

**Mahaska-Wapello Early Childhood IOWA  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014 @ 3:45 PM  
Eddyville Elementary School Library  
702 Vance, Eddyville, Iowa 52553**



**Mahaska Wapello**

**Board Members Present:** Desiree Johnson, Deb Deere, Greg Kenning (left at 5pm) and Nick Maxwell (left at 5pm).

**Board Members Absent:** Tom Lazio and Joy Prothero.

**Community Members Present:** Lynn Godwin (Sieda PAT), Angie Mach & Bettyna Cockerham (ISU Extension-NEST), Jennifer Bowles (GPAEA-PBIS), Jill Lane (FRC Helping Hands), Joan Garrett (GPAEA-PBIS), Leann Andre (CCR&R), Angela Livesey & Chrystal DeBoef (North Mahaska CSD) Tracey Box Vass (AHFA) Kathy Chamra & Liz Fairchild (Sieda Child Development) and Betty Phillips (Oskaloosa CSD/Webster).

**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 (4:6).

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

**3. Approval of October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Agenda:** Desiree Johnson made a motion to approve the agenda as written, Nick Maxwell 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All Board Members present approved, motion passed unanimously.

**4. Approval of August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014 and September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014 MWECI Board Meeting Minutes:** Deb Deere made a motion to approve the August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014 and September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014 board meeting minutes as written, Nick Maxwell 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All Board Members present approved, motion passed unanimously.

**5. MWECI Financial Business:**

a. Pat McReynolds reviewed the August 2014 and September 2014 monthly financial QB reports as provided by the fiscal agent with the MEWCI Board (payments made in August 2014 for July 2014 services and payments made in September 2014 for August 2014 services). Desiree Johnson made a motion to approve the financial reports for August and September 2014, Deb Deere 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All Board Members present approved, motion passed unanimously.

**6. Presentations to the MWECI Board:**

a. Leslie Wright, Head of Community Impact from United Way of Cedar Rapids, presented information and led a discussion regarding how to use local data to recognize critical needs within the community and why we should prioritize funding to go to address those high needs. Leslie participates in the State ECI Results Accountability Group. This group has recommended 13 state-wide indicators and program inputs that they would like local ECI areas track so that they could get a better picture of what percentage of the of needs are being met with current ECI services. Most ECI areas are serving the most needy children and families with their limited funding. The question still remains how many are not being served and how much more funding do we need to serve at least 50% of the need? Leslie asked if our ECI area would be willing to pilot tracking program inputs against state-wide indicators of need. Good discussion points by the board members and community members were: 1) there is a need to prioritize funding for the most needy families, 2) there needs to be consistency in service programming for families to know where to go to get services, 3) there is a need to utilize already existing systems (such as MIECHV coordinated intake and SIMHC-IHH), and 4) school districts need to partner with community to address the following concerns prior to 4Y preschool – working with parents 0-3 (parenting), prenatal care, 0-3 early literacy, and mental health 0-5. The community partners present reviewed the 13 indicators/inputs and noted that they were already collecting this information, it just needs to be compiled into an excel format to be shared. Pat McReynolds, Area Director, volunteered to work on putting data from the FYE2014 ECI annual report into an excel format and the locally ECI funded programs agreed to share data after this year's second quarter (6 month data) and we would do a local comparison and see if we could identify how much/far our ECI funded programs were reaching the "needy" population. This information will be shared with the Board and with United Way of Cedar Rapids in February 2015. We will invite Leslie to the February board meeting to review the data with us.

b. Angela Livezey (North Mahaska Community School District / Elementary Principal) and Chrystal DeBoef (Kindergarten teacher) provided a brief presentation about their MWECI funded Summer GAP program that took place at the end of May 25 – June 11, 2014. First, they thanked the MWECI Board for investing in Kindergarten Readiness. Twenty-seven (27) preschoolers were assisted with this kindergarten transition program, resulting in a sense of belonging and less stressful experience for the first day of kindergarten. During the 8 day program, children are exposed to playground and classroom rules, bus safety, lunchroom protocols, and assessed for developmental delays. The school district was able to document that each incoming kindergartener (100%) had had a preschool experience. Their goals for the FYE2015 program is to focus on literacy and be able to send 6 books home with each child for summer reading with their families.

