



**Mahaska-Wapello Early Childhood IOWA
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 9th, 2019, 3:45 PM
Fremont Community Center
107 East Main Street, Fremont, Iowa 52561**

Board Members Present: Nick Maxwell, Rozanne Warder, Ali Wilson, and Shannon Hora.

Board Members Absent: Lynelle Diers, Blaine Vos, and Gina Buttikofer.

Community Members Present: None.

Staff Present: Pat McReynolds (Area Director).

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Board Chair, Nick Maxwell at 3:50 PM. Quorum met (4:7).

2. Approval of September 9th, 2019 Agenda: Rozanne Warder made a motion to approve the agenda, Ali Wilson 2nd the motion. All Board Members present approved, motion passed unanimously. The August 29th, 2019 board minutes will be reviewed and approved at the October 31st, 2019 board meeting.

3. MWECI Board Review of FYE2019 Annual Report Sections:

a. Board review & discussion of state 2019 AR Sections: *Board Membership/Attendance/Community Plan Updates.* Pat McReynolds, Area Director, provided copies of the entire report for all board members. All Iowa Code board required representation positions were filled for the entire fiscal year. The Board met quorum requirements for 6 of the 8 held meetings. Total hours board members spent at board meetings was 93.25 hours. The community plan update reflected the work the board has done to review all indicator data, trends and analysis throughout the year.

b. Board review & discussion of state 2019 AR Sections:

- *Child Care Nurse Consultant* (indirect & direct services). Pat explained (reminded) the Board members the difference between direct and indirect services. The CCNC also provides car seat safety inspections and 4Y hearing screens. Pat reviewed how these services are direct services and reflected in another part of the report. The Board expressed appreciation for all the exceptional work Jane Matzen, CCNC, has done in our communities.
- *Technical Assistance: Consultation, Mentoring, Coaching:* CCR&R/Child Care Consultant (indirect service) and BASEC/PBIS for early learning (indirect service). Pat reminded the Board members how "like" services are grouped together and data (numbers) are combined to show the total impact of the service type. Both the CCC and BASEC services are voluntary involvement and **not required** for child development homes, childcare centers or preschools. These combined numbers also are duplicated in that each consultant may work with the same program, but on different quality initiatives and specific performance goals. QRS 3-5 numbers have increased since last year. Wapello County has one center rated QRS-5, a first! Mahaska County now has 3 centers rated QRS-4. The Board expressed appreciation for the strategic work that both Gina Wells/Karen Lauer, CCR&R consultants, and Joan Garrett, BASEC consultant, have completed for our counties.
- *Early Care & Education Supportive Services:* Cardinal 3Y Preschool Partnership (direct service) and North Mahaska Summer GAP Program (Kindergarten Transition / direct service). Both community school districts have the capacity to positively effect many children throughout the school year (76: 3Y-5Y). District data is also readily available. These are two of our smaller school districts that are experiencing continued growth due to open enrollments. The percent of children showing age appropriate skills was much higher this year (93.42%). Although district personnel were not present at the meeting, the Board did express their appreciation for their commitment to working with MWECI.
- *Preschool Scholarship* Coordination (indirect service). Pat McReynolds, Area Director, coordinates the marketing, applications and follow up services for the quality preschool scholarships for individuals. Each year the scholarships vary according to eligible families' needs. This past year there were more applications than last (11 vs 8). All but 1 (90.91%) recipients were demonstrating age appropriate skills at the end of the school year.
- *Preschool Scholarship Programs* (direct services). Pat worked with 5 preschools (Mahaska County YMCA, Creation Station, Living Hope, Ottumwa Christian School and Sunshine Preschool) this past year with the preschool scholarship program. To support quality initiatives, MWECI does require all preschools to be rated a level 3-5 QRS. Although this requirement does eliminate some preschools from participation, we have found that it has also encouraged private and public schools to get involved in the QRS process.
- *Prenatal/Postnatal Community GAPS Mini Grant* (direct services). American Home Finding Association received a mini grant for the MCH program to provide safe sleep screens for families with children under 1 year of age. If the sleep area was determined as unsafe, families were provided with an approved safe sleep option (Pack & Play). Twenty-three (23) Pack & Plays were provided to families. The Board was excited to be able to provide this service as a result of identifying a community need.
- *Quality Improvements for Early Learning* (indirect services). American Home Finding Association, Ottumwa CSD / Pickwick and the Ottumwa Y Discovery Lane Child Care Center and several Child Development Home Providers each received a mini

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grant to purchase infant/toddler or preschool equipment to improve health and safety efforts and provide appropriately sized equipment for expansion of services. Seventeen (17) early learning environments received new equipment. The Board recognized that these needs assisted our local providers to increase their direct services children.

