



Cedar/Jones County Early Childhood Iowa

Board Meeting

Thursday, November 21st, 2013, 8:30 a.m.

Olin Consolidated School, Olin

Members Present: Kelly Banowetz, Dennis Boedeker, Paul Frederiksen, Teri Jo Griebat, Larry Hanon, Jamie Nelson, Lesley Puffer, Deb Schultz, and Jean Sullivan.

Members Absent: Kandice Behnke and Steve Williams.

Others Present: Sherri Hunt, ECI Director; Lynette Otten and Stephanie Snyder, LSI; Julie Orris and Joe Yedlik ISU Extension; and Dan Wendler, Midland Community School District.

- I. **Call Meeting to Order** - The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by Board Vice-Chair Paul Frederiksen with quorum achieved with 9 out of 11 members present. Introductions were held by all members and guests.
- II. **Approval of Meeting Minutes** – Dennis Boedeker made a motion, seconded by Kelly Banowetz **to approve the ECI Board meeting minutes from October 17th, 2013 as presented.** All approved. Motion carried.
- III. **FY14 ECI Financials – Acceptance of of** – Larry Hanon made a motion, seconded by Teri Jo Griebat **to accept the ECI FY14 financials as presented.** All approved. Motion carried.
- IV. **Preschool Scholarship – Exception to Policy Request** -- Sherri has received a request from a family whose income is above the 200% guideline and does not qualify for a Preschool Scholarship. The family is experiencing difficulties in covering the cost of preschool because of other family circumstances and is requesting an exception to policy of the 200% of the Federal Poverty Level financial guideline. Larry Hanon made a motion **to approve the scholarship and the exception to the financial guideline for this applicant,** seconded by Jean Sullivan. The Board discussed a concern for setting precedence as well as the inability to cover scholarships for other applicants that are over the financial guidelines because of lack of funds. **No votes in favor of motion presented. All disapproved. Motion failed.**
- V. **Lutheran Services in Iowa – Program Update** - Sherri gave the Board an update regarding items discussed with Lutheran Services in Iowa regarding the Home Visitation Program. Staff levels will be changed to 4.0 FTE instead of the budgeted 4.1 FTEs, 2.8 FTEs in Jones and 1.2 FTEs in Cedar. This will allow for stream lining staff in Cedar and Jones and eliminate the sharing of staff with Muscatine. New staff is being recruited. Training expenses will continue to be monitored. Pursuing other grants for funding was encouraged. Financials will now be separated between HFA and PAT programs in each of the counties. An inventory list has been updated. And a there will be a consistent cell phone policy throughout the area for Family Support Workers. No further discussions were deemed necessary.

VI. Program Presentation – Child Care Resource Coordinator – Julie Orris, the Child Care Resource Coordinator with ISU Extension gave a presentation on the responsibilities of her role in Cedar and Jones counties. She also talked about data regarding licensed and registered child care providers and shared comments she had received from providers regarding the program.

VII. Board and Community Evaluation

a. Reviewing Evaluation Tool --Sherri reviewed what was used last year for a Board and Community Evaluation Tool. She is recommending utilization of the same tool to look at trend data. She is also asking for the Board for any additional information that they feel should be collected. No changes were noted. The tool will be on Survey Monkey and a link for completion will be sent to all Board Member and community partners including contractors and non-contractors. Results will be shared at next month's Board meeting.

b. Reviewing Tool GG – Statutory Responsibilities of ECI Area Board – Sherri reviewed State ECI Tool GG, Statutory Responsibilities of an Early Childhood Iowa Area Board with the Cedar/Jones ECI Board.

c. Reviewing Board Membership Roles and Responsibilities – Sherri also reviewed the Cedar/Jones ECI Board Members Roles and Responsibilities policy with members.

VIII. Public Comment – Jean Sullivan told Board Members that she and her co-hort had received a Prevent Child Abuse Iowa grant for an ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences) Pilot Project in Jones County. She also noted she had applied for and received an additional grant to support ACES work in the faith community.

IX. Adjourn – Dennis Boedeker made a motion, seconded by Jamie Nelson **to adjourn the meeting at 9:42 a.m.** All approved.

Next Meeting:

Thursday, December 19th, 2013, 8:30 a.m., Olin Consolidated School, Olin
Holiday Breakfast will be served. Please RSVP.

Executive Committee Meeting:

Wednesday, December 11th, 2013, 8:00 a.m., the Skillet, Mt. Vernon – postponed due to weather. Rescheduled – Thursday, December 12th, 4:00 p.m., Gwyn's, Lisbon.