c. Betty Phillips, (Oskaloosa CSD / Webster Building Director / Oskaloosa Preschool Partnership) also provided a brief presentation about their MWECI funded professional development grant. The purpose of the professional development mini-grant was to provide teacher/associate/staff training to review and master the tools of Teaching Strategies (Creative Curriculum GOLD) in 7 different school clusters in Mahaska and Wapello counties (Sieda Head Start, YMCA/Kid's Corner/3Y & 4YPS, Sonshine Preschool, OCSD Special Education Preschool, North Mahaska CSD, Ottumwa CSD, Peek-A-Boo Point Childcare & Preschool) . A total of 35 staff participated for 24 credit hours. There were 29% (8/35) staff who were able to use this training for recertification and audit credit from Great Prairie AEA. Betty shared that Teaching Strategies is mandatory for all DE preschools. The DE has a statewide license for Teaching Strategies GOLD through an umbrella agreement. Districts are required to assess all preschool children with the GOLD online assessment. The GOLD online assessment system focuses on 38 research-based objectives for development and learning that are predictors of school success and aligned with the Iowa Early Learning Standards. This training also enabled staff to better utilize electronic tablets during “real time” within the classroom. Betty also thanked the MWECI Board for the grant and said they appreciated their support and know the benefits will be far-reaching for the preschool staff, children and their families, and the community.

#### **7. Area Director Updates:**

a-g. Pat McReynolds, Area Director, briefly reviewed her written report, updating the board a regarding the listed activities from September and October 2014: ECI Stakeholder's Meeting 9/9/14, Developing Brain Seminar 9/29/14, ECI Listening Post (Directors) 9/30/14, MWECI Advisory Committee Report 10/15/14, Iowa Family Support Professional Development & Leadership State Committees 10/16/14 & 10/17/14, the Wapello County “Fatherhood Initiative” and “Community Based Prevention Response to ACEs.” Since there is so much happening all the time and so much information shared, Pat will keep the Board informed about the progress of these activities at each month's board meeting via a written report, so it is easier to refer back to when needed.

#### **8. Community Updates and Opportunity for Input – FYI**

a. Deb Deere provided an update the current PCF work. The next meeting is scheduled for 11/6/14, 11am at the Correctional facility in Ottumwa. Work will continue on the four pillars approach to service. This group has also received funding from PCAI for the “Fatherhood Initiative” training to help mobilize the community around fatherhood activities.

b. No one from the MIECHV program was present to report.

c. Leann Andre shared that the Southeast Iowa Early Care & Education Symposium will be held March 28thm 2015 at IHCC. The planning committee is composed of volunteers from the following symposium sponsors: IHCC, MWECI, CCR&R, GPAEA, AHFA, and ISU Extension. Plans are being made to include family support training during this year's symposium. Save the date cards are being distributed.

d. Congratulations were shared with the ISU Extension NEST program for completing their on-site peer review.

e. Those that participated in the Mahaska County “Kidtoberfest” shared how they felt the day had gone. Most were all very positive about the activities and number of children and families that participated. This is a great event for community involvement. Pat gave out over 100 “duckies” as prizes for completing the activities at the MWECI table.

f. Pat McReynolds also included additional information in the meeting packet regarding “Soles for Souls” shoe pantry (a collaboration with SIMHC, IHHP, and Bible Baptist Church); CCNC's monthly newsletter; “Beyond the Word Gap” multimedia resources and tools website; and copies of “Securing America's Future: Children and the 2014 Elections – what candidates, child advocates and voters need to know and do about key child policy issues produced by the Iowa Children's Policy Coalition.

g. Pat also asked that the scheduled December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014 MWECI Board meeting be rescheduled to Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014, 3:45pm at Eddyville, because the state ECI TA team has scheduled a state-wide ECI Director's meeting for December 3<sup>rd</sup>, in Des Moines. Pat will make scheduling changes on the website and send out emails to everyone to remind them of the change in schedule.

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

- a. Monthly Financial reports
- b. Area Director's Updates
- c. Board Membership Recruitment
- d. Committee Updates

**10. Adjournment: Deb Deere made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:07 PM, Desiree Johnson 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: Tom Lazio, MWECI Board Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

**NEXT MWECI Board Meeting: Wednesday, December 10th, 2014 @ 3:45 pm**  
**Eddyville Elementary School Library, 702 Vance, Eddyville, Iowa 52553**

**NEXT Advisory Committee Meeting: Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014 - 9AM-11:30AM**  
**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.

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