

Northwest Iowa Community Empowerment

CHEROKEE * LYON * PLYMOUTH * SIOUX

Security and success for children by strengthening families and communities.

Minutes

April 26, 2007 - 1:00 p m
Upstairs Conference Room
Sioux County Office Building
Orange City, IA

I. Welcome/Introductions

Rick welcomed all and introductions were made.

II. Review Minutes of 10-26-06 meeting

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

III. Executive Finance Report

A. FY07 Financial Statements

1. Early Childhood/School Ready Financial Report

The revised FY07 financial reports through 4-17-07 were distributed. Empowerment is allowed a 30% carryover for next year. This allows \$326,419 for carryover next year. Restrictions are applied to the Preschool scholarships. There is anticipated carryover of \$326,419 which includes \$125,000 for preschool scholarships.

2. Budget Revisions

Budget revisions are needed because of under utilization and programs with more demand. Nola highlighted the Benefits for Beginners (B4B) revision of \$23,000.00, \$10,000 to home based providers and \$13,000 for training. Rhonda asked for flexibility between the rewards and training. \$8500 taken from Care for Kids to Training program for Family Support Workers – Partners for a Healthy Baby. Increasing two counties funding for Healthy Families this year (Cherokee \$6,000 & Sioux \$7,000). Plymouth will not use \$6,000 of their allocation for this year. A New line item for the Mother Read program for \$15,000.00 to train the libraries in the four county area. \$25,000 for a New Program – Your Child's Brain. A program that will be provided through preschools and childcare centers. The Nurse consultant \$10,000 was not able to be used in FY07 and the funds will be used for other childcare improvements. The Finance Exec committee reviewed these in detail – it was noted that these funds are being moved from within areas of same category. The Finance Committee made a motion to accept the revisions as made, Joanne seconded, motion carried.

Nola noted there is no Professional Liability for our staff. Staff is looking into covering the cost of membership for Joyce and Takysia with NAEYC which has professional liability coverage for members. The cost would be \$192 with a \$90 membership fee verses \$2,000 through the NICE insurance carrier.

B. 07 Contracts/Budgets

1. Healthy Families Cherokee

Nola shared information regarding Cherokee Healthy Families program in Cherokee. CCCHH had a contract with Empowerment for the Healthy Families program. A letter of termination was received due to the fact that CCCHH would not be in existence after the contract ended June 30th,

2007. The Exec-Finance recommendation is to terminate the contract with CCCHH. Healthy Families and the Family Circles programs will be administered through the NICE and Siouxland Human Investment Partnership (S.H.I.P.). Mark noted the hospital does not have the ability to credential at this point and could not administer the program without an RFP being issued. The Cherokee program has been functioning very well and the service to clients needs to continue without interruption. The employer of record would be S.H.I.P., there will be some adjustment in hours. Location would be the Cherokee Mental Health Institute. It was suggested to evaluate after the two months and then see if an RFP would be considered. Nola pointed out that in order to credential there is no other agency except Lutheran Social services that is already credentialed and could administer the program. Rick noted that there will be an evaluation of the program in Cherokee and then a decision will be made to do a RFP if a change is needed. There will need to be at least a six month period for a change of administration. Motion carried.

2. Family Circles

See above motion.

3. Healthy Families intent to renew contract

i. Sioux County

ii. Lyon County

iii. Plymouth County

The Exec- Finance committee made a motion to renew the contract with Sioux and Lyon county with a stipulation regarding Plymouth County regarding progress in fully utilizing the contract. There are concerns with funding being underutilized every year from Plymouth County. There will be a three month evaluation written into the renewal. Jim seconded. Motion carried. The billing for the four counties for Healthy Families for March was distributed. The population of each county was discussed; Sioux county has a population of 32,000, Plym has 25,000, Lyon has 12,000 and Cherokee has 24,000.

4. Benefits for Beginners intent to renew contract

The Exec-Finance Committee recommends renewing the Benefits for Beginners (B4B) contract for another year. The allocation is anticipated to be approximately the same as last year. Shane seconded, motion carried. Rhonda Lassen abstained as alternate for Dick Sievers. Motion to renew for FY08 and amend FY07 was made by Dennis, Shane seconded, motion carried.

C, Parent Support Advisory Board

IV. Redesignation 10-17-07 9:00 am

A. Community Plan

The Community Plan was distributed for review. This has been prioritized through March, 2007. The Sioux Planning Council made a decision to have a community forum for input regarding this community plan.

B. Indicators

There was a conference call to review the Annual Report with the State Empowerment team. Suggestions were made to change the indicators. Exec-Fin committee made a motion accept the indicators as per attachment.

-Percent of increase in the # of children enrolled in Hawk-I insurance.

-% of increase in Early Childhood providers participating in professional development activities.

-% of preschools/childcare centers at QRS Level III or above.

% of increase in participation of Parent Education – Support programs.

% of home based providers at QRS Level III or above.

removing the reduction of child abuse cases confirmed by the welfare and juvenile justice providers.

Rick noted the biggest change is from counting number to percentage. Shane seconded, motion carried.

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C. Matrix/Letter

The letter that will be sent to the agencies for redesignation was distributed for input. The matrix that needs to be completed for redesignation was also distributed. Mark made a motion to accept the letter, Jim seconded, motion carried. The surveys were distributed for completion to redesignation.

V. Comprehensive Strategies

The PEM committee continues to work on suggestions for the Community Plan.

VI. Early Childhood/Benefits for Beginners Presentation

Rhonda gave an overview of the B4B program. A handout of the PowerPoint presentation showing the information was distributed. It is proposed for Empowerment to work with the preschools/childcare centers and B4B will continue to work with home providers. The changes in the B4B program were recommended to the Board from the Child Care Committee. The Exec-Finance committee has reviewed these and recommends a motion for approval. B4B will serve in home providers only, and work on recruitment and registration. Dennis seconded, Joyce noted that these funds are all Empowerment funding but communication will be there between B4B and Empowerment, motion carried.

Nola noted there are major changes with the upcoming legislation and preschools through the school district. The RFP is scheduled to be out June 1.

VII. New Business

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

Next meeting June 21, 2007 upstairs in the conference room of the Sioux County Office Building.

VIII. Adjourn

Mark made a motion to adjourn, Jim seconded, motion carried.