

# Northwest Iowa Community Empowerment

C H E R O K E E \* L Y O N \* P L Y M O U T H \* S I O U X

## Officers

Shane Walter  
Chairperson

Kathy-Tritz Rhodes  
Vice-Chairperson

Lisa Rockhill  
Secretary

Nola Aalberts  
Administrator

## Voting Members

Randy Bosch  
Lyon County Supervisor

Bud Clow  
Cherokee Co. Supervisor

Rick Droog  
Coordinator Sioux Diaconal  
Cone

Jeanne Feeck  
DHS representative

Audrey Hansen  
Area Education Agency IV

Jim Henrich  
Plymouth Co Supervisor

Loretta Myers  
Direct Patient Care

Kristal Philips  
Assist Cher. Co Attny

Kim Rupp  
Cher. Co Public Health

Dick Sievers  
Mid-Sioux Opportunity

Susan Simpson  
NW IA Aging

Joanne Smith  
George Little Rock School

Pastor Wayne Sneller  
Faith Community Rep

Mark Sybesma  
Sioux Co. Supervisor

David VanNingen  
Decategorization  
Governance Board

Joyce Vermeer  
Child Care Administrator

## Associate Members

(Non-voting)

Sue Didier

Nancy Dykstra

Mae Hingtgen

Kandace Koll

Rhonda Lassen

Dave Nulder

Sharon Nieman

Dennis Sassman

Patrick Schmitz

Anna Schmadeke

Lanova Sheets

Doug Smit

Deb Steffan

Mary Swanson

Dan Watson

Maecia Wilmet

*Northwest Iowa Community Empowerment is committed to strengthening Community*

*through loving, nurturing, and responsible families thereby providing security and success for children.*

## Minutes

### Iowa State Bank

### Downstairs Conference Room

### Orange City, IA

Sept 8, 2005 1:30 PM

Board Members: Shane Walter, Lisa Rockhill, Jim Henrich, David Van Ningen, Jeanne Feeck, Randy Bosch, Rick Droog, Deb Steffen, Mark Sybesma, Lanova Sheets for Shirley Benson, Kandi Koll for Kim Rupp, Wayne Sneller, Jen Sandbulte, Joyce Vermeer, Kathy Tritz-Rhodes

Associate Members: Dan Watson, Nancy Dykstra, Senator Dave Mulder, Rhonda Lassen.

Staff: Joy Poppema, Nola Aalberts.

## II. Minutes

Mark made a motion and Jim 2<sup>nd</sup> motion to approve minutes, motion carried.

## III. Executive Finance Report

**A. FY 05 Financial Statement-Budget Reports** were passed out for information purposes. These indicated a \$14,959.42 remaining in the Healthy Families program, and \$17,995.68 in the School Ready and Early Childhood areas. Senator Mulder shared with the Board in regards to the new legislation in the Early Childhood area. The Benefits for Beginners has expended its entire budgeted amount with the additional monies that were added through the year for Quality Rewards.

### B. FY 06 Budget/Contracts

1. Revised FY 06 Budget- Information was distributed for action to the Board; this discussion was tabled until the Board discussed the Healthy Families contract. Kathy moved and Mark 2<sup>nd</sup> motion to approve the revised budget.

2. Healthy Families contract adjustment-Nola indicated to the Board that the four counties have met to discuss the carryover left in the budget from the resignation of the Healthy Families Coordinator. Rachel had suggested that the counties be responsible for their own credentialing, the county programs were in agreement to this idea, so the contracts will be revised to include a \$75.26 visit rate and a block grant total of \$18,353.86(estimated) to cover expenses of the credentialing, training, mileage etc. This contract amendment would take affect on October 1, 2005. Amendments to the contracts for each of the four counties were distributed. Wayne asked for clarification as to whether this settled some of

