

**Early Childhood Investment Corporation
Corporate Meeting Minutes
December 8, 2005
1:00 – 3:00**

Members Present: Marianne Udow, Marvin McKinney, Susan Broman, Pam Faris, Sally Vaughn, Jean Stewart, Irma Zuckerburg (for David Hollister), Hubert Price, Mike Flannegan, and Bob Kelch

Members Present via Telephone: Debbie Dingell

Presenters/Staff Present: Mike Foley, Linda Schmidt, Lisa Brewer-Walraven, Kristen McDonald, Kathi Piosak, Cheryl Thompson, Blanche Deren, Nancy Willyard, Joan Blough, and Ken Glickman.

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by the Chair, Marvin McKinney.

II. Introductions & Announcements

ECIC Executive Committee members and staff introduced themselves.

III. Approval of December 8, 2005 Minutes

Minutes were approved by the Executive Committee.

IV. Report of the Chief Operating Officer (COO)

Mike Foley reviewed his professional background for the Executive Committee.

Mike Foley provided a brief report on internal ECIC operations. ECIC is currently overseeing four separate grant competitions. COO is holding meetings with potential partners of the ECIC. COO is reviewing the strategic planning work that was supported by the Federal Bureau of Maternal and Child Health as well as a number of other planning documents – all of these have goals and activities for the ECIC. There is a need to bring these efforts together under a common planning document. COO is working with current staff and beginning efforts to recruit additional staff – Communication Director, Support Staff, and Technical Assistance Staff.

Mike Foley provided a report about potential Kellogg Foundation funding for the ECIC. A conference call was held with Susan Broman, Steelcase Foundation, Carol Goss, Skillman Foundation, Marvin McKinney, Kellogg Foundation, Mike Foley, ECIC COO and Kristen McDonald, DHS, to discuss how can foundation funding could fit into the overall funding picture for the ECIC. The next step will be the development of a concept paper for the Kellogg Foundation in early 2006.

Marvin McKinney addressed the initial funding proposal that was submitted by the ECIC to Kellogg Foundation on 10/6/05. There has been a hold up because of legal status concerns between the foundation and DHS legal department. Agreement has been reached that ECIC

qualifies as a tax exempt organization and it will in fact be applying for 501 C3 status. Kellogg Foundation will complete the paper work for the initial grant in the very near future. Concern was expressed that the foundation needs additional assurances that the ECIC has the internal controls to receive these or additional funds. Additional Kellogg Foundation funds will have to be applied for before the end of January with an anticipated award date of May 2006.

V. Action Items

A. Finance Committee.

Treasurer's report was provided by Susan Broman. She reported that the ECIC has received an advance from DHS and is ready to set up a bank account.

Executive Committee was asked to approve the resolution to selected Citizen's Bank as the financial Institution for the ECIC. Motion by Hubert Price to approve the resolution, seconded by Sally Vaughn, was passed.

Work on contracts for Child Care Resource and Referral and Child Care Provider training is moving forward. Finance committee wants continued effort to increase expectations for contractor performance. There is an understanding that some progress has been made in this area for the contracts that are out for bid but that further efforts need to be made in subsequent contract years.

Susan Broman reported that the ECIC will receive pro-bono assistance from Deloit regarding achievement of 501 C3 status for the ECIC.

VI. Discussion Items

Joan Blough, provided an update on the status of the Great Start Collaborative grant application process. A technical assistance session was held for all interested applicants. Three "Question & Answer" documents were provided over the past two months. Forty highly qualified reviewers have been recruited for the 12/19/05 review session. Larry Schweinhart, Pam Faris, Mike Foley and Sharon Peters (CEO of Michigan's Children) will conduct interviews with finalists on 1/5 and 1/6. Joan will send an email to Executive Committee as to the grant applicants.

Joan also provided a brief update was regarding the Technical Assistance function of the ECIC. This function will be focus of the Policy and Program Committee in the coming year.

Kristen McDonald provided an update on the Focal Point function of the ECIC. Kristen discussed that one goal of the Focal Point function is greater alignment between policy and finance. Another goal is public education regarding the importance of investing in 0-5. Kristen noted that great work is already happening in this regard in Michigan and that the ECIC communications director (not yet hired) will help to pull it all together. A work plan for this function is to be provided at the ECIC January meeting.

