

**ECIC Executive Board Meeting
MINUTES
February 11, 2009**

Executive Committee Members

Betsy Boggs
Susan Broman, Chairperson
Elizabeth Bunn
Carolyn Clark
Deborah Dingell
Pamela Faris
Marianne Udow-Phillips
Larry Schweinhart
Sally Vaughn
Lisa Brewer-Walraven

Staff

Joan Blough
Carrie Hatcher
Mary Lannoye
Alissa Parks
Mike Foley
Kathi Pioszak
Karen Roback
Tracy Ryan
Jenny Salesa
Judy Y. Samelson, CEO
Cheryl Thompson
Sarah Triplett

Guests

Kim Browning, High/Scope Foundation
Norma Eppinger, MI4C
Matt Gillard
Mary Mckrain, DHS
Kendra Moyses, MSU Extension

NOTE: The Executive Committee Meeting was preceded by a presentation from the Wayne County Great Start Collaborative.

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Broman called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m. and invited all members present to introduce themselves.

II. Invitation for Public Comment

None.

III. Approval of Minutes 12.15.08

Be it resolved, that the ECIC Executive Committee approves the minutes of December 15, 2008.

Motion by Marianne Udow-Phillips, supported by Betsy Boggs. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Chairperson's Report

Ms. Broman indicated that a new Master Resolution had been handed out as well as e-mailed to other members of the board participating via the phone conference line.

Ms. Samelson introduced Mary Lannoye as ECIC's new "part-time" Chief Administrative Officer and asked Ms. Lannoye to say a few words regarding ECIC's financial statements and audits.

Financial Statements

Ms. Lannoye introduced ECIC's newest staff members, Carrie Hatcher, Controller, replacing Kim Mahard, and Tracy Ryan as Great Start Contract Administrator. Ms. Ryan is detailed to ECIC by the Department of Human Services (DHS). Ms. Lannoye expressed thanks to Lisa Brewer-Walraven and DHS for their assistance and support regarding Ms. Ryan.

Ms. Lannoye directed the group to look at tab G3 in the board binder for the financial statements. She explained that a 4.5 million dollar fund balance from The Kellogg and Kresge Foundations grants stemmed from early payment of the grants. Over all there were limited expenses during the months of October and November of 2008. Ms. Lannoye also stated that \$6.75 million was disbursed to the Great Start Collaboratives by the Michigan Department of Education at ECIC's direction.

Ms. Broman asked if there was an end date to the grant money acquired from The Kellogg and Kresge foundations. Ms. Samelson explained that the end date for those contracts is this year but ECIC would be asking for a no cost extension.

Audit Update

Ms. Lannoye directed the group to turn to tab H3 to discuss preliminary findings for the 2006-2007 single audit. Ms. Lannoye gave a brief overview of a few internal control weaknesses cited but stated that they were very minute. She also indicated that ECIC had good records to support ECIC actions as part of the audit. Ms. Lannoye informed the Executive Committee that while the Auditor General's Office had questions on a few discrepancies, no material weaknesses were found.

Ms. Samelson told the Executive Committee that the ECIC was charged \$15,000 for its first financial audit in FY 06 and \$25,000 for the FY 06-07 single audit. Thus it was with considerable surprise that the Auditor General's Office approached her two months into the FY 08 financial audit indicating that ECIC would be charged \$45,000 for the current financial audit. Ms. Samelson reviewed the timetable for each audit stressing the short duration planned for the FY 08 financial audit and the \$45,000 bill in question. Ms. Samelson told the Auditors that the ECIC Executive Committee would likely have serious reservations about such an increase. To date, no audit engagement letter has been signed by ECIC for this newest audit.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the Auditor General's bill. Ms. Samelson asked the Chairman's Discussion Group to review this topic in depth.

Organizational Structure

Ms. Samelson presented a revised external organizational structure that would add a Great Start Systems Team, change the leadership structure of the board external advisory committees, and revamp the work of the Strategic Planning Committee. She said that the initial structure was designed to provide an inclusive way of getting local and state representatives together along with broader component experts and advocates to work together on early childhood issues but that state program leaders felt they needed their own group. Ms. Samelson expressed hope that ECIC could eventually return to a more inclusive structure.

