

**Mahaska-Wapello Early Childhood IOWA  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, March 29th, 2018, 4:00 PM  
Fremont Community Center  
107 East Main Street, Fremont, Iowa 52561**



**Mahaska Wapello**

**Board Members Present:** Nick Maxwell, Ali Wilson, Gina Buttikofer, Lynelle Diers, Blaine Vos, and Shannon Hora.

**Board Members Absent:** Larry Reisch and Dean Cremer.

**Community Members Present:** Becky Falck and Lynn Godwin (Sieda Family Support), Bekki Tiefenback (GPAEA), Jane Matzen (American Home Finding Association), Marta Shafer (North Mahaska CSD), Sarah McGlothlen (Ottumwa CSD), Leann Andre (CCR&R), Cameron Steinback, Sandra Pope, Heather Buckley (Cardinal CSD/Head Start), and Yvonne Baldwin-Greene (ISU Extension & Outreach / Wapello County NEST).

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

**1. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Board Chair, Blaine Vos at 4:05 PM. Quorum met (6:8).

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

**3. Approval of March 29th, 2018 Agenda:** Gina Buttikofer made a motion to approve the agenda, Nick Maxwell 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All Board Members present approved, motion passed unanimously.

**4. Approval of January 25th, 2018 MWECI Board Meeting Minutes:** Nick Maxwell made a motion to approve the January 25th, 2018 board meeting minutes as submitted, Shannon Hora 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All Board Members present approved, motion passed unanimously.

**5. MWECI Funded Program Highlight: Cardinal Community School District / 3Y Preschool Partnership Program**

a. Heather Buckley (Cardinal Elementary Principal), Cameron Steinback (Head Start Supervisor), and Sandra Pope (3Y Preschool Teacher) were all present to share information about the partnership and program with the MWECI Board and community partners. The Cardinal Community School District and Sieda Head Start partner to ensure that the greatest numbers of children are being served in quality programs in Wapello County. The Cardinal / Sieda partnership currently serves 48 children (3Y) in 3 classrooms at no cost to families. This is achieved through a blending of local school general funds, Sieda Head Start federal funds, and MWECI school ready state funds. Through the blending of funds and services, each child's total needs are met for kindergarten readiness including: health, nutrition, mental health, dental health, and family support. Preschool services include: large and small group activities, field trips, outdoor play, music, art, PE, meals and snacks, health screenings and transportation. School readiness is promoted by participation in all areas of learning: language & literacy, math, science, creative arts, social-emotional, and physical development. Activities are appropriate to each child's strengths, interests and needs, and are based on what is known about how children develop and learn. Creative Curriculum and Teaching Strategies GOLD are the education tools used to measure student achievement and progress. Comparison charts were shared showing significant growth from fall 2017 to winter 2018 in all developmental areas. Families are also encouraged to participate in home visits, parent-teacher conferences and family literacy events. Round-Up enrollment for the next school year (2018-2019) was held in February with 60 families attending.

**6. MWECI Financial Business:**

a. Pat McReynolds, Area Director, reviewed the January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018 and the February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018 monthly financial reports as provided by the fiscal agent with the MWECI Board. Board members reviewed each month's QB profit & loss, transactions and voucher reports, as well as each month's bank statement and bank reconciliation reports. Pat made notations on the P&L report regarding corrections needed for revenue deposits to reflect the same date as the bank statement. She will work with the fiscal agent to get these journal entries corrected. Lynelle Diers made a motion to approve the financial reports for January 2018 and February 2018 with the understanding the Quickbooks revenue dates would be corrected, Gina Buttikofer 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All Board Members present approved, motion passed unanimously.

b. The state ECI office had previously indicated that ECI boards should be prepared for another year of legislative de-appropriations. Pat was able to share the "good news" that the de-appropriated funding from the Department of Education was less than 1% and the state ECI office has decided to take the approximately \$53,000 reduction from the state ECI office budget and not pass it onto the local ECI areas. At this time, the state ECI office is anticipating status quo funding for School Ready funds FYE 2019. Pat also reminded the board that the Early Childhood funding formula will be changing for FYE 2019 and affect our local area with additional decreases in EC funding. Iowa has also received additional federal dollars for early childhood, so we are not certain how the formula will affect MWECI funding. Pat will continue to keep the MWECI Board abreast of news regarding FYE 2019 funding as it is shared by the state ECI office.

## MWECI Board Adoption 04/26/18

c. Pat McReynolds, Area Director, reviewed the MWECI process for funding for FYE 2019, a 2<sup>nd</sup> year contract renewal. Competitive request for proposals are issued every three years, with contract renewals for 2 subsequent years, based on an annual submission of logic models, revised budgets, and successful site reviews. The MWECI Board of Directors will award annual funding amounts as soon as a proposed/anticipated (next fiscal year) FYE budget can be determined; by the direction of the state ECI Office and the current legislative session and signed appropriations. Currently, the state ECI office is anticipating status quo funding for School Ready funds FYE 2019. Early Childhood funding will move to a 4-year process to phase-in a new formula for FYE 2019.

The MWECI Board of Directors holds the authority to award funding based on the funding cycle and local contractors successful RFP, logic model and revised budget submission to the Area Director and a successful site review. The MWECI Board of Directors also holds the authority to modify and/or deny funding based on the contractor's performance, community priorities and additional community input.

