



Cedar/Jones Early Childhood Iowa

Board Meeting

Thursday, November 19th, 2015, 8:30 a.m.

Olin Consolidated School, Olin

Members Present: Kandice Behnke, Dennis Boedeker, Molly Crowley, Lisa Kepford, David Lorenzen, Jamie Nelson, Lesley Puffer, Deb Schultz, Jean Sullivan, Steve Williams, and Donna Young.

Members Absent: Teri Jo Griebat, Deb Schwitzer, and Steve Stepp.

Others Present: Amanda McKee and Melissa Tucker, LSI; Julie Orris, Jones County Agricultural Extension; Cindy Heck, Child Care Resource and Referral, and Sherri Hunt, ECI Director.

- I. **Call Meeting to Order** – Board Chairperson Kandice Behnke called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. with quorum achieved with 11 out of 14 members present.
- II. **Approval of Meeting Minutes** – Jamie Nelson made a motion, seconded by Donna Young to **approve the ECI Board meeting minutes from October 15th, 2015 Board Meeting**. All approved. Motion carried.
- III. **FY16 Financials** – Lisa Kepford made a motion, seconded by Molly Crowley to **accept the FY16 ECI Financials as presented**. All approved. Motion carried.
- IV. **Preschool Scholarship Program – Funding of Three Year Olds** – Sherri explained to the Board that there are 5 3 year old children who are on the waiting list for Preschool Scholarships and between Cedar and Jones county allocations, there is approximately \$8.000 in uncommitted scholarship funds. Steve Williams made a motion, seconded by David Lorenzen to **fund the 3 year olds on the waiting list starting November 1st through the remainder of FY16 pending eligibility**. All approved. Motion carried. Sherri and Melissa will notify the families of scholarship eligibility.

Sherri reported that even with these additional children added to the Preschool Scholarship Program, there are still funds available for additional children as identified. There are currently 2 four year olds whom have submitted applications and eligibility is pending receipt of financial verification. Families and preschools have been notified and information requested.

- V. **LSI Home Visitation – Update** – Sherri gave the Board an updated regarding the LSI Home Visitation Program. LSI has hired a full time Family Support Worker and she will be begin her work at the end of November.

- VI. Community Wide Indicators** -- Sherri reviewed current Community Wide Indicator data with the Board. The Board questioned how children age 0-4 receiving WIC data is calculated and the % of children screened for high lead levels would be above 100%. The Board also asked for population figures for the two counties. Sherri will research these Board questions and return to the Board with follow up.
- VII. Theisen's Grant Award** – Sherri let the Board know that Cedar/Jones ECI received Theisen's Grant Awards for \$1,000 each in Cedar and Jones counties. These monies will allow for continued support in Jones County and the start up of the Imagination Library in Cedar County.
- VIII. Book Drive** – Sherri spoke to the Board about the Early Childhood Book Drive to be conducted in Cedar and Jones counties in February 2016. Sherri told the Board that a community group will be helping with efforts in Tipton and she is asking for Board members to help in their communities. Molly Crowley offered to cover Clarence and Olin, Steve Williams, Monticello, Donna Young, West Branch, and Jamie Nelson, Anamosa. Sherri will prepare materials for distribution in January so the project will be kicked off in February.
- IX. Legislative Forum** – Sherri shared with the Board that another Regional Legislative Forum was being planned for Friday, December 4th. An invitation was extended to all Board members.
- X. Review Board Professional Development Plan/Next Board Evaluation** – The Board reviewed the 2015 Board Professional Development Plan for progress. Four new Board members joined the ECI Board in July with diverse backgrounds representing DHS, law enforcement, families with children 0-5 years of age, and geographic representation from areas of Cedar and Jones counties not previously represented. Program presentations are all scheduled for FY16 and additional community partners are asked to present to the ECI Board on how their organizations serve children 0-5 years of age to bring awareness to Board members. A Connections Matter presentation is scheduled for today's meeting and Board members will be encouraged to attend ACES training in Cedar County in January 2016. Public Awareness continues to be a main goal of the ECI Board and efforts to promote early childhood awareness continue through social media and presence at community events in the area.
- The Board agreed to continue to utilize the same tool as used in previous years to conduct their Board evaluation. Sherri will release the evaluation in a Survey Monkey and bring complied results to the December Board meeting for their review.
- XI. Connections Matter Presentation** – Jean Sullivan gave the Board a presentation on "Connections Matter, Developing Brain, Relationships, and Community". Jean, Sherri, and Deb Schultz have all been trained in Connections Matter.
- XII. Public Comment** – No public comments were made.

XIII. Adjourn -- Donna Young made a motion, seconded by Steve Williams **to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 a.m.** All approved.

Next Executive Committee Meeting: Wednesday, December 10th, 2015, 8:00 a.m.,
The Skillet, Mt. Vernon -- CANCELLED

Board Meeting: Thursday, December 17th, 2015, 8:30 a.m., Olin CS, Olin