

Northwest Iowa Community Empowerment

CHEROKEE * LYON * PLYMOUTH * SIOUX

“Security and success for children by strengthening families and communities.”

Minutes

January 25, 2007

12:30PM Orientation—1 : 0 0 P M M e e t i n g

Upstairs Conference Room,

Sioux County Office Bldg

Orange City, IA

Orientation

Those present at Orientation were: Mark Leeds, Lisa Langlitz, Maria Bertha Martinez, Shar Boon, Meriele Wilmot, Rick Droog, Joyce Vermeer, Nola Aalberts, Mark Sybesma and Joy Poppema.

A Power Point was shown with Empowerment 101 and information regarding the funding sources and explanation of programs that NW IA Community Empowerment Coordinates.

I. Welcome/Introductions

Rick Droog welcomed all and introductions were made. Nancy Dykstra, Joanne Smith, , Janna Rielly, Audrey Hansen, Mark Leeds, Kim Rupp, Dick Sievers, Meriele Wilmont, Jeanne Feeck, Wayne Sneller, Sharla Boon, Shane Walter, Dennis Sassman (Proxy for David Van Ningen), Jim Henrich and Mark Sybestma. Guest present: Maria Bertha Martinez, Nathan Staab, Lisa Langlitz, Coleman Mc Allister. Staff present: Nola Aalberts, Joyce Vermeer, Joy Poppema Contract straff present: Ann Bowman

II. Review Minutes of 10-26-06 meeting

Minutes were reviewed, Audrey made a motion to approve, Shane seconded, motion carried.

III. Executive Finance Report

A. FY07 Financial Statements

1. The 12-31-06 financial statements were distributed. Mark gave an overview of the budget. It was noted over one million dollars are left to spend. Given the amount of new money that we have received things are being spent efficiently and not being spent just to spend. There is a restriction of 30% on carryover funds. Mark made a motion to give authority to the Coordinator & Fiscal Agent to allow funds be distributed in a first in and first out manner, taking into account the carry over areas i.e. preschool scholarships. Kim seconded, Motion carried.

2. Quality Improvement

A revised Quality Improvement budget was distributed for informational purposes. Takysia Larsen has been hired.

B. Program Updates

1a. Healthy Families

Nancy Dykstra presented an overview of the Healthy Families Program via a PowerPoint presentation. She stressed that the funds involved in the Healthy Families program are really making a difference in the lives of children. In the 4 county area - 170 families are being served with a risk factor of 12 or more. There has been 1833 visits completed year-to-date.

b. Family Circles -

This program is occurring in Cherokee County, and develops relationships between allies and participants. The meetings are averaging 12 attendants at the meetings.

c, Kindergarten Transitions promotes communication between preschools, communities and school systems. There is a pilot program in two school districts in Lyon County—George-Little Rock and Central Lyon.

d. Parent Partners- A pilot program with Sioux and Lakes Area clusters. The first local steering committee meeting was held on the 24th of January. This program involves people who have successfully exited the DHS system and who will mentor those entering the DHS system.

e. Benefits for Beginners – nothing new to report.

IV. Redesignation

A. Community Plan

5 Surveys have been completed in the areas of Community-wide Indicators, Board Structure & Operation. Nola explained the process for redesignation which is to be completed by Sept 2007.

B. Indicators

A handout with information in regard to changes to some of the indicators was distributed.

1) It is recommended to change the indicator “Number of Child Care Providers who have participated in professional development activities” to “Number of Early Child Care providers....”

2) Adding: Number of Early Childhood Providers participating in QRS.

3) Removing: On-site consultations for child care providers.

Jim made a motion to approve the above recommendations to the indicators. Dick seconded, Motion carried.

C. Board Structure & Operations

A survey for redesignation in the area of Board Structure & Operation was distributed for completion. Nola gave an overview of the survey for clarification when completing. There was discussion regarding some of the categories on the list. All board members are asked to complete and return to our office. This input is required in order for redesignation to be approved.

D. Handouts

V. Nominating Committee

Shane introduced Nathan Stob- Director of Atlas, Mark Leeds-Cherokee County Board of Supervisors, Lisa Langlitz -Cher County Mental Health -Coleman Mc Allister – Sioux County Attorney, Bertha Martinez – Citizen, Shar Boon – Sioux County Sheriff’s Dept. Mark made a motion to accept the above nominations to the Board: Voting members being Coleman Mc Allister, Mark Leeds and Berta Martinez. Shar Boon, Nathan Staab and Lisa Langlitz as Associate members. Dick seconded, motion carried. Rick thanked and welcomed new members.

VI. Comprehensive Strategies

A. Child Care Advisory Board

i. Preschool Scholarship Standards

Audrey distributed a hand out with pending requirement regarding funding of preschool scholarships. The Child Care Advisory board recommends 1): all 1st round QPPS goals should be met July 1, 2007. By 7-1-2008 all second round QPPS goals should be met, additionally all preschool teachers that have been employed more than 1 year must have participated in a research based 3-day 15-hour preschool curriculum overview training (Creative, High/Scope, other). By 7-1-2009 those that have completed the first two levels must have reached a three star on the Quality Rating Scale (QRS) level. Effective immediately in order for a preschool to receive scholarships they must have a full Department of Human Services license OR a

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provisional license with no action to revoke or deny OR operate under the authority of an accredited school district or nonpublic school. Mark made a motion to approve the above recommendation, Kim seconded, discussion on the motion occurred. It was noted that we are raising the bar of quality for preschools each year. Motion carried. The diagram showed numbers of dollars spent at preschools along with % of children receiving scholarships in the preschool. 454 children of 1,007 of children in preschools receive scholarships – 45%.

ii. Licensing

Discussed in the above paragraph

iii. Changes

Discussed in the above paragraph

B. Parent Support Advisory Board

Have not met since last meeting.

VII. New Business

Audrey Hansen handed out materials for the Child Advocacy from Quality Counts Childhood of Iowa.

A handout from the Association of Iowa Children’s Talking Points was distributed.

Joanne Smith noted that there is discussion in legislature regarding the future funding of scholarships.

VIII. Adjourn

Jim made motion to adjourn, Dick seconded, motion carried.