



Cedar/Jones Early Childhood Iowa

Board Meeting

Thursday, March 26th, 2015, 8:30 a.m.

Olin Consolidated School, Olin

Members Present: Kandice Behnke, Paul Frederiksen, Teri Jo Griebat, Jamie Nelson, Jean Sullivan, and Steve Williams. Lesley Puffer was participating via phone.

Members Absent: Dennis Boedeker, Deb Schultz, and Donna Young.

Others Present: Melissa Tucker, Whitney Ryan, and Amy Ryan, LSI; Julie Orris, Jones County Agricultural Extension; Molly Sanders and Mackenzie Dalhouser, Home Visitation Family Participants; and Sherri Hunt, ECI Director.

Introductions were made by all present.

- I. **Call Meeting to Order** – Board Vice-Chairperson Paul Frederiksen called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m. with quorum achieved with 6 out of 10 members present.

- II. **Healthy Families America New Parent Program and Parents As Teachers Program Presentation** – LSI Family Support Workers Amy Ryan and Whitney Ryan and Supervisor Melissa Tucker introduced Molly Sanders and Mackenzie Dalhouser to the Board. Molly and Mackenzie and their families participate in the LSI Home Visitation Program. Melissa gave the Board a brief overview of the program and explained the differences in Parents As Teachers and the Healthy Family American New Parent Programs. Molly and Mackenzie shared their home visitation experiences with the Board and what it meant to them to be in the program.

Kandi Behnke arrived at 8:42am. Quorum maintained with 7 out of 10 Board members present.

- III. **Approval of Meeting Minutes** – Paul Frederiksen made a motion, seconded by Jamie Nelson **to approve the ECI Board meeting minutes from February 19th, 2015 Board Meeting as presented.** All approved. Motion carried.

- IV. **FY15 Financials** – Teri Jo Griebat made a motion, seconded by Steve Williams **to accept the FY15 ECI Financials as presented.** All approved. Motion carried.

- V. **LSI Home Visitation Budget Amendment Request** – Sherri shared with the Board a Budget Amendment from LSI for the both the Jones PAT and HFA Programs. The Budget Amendment request moves funds in both programs from Salaries and Benefits to Professional Development to cover additional training costs associated with new Family Support hires. No additional funds for either program are being requested. Paul Frederiksen made a motion, seconded by Jamie Nelson **to approve the LSI FY15**

Budget Amendment Request for Jones PAT and HFA Programs as requested. All approved. Motion carried.

- VI. Preschool Scholarships** – Sherri explained to the Board that it is that time of year again to review our Preschool Scholarship Program Policies and Procedures and prepare for release of the F16 Preschool Scholarship Application. The Preschool Scholarship Committee will be convening in April to review both documents. Steve Williams made a motion, seconded by Teri Jo Griebat **to support the Preschool Scholarship for FY16 without determining funds allocated to the program but through the intent of releasing the FY16 Preschool Scholarship Application to all participating preschools and community partners to share with children and their families prior to the end of the current school year.** All approved. Motion carried.
- VII. Cedar/Jones ECI – ECI Muscatine Merger Discussions – Next Steps** – Sherri told the Board that several members of the Cedar/Jones ECI Board met with the ECI Muscatine Board members on Thursday, February 26th, 2015 to discuss a possible merger between the two ECI areas. After much discussion, Steve Williams made a motion, seconded by Teri Jo Griebat **to draft a letter to ECI Muscatine for Board consideration at their April outlining reasons why Cedar/ECI does not feel it is in the best interest of children to merge the two ECI areas.** All approved. Motion carried.
- VIII. Board Membership – Review of and anticipated membership changes** – Sherri shared with the Board a Membership Matrix outlining members, representation, and current terms. Jean Sullivan, Deb Schultz, and Jamie Nelson are eligible for renewal July 1st., each for a second term. Paul Frederiksen shared with the Board that he will be resigning from the Board at the end of May. His church is acquiring Little Friends Preschool in Tipton and this relationship poses a conflict of interest and eliminates his ability to continue as a Board member per Iowa ECI guidelines.
- Sherri encouraged Board members to continue to explore options for individuals for membership, noting that to maintain gender balance, male Board members are needed. Sherri also noted that Board officers will need to be discussed in the near future and she encouraged current members to consider serving as a Cedar/Jones ECI Board officer.
- Lesley Puffer left the meeting via phone. Quorum maintained with 6 out of 10 members present.
- IX. Community Planning Update/Release of FY16 Request for Proposals** – Sherri shared with the Board that eight Community Conversations were held in various communities in Cedar and Jones counties. Messages of concerns from participants were consistent and included needs and support for children with intense behavioral issues and early intervention, including the need for Developmental Delay Screenings. Sherri feels that the Board needs to discuss these issues with participants serving the counties to determine how these needs can be addressed. Sherri will start with coordinating a conversation with Grant Wood AEA and Early Access.

Sherri also told the Board that the FY16 Request for Proposals for Cedar/Jones ECI funding was released and proposals are due back April 14th, 2015. Sherri will present an overview of the requests at the April Board meeting and will convene the Project Oversight Committee to review the proposals in late April/early May.

- X. **Board Professional Development Plan** – Sherri presented the Board with a Professional Development Plan that continues to focus Board membership and increased input from the community, educating the Board of early childhood development and investment, and maintaining a presence as a leader in early childhood in Cedar and Jones counties. Paul Frederiksen made a motion, seconded by Jean Sullivan **to approve the 2015 Board Professional Development Plan as presented.** All approved. Motion carried.

- XI. **Prevent Child Abuse Iowa Conference – Director Overnight Travel Request** – Sherri presented the Board with a request for overnight travel to attend the Prevent Child Abuse Iowa conference in Des Moines on April 14th and 15th. Jones Community Partnership for Protecting Children is covering conference registration. Paul Frederiksen made a motion, seconded by Jamie Nelson **to approve overnight travel including travel expenses for Sherri to attend the Prevent Child Abuse Iowa Conference.** All approved. Motion carried.

- XII. **Review and acceptance of Program Audits** – Steve Williams made a motion, seconded by Jean Sullivan **to accept Financial Audits from Hawkeye Area Community Action Program, Grant Wood AEA, Lutheran Services in Iowa, Trinity Muscatine Public Health as presented noting now concerns were present.** All approved. Motion carried.

- XIII. **Public Comment** – No comments made.

- XIV. **Adjourn** – Paul Frederiksen made a motion, seconded by Teri Jo Griebat **to adjourn the meeting at 10:04 a.m.** All approved. Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting:

Thursday, April 16th, 2015, 8:30 a.m., Olin Consolidated School, Olin

Executive Committee Meeting:

Tuesday, April 7th, 2015, 8:00 a.m., The Skillet, Mt. Vernon