Current MWECI Contractors wishing to renew contracts for FYE 2019, are asked to submit an updated FYE 2019 logic model (reflecting any changes in core services and including goals with anticipated numbers or percentages) and a projected FYE 2019 budget electronically (emailed) to the MWECI Area Director no later than Monday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018, 12pm.

If the state ECI office informs the local ECI areas of the categorical funding amounts for FYE 2019 in time for the April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018 MWECI Board of Directors Meeting, the MWECI Board of Directors will make preliminary FYE 2019 budgeting decisions. If not, then funding decisions will have to be made at the May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018 MWECI Board of Directors Meeting.

### **7. Mid-Year Review: Community Plan Indicators / State & County Data:**

a. Pat McReynolds, Area Director, shared copies of the graphic MWECI Community Plan indicators / definitions and reviewed the current community priorities and core services. Pat continues to keep the area indicators chart updated with the most recent county data available. Progress continues to be made in each county with an increase in reported up-to-date 2Y and K immunizations. A discussion was held regarding home school immunization data and its availability. We have two home school representatives (one board member and one provider) present at most board meetings. We continue to see a decline in the number of child care slots available and will have more data to consider once the First Children's Finance report is complete. The GPAEA / BASEC program has just completed their Iowa Family Support Peer Review.

b. Pat also shared copies of the "set of maps" from the Iowa Child Maltreatment Prevention Needs Assessment 2017 provided by PCAI. Each map was reviewed and both board and provider members shared thoughts about the rankings and probable causes.

County Rankings: Higher rankings have higher percentages of abuse, neglect and all risk factors. (numerator = ranking # / denominator = 99 counties)	Mahaska	Wapello
Overall Child Abuse and Neglect Ranking	43	98
Child Abuse Ranking	50	37
Child Neglect Ranking	47	91
Children Living in Poverty Ranking	54	89
Teenage Births Ranking	52	94
Low Birth-Rate Births Ranking	15	83
Adults with 4+ ACEs Ranking	28	94
Children Who Experienced Domestic Violence Ranking	30	96
Children Whose Family Pay > 35% of Income on Rent Ranking	71	90
Children Ages 0-5 Years Ranking	56	80
Serious Mental Illness Ranking	64	97

*Source: Iowa Child Maltreatment Prevention Needs Assessment 2017*

Mahaska County Rankings: Almost half of individual county rankings are in the upper 50% of counties identified with the greatest needs. Wapello County Rankings: All but one individual county ranking is in the top 25% of counties identified with the greatest needs.

c. The Board also reviewed a chart comparison of the risk factors identified by prevention professionals. The risk factor analysis identified poverty, incidence of teen birth, low birthweight, domestic violence, four or more ACEs, high rent and mental illness as correlates with abuse and neglect. Alcoholism and drug addiction and mental illness were also underscored by professionals as important risk factors to address. Barriers to services included transportation and child care. Parents and youth reported they needed financial stability, good jobs and close, positive relationships with family and people they could trust. Employment in particular was an area cited as a challenge. Both professionals and parents reported families' lack of access to concrete supports (e.g. transportation, clothing and child care). Funding restrictions and time may be impacting some parent's ability to participate in resources they need. Providers reported lack of funding and lack of flexibility in how funds can be used impact their ability to reach as many people as they could.

d. Everyone agreed this was a lot of information to think about. The Board will continue to reflect on this information and maybe make recommendations for changes to the Community Plan priorities or indicators at the close of the fiscal year.

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

- a. Note NEW ECI logo (top of agenda). ECI 20 Year Celebration – October 2018 – more details to come.
- b. Community Events Feedback: Bekki Tiefenback attended the Race the Power of an Illusion Learning Exchange / Mahaska CPPC (March 7<sup>th</sup>) and shared that it was a valuable training. Pat McReynolds attended the “Eat, Drink and be Awesome / Sieda Fundraiser” held on March 23. It was an enjoyable evening and an immense success. Yvonne Baldwin-Greene shared that over 200 children attended the Brunch with the Easter Bunny / Wapello County 4-H & Nest Program on March 24.
- c. Upcoming Community Events: See community events flier packet.
- d. Additional Input from Community Partners and MWECI funded program updates or upcoming events. Pat McReynolds expressed her thanks to those MWECI Board members who participated this week in the GPAEA/ BASEC Iowa Family Support Peer Review. The exit interview indicated that the peer review was very successful.

**9. Agenda Items for Next Board Meeting: April 26th, 2018**

- a. Monthly Financial Reports (March 2018).
- b. Follow Up (if needed) Mid-Year Review: Community Plan Local Indicators / State & County Data.
- c. MWECI Board Recruitment efforts.
- d. Area Director Updates (Symposium Report, FCF Child Care Desert Update, Child Mental Health & Well-Being Collaborative).
- e. Opportunity for Community Input and Feedback regarding community events.

**10. Adjournment: Lynelle Diers made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 PM, Shannon Hora 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 \_\_\_\_\_

**NEXT MWECI Board Meeting: 4th Thursday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018 @ 4pm, Fremont Community Center**

**NEXT Advisory Committee Meeting: 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018 - 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

Office Cell Phone: 641-451-5437

Email: patmcreynolds318@gmail.com