



POLK COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA BOARD MEETING
United Way of Central Iowa
1111 9th Street, Conference Room F
April 27, 2022

Voting Members Present: Ahmed Agyeman, Kevin Abler, Deanna Bennigsdorf, Sandy Carter, Tabitha Choquette, Suzanne Cohrs, Sam Early, Bryan Huggins, Matthew Klemme, Adam Montufar, Marianka Pille, Eric Tubbs; Participation via teleconference: Rob Barron; Jem Gong-Browne, Eva Morales, Jana Shepherd

Voting Members Absent: Dave Arens, Charles Mercer, Emily Westergaard

Ex-Officio Members Present: None

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Aaron Johnson, Barb Merrill

Staff Present: Barb Bremner, Jody Kanne

Guests Present: Leslie Taft, Healthy Start Manager, EveryStep; Kay Tannatt, Friends of YJI; Cindy Winn, Healthy Start Director, EveryStep; Gina Wells, Child Care Consultant Supervisor, child Care Resource & Referral

Welcome

Board Chair Ahmed Agyeman called the Polk County Early Childhood Iowa Board meeting to order at 11:32 a.m. Quorum was met at this time. Guest introductions were made.

Approval March Minutes

Minutes of the March 30, 2022, meeting were presented. There were no comments or corrections.

A motion to approve the March 2022 minutes was made by Sam Early and seconded by Suzanne Cohrs. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Financial Report March 2022

Kevin Abler presented the Audit Committee report. Administrative expenses for both grants are in line with historical expenditures. The "other" column on the Early Childhood % Total Expended YTD report reflects the expenditures of the new contracts awarded in January.

Oak Academy has fully expended their Playground Improvement contract. Healthy Birth Day is the only new contract which has not submitted an invoice. Bremner is in contact with programs that have not submitted invoices to confirm they are on track to expend funding.

School Ready

- FY22 Polk County ECI School Ready funding is \$2,865,988.00
- Carry Forward funds total \$337,907.95
- Total School Ready funds in FY22 budget are \$3,203,895.95

- Interest accrued through March 2022 totals \$3,574.50
- Expended School Ready funds at end of March 2022 total \$1,539,440.69
- At the end of March 2022 48% of School Ready had been expended. FY21 at end of March 2021 48% of funds had been expended.

Early Childhood

- FY22 Polk County ECI Early Childhood funding is \$947,808.00
- Carry Forward funds total \$118,891.75
- Total Early Childhood funds in FY22 budget are \$1,066,699.75
- Interest accrued through March 2022 totals \$1,315.22
- Expended Early Childhood funds at end of March 2022 total \$624,686.02
- At end of March 2022 59% of Early Childhood had been expended. FY21 at end of March 2021 44% of funds had been expended.

A motion to approve the March 2022 financials was made by Suzanne Cohrs and seconded by Adam Montufar. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CCR&R Request Reach for the Stars

CCR&R requested an additional \$4,000 for current fiscal year to support Reach for the Stars. Request is included in today's meeting materials. There has been an increase in providers completing ChildNet 3.0 in part because of IQ4K which replaced QRS in April. They would like to continue to provide \$400 incentive to providers currently working through the certification. Funds would come from Early Childhood–Other Services: Contingency/Emergency Funds.

A motion to approve CCR&R's Reach for the Stars funding request was made by Deanna Bennigsdorf and seconded by Marianka Pille. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Vision and Mission Statement

Polk County ECI Board's Vision and Mission Statement were discussed at the March meeting. A revised document is included in today's meeting materials.

Statement discussions:

- Bennigsdorf – Suggested a change in the wording of the Mission Statement to *expectant mothers, children 0-5 and their families*. Keep Vision Statement the same. Likes the clarity of focusing on children 0-5.
- Early – Does this specific language limit the programs we support? Do we need to call out 0-5?
- Bremner – This suggested wording would be more descriptive but would not limit our work.
- Early – Do we feel we are lacking something in our existing statement that calls for this change? We need to be focused on 0-5 when investing – this new language doesn't keep long-term focus in mind. Prefers original or Bremner's draft revision.
- Cohrs – Likes the inclusion of expectant mothers.
- Huggins – Delete programming or change to programming, resources, and services?
- Member revised Mission Statement:

- The Polk County Early Childhood Iowa Board's mission is to work with community partners to make investments to achieve long-term positive results for expectant mothers, children 0-5, and their families.