the administration concerns the Board had discussed, the county programs agree that they are not in direct control of their own program. The block grant is already in the budget for the current fiscal year. Joyce wondered if there were any drawbacks, Nola suggested that they have struggled with visits in the past, and this method of funding will help streamline this process. Discussion centered on the maximum visits and whether the total visits allowed can reach the levels indicated by the contracts, how are we going to verify visits, and how long visits are. The credentialing process will hold the programs to the standards set. Joyce indicated as a Board member, when we approve this amount of dollars to the programs, we like to see them working. Deb indicated that the average of 2.5 hours per visit is a short estimate when looking at the needy families they serve. There is some accountability built into this contract in keeping the families accountable to the program also. Nola will report back to the board the numbers visits and risk levels of visits made by each county. Wayne moved and Jen 2<sup>nd</sup> motion to approve contracts for the four counties as amended. Motion carried with Kandi abstaining from the vote.

### **C. Empowerment**

#### **1. Preschool-Stipends for high risk**

- a. \$40,000 allocation – a total of \$132,002.10 is the Empowerment area allocation, Nola suggested that we set apart at least \$40,000 for stipends, Mark moved and Wayne 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion to set this amount aside for preschool stipends. There are some rules as to how someone would qualify for a stipend, and Nola has received a list from DHS of the preschools who would qualify for the stipends to be paid to them. The Child Care advisory board is working with child cares to get accreditation in a three year process, maybe we should look at this for preschools also. The preschools would receive stipends for a three year process until they reach the Quality Preschool Program Standards. Discussion centered on this standard test and what the legislature will be using to determine school readiness. Senator Mulder indicated that it's what the legislature often needs to see results to continue funding. Motion carried. Nola asked if the Board could formalize the 3 year time period to utilize with the preschools and possibly see us set aside funds to help with the accreditation process. More information will be necessary to formalize this plan before approval. Shane appointed a committee of Joyce Vermeer, Kathy Tritz-Rhodes and Lanova Sheets to research a measurement tool that could be used to determine school readiness and put together a tool for preschool stipends, requirements and coordination of these new funds to enable the four counties to have quality preschool programs. This committee will work with Nola to develop a plan of action for these funds. It was also noted that there is time for this funding and we should not rush the process. If our area is producing good results the funding will be there in the future.
- b. The new proposed information for \$29,000 for professional development for preschool and day care centers, this training has to go through AEA and NCC for continuing education credits. For information only.

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**D. Possible New Programs-** There is monies available in the budget to create new programs to address some parenting programs which were indicated in the comprehensive strategies process. These are Nurturing Parents, Mentoring Parents, and Resourcing parents (getting parents connected with resources). We need to be looking at what ways we can supplement programs to meet these needs with input from the Board.

## **IV. Nominating Committee**

**A.** Recommendation of new board members by county – Rick indicated that at the May meeting, these individuals had been contacted, and a response had not been received, they have now agreed to serve on the Empowerment Board.

Rick moved and Jim 2<sup>nd</sup> motion to approve these individuals,

1. Lyon County-Joanne Smith, GLR Superintendent
2. Cherokee County-Kristal Phillips, Assistant Co. Attorney

motion carried.

**B.** Election of officers- Rick moved to reelect current officers, Joyce 2<sup>nd</sup> that motion, motion carried with Lisa, Shane and Kathy abstaining.

## **V. Community Partnerships**

**A.** Family Team Meetings are taking place. There are 3 agencies, Bethany Christian Services, Hope Haven, and Plains Area Mental Health conducting meetings. We have some funds for community referrals and agencies can check with Nola regarding funds which are available when a family is referred.

**B.** Neighborhood Networks-we will be adding a 3<sup>rd</sup> community in each of the counties through the local Planning Councils. Funds will be available from Community Partnerships through an application process.

## **VI. Annual Report**

The Annual Report for FY05 is available at the NICE office and was sent to the Board via email. David moved and Rick 2<sup>nd</sup> motion to approve the 05 Annual Report. He commended staff for putting this together so nicely. Motion carried.

## **VII. New Business**

**A.** Wayne mentioned that he has been working with Shane to draft a letter to network with area ministries to help any Hurricane Katrina refugees that would come to the area.

## **VIII. Adjourn**

Next meeting scheduled for 11-22-05 at 1:30pm at Iowa State Bank, Orange City, IA.