An update on the Chief Executive Officer search was provided by Ken Glickman, the contractor assigned by the recruiting firm. Update. Mr. Glickman reported that he has met several times

with ECIC Executive Committee members. It has taken extra time to come to agreement on background document that is used to recruit the CEO. The breadth of the position and the mission of the organization have made this a difficult search. Potential applicants see the ECIC as a brand new concept and this requires more explanation. Mr. Glickman reported that no ads have been placed in journals or papers yet and he is seeking advice as to whether to pursue this option or not. It is clear that the ECIC wants someone with charisma and dynamic personality to sell the importance of early childhood investment. It is also clear that the ECIC wants a diverse candidate pool. Mr. Glickman believes that applicants will be ready to be interviewed by the Executive Committee in 30 to 45 days. Mr. Glickman meets with each candidate personally before the Board sees them.

Executive Committee discussed the need for Mr. Glickman to link to organizations which have diverse members. Marvin McKinney will email Mr. Glickman other ideas for recruitment.

Mike Flannegan discussed the need to find someone who is “not Mike Foley”, someone who is focused on messaging and fund development and someone who knows how to strategically build political will with Michigan citizens.

Executive Committee discussed the need for the CEO to advocate, explain, fund raise, communicate – focusing their role on the outside affairs of the ECIC.

Hubert Price reiterated that ECIC wants a candidate to work the outside, someone who can express the sense of urgency, the current state of affairs in the early childhood movement, reach out to communities of colors, including low and moderate income communities, be effective in a bi-partisan advocacy, and has lots of personal energy. ECIC wants a figure head in the best sense.

Executive Committee discussed that perhaps someone could serve as CEO on a part-time basis, this role could fulfill the need for recognition and provide an opportunity to give back to the community. Clearly it is critical that the CEO be able to reach out to communities of color – and have a clear understanding of the dynamics of greatest need.

Executive Committee discussed the need to have the CEO on board and working with the budget process as the cycle starts.

If Executive Committee members have other suggestions regarding potential candidates they are to forward them to Mike Foley.

VII. Report by the Chair

Marvin McKinney discussed his desire for future Executive Committee development. This development needs to provide an opportunity for Executive Committee members to come to know each other and each other's values. It is crucial that the Executive Committee be an asset to the ECIC and clarity about how this will occur will ensure that the Executive Committee governs and does not try to manage. There will be a need to refine and define role as ECIC develops as an organization. Marvin asked Pam Faris, Sally Vaughn and Jean Steward to join

him on an ad-hoc committee to prepare a set of recommendations for the March 2006 meeting. Marvin's staff will coordinate the meeting.

An update was provided on the legislative briefings that haven't taken place to date. Meetings have occurred with members in the House and Senate. Bi-partisan support for ECIC and Great Start system is crucial. ECIC needs to continue to work on building broad based, bi-partisan support for early childhood investment.

Bob Kelch provided information on a funding mechanism in use in another state. The legislature agreed to provide 50% of the funding for an initiative and challenged the university to secure the remainder of the funding. This might be a workable approach for Michigan. State could agree to fund a certain amount and charge the ECIC to raise the other portion of the funds. This is an innovative approach to leveraging funds.

Discussion was had about using the ECIC report required by legislature to discuss this concept. It would be a way to build in the interest that is present in the Legislature across the parties. Report is due in the immediate future.

Hubert Price reminded the Executive Committee that the Joyce Foundation is funding several organizations in Michigan to work with the Legislature. It was noted that it would benefit the ECIC to increase its collaboration with these Joyce funded projects.

Executive Committee discussed the need to be proactive on rethinking the current early childhood system that Michigan has. ECIC needs to have new ways of thinking about achieving its vision and mission for young children and their families.

Executive Committee discussed the need to get an accurate count of funds currently spent on 0-5 in Michigan. This is a task that the ECIC needs to address as a priority. ECIC needs to communicate the message that investment in early childhood brings a return at Kindergarten and in the later school years. ECIC needs to make the case that less will need to be spent on remedial and special education.

Executive Committee raised the concern of why Michigan has been decreasing its investment in early childhood. ECIC has to be able to quantify how much is saved when children have access to high quality public education. We have to stop losing budget battles and build the economic arguments that we need to gain support. ECIC needs to get Communications Director on board as soon as possible.

VIII. Public Comment

No public comment was given.

IX. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Bob Kelch, seconded by Pam Faris, was passed.