh Mandelbaum. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Bremner will submit the FY20 Contract Monitoring Schedule to the state prior to the September 30th deadline.

Jeanie McCarville Kerber arrived at 8:18 a.m.

Advocacy and Association of ECI Area Boards

Westergaard reported the Advocacy Committee met to discuss the Association of ECI Area Boards membership request. Sheriff reported to date 24 of the 38 area boards have voted to join the association giving them the momentum to move forward.

Marvin DeJear arrived at 8:21 a.m.

Sheriff shared some of the committee's discussions and concerns on having Polk County ECI join the association and asked for members input. Discussion highlights:

- Joining would provide one voice/one message
- Concerns the associations focus will be too narrow
- How would PCECI fund if we opt in?
 - Private fundraising vs using administrative dollars
- Polk County is the largest area – participation would make it a stronger voice
- Brook Rosenberg reported more traction needs to be made with the private sector. With state funding remaining flat, future funding may need to come from the private sector. Advocates need to do a better job of educating businesses and engaging local companies on the importance of early childhood issues.
- Majority of PCECI's goals align with the goals of other areas
- Members support having a seat at the table with the intention of expanding our advocacy efforts locally by pulling in community partners and corporations.
- Members discussed using blended funding this year to pay dues
- Members voiced concern about perception of using administrative funds and voiced preference for private funding for all costs to participate.
- Bremner shared concerns of not having a seat at the table. The association's outcomes would ultimately affect our funding.
- Mee Yang-Lee asked what success would look like
- Jeanie McCarville Kerber mention that advocacy is not short-term. She also mentioned advocacy can include structural change

Rob Barron joined the meeting via teleconference at 8:42 a.m.

Sheriff reported the committee will be meeting on October 1. Bylaws allow non-board members to sit on committees. Judy McCoy Davis has been asked to participate. Please contact Westergaard or Sheriff if you are interested in joining or have suggestions of outside partners.

EveryStep Healthy Start & Empowerment

EveryStep's Healthy Start & Empowerment program is the board's largest contract. EveryStep staff spoke, describing the various team roles and how Polk County ECI's funding serves clients.

Tray Wade, President and CEO of EveryStep provided a brief history of EveryStep and the services the organization provides.

Darby Taylor, Vice President of Community Health Services, and Cindy Winn, Healthy Start Director, presented the funding history of the Healthy Start. With a shift in the zip codes covered by federal dollars, Polk County ECI's funding allows the program to cover individuals throughout all of Polk County who would no longer have access to services. Last year the program served 643 families and 721 children speaking 37 languages. The program continues to increase the number of fathers it serves.

Lanette Nelson, Healthy Start Outreach Manager, and Adriana Flores, Healthy Start Manager, described how they work with community partners to get moms connected to their services. Attending community events, brochure distribution at churches, clinics, and meal sites along with monthly meetings at Broadlawns and Primary Health Care continue to reach a large number of families. They are in the process of expanding their efforts to cover new areas.

Josh Mandelbaum departed at 9:10 a.m.

Tabby Kuehl, Intake Manager, presented the referral process for new clients. The intake team holds weekly meetings to assess clients and assign them to case managers. If the program is experiencing a wait list, case managers connect with families to identify immediate needs and provide those resources.

Pam Kracht, Healthy Start Case Manager, meets with families expecting or with children from 0 – 5 years of age. Case managers set goals with the families early on and follow-up on those goals during each visit. They conduct assessments on the children, life skills assessments on adults, and provide educational and referral resources based on a family's needs.

Leslie Taft, Stork's Nest Manager, presented information on the Stork's Nest program for expecting mothers. Through this program, expecting moms can earn points for healthy lifestyle choices. These points can be redeemed at the Stork's Nest for items such as car seats, cribs, and baby products. Taft shared Tasha's story, a homeless mother referred to the program while pregnant with her third child. Tasha graduated the program and is currently attending nursing school because of the support she received from EveryStep and the Healthy Start program.

Mee Yang-Lee departed at 9:27 a.m.

Administrative Report

- Bremner's Administrative Report was provided in today's packet.
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Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Public Comment

None reported.

Adjourn

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

EveryStep staff provided a tour of the Stork's Nest to board members after the meeting.