

**Mahaska-Wapello Early Childhood IOWA
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 30th, 2014 @ 3:45 PM
Eddyville Elementary School Library
702 Vance, Eddyville, Iowa**



Board Members Present: Greg Kenning, Desiree Johnson, and Deb Deere.

Board Members Absent: Tom Lazio and Joy Prothero.

Community Members Present: Kara Denburger (North Mahaska CSD), Heather Miller (CCR&R-CCC), Tracey Boxx Vass (AHFA), Jennifer Bowles (GPAEA-BASEC), Becky Falck (Sieda), Lynn Godwin (Sieda PAT), Jill Lane (FRC), and Amy Norris Hernandez (ISU Extension-NEST).

Staff Present: Pat McReynolds (Area Director)

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Board Chair, Greg Kenning at 3:45 PM. Quorum met (3:5).

2. Introductions: Introductions were made.

3. Approval of April 30th, 2014 Agenda: Desiree Johnson a motion to approve the agenda as written, Deb Deere 2nd the motion. All Board Members present approved, motion passed unanimously.

4. Approval of March 26th, 2014 MWECI Board Meeting Minutes: Desiree Johnson made a motion to approve the March 26th, 2014 board meeting minutes, Deb Deere 2nd the motion. All Board Members present approved, motion passed unanimously.

5. MWECI Financial Business:

a/b. Pat McReynolds reviewed with the MWECI Board, the March 2014 monthly financial reports as provided by the fiscal agent. Deb Deere made a motion to approve the financial reports for March 2014, Desiree Johnson 2nd the motion. All Board Members present approved, motion passed unanimously.

c. Pat McReynolds reviewed with the MWECI Board, the 3rd Quarter State Financial Report that was submitted and accepted on-line on 4/21/14. It was submitted late this time due to a death in the Area Director's family. All Federal Early Childhood funds were expended prior to 3/31/14 as required.

d. Pat McReynolds shared a preliminary review of the FUE 2015 funding for the Board to begin considering FYE 2015 funding awards. It seems there may be some unallocated funds available for cost of living increases, should the Board choose to allocate funds for COL increases. Eight of the current 12 contractors are eligible for contract renewals for FYE 2015 funding. The other four contracts were for one time projects or services and will not be renewed.

e. Pat McReynolds shared a schedule for the required program monitoring site review visits for all contractors. She invited the board members to participate in these reviews as they have time over the next month.

6. Sieda Request for Interim Home Visiting Policy:

a. Becky Falck presented to the Board a new Sieda policy that provides for interim Parents as Teachers services prior to a new parent educator attending the PATNC training. Sieda believes this approach will provide consistent family support to families with the least disruption possible and it will help employer and employee to determine the "goodness of fit" between the position and employee thus limiting training dollars for those individuals who find after a few months of service, the position does not meet their professional skillset. The policy outlines 3 months of orientation and training by Sieda prior to the formal training at PATNC. It is hoped that this new approach and preparation of service will have a direct effect on staff turn-over. Deb Deere made a motion to approve the addition of the new interim policy to be included in future contracts with Sieda Community Action, Desiree Johnson 2nd the motion. All Board Members present approved, motion passed unanimously.

7. Area Director Updates:

a. Pat reviewed the Preschool Scholarships program update with the Board. As of 4/30/14, a total of 58 applications have been received, 38 applications were eligible and approved, 20 applications were either over income (5) or under income

(15) of which all were referred to Head Start and voluntary 4Y public preschool). A total of \$46,980.00 of preschool scholarships funds have been committed. Per Deb Deere's request last month, Pat also included the ages of the children receiving scholarships at each preschool. Those totals are: 20 – 4Y olds are receiving funding, 12- 3Y olds are receiving funding and 6 – developmentally delayed 5Y olds are receiving funding.

b. Pat reviewed the Professional Development Mini Grants program update with the Board. As of 4/30/14, a total of 9 mini grants have been approved for food costs for training, resources to complete trainings, and attendance at conferences. A total of \$2,269.27 has been allocated. There has been one more mini grant submission for \$1,500.00 for training. This will leave the remaining funds for carry forward funding into next year.

