



## *Cedar/Jones Early Childhood Iowa*

### *Board Meeting*

*Thursday, September 17th, 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 Schwitzer, Steve Stepp, and Donna Young.

**Members Absent:** Teri Jo Griebat, Deb Schultz, Jean Sullivan, and Steve Williams.

**Others Present:** Melissa Tucker and Amanda McKee, LSI; Julie Orris and Holly Hall, Jones County Agricultural Extension; Dan Wendler, Midland Comm. School District; 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 8:33 a.m. with quorum achieved with 10 out of 14 members present. Introductions were made by all present.
- II. **Approval of Meeting Minutes** – Deb Schwitzer made a motion, seconded by Lesley Puffer to **approve the ECI Board meeting minutes from August 20th, 2015 Board Meeting with corrections regarding meeting attendees.** All approved. Motion carried.
- III. **FY16 Financials** – Jamie Nelson made a motion, seconded by Donna Young to **accept the FY16 ECI Financials as presented.** All approved. Motion carried.
- IV. **Preschool Scholarship Program – Update and Expansion Needed** – Melissa Tucker, Preschool Scholarship Program Manager, gave the Board an update regarding the current utilization of preschool scholarships in Cedar and Jones counties. Currently there are 13 children on scholarships in Cedar County and 25 in Jones County. There are currently 11 applications still being processed in Jones County, 8 of which are four year olds and 3 three year olds. All applications for Cedar County have been processed.

Discussion occurred regarding available funds and need in the two counties. Donna Young made a motion, seconded by Molly Crowley to **approve eligible four year olds in Jones County and put all three year olds on a waiting list, thus utilizing allocated Cedar County Scholarship funds to cover the Jones County scholarships because of unspent funds in Cedar County, while still working within the combined Preschool Scholarship Budget.** All approved. Motion carried.

The Board also stressed the importance of maintaining a balance of funds available for incoming applications for four year olds in Cedar County.

- V. **LSI Home Visitation – Update and Contract Renewal** – Sherri gave the Board an updated regarding the LSI Home Visitation Program, including staff case loads, transition plans, amended budgets, and moving Melissa Tucker, Program Supervisor to a .8 FTE

effective October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Jamie Nelson made a motion, seconded by Steve Stepp **to extend the FY16 Contract Renewal with amended budgets for the remainder of FY16 to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016.** All approved. Motion carried.

- VI. Little Lion Learning Center Financial Request** – Sherri gave the Board an update on need and clarification regarding the financial request from the Little Lion Learning Center to support needed items for their Early Head Start classroom. Lisa Kepford made a motion, seconded by Lesley Puffer **to allocate and approve \$500 to support needed and identified items from their original request for their Early Head Start classroom.** All approved. Motion carried.
- VII. ECI Legislative Forum – Update and Endorsement** – Sherri shared with the Board follow up information from the Eastern Iowa Regional ECI Legislative Forum and a recommendation for legislative changes from the ECI Purpose and Funding Workgroup. After review, she asked the Board to support three key points for the upcoming legislative session: 1) Remove categorical funding, 2) Increase investment in early childhood, and 3) Support recommendations and legislative changes as proposed by the ECI Purpose & Funding Workgroup. Steve Williams made a motion, seconded by Donna Young **to approve the support and endorse the three key legislative requests.** All approved. Motion carried.

Sherri also shared with Board two handouts that can be shared with community partners and legislators. The first hand out is a summary of FY15 Annual Report data points and the second handout outlines the three key points of the legislative request.

- VIII. State ECI Directors’ Meeting** – Sherri gave the Board an update from the most recent State ECI Directors’ Meeting. The update included work being done to increase the positive utilization of the RedCap Home Visitation Data Collection System, recommendations from the ECI Purpose and Funding Workgroup, and the Dept. of Human Services Child Care Reauthorization.
- IX. Child Care Resource Coordinator Presentation** – Julie Orris with the Jones County Agricultural Extension gave a presentation on her role as the Child Care Resource Coordinator for Cedar and Jones counties. She shared with the Board results from a survey she conducted with childcare providers regarding the utilization of services her office provider as well as future needs of providers. She also shared with the Board her position description, data points, and upcoming training plans for FY16 and how she reaches providers through her newsletter, the *Child Care Chatter*.
- X. Public Comment** – No public comments were made.
- XI. Adjourn** – Lisa Kepford made a motion, seconded by Steve Stepp **to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 a.m.** All approved.

**Next Executive Committee Meeting:** October 8th, 2015, 8:00 a.m., Skillet, Mt. Vernon

**Board Meeting:** Thursday, October 15th, 2015, 8:30 am.