

**Early Childhood Investment Corporation
Corporate Meeting Minutes
February 1, 2006**

Attendees

Board Members:

Present: Ismael Ahmed, Susan Broman, Pam Faris, Mike Flanagan, Robert Kelch, Marvin McKinney, Hubert Price, Larry Schweinhart, Jean Stewart, Marianne Udow.

Absent: Sally Vaughn and David Hollister

Joining by Phone: Deborah Dingell, and Steve Ewing

Staff:

Present: Mike Foley, Kathi Piosak, Cheryl Thompson, Joan Blough, Nancy Willyard and Theresa Cross.

Public:

Linda Schmidt, Kristen McDonald, Lindy Buch, Sharon Peters, Mark Sullivan, Karen Shirer, Becky Gillian.

I. Call to Order

The Chair, Marvin McKinney called the meeting to order at 1:17 pm.

II. Approval of January 11, 2006 Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Jean Steward, seconded by Pam Faris, and passed.

III. Report of the Chief Operating Officer

Mike Foley provided an update on the status of the Great Start Collaborative and Capacity Building grants. DHS has organized a media event to publicize the grant award in each grantee community. Mike Foley and Joan Blough, ECIC Technical Assistance, will be meeting with each Great Start Collaborative and Capacity Building grantee to finalize their work plans, budgets and ECIC contracts. Contracts are expected to be in place no later than the end of March.

Mike Foley reviewed the Executive Committee decisions about the Child Care Provider training made at January 11, 2006, meeting. The Executive Committee was informed that prior to negotiation taking place with the applicants, an appeal was received from the MI 4C Association. The appeal resulted in the need to suspend negotiations until the appeal process was completed.

Hubert Price informed the Executive Committee that he is a board member of the Michigan 4C Association. Hubert asked the Executive Committee to allow him to participate in the discussions but abstain from voting. The Executive Committee agreed.

Mike Foley asked for the Executive Committee to formally adopt the ECIC appeal process. Bob Kelch made a motion to adopt the ECIC appeal process, Marianne Udow supported the motion. The motion passed.

Following a discussion of the Executive Committee regarding their concerns about the suspension of child care provider training, Mike Foley and Marianne Udow left the meeting to seek consultation from the Legal Affairs Department in DHS regarding the potential for a short term contract with the MI 4C Association. The contract could make child care provider training available while the appeal is resolved and contract is negotiated between the ECIC and the applicants. Per the legal consultation provided to the Executive Committee, no short term contract can be put into place due to an existing Executive Order on sole source contracts in excess of \$25,000.00.

Mike Foley requested that the Executive Committee given him authority to finalize a contract when the appeal is resolved. A motion was made by Bob Kelch to give staff the requested authority, supported by Jean Stewart. Motion passed. Hubert Price abstained.

Mike Foley reported that the Kellogg Foundation has awarded and transferred funds in the amount \$195,000 to the ECIC. Following a discussion with the Executive Committee of the changes that have taken place since the original submission of the proposal, staff was asked to provide to the Executive Committee both the original proposal as well as staff recommendations for minor changes in the goals and budget.

Mike Foley reviewed the procedures for the provision of intensive technical assistance by Smart Start National TA Center to Michigan. The first step is the completion of a "system assessment" by state, community leaders and parents. The last week in April is being reviewed for a potential meeting date. ECIC staff will provide the Executive Committee with a confirmed date in the near future.

IV. Committee Reports

Susan Broman provided the Finance Committee report. Susan briefly reviewed the amended budget for the CCDBG funds. Susan noted that this amended budget no longer reflects a deficit for the current year. Finance Committee is recommending that the ECIC Executive Committee approve the amended budget. Ismael Ahmed moved for the approval of the budget, Pam Faris supported. Motion passed.

Susan Broman discussed the financial services contract that is needed for ECIC. Finance Committee is recommending a one year contract with Yeager and Associates in the amount of \$700.00/month. Pam Faris moved for the approval of the financial services contract, Susan Broman supported. Motion passed.

Nancy Willyard, Head Start State Collaboration Director, provided a brief report on the availability of Head Start State Collaboration funds to the ECIC. Nancy will be working with Mike Foley to prepare a budget for these funds. Budget will be provided to the Finance Committee for their approval.

Executive Committee requested that staff provide a year-to-date budget, include expenditures in each Executive Committee packet.

Larry Schweinhart, Chair of the Program and Policy reviewed the January 11, 2006, Executive Committee minutes regarding the workforce study. Larry briefly reviewed the process the Executive Committee members of the Program and Policy Committee used to review and affirm the decisions of the original review committee. Executive Committee discussed and agreed upon several stipulations for the grant recipient. Ismael Ahmed moved to award the grant for the Workforce Study to PSC, Inc., Pam Feris supported. Motion passed.

Hubert Price, Chair of the Chief Executive Officer Search Committee provided an update. Search committee met on February 1, 2006, and interviewed two very strong candidates. The search process is not yet complete. There is a desire to interview two additional candidates. Hubert requested that a special Executive Committee meeting be held in the next few weeks to interview two finalists.

Hubert Price asked for a motion giving authority to the Search Committee to suspend further search activities once it is satisfied that it has identified two finalists for the CEO position. Mike Flanagan made the motion, Marianne Udow supported. Motion passed.

V. Report of the Chair

Marvin McKinney noted to the Executive Committee the inclusion of information of the Great Start Vision, Mission, Values, etc. in the meeting packet. The Executive Committee needs to revisit this information in a more in-depth retreat and plans will be coming forward from the Board Development Committee in the near future.

VI. Public Comment

Mark Sullivan, Director of MI 4C Association, voiced his appreciation for ECIC staff. He commended the Executive Committee on its frank and good discussion of the issues before it. Mark shared his view that the Workforce Study is extremely important and will provide a lot of missing information that will help everyone better address the needs of child care providers. Mark also noted that he will be meeting with the Director of MSU Extension to begin discussing their joint efforts on child care provider training.

Karen Shirer, Michigan State University, Assistant Professor, also commended the Executive Committee on its open discussion of the issues before it. She reaffirmed for the Executive Committee the capacity and readiness of MSU Cooperative Extension to move forward as soon as possible with the child care provider training. Karen also expressed support for the Workforce Study and her view that it is a critical missing piece that will support future efforts and increase awareness.

Becky Gillian, Bethany Childcare, expressed her concern that child care providers want and need training and cannot currently access it. She expressed the need for a quick resolution to the child care provider training appeal.

The Chair, Marvin McKinney, noted that the ECIC is fully committed to having the best training child care provider workforce in the nation.

Trisha Sherwood, Washtenaw County, expressed her opinion that the system of child care provider training that existed prior to 12/30/05 was not in need of change. She asked for additional information about the ECIC Appeal Process which was provided by the ECIC COO.

VII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Bob Kelch, supported by Marvin McKinney.

Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm.

Minutes submitted by Joan Blough, ECIC Staff.