c. Pat also shared that the two Mahaska County citizens scheduled to meet with her regarding interest in becoming MWECI Board Members last month, did not end up making a committed interest in the board's activities. Pat expressed her frustration with having worked on board recruitment for the past year and made 12 different positive contacts, but each one at the time of commitment, did not move forward. Desiree Johnson again noted that it was each board member's responsibility to assist with board recruitment. Additional discussion ensued regarding other personal contacts each board member could make. Pat McReynolds, Area Director, has indicated that Board recruitment will be a major focus over the summer months.

d. Pat also shared highlights from the State ECI Director's Meeting held on April 9th, 2014 in Des Moines. There are now 39 ECI areas (through the mergers the number has been reduced from 58). The schedule for ECI Directors' meeting will now include two regional location meetings and two state location meetings per year. ECI audit results information was shared and how to read the audit reports tips were given. The legislative update was to anticipate level funding for ECI. Four ECI areas shared ideas about program and contract monitoring.

8. Levels of Excellence Updates:

a. The Board reviewed the Supporting Quality Programming for Family Support Recommendations developed by the MWECI family support programs which will become a part of the new community plan. The formal adoption of the quality recommendations will happen next month when the entire community plan is approved.

b. The Board discussed if there was a need to call a special board meeting to approve the new community plan in a timely manner and get it submitted to the state ECI office as the completion of our LOE corrective action plan. Some discussion included if board members had time to meet face to face or if a meeting could take place via conference call. Pat wasn't sure if a meeting could take place via conference call or not and still meet open meeting laws. Pat will check with the state ECI office before trying to schedule a special meeting for this purpose.

8. Community Input Opportunity / Updates – FYI

a. Deb Deere provided an update about the Wapello County Partners for Children and Families (CPPC) strategic planning meeting utilizing Don Broshar as the facilitator and the "Future Search" method. The April 3rd, 2014 meeting was held as a focus group for the SAMSHA grant. The next meeting will be held on May 1st, 11am-1pm, at the Correctional facility and be focused on the four pillars approach of CPPC.

b. Heather Miller (CCR&R) shared an update about the SEIECE Symposium. The symposium planning committee felt it went well, even though the numbers in attendance were a little lower this year. The committee will meet in June to review the evaluation data and begin making plans for the next year. A full report will be available at the June MWECI board meeting.

c. Becky Falck shared that MIECHV program was moving forward with coordinated intake meetings every 2 weeks at the Pizza Ranch (12 noon) in Ottumwa. The next meeting date is scheduled for May 15th.

d. Jill Lane, First Resources Corporation / Helping Hands, shared that they had completed their Iowa Family Support Credentialing peer review earlier this month. There were two state peer reviewers who came and reviewed their materials, records and held panel interviews over the 3 days of the site review. They felt it went well and was a good experience. It seems there might be only a couple of items they will need to address and they should be easy corrections. Great job, FRC! Congratulations for a job well done.

e. Pat McReynolds drew attention to the number of fliers in the board meeting packet for upcoming trainings.

f. Becky Falck shared that the Family Support and Prevent Child Abuse Iowa conference seemed to be a great success with good speakers and sessions.

g. Deb Deere reminded everyone about the upcoming Children's Alliance annual golf tournament – Save the Date – August 16th, 2014.

Pending MWECI Board Adoption 05/28/14

h. Desiree Johnson invited everyone to participate in the Wapello County Food Consortium and their upcoming activities for progressive conversations. A flier was provided with dates.

9. Agenda Items for Next Scheduled Board Meeting:

- a. Monthly Financial reports (April)
- b. Area Director's Updates / Annual Performance Review
- c. Committee Updates if Any
- d. Contractor's Site Reviews / FYE 2015 Funding
- e. LOE and Community Plan (final actions)

10. Adjournment: Desiree Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:04 PM, Greg Kenning 2nd the motion. All Board Members present approved, motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted By: Pat McReynolds, MW Early Childhood Iowa Area Director

Board Adoption Attested By: Tom Lazio, MWECI Board Secretary _____

NEXT MWECI Board Meeting: Wednesday, May 28th, 2014 @ 3:45 pm
Eddyville Elementary School Library, 702 Vance, Eddyville, Iowa

NEXT Advisory Committee Meeting: Wednesday, June 19th, 2014 - 9AM-11:00AM
Great Prairie AEA, 2814 North Court, Ottumwa, Iowa 52501

For questions concerning meeting location ADA accessibility or requests for assistance please contact the Mahaska Wapello ECI Director prior to the meeting.

The Mahaska Wapello ECI Open Records custodian is Area Director, Pat McReynolds.

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