

**Mahaska-Wapello Early Childhood IOWA  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 4:00 PM  
Fremont Community Center  
107 East Main Street, Fremont, Iowa 52561**



**Board Members Present:** Blaine Vos, Dean Cremer, Ali Wilson, Gina Buttikofer and Shannon Hora.

**Board Members Absent:** Nick Maxwell, Lynelle Diers and Larry Reisch.

**Community Members Present:** Becky Falck and Lynn Godwin (Sieda Family Support), Joan Garrett (GPAEA), Leann Andre and Brenda O'Halloran (CCR&R), Yvonne Baldwin-Greene (ISU Extension), Jane Matzen (American Home Finding Association), and Angela Livezey (North Mahaska CSD).

**Staff Present:** Pat McReynolds (Area Director).

**1. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Board Chair, Blaine Vos at 4:03 PM. Quorum met (5:8).

**2. Introductions:** Introductions were made.

**3. Approval of June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Agenda:** Pat McReynolds asked that the agenda item #7 be tabled until the August meeting so that there would be plenty of time for board discussion of item 6 - Child Care Deserts. **Dean Cremer made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, Shannon Hora 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All Board Members present approved, motion passed unanimously.**

**4. Approval of May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017 MWECI Board Meeting Minutes:** Dean Cremer made a motion to approve the June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017 board meeting minutes as submitted, Ali Wilson 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All Board Members present approved, motion passed unanimously.

**5. MWECI Financial Business:**

a. Pat McReynolds, Area Director, reviewed the June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017 monthly financial reports as provided by the fiscal agent with the MWECI Board (payments made in June 2017 for May 2017 services). Board members reviewed monthly QB transactions, bank statements and bank reconciliation reports. **Ali Wilson made a motion to approve the financial reports for June 2017, Gina Buttikofer 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All Board Members present approved, motion passed unanimously.**

b. Pat McReynolds, Area Director, presented a request for funding to sponsor the Wapello County Children's Alliance, 8th Annual Deb House Deere Memorial Golf Tournament. The cost to sponsor a whole hole is \$250.00. MWECI has sponsored this activity for the past 5 years as one of the board's annual marketing activities. **Dean Cremer made a motion to sponsor a whole hole in the golf tournament for \$250.00 from the Community Dollars funding category, Shannon Hora 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All Board Members present approved, motion passed unanimously.**

c. Pat McReynolds, Area Director, presented a request for partnership funding of \$300.00 to help support a local community screening of the film documentary, "*Resilience; The Biology of Stress and the Science of Hope*" (the sequel to *Paper Tigers*). Both the Wapello County Children's Alliance and the Partners for Children and Families are contributing funding for this free community activity to be held on Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at the Bridge View Center Auditorium in Ottumwa. **Dean Cremer made a motion to help support this community activity in the amount of no more than \$300.00 from the Community Dollars category, Gina Buttikofer 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All Board Members present approved, motion passed unanimously.**

d. Pat McReynolds, Area Director, shared concerns regarding final re-imbursments of FYE2017 funding that could have had direct impact on FYE 2018 funding awards by some contractors spending funds based on verbal communication and interpretations that reflected additional costs/expenditures in the last 30-45 days of the contract, thus impacting anticipated carry forwards funds. Pat requested a contract addendum and policy guidance to provide clear instruction and avoid future funding difficulties. Pat previously discussed these concerns with both the Board Chair and the Board Treasurer prior to the board meeting. **Ali Wilson made a motion to send out a contract addendum to each contractor that clarifies written approval by the Area Director is necessary to make any budget line item changes of more than 10%; and require a written request to the Area Director and approval by the Area Director for program supplies and/or unusual expenditures within the last 45 days of the award, assuring they are allocable costs that benefit both the award and other work and can be distributed in reasonable proportion to the benefits received, Dean Cremer 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All Board Members present approved, motion passed unanimously.**

e. Pat McReynolds, Area Director, requested that the MWECI Board approve the proposed policy regarding budgeting guidance and allocable use of MWECI funds recently developed to provide additional guidance to all MWECI contractors and board members. **Dean Cremer mad a motion to adopt the proposed policy regarding budgeting guidance and allocable use of MWECI funds, Ali Wilson 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All Board Members present approved, motion passed unanimously.** A copy of the newly adopted budgeting guidance policy will be sent with the contract addendum to all FYE2018 - MWECI contractors. Blaine Vos, MWECI Board Chari and Ali Wilson, MWECI Board Treasurer, both vocalized their support for the new policy and addendum, effectively addressing the MWECI Board's responsibility to be fiscally sound. Blaine shared a New Hope example of funding received for a

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specific project and how easily (if he weren't an honest person) it could be diverted for other purposes. As a taxpayer, he is confident that MWECI is using his taxpayer dollars as intended.

