



POLK COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA BOARD MEETING
United Way of Central Iowa – Leadership Room
February 26, 2020

Voting Members Present: Craig Sieverding, Ahmed Agyeman, Deanna Bennigsdorf, Sandy Carter, Marvin DeJear, Nick Dial, Bryan Huggins, Matt Knoll, Eva Morales, Charles Mercer, Marianka Pille, Jana Shepherd, Georgia Sheriff, Emily Westergaard, Mee Yang-Lee; Jem Gong-Browne participated via tele-conference; Josh Mandelbaum arrived at 11:39 a.m.; Rob Barron arrived at 12:05 p.m.

Voting Members Absent: Jeanie McCarville Kerber

Ex-Officio Members Present: Brook Rosenberg

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

Staff Present: Barb Bremner, Jody Kanne

Guests Present: Megan Kerkmann, Child Care Consultant, Child Care Resource & Referral; Lanette Nelson, Healthy Start Outreach Manager, EveryStep; Lora Patton, Regional Director, Child Care Resource & Referral

Welcome

Board Chair Craig Sieverding called the Polk County Early Childhood Iowa Board meeting to order at 11:35 a.m. Quorum was met at this time.

Approval January Minutes

Minutes of the January 22, 2020 meeting were presented. There were no comments or corrections.

A motion to approve the January minutes as presented was made by Emily Westergaard and seconded by Craig Sieverding. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

FY20 Financial Statements

Bremner presented financial statements for January 2020. Statements are a cash presentation of financial transactions which took place through January 31st of fiscal year 2020.

Josh Mandelbaum arrived at 11:39 a.m.

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.
- Interest accrued through January 2020 \$7,142.52.
- At end of January 2020 School Ready funds of \$1,119,561.38 had been expended.

- Expenditures are 39% of FY20 School Ready funds. In previous fiscal year at end of January 42% of funds had been expended.

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.
- Interest accrued through December \$4,121.15.
- At end of January 2020 Early Childhood funds of \$513,477.41 had been expended.
- Expenditures are 47% of FY20 Early Childhood funds. In FY19 43% of funds had been expended.

A motion to approve the January 2020 financial report for both grants was made by Georgia Sheriff and seconded by Nick Dial. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Child Care Resource & Referral funding support for QRS Celebration

Members were presented with information for a Polk County QRS Celebration being planned by Child Care Resource & Referral for all home and center providers participating in Iowa's Quality Rating System. Child Care Resource & Referral is asking Polk County ECI for \$3,000 to apply to cost of event. Bremner reported \$87,215.95 available in Early Childhood, Other Services, Contingency/Emergency Funds that could be used to support this request. Funding of this event would align with Polk County ECI's mission to increase quality child care and promote the QRS.

Lora Patton reported all centers in Polk County participating in the QRS will be invited to the event. This is a networking opportunity for providers. Patton reported with the increase in the Child Care Assistance reimbursement rate more centers are working on their QRS rating. She reported changes are in the works for the rating system but a date for rollout has not been announced. Patton will forward the invitation to Bremner to share with board members.

A motion to approve \$3,000 for CCR&R's celebration was made by Emily Westergaard and seconded by Marvin DeJear. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Committee Recommendations

Bryan Huggins reported the Early Childhood Committee met to discuss the Stay Bonus Pilot. Bremner spoke with four of center directors and they all support the program and use it when recruiting new staff. The committee agreed to keep moving the program forward and discussed ways to bring any unused funds back to the centers. The committee will be meeting again next week.

Georgia Sheriff asked if the committee discussed Oak Academy. She also ask if there should be plans to remove programs from the pilot or quality improvement funding if they achieve certain criteria.

Sieverding reported the School Ready Committee met to discuss changes to the Preschool Programming Support funds. Most districts use these funds to supplement program barriers such

as transportation or scholarships for wrap-around services. The funding allocation formula was originally based on the number of FRPL students. The committee is considering a blended allocation based on the number of 4-year-olds enrolled and the percentage of of FRPL students. This new formula would be phased in over three-years. Districts would see no more than a 10% increase or decrease each year. This new formula would allow more flexibility in funding. The committee will meet again to finalize details.

Marvin DeJear inquired on how the committee determined FRPL numbers. Bremner explained the number is the Department of Education data reported annually for each district K-12.

Sieverding reported the Healthy Start and Empowerment committee will meet today. As Polk County ECI's largest contract, the committee will focus on this single program. The agency will continue to report out to the full board annually.

Rob Barron arrived at 12:05 p.m.

Recruitment Members

Members received the board membership matrix. Sieverding, Sheriff, DeJear, and Mandelbaum will conclude terms June 30, 2020. This will leave open seats for four men and one woman. Members were asked to review the document and forward recommendations for potential board members to Bremner.

Members were presented with a pipeline spreadsheet compiled by the Governance Committee last year during the recruitment process of potential candidates. A new Governance Committee will be formed in March for recruitment and will use this document for follow-up with potential candidates.

Association of ECI Area Boards

Bremner report 28 of the 38 local ECI's have joined the Association. Fiscal agent has received \$1,300 from nine donations. This will cover the \$557.47 lobbying fee with all additional funds going towards Association membership fees.

Association Board of Directors met with state representatives in February. The Association receives communications from retained lobbyist on upcoming legislation.

Some Association members, lobbyist Matt Eide, and Bremner met with Representative Bossman to address child care issues across the state. Child care continues to be a bipartisan topic of discussion this year.

Brook Rosenberg asked about Association communication with the state ECI board and other stakeholders. How does the Association plan to keep a consistent message? Bremner will relay these concerns to the Association.

Administrative Report

- Bremner will be meeting with Capitol Park staff and board members, United Way staff, and IAIEYC staff Thursday to touch base and continue working on next steps.

- Conmigo received the \$1,000 mini grant from liability insurance carrier ICAP to reimburse part of the expense for a security camera system.
- Jillian Herink, Executive Director at IAEYC, reports Heidi LaBounty has been hired to replace Stacey Walter as ECQuIP project manager. LaBounty is currently director at Seeds of Faith Learning Center in Clive. LaBounty will start at IAEYC on March 23, 2020.

Old Business

Sheriff asked for the board to continue discussions on how they plan to be proactive with center needs to meet needs before they become dire. Bremner will include this item in planning meetings with the new ECQuIP project manager.

Members discussed ways to facilitate getting used toys and educational supplies to centers. Is there a way to collaborate with entities that currently have warehouse space to store items? Bremner will address with center directors and the ECQuIP team.

New Business

None.

Public Comment

None reported.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Nick Dial and seconded by Emily Westergaard. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. The meeting adjourned at 12:38 p.m.