Board Appointments

The idea of creating closer alignment between the ECIC Executive Committee and Children's Cabinet was discussed. Director Ahmed (and ECIC board member) has suggested that the two groups meet and talk about early childhood issues in Michigan. Staff was directed to convey this request to the Cabinet.

The Speaker of the House, Senate Majority Leader, House Minority Leader and Senate Minority Leader each submitted three names to the Governor's office for possible appointment to the ECIC Executive Committee. The Governor will select one from each list to serve on the ECIC Executive Committee.

Master Resolution

BE IT RESOLVED, that the ECIC Executive Committee approves the financial statements for November, 2008; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the ECIC Executive Committee approves the change of bank signatories from Sally Vaughn, David Hollister, Marvin McKinney, Judy Samelson and Cindy Peruchietti to Sally Vaughn, David Hollister, Marvin McKinney and Judy Samelson; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the ECIC Executive Committee approves the revised organizational structure as presented; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the ECIC Executive Committee delegates to the Chairman's Discussion Group all the duties and authority of the Audit Committee; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Final 415 Regulations Amendment to the ECIC 401(a) Plan is adopted for Limitation Years and Plan Years beginning on or after July 1, 2007; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chief Executive Officer or any officer of ECIC is hereby authorized to execute the Final 415 Regulations Amendment and related documents on behalf of ECIC; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the ECIC Executive Committee approves Manistee Intermediate School District, Ionia County Intermediate School District and Mason Lake/Oceana Intermediate School District's request to join the ECIC Interlocal Agreement.

Motion by Susan Broman, supported by Sally Vaughn. Motion carried unanimously.

V. New Business

Budget and Policy Update

Ms. Samelson introduced Ms. Ellin Nolin (who participated via conference call) from Washington Partners, LLC located in Washington D.C. as ECIC's "eyes and ears" in the nation's capital. A Washington presence is particularly important at this time with the

Obama Administration's interest in early childhood. Ms. Samelson also introduced Mr. Matt Gillard who will be the liaison on State affairs and mentioned that Mr. Gillard was a former State Representative which a great deal of insider knowledge. Ms. Samelson indicated that Mr. Gillard will be part of a bi-partisan team of legislative support once ECIC contracts with former State Representative Bev Hammerstrom.

Ms. Nolin gave a brief presentation on the Obama administration's stimulus package, an update on U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, and priorities for 0-5.

Mr. Gillard provided an update on the State budget situation, how much the actual budget shortfall is expected, and how the State plans on using the stimulus dollars.

The group discussed what the ECIC has been hearing regarding the budget and how that might affect our work as well as this being the best time to make a shift toward a collective agenda. She stated that this is a critical time for the State but that this has provided the ECIC with an opportunity to reevaluate who we are, what we are working toward and how we go about implementing our plans.

A conversation ensued regarding the budget and how dire the current economic situation is in currently.

VI. Old Business

Child Care Quality Improvement Contracts.

The Executive was briefed on ECIC's child care quality contract direction. She introduced Ms. Karen Roback, Ms. Kathi Pioszak, and Ms. Cheryl Thompson who are the driving force in creating the new direction under the guidance of Joan Blough. Ms. Roback shared the research and other information that is informing ECIC's direction along with how they are involving key stakeholders such as MI4C Association and MSU Extension, the current contractors. Ms. Roback explained that the goal is to put quality improvement in the hands of local communities who can work more closely with providers and parents and ensure greater accountability for the efforts. She said ECIC anticipated a regional hub concept. A brief discussion ensued on the term "regions."

A conference call will be planned in March to present the RFPs ECIC will be releasing. The board will be asked for contract approval in June.

Children of Color

Mr. Foley updated the Executive Committee on the status of the Children of Color project and the complex social issues this project involves. Mr. Foley directed the Executive Committee to both the paper written by Valora Washington (which was included in the board books) and the inserts he provided. He also discussed the Poverty Summit which was held in November and ECIC's desire to bring these efforts together in some way..

VII. Adjournment

Chairman Broman adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah G. Triplett