



Cedar/Jones Early Childhood Iowa

Board Meeting

Thursday, June 16th, 2016, 8:30 a.m.

Olin Consolidated School, Olin

Members Present: Kandice Behnke, Molly Crowley, Teri Jo Griebat, Lisa Kepford, Jamie Nelson, Deb Schultz, Deb Schwitzer, Erick Stegmann, Stephen Stepp, Jean Sullivan, Steve Williams, and Donna Young.

Members Absent: David Lorenzen.

Others Present: Melissa Tucker, LSI; Julie Orris, Jones County Agricultural Extension; Deb Ackerman, HACAP; Dionne Daedlow, Cedar County Extension; and Sherri Hunt, ECI Director.

- I. **Call Meeting to Order** – Board Chairperson Kandice Behnke called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. Quorum was achieved with 12 out of 13 members present. Introductions were made and new Board Eric Stegmann was welcomed. Outgoing Member Kandice Behnke was graciously thanked for her long-term dedication to the Board and numerous hours of volunteering.
- II. **Public Comment** – No comments were made.
- III. **Meeting Minutes** – Deb Schwitzer made a motion, seconded by Jean Sullivan to **approve the ECI Board meeting minutes from the May 19th, 2016 Board Meeting.** All approved. Motion carried.
- IV. **FY16 Financials** – Molly Crowley made a motion, seconded by Jean Sullivan to **accept the FY16 ECI Financials as presented.** All approved. Motion carried.
- V. **Red Ahead Program Presentation** – Debbie Ackermann from Hawkeye Area Community Action Program gave a presentation on the *Read Every Day To Get Ahead* Program. Families attending Women, Infant, and Child (WIC) Clinics in Cedar and Jones counties can receive services while attending WIC through Red Ahead every 3 months that include literacy activities, recipes for learning, and developmental screenings. The program started in 2011 in Linn County and is being expanded in to Cedar and Jones in FY17 with ECI and United Way funding.
- VI. **New Member Approval & Review of Membership** – Jamie Nelson made a motion, seconded by Teri Jo Griebat to **approve Board Membership for Heather Weers and Joan Blundall for the term July 1st, 2016 through June 30th, 2019.** All approved. Motion carried.

Sherri noted that the Board has focused efforts to recruit male members for the past three months and was successful on one account with Board Member Eric Stegmann. With the

addition of Joan and Heather, membership is at a nice, manageable capacity, but male recruitment should continue and membership considered if presented.

- VII. **Election of Board Officers** – Steve Williams made a motion, seconded by Donna Young **to approve Board Officers for FY17 in the following roles: David Lorenzen, Chairperson, Jean Sullivan, Vice-Chairperson, Teri Jo Griebat, Secretary, and Deb Schultz, Treasurer.** All approved. Motion carried.
- VIII. **FY17 Meeting Calendar** – Deb Schultz made a motion, seconded by Molly Crowley **to accept the FY17 Meeting Calendar as presented.** All approved. Motion carried.
- IX. **Preschool Scholarship Program Policies** – Sherri presented the Board with updated Preschool Scholarship Programming Policies under a recommendation from the Preschool Committee. The Committee is continuing to encourage programs to increase quality in preschool settings and want to establish a process for addressing programs not meeting quality initiatives.

The policy includes procedures for a program not meeting quality standards to have a Quality Rating System evaluation completed to determine program areas of strengths and weaknesses. Programs would then identify an area of improvement outlining measures to be taken by the program to improve quality. If the ECI Board feels that measures are being taken by the preschool program to improve quality, an exception to the requirement of meeting current quality standards can be waived before the start of each fiscal year for one year at a time. This would allow preschool programs to continue participation in the Preschool Scholarship Program. Steve Stepp made a motion, seconded by Lisa Kepford **to approve the amended Preschool Scholarship Program Policies.** All approved. Motion carried.

Jamie Nelson left the meeting at 9:34 a.m. Quorum maintained with 12 out of 14 members present.

- X. **Approval of FY17 Budgets & Release of Contracts** – Sherri presented the Board with a FY17 Budget based on the funding allocations from the May 2016 Board Meeting. There is currently over \$20,000 in unallocated Family Support & Parent Education \$\$ and Board Members directed Sherri to work with Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) to determine a plan for possible program expansion to utilize these \$\$\$. Other unallocated funds will be reviewed at the August Board Meeting. Steve Williams made a motion, seconded by Donna Young **approve the FY17 Budget as presented, to work with LSI for expending unallocated Family Support funds, and to release FY17 contracts to program providers.** All approved. Motion carried.
- XI. **FY17 Director Professional Development Plan** – Sherri shared with the Board the ECI Director Professional Development Plan outlining areas of focus and skill development for Sherri for FY17. Teri Jo Griebat made a motion, seconded by Deb Schwitzer **to approve the FY17 ECI Director Professional Development Plan as presented.** All approved. Motion carried.

XII. State ECI Board June Meeting – Sherri shared information from the State ECI Board Meeting held on June 3rd, 2016. Noted were areas approved for Levels of Excellence with Muscatine achieving Model Status and no longer considering the need for an area merger.

Sherri also highlighted committees established at a State level for local participation and input. Participation is welcomed and encouraged.

Finally, Sherri shared highlights on SF2299 bill, which include removing the Levels of Excellence evaluation process for ECI areas starting in FY18 and returning to a designation system. The bill also removed legislation regarding the early childhood formula, giving the State Board the authority to change the formula if they choose.

XIII. Healthy Child Screening Day – Sherri told the Board about an upcoming Healthy Child Screening Day that she is working on with HACAP. On August 13th, young children can come to Strawberry Hill School in Anamosa for free Developmental, Vision, Hearing, and Dental Screenings. HACAP will be providing the screenings and community partners will be sharing other resource information.

XIV. Adjourn -- Jean Sullivan made a motion **to adjourn the meeting at 10:02 a.m.**, seconded by Teri Jo Griebat. All approved. Meeting adjourned.

Next Executive Committee Meeting: Monday, August 8th, 2016, 8:00 a.m.,
The Skillet, Mt. Vernon

Board Meeting: Wednesday, August 24th, 2016, 8:30 a.m., Olin Consolidated School, Olin