- *Literacy* (direct service). The MWECI Literacy Committee used mini grant funding for a short-term literacy project to reach out to all children 0-5 years attending childcare and/or preschool, as well as, WIC/MCH services. Children and families were provided 1-2 free books between May – June 2019 and family literacy materials. Although this program was short-term, the Board recognized that it was a very worthwhile project and may be considered again at the end of the fiscal year as funds are made available.
- *Family Support: Home Visiting* (direct service) Sieda PAT. This is the only long-term home visitation program that the MWECI Board continues to support (since January 2000). This was the third year that data was made available via the state-wide data system known as DAISEY. The MWECI Board was able to review specific DAISEY data for each county. Combined reports showed a high number of children and families (C79/F54) involved and that they received a high number of home visits (784) and group-based opportunities (56). Year-end outcomes based on the Life Skills Progression Instrument, indicated that families were reaching goals for healthy functioning, problem-solving and communication; social and concrete supports; and knowledge of child development and parenting; but still needing work in nurturing and attachment between parents and children. The Board expressed their appreciation for the longevity and continuity of the program.
- *Family Support: Group Parent Education* (direct services) BASEC-PBIS for Families and Wapello County NEST. Both the NEST and BASEC programs are direct services and delivered as group parent education. However, they are fundamentally different in their primary focus. The NEST focus is long-term with prenatal engagement and continued involvement up to the child's 3rd birthday. During this time, a variety of parenting curriculum is used, and a point system allows for acquiring incentives. The BASEC focus is short-term focus on social and emotion development of children prenatal to 5 years. It utilizes a specific curriculum (6 two-hour sessions) and rewards full completion of the course with a nominal gift card. Both programs show a good number of families participating (BASEC-32 / NEST-94). Year-end outcomes based on the Protective Factors Survey, indicated that families were reaching goals for healthy functioning, problem-solving and communication; social and concrete supports; and knowledge of child development and parenting; but still needing work in nurturing and attachment between parents and children. (Close to the same percentages as the PAT program). Both programs also have an extensive collaborative partnership with other community providers that enable their ability to provide childcare during classes. The Board expressed their appreciation for the staff and their flexibility in meeting ever-changing families involved and their specific needs.
- *Administrative Staff*: Pat McReynolds, Area Director (service coordination and collaboration). The Area Director develops and maintains local collaborations and working relationships with local community leaders both in the public and private sectors from various groups, organizations, and agencies that are in alignment with early childhood services. She also facilitates collaboration between local providers, citizens, numerous county-wide human service planning efforts and state/local agencies and assists the Board with the development, implementation and updating of community and strategic plans. The full-time position is funded via both categorical administrative funds as well as SR-quality improvement and general use. The composite results of the MWECI Board's annual review of the Area Director's contract and performance were shared with Pat. The overall report was very positive and provided a comprehensive review of both contract compliance and personal performance.
- *Early Childhood Funds & School Ready Funds /Administrative and Program Expenses Totals*: Each of the categorical expense reports were balanced and reflected accurate FYE 2019 financial information provided by both the fiscal agent and the Area Director.
- *Total Other Funding Report*: Contractors did report some additional funding provided by PCAI.

c. Board approval of FYE 2019 Annual Report for Submission – **Rozanne Warder made a motion to approve the FYE 2019 MWECI Annual Report and authorization of Pat McReynolds, Area Director, to submit the report as required, Shannon Hora 2nd the motion. All Board Members present approved, motion passed unanimously.**

4. Adjournment: Shannon Hora made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:10 PM, Ali Wilson 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: Shannon Hora, MWECI Board Secretary _____

NEXT MWECI Board Meeting: 5th Thursday, October 31st, 2019, @ 4pm, Fremont Community Center

NEXT Advisory Committee Meeting: 5th Thursday, October 31st, 2019 – 1:30-3:30PM @ Fremont Community Center

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: patmcreeynolds318@gmail.com