



Cedar/Jones Early Childhood Iowa

Board Meeting

Thursday, November 17th, 2016, 8:30 a.m.

Olin Consolidated School, Olin

Members Present: Teri Jo Griebat, Lisa Kepford, David Lorenzen, Jamie Nelson, Deb Schwitzer, Erik Stegmann, Jean Sullivan, Steve Williams, and Donna Young.

Members Absent: Joan Blundall, Molly Crowley, Deb Schultz, Stephen Stepp, and Heather Weers.

Others Present: Julie Orris, Jones County Agricultural Extension; Kim Ott, HACAP; Melissa Tucker and Amanda McKee, Lutheran Services in Iowa; Cindy Heck, Child Care Resource & Referral, Angela Ruley, Midland CSD; and Sherri Hunt, ECI Director.

- I. **Call Meeting to Order** – Board Chairperson David Lorenzen called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. Quorum was achieved with 8 out of 14 members present.
- II. **Introductions** – Introductions were made and guests welcomed.
- III. **Public Comment** – Lisa Kepford told the Board about the “Shop with a Cop” event that will be occurring in Cedar County and Jean Sullivan shared with the Board information about a Child’s Toy and Clothing Sale at the Anamosa Middle School on December 3rd.
- IV. **Meeting Minutes** – Teri Jo Griebat made a motion, seconded by Donna Young to **approve the ECI Board meeting minutes from the October 20th, 2016 Board Meeting**. All approved. Motion carried.
- V. **FY17 Financials** – Jamie Nelson made a motion, seconded by Deb Schwitzer to **accept the FY17 ECI Financials as presented**. All approved. Motion carried.

Erik Stegmann arrived at the meeting at 8:47 a.m. Quorum maintained with 9 out of 14 members present.
- VI. **Preschool Scholarships Update** – Melissa Tucker explained to the Board that the Out of Area child which the Board approved a scholarship for at last month’s meeting is no longer attending the approved preschool and with this change, there is approximately \$1,573 in unspent scholarship funds at this time. She also reminded the Board of 2 three years on the waiting list. No Board action was taken.
- VII. **State ECI Board Meeting Update** – Sherri shared with the Board that the State ECI Board met earlier this month and agreed to discontinue utilization of the Levels of Excellence Rating system for Early Childhood Iowa areas. A committee is working on an alternative evaluation system and it will be several years before Cedar/Jones is again evaluated on area performance.

- VIII. Imagination Library/Grant Receipt Updates** – Sherri shared with Board financials for both the Cedar and Jones Imagination Library projects. Recently received were Theisen’s grants in the amount of \$1,500 each for Cedar and Jones counties. She also shared with the Board the receipt of \$2,883 from the Jones County Community Foundation for the Jones library. Sherri will be working with community partners to greatly expand this programming in both counties.
- IX. LSI Home Visitation Program Update and Budget Amendment Approval** – Amanda McKee shared with the Board updated Home Visitation budgets for FY17 for Lutheran Services in Iowa. The budgets reflect an additional \$25,504 in the Cedar County budgets for the hiring of an additional Family Support Worker for 32 hours weekly. Jean Sullivan made a motion, seconded by Teri Jo Griebat to approve the LSI Home Visitation Amended Budgets for FY17. All approved. Motion carried.
- Amanda also shared with the Board that the open Family Support Worker position in Jones County has been filled. Both of the new workers will be attending trainings together. Currently Parents As Teachers training is offered in Milwaukee in December and January. Jean Sullivan made a motion, seconded by Jamie Nelson **to allow for out of state travel for the two family support workers as schedules allow to attend the Parents As Teachers training.** All approved. Motion carried.
- X. Child Care Resource Coordinator Program Presentation** -- Julie Orris with Jones County ISU Agricultural Extension presented to the Board on her role as Child Care Resource Coordinator, serving both Cedar and Jones counties. She shared with the Board the Child Care Chatter newsletter, an overview of her position, a FY16 survey from childcare providers, upcoming trainings, and a brief overview of the new childcare rules and regulations. She also shared that because of some of these new regulations and training requirements, it is affecting attendance at the trainings she offers. She has had to cancel several of her trainings being offered because of low attendance.
- XI. Child Care Reauthorization Overview Presentation** – Cindy Heck from Child Care Resource and Referral presented to the Board on the Child Care Reauthorization changes that are affecting childcare providers. These changes, signed into law in November of 2014, commenced October of 2016. Changes included reimbursement rates and regulations regarding Child Care Assistance, new training requirements for all home and center providers called the Essentials Training, the requirement of a Emergency Preparedness Plan for all providers, and a required pre-license/registration visit by the Department of Human Services for all home and center providers.
- XII. Review of Community Wide Indicator Data** – Sherri shared with the Board Indicator Data for Cedar and Jones counties. Information included State data, three years of local data, and the source of each data indicator. The Board agreed that Early Access data was difficult to gather and this data point could be excluded. Sherri also noted that there has been a new way of reporting Child Abuse data. It was requested that she explore options for gathering data related to children’s dental services, well child exam rates, and ACES scores. Further review will occur again at next month’s meeting.

- XIII. Release of Board Evaluations** – Sherrri shared with Board the Board Self-Evaluation tool utilized in years past. She will be releasing the evaluation tool again this month and encouraged all Board members to provide open and thorough feedback for this process. A similar evaluation will also be shared with community partners to gather feedback.
- XIV. Adjourn** – Deb Schwitzer made a motion to **adjourn the meeting at 10:17 a.m.**, seconded by Lisa Kepford. All approved. Meeting adjourned.

Next Executive Committee Meeting:

Wednesday, January 11th, 2017, 8:00 a.m., the Skillet, Mt. Vernon

Board Meeting:

Thursday, January 19th, 2017, 8:30 a.m., Olin Consolidated School, Olin