



POLK COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA BOARD MEETING
United Way of Central Iowa
Leadership Room
November 20, 2024

Voting Members Present: Suzanne Cohrs, Kevin Abler, Jessica Bruning, Alicia Chilton, Sam Early, Matthew Klemme, Josh Laraby, Eva Morales, Christian Ramirez, Shay Scholtes, Megan Schultheis, Eric Tubbs, Emily Westergaard; participating via Zoom: Dave Arens, Rob Barron, Adam Montufar and Stephen White

Voting Members Absent: Tabitha Choquette, Stephanie Giusto

Ex-Officio Members Present: None

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Aaron Johnson, Brooke Rosenberg

Staff Present: Barb Bremner, Jody Kanne

Guests Present: Leann Andre, Child Care Consultant Supervisor, Child Care Resource & Referral; Kate Walton and Maddy Bradley, Eide-Walton Lobbying and Government Relations

Welcome

Board Chair Suzanne Cohrs welcomed members and called the Polk County Early Childhood Iowa Board meeting to order at 8:02 a.m. Quorum was met at this time. Member and guest introductions were made.

Approval October Minutes

Minutes of board meeting October 23, 2024, were presented. There were no comments or corrections.

A motion to approve the October 2024 minutes was made by Emily Westergaard and seconded by Megan Schultheis. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

October financial statements were not available from fiscal agent due to meeting being held one week earlier than normal. October financials will be reviewed at the December board meeting.

Eide-Walton Lobbying and Government Relations

Bremner introduced Kate Walton and Maddy Bradley with Eide-Walton Lobbying and Government Relations. Eide-Walton serves as the lobbyist for the Association of Early Childhood Iowa Areas and Advocates.

Kate Walton and Maddy Bradley spoke on the election results, the House and Senate Republican super majorities and expectations for the 2025 legislative session.

Stephen White departed the meeting at 8:37 a.m.

Walton & Bradley encouraged members to stay engaged with their legislators. Newly elected legislators need to be introduced to early childhood issues and to Early Childhood Iowa. Having the Association and sharing a united message will be essential. Attending scheduled Day's on the Hill are important ways to be heard and to build connections with elected officials.

Adam Montufar departed the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

Dave Arens departed the meeting at 9:02 a.m.

Members discussed 4-year-old preschool and possible unintended consequences of expanding full day preschool on childcare centers.

Christian Ramirez and Emily Westergaard departed the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Josh Laraby departed the meeting at 9:33 a.m.

Administrative Report

Bremner attended the Iowa Women's Foundation Solutions Summit on childcare at Prairie Meadows on Tuesday, November 19th which featured the release of their Childcare Impact Report. Bremner will share the report with members.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

Early made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Abler seconded. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Cohrs adjourned the meeting at 9:35 a.m.