

Northwest Iowa Community Empowerment

CHEROKEE * LYON * PLYMOUTH * SIOUX

Northwest Iowa Community Empowerment is committed to strengthening Community through loving, nurturing, and responsible families thereby providing security and success for children.

Officers

Shane Walter
CHAIRPERSON

Kathy Tritz-Rhodes
VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Lisa Rockhill
SECRETARY

Nola Aalberts
ADMINISTRATOR

Joyce Vermeer
COORDINATOR

Voting Members

Randy Bosch
LYON COUNTY SUPERVISOR

Bud Clow
CHEROKEE CO SUPERVISOR

Rick Droog
COORDINATOR SIOUXLAND
DIACONAL CONFERENCE

Jeanne Feeck
DHS REPRESENTATIVE

Audrey Hansen
AREA EDUCATION AGENCY IV

Jim Henrich
PLYMOUTH CO. SUPERVISOR

Leslie Johnston
BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE

Jenny Meinert
CHILD CARE PROVIDER

Loretta Myers
Patient Care FV Hosp

Kristal Phillips
CHER CO ASSIT ATTRNY

Kim Rupp
CHER CO PUBLIC HEALTH

Dick Sievers
MID-SIOUX OPPORTUNITY

Suzan Simpson
NW IOWA AGING

Joanne Smith
GEORGE-LR SCHOOL

Pastor Wayne Sneller
FAITH COMMUNITY REP

Mark Sybesma
SIOUX CO. SUPERVISOR

David VanNingen
DECATEGORIZATION
GOVERNANCE BOARD
CONSUMER

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

(NON-VOTING)
Nancy Dykstra
Mae Hingtgen
Kandace Koll
Rhonda Lassen
Dave Mulder
Sharon Nieman
Dennis Sassman
Patrick Schmitz
Anna Schmadeke
Lanova Sheets
Doug Smit
Debra Steffan
Dan Watson
Meriele Wilmot

Minutes

1:00PM

**Upstairs Conference Room
County Office Bldg – 211 Central Ave SE
Orange City, IA
Sept 7, 2006**

Voting members present: Shane Walter, Lisa Rockhill, Rick Droog, Dick Sievers, Jim Henrich, Randy Bosch, Kim Rupp, Jeanne Feeck, Mark Sybesma, Joanne Smith, Sharla Boon (Voting for David VanEngen), Blud Clow, Kathy Tritz-Rhodes.

Associate members present: Kandi Koll.

Staff Present: Ann Bowman, Nola Aalberts, Joyce VerMeer, Joy Poppema,

I. Welcome/Introductions: Chairman Walter opened the meeting and introductions were made.

II. Review/Approval Minutes –6/15/06 meeting (Action): Mark moved and Rick 2nd motion to approve, motion carried.

III. Executive Finance Report

A. FY06 Financial Reports: The final financial report was distributed to the Board; Mark shared this information with the Board. The report indicates a \$365,472.71 carryover of funds from the last fiscal year. Mark moved and Dick 2nd motion to approve this report, motion carried.

1. Annual Report (Action): Copies if needed were distributed, this will be due by the 15th of September. This also needs to be adopted by the Sioux County Board as the fiscal agent as well. The report progress to the state on the indicators we were asked to report on. Rick moved and Dick 2nd motion to approve the annual report, motion carried.

2. Early Childhood/School Ready Financial Report (Inf/Action): Report distributed for information only.

3. Benefits for Beginners (Information/Action)

a. Year End Reports (Information): Report distributed for information only.

b. Year End Financial (Information): Report distributed for information only.

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4. Healthy Families
 - a. Year End Reports (Information): Reports were distributed for information purposes only.
 - b. Block Grant Reports (Information): Detail from each of the four counties on how they each expended the block grant amounts allocated from Empowerment. The detail indicated that Plymouth County did not use all of their block grant, Lyon County went over slightly but were ok with absorbing that amount, Cherokee and Sioux Counties were over their budgeted amounts, Mark moved and Rick 2nd the motion to allocate to Cherokee and Sioux the excess from Plymouth counties. There is also \$32,545 allocated to high risk families that are on waiting lists that all four counties can access. Motion carried.
5. Pre School Scholarships (Information/Action): Joyce indicated that she will be prepared to give a report at the next meeting. She indicated that she was confident that there will be enough money to cover this fiscal year.
6. Professional Development (Information/Action): There was a small amount of carryover to fund Every Child Reads and PITC (Program for Infant Toddler Care Givers), next year the funds are uncertain as to how they will be disbursed, hopefully we will know more at the next meeting.