### **6. MWECI Board Education / Child Care Desert Information:**

Mahaska and Wapello Counties have both been identified as "child care deserts." Brenda O'Halloran from CCR&R, Region 4, was present and shared basic information on this topic.

National Resource: Center for American Progress / Child Care Deserts:

- A child care desert is defined as a Zip code with at least 30 children under the age of 5 and either has no child care centers or so few centers that there are more than three times as many children under age 5 as there are spaces in centers.
- Deserts are especially prevalent in low-income communities, rural communities, among families of color, families with infants, and families with irregular or nontraditional work schedules.
- Both Mahaska and Wapello counties are considered "child care deserts." See handout showing number of children and child care slots. (3:1 ratios / Mahaska 3.7 & Wapello 4.5).
- Families need high-quality child care and early education programs to support the development of young children, as well as the economic well-being of families. Yet high-quality child care is out of reach for many families, as child care is increasingly consuming more of the family budget.
- Quality child care is multifaceted. Must-haves from quality child care include: a clean, safe, loving environment, and a day filled with structure, routine, developmental learning, and play.
- Affordability means compromise. Parents frequently find themselves having to choose between options that are "must-haves" vs. those that are "nice to have." For some parents, these compromises were not worth the cost.
- Biggest barriers for child care providers are staff costs and state requirements. Biggest barriers for families is the cost of child care and lack of openings.
- Less cost involved to recruit family child care providers vs. trying to open a new center or expand an established center.

Dean Cremer shared his personal experience of calling 28 providers on the DHS list trying to find child care for 3 evenings per week, with no one having any openings or wanting to do late evening care. Angela Livezey volunteered to use the North Mahaska CSD to share local need for child care. The New Sharon child care is currently full and maintaining a waiting list. (This supports the data for Mahaska County identification as a child care desert). The MWECI Advisory Committee is taking the child care desert issue in hand and working with United Way of Wapello County to begin addressing what steps we can take to increase access to quality child care in our two counties. More details will come as this group moves forward.

### **7. Community Plan and County Data Impact:**

a. Tabled to the August 31st, 2017 MWECI Board meeting.

### **8. Open Forum: Community Updates and Opportunities for Input:**

a. Upcoming Community Events: 1) Mahaska County Sweet Corn Serenade & Craft Show / Thursday, July 27<sup>th</sup> in the city square. Family festival features good food, children's activities, a craft & product show beginning at noon, and musical sounds by Marshall County Hangmen sponsored by Bank Iowa from 5:30-7:30. City band performance starts at 8pm. Delicious sweet corn for only 50¢! 2) Breastfeeding Awareness Event / Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, 10am-1pm @ Bridge View Center. 3) Race: The Power of an Illusion Learning Exchange, Thursday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017 or Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 8:45am-3:45pm @ GPAEA. 4) 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Deb House Deere Memorial Golf Tournament (Children's Alliance), September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017 @ Cedar Creek Golf Course, Ottumwa.

b. Additional Input from Community Partners and MWECI funded program updates or upcoming events: Gina Buttikofer shared that there is a part-time opening for an Early Childhood Adjunct Faculty at IHCC. Angela Livezey shared the Summer GAP program at North Mahaska has been completed with great success and made referrals for speech & language, hearing and dentals. Pat McReynolds reminded the MWECI Board members to turn in their evaluations to Lynelle Diers before the next board meeting.

### **9. Agenda Items for Next Scheduled Board Meeting:**

- a. Board members sign new confidentiality forms and board performance evaluations.
- b. Financial Reports / FYE 2017 Carry Forward Exact Amts/ Annual Report Sections
- c. Director's Updates.
- d. Community Plan and County Data Impact Discussion & Recommendations Continued.
- e. Opportunity for Community Input.

**10. Adjournment:** Gina Buttikofer made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 PM, Ali Wilson 2<sup>nd</sup> 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: Shannon Hora, MWECI Board Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

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**NEXT MWECI Board Meeting: 5<sup>th</sup> Thursday, August 31st, 2017, @ 4pm, Fremont Community Center**

**NEXT Advisory Committee Meeting: 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017 - 9AM-11:30 AM**  
**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 the Area Director, Pat McReynolds.

Contact Information: Mahaska Wapello Early Childhood Iowa, PO Box 335, Richland, Iowa 52585  
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