

Northwest Iowa Community Empowerment

CHEROKEE * LYON * PLYMOUTH * SIOUX

Security and success for children by strengthening families and communities.

EXECUTIVE - FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes

October 26, 2006 - 12:00 Noon

Downstairs Small Meeting Room

Pizza Ranch

Orange City, IA

I. Welcome/Introductions

Jim Henrich, David Van Ningen, Rick Droog, Shane Walters

Staff present: Joyce Vermeer, Nola Aalberts and Joy Poppema

II. Review Minutes of 9-07-06 meeting

Minutes were reviewed, Jim motioned to approve, David seconded, motion carried.

III. Old Business

A. Nothing

V. FY07 Financial Statements

A. Financial Statements

The 8-31-06 financial statements were distributed. The Quality Improvement Grant of \$82,146.02 has been incorporated into the budget. Applications for the part time assistant for Early Childhood have come in, advertising was done in the four county area. The Parent Partners budget was discussed. An application has been submitted. It was noted that if we do not receive the technical assistance grant for Parent Partners we will not run the program this year. The Goodnight Sleep Tight program will be kicked off at the beginning of the year. Parent Nurturing in Lyon County has been going well with the anticipation of having more classes in the future. Kindergarten Transitions is a program that involves individuals/agencies/community and parents together for 2 -½ day sessions collaborating programs for kindergarteners to transition better (there is interest Cherokee and Lyon Counties). David made a motion to recommend these programs to the NICE board, Jim seconded, motion carried.

B. Annual Report Review

No date has been set by the state Empowerment Team. A conference call will be conducted. Nola will let the Board know when the call will be and invite all to attend.

C. Grant Award

Previously discussed in the financial statements.

V. FY07 Contracts/Budgets

A,B,C. Previously discussed above.

VI. Redesignation

Nola distributed information on redesignation. The Self Evaluation requires input from the Board. Community Assessment for children from 0-5 years of age will be required. Nola will check to see if the Comprehensive Strategies will suffice. Nola will also check with Public Health and Head start 's needs assessment plans so duplication is not done. The Community Plan that is in place should be satisfactory. It was discussed to review of a couple areas for discussion at the board meeting and then have the board members complete at the end of the meeting. Nola will pick two for the agenda and then they will be worked through at the board meeting.

VII. FY08 – Planning Early Childhood

Joyce distributed the four county area scholarship funding information. There are 464 scholarships going to families- full or half. At the pace of this report the funds should be disbursed (\$300,000 for FY07 and roughly \$110,000 carry forward for the next year). Nola and Joyce will be meeting with Senator Dave Mulder and possibly Chuck Soderburg to keep them informed. This report will be updated and shared with the Board at the next meeting. The Child Care Advisory Board is discussing the possibility or raising the bar for preschools to receive scholarships. The State Quality Rating System is being looked at for the future. QPPS is a section of the Quality Rating System (State licensing standard). Supplying curriculum training would help the preschools obtain the QRS Level 3. This is a gradual process, approximately FY09 setting goals for QRS by board recommendation. This funding is reaching the families but also improving the quality of preschools for future generations. Nola noted future possibilities of having Joyce and an assistant work more in depth with preschools/childcare providers and Benefits for Beginners work with home based providers. There are 201 home based childcare providers. This concept could be brought to the Board in December.

VIII. Nominations for Board

It was noted that Board members should not be officers while receiving funds which makes filling vacancies more challenging. Nothing has been received back from those contacted regarding becoming board members. Nathan Staab was mentioned as a possible member. Bud Clow's replacement will be made by the Board of Supervisors in Cherokee County, Coleman McAllister from Sioux County was also mentioned. It was noted to put on the NICE agenda the recommendation from the Nominating Committee: Jim Henrich as Vice President and Mark Sybesma as secretary.

IX. Calendar

A draft of the calendar was distributed.

X. New Business

A. Opportunities for board & public to bring up new items for discussion

Nola informed the committee of the opportunity to host the State Empowerment Board meeting. Twice a year the State meeting is held at a host sight. The application would be required by November 1, 2006. The September meeting of 2007 would be a more favorable date. Nola and Joyce would be in charge of arrangements. Nola will email the State Board and check on lodging accommodations.

An evaluation for the Empowerment board was distributed. Nola requested they be completed by the board; possibly at the beginning of the next board meeting. Next meeting is scheduled for December 7, 2006 at 1:30pm tentatively at our office.

XI. Adjourn