A motion to approve the member revised Mission Statement was made by Eric Tubbs and seconded by Tabitha Choquette. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Sam Early and Suzanne Cohrs opposed.

Jem Gong-Browne departed the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

Executive Director Annual Review Committee Appointment

Members received the Polk County ECI Executive Director's job description and Polk County Early Childhood Iowa Executive Director Performance Review documents. The review committee will meet in May to review Bremner's job performance and make salary recommendations to the full board at the June meeting. Agyeman asked for volunteers to sit on the review committee. Early, Cohrs, Bennigsdorf, Pille, and Tubbs volunteered to sit on the Executive Director Annual Review Committee with Agyeman and Westergaard.

Governance Nominations Committee Appointment

Agyeman reported Huggins and Gong-Browne will be rolling off the board June 30th after 8 years of service. Charles Mercer has resigned as of the May meeting.

The Governance Committee recruits and reviews new member applications and makes recommendations to the board has the potential to recommend four new members. Agyeman asked for volunteers to sit on the Governance Committee. Members were asked to forward any potential board member recruits to Bremner or Agyeman. Members interested in sitting on the committee were asked to contact Bremner or Agyeman.

Program Review Results

Bremner walked members through the document detailing review committee scoring and FY23 funding recommendations.

- Dental Connections - Current contract pays \$1,000 per site visit. Agency requested an increase due to the increase in medical costs associated with the program.
- IAEYC T.E.A.C.H. – Requested for an increase due to increased tuition and materials costs. Bennigsdorf suggested increasing to \$92,000 to meet their request.
- LSI – Requested an increase to help meet new refugee needs.
 - Early – Interested in longitudinal data since have run program 10 years.
- EMBARC – Requested slight increase. Agency worked creatively during COVID to continue to work with their families. Starting to work with other refugee populations to meet needs of new lowans. Members expressed concerns agency over-extending.
- CCR&R RFTS – Board approved an additional \$4,000 for FY22. Requested an increase to \$45,000, recommend \$40,000. Funding goes directly to providers.

- Des Moines Public Library – Consistent outreach to families and partnering with other funded programs. Running radio ads in English and Spanish, expanding printed materials in several languages. Requested increase to update materials this year. Next year request lower.

New Application Discussions:

- CATCOS Diaper Bank – Duplicative – Recommend no funding
- DSM Refugee Support – New program, no braided funding, large ask. Duplicative – Recommend no funding
- IA ACEs 360 – Social Emotional materials, focus on providers. Duplicative with CCR&R and ECQuIP work – Recommend no funding
- Knock & Drop -Essential needs for Latinx families – Recommend \$25,000 funding
- LSI HOPES –Duplicative services – Recommend no funding
- Mary’s Helping Hand – Essential baby/maternity needs – Recommend \$48,400 funding
- Shalom Community – Bremner and Agyeman meeting with Pastor Eugene to discuss request. Budgeting \$75,000 toward request as placeholder
- Youth Justice Initiative – Has taken time to build participation. Recommend 6-month contract to see if can build numbers, sustain program success. Budgeting full contract amount \$14,310 however would distribute over two 6-month contracts.

ECl office distributed draft allocation amounts. Use for the draft FY23 School Ready and Early Childhood budgets. Draft numbers include a 4% increase in School Ready and 2% increase in Early Childhood. Estimated Carry Forward amounts are not included in Draft FY23 budget numbers.

School Ready

- Preschool Programming Support funding will remain flat. Bremner recommends having districts submit an application in the fall detailing request for funds.
- The new funding requests will fall under the School Ready-General Use line item.

Kevin Abler departed the meeting at 12:44 p.m.

- Deanna - Will there be no Contingency/Emergency Funds? No amount budgeted.
 - There is \$26,923 budgeted in the Quality Improvement line item. The General Use amount will be included once carry forward numbers are included.

Early Childhood

- Committee would like to increase thank you bonuses. Current quarterly bonus is \$400, would like to increase to \$500 each quarter for eligible staff.
- No new Early Childhood programming contracts.

Administrative Report

- May 4th meeting with funded partners. Meeting will be in Conference Rooms E & F from 8:00 – 10:00 a.m. Bremner will provide a quick overview of Polk County ECl and funding.

Program staff will explain their program and have networking time. Bremner will have materials available detailing programs and resources/services available.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

Cohrs made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bennigsdorf seconded. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agyeman adjourned the meeting at 12:58 p.m.