B. FY07

1. Budget (Information/Action): The new fiscal years budget was distributed. This report indicated total expected revenues of \$1,082,650 and carryover funds of \$363,715.63, and a total budgeted amount \$1,446,365.63 which includes the spending of the carryover from F.Y. '06. The budgeted expenses include \$34,013.70 in Administration, \$594,448.08 in Home Visitation and Parent Support, \$13,326.45 in Professional Development, and \$344,066.80 in Program Services. Mark moved and Jim 2nd motion to adopt the budget and authorization of contracts with the new parenting programs listed, motion carried.
2. Contracts: All contracts were approved for signing in the budget motion.
 - a. Parent Nurturing
 - b. Family Circles
 - c. Love & Logic
 - d. Incentives/Mini grants
 - e. Lead Testing

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3. **Quality Improvement Grant (Action):** The State Empowerment put out an RFP for Quality Improvement for which we submitted a proposal for assisting preschools to achieving a Quality Rating System program which would tie up some of Joyce's time, this grant covers some of those expenses in addition to hiring an assistance part time, and contracting with Mid-Sioux for the use of a child care nurse consultant. Joyce explained that in the past, preschools either got a license to operate or not, now there is a quality rating system which rates each of the preschools on their curriculum and programming. This grant will help the preschools to enter into this star rating program. Lisa moved and Kathy 2nd motion to accept and submit this grant, motion carried.

C. Mission Statement (Action): Nola indicated that during recent continuing education that they discussed effective mission statements that could be said in 15 seconds or less and could be remembered. The Empowerment Staff worked together to come up with the following suggestion, and the Executive Finance Committee endorsed presenting the new wording to the Board for adoption. The suggested wording would say: "To provide security and success for children by strengthening families and communities." Mark moved and Lisa 2nd motion to adopt the new mission statement, motion carried. This has also been adopted by DeCat. Governance Board and Family Council.

IV. Personnel Policies – (Information/Action): Nola indicated that the corrections suggested at the last review were incorporated, and asked for any additional suggestions, none were noted. Kathy moved and Joanne 2nd the motion to approve the personnel policies, motion carried.

V. Nominating Committee

A. Election of Officers-(Information/Action): Shane reported to the Board that Rick has agreed to take over the reigns as Chairman, and Mark as Vice-Chair. Rick added that the individual that had agreed to take the secretary's position now has a conflict of interest according to the By-Laws. Rick also indicated that we have a couple of positions that we need to fill for the Board and the discussion suggested possibilities. Lisa moved and Shane 2nd the motion to accept Rick and Mark as the new executive board, motion carried.

B. Approval for Board Vacancies – (Information/Action): Nominations committee will be meeting to address this.

VI. Comprehensive Strategies

A. Child Care Advisory Board – (Information): This Board just met again this last week, and Nola and Joyce shared that it has been fun, there will be a first annual Enjoying Early Education Conference in Orange City on Saturday, Nov. 4th. This is the first time training has been offered regionally so this has been on the forefront of this Boards agenda.

B. Parent Support Advisory Board – (Information): There are 14 participating on this Advisory Board, and they have been digging into topics and areas they want to see worked on.

VII. New Business

Opportunities for board & public to bring up new items for discussion: Nola asked for input about meeting in the new building, responses were affirmative.

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VIII. Adjourn: Dick moved and Shane 2nd motion to adjourn, motion carried. Next meeting will be scheduled and we will notify everyone by email.

Note change of time and meeting place: 1:00 PM and location is the upstairs conference room of the county office building – 211 Central Ave SE, Orange City, IA