

TAMA COUNTY EMPOWERMENT AREA

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Tama County Empowerment Board Meeting
Tuesday, July 27, 2010 – 12:00 p.m.
ISU Extension Office Meeting Room

Voting Members Present:

Rick Vesely, Clergy/Citizen
Richard Arp, Citizen/North Tama School District
Larry Vest, Board of Supervisors/Citizen
Darla Thiessen, proxy for Deb Schlichting

Joyce Legg, Tama County Public Health
Mandy Lekin, Business/Industry/Citizen
Angie Knowles, STC School District

Others Present:

Lori Johnson, Empowerment Coordinator
Royce Hickie, Mid-Iowa Community Action
Rachel Porath, Mid-Iowa Community Action

Becky Roe, Child Care Resource & Referral
Laura Kopsa, Tama County Auditor
Frank Albertsen, ISU Extension of Tama County

Apologies:

Marisue Hartung	Lindi Roelofse	Teresa McCall	Jenn Stover
Rudy Papakee	Deb Schlichting	Karen Christensen	Jill Herink
Jana Enfield	Anne Bacon	Kate Pergande	Heidi Schminke
Angela Dreesman			

Larry Vest, Chair, called meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

Minutes of Previous Meeting –Empowerment meeting minutes for May 25, 2010 were reviewed. Joyce Legg made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mandy Lekin seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report – Accrual balances and claims paid as of June 30th were disbursed. We should be at 0% of the funding remaining, with no more than 20% in carry over. Mandy Lekin made a motion to approve the financial report as presented. Joyce Legg seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Input – none noted.

Provider Reports – *Child Consultant* –Becky Roe shared that they have lost non-registered providers but have seen increases in number of slots available and in quality ratings.

Nurse Consultant – no report given.

Stork's Nest, Public Health Home Visitation, etc. – Joyce Legg shared that things are going well. Stork's Nest has moved again at the Intermediate. Home visits are going well and is receiving referrals from hospitals. Health Care Coordination hours have increased with Department of Human Services no longer being open.

Coordinator – Ms. Johnson shared updated information: The Board of Supervisors re-appointed Laura Kopsa as the fiscal agent for the Empowerment Board. Newest information from the state is that we have a choice if we want to merge or not; is not required. The state will be developing administrative rules this next fiscal year to have in place by July 2012. Updates from the Iowa Empowerment Board Meeting were shared along with copies of Tool II & Tool FF. "Designation of Early Childhood Iowa Areas Exception to Policy" was the "hot topic", with a very heated discussion with the Board and Representative Horbach. Out of this discussion a Merger Workgroup was formed. This was delayed, but after strong encouragement from Representative Horbach, this Workgroup was formed. Representative Horbach & Ms. Johnson both served on this Workgroup. Lori and Larry attended Benton County Empowerment Board Meeting June 29th. Update was provided regarding the letter of intent; is dated 8/1/10 with merger to be finalized by 2012. Discussion was held regarding to move forward with Letter of Intent. It was determined to continue with submitting Letter of Intent. Lori & Jolynn attended the Performance Measure Training on June 30th, Lori will be meeting with providers to assist them in obtaining required information on next years annual report. They learned that if a provider fails to comply with the requirements that this could cause the local board/provider to repay the funds and could also impact our designation status, which impacts our funding. Effective 7/1/10 Empowerment Areas are called Early Childhood Iowa and Empowerment Coordinators are now to be called "ECI (Early Childhood Iowa) Area Directors. Jolynn & Lori attended the July 14th Coordinators Meeting. Levels of Excellence, Written

Procedures for Monitoring Grants, and Merger Workgroup handouts were disbursed. It is being recommended that the ECI Board adopt the Levels of Excellence Draft Document to help determine how areas are doing and if they could or would be granted a waiver based on their performance.

Ms. Johnson had the board members complete a survey regarding questions included in the Levels of Excellence document.

Care for Kids – 4th Quarter Report was disbursed.

Infant Toddler Specialist, Dental Hygienist, and Transportation –Royce Hickie shared May & June handout. The Family Risk Assessment was done on each family and points awarded for their risk factors. Forty-seven families reported enhancing the health, growth and development of their children during the program year. Forty-two families reported an increase in healthy informal support systems. They believe one important factor in increasing families' informal support systems has been the socializations provided by the program. The ITDS's conducted 303 visits for FY 2010 and 81 children/55 families were served.

4th Quarter Dental services included: 179 Dental Screens; 147 Fluoride Varnishes; 12 Referrals; 157 Oral Health Education & 28 children receiving 243 sealants. Carlie Been continues to serve the children & families at WIC clinics. She also provided services to Head Start, elementary and middle school children in April. Schools were audited for dental screenings and the report was submitted in June.

Respite Scholarships –Ms. Johnson shared e-mail from Cindy Skopec stating “we are really using the services and that it continues to be a big need in this county.”

Tobacco Funds – Frank Albertsen reported that Rudy Papakee had resigned and worked out an agreement with his new employer to continue on part-time. Their funding has been decreased from \$22,000 to \$17,000 for this next fiscal year.

Old Business – *Merger Sub-committee Report* - previously discussed.

By-laws – updated revised copies were disbursed. *DHS Representative* –Joyce Legg made a motion, under Section 2. Appointment and Removal, to change the board membership from Public Health, Human Services, and Education to public health, human services and education. Angie Knowles seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Johnson has received official notice from Annette Dunn that she has to resign from the Empowerment Board. Discussion was held regarding possible human service representatives that could be contacted.

Electronic Vote – can not do due to Roberts Rules

Name Change – ECI (Early Childhood Iowa). Discussion was held. This will be tabled until the next meeting.

New Business – *Election of Officers – Chair & Vice-Chair* - Angie Knowles made the motion to leave the officers as is. Mandy Lekin seconded the motion. Discussion was held. Motion passed unanimously.

Conflicts of Interest – policy was disbursed and reviewed. No changes were made to the current policy. Board member present signed documents as needed.

Update ECI Director Job Description – was disbursed. One addition was noted to the job description, “Attends trainings offered by State ECI Office, or other pertinent training applicable to position.” The title is revised from Empowerment Coordinator to ECI Director. Joyce Legg made a motion to accept the job description as presented. Richard Arp seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Joyce Legg made a motion that the Director's annual evaluation to be completed in September every year. Mandy Lekin seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Request from CCR & R – suggestion was made that this request be taken to the Funding Sub-committee for their recommendation.

Funding Sub-committee Recommendation – none at this time.

Updates from the State – already addressed.

Correspondence –the Empowerment Newsletter was available for review. A thank you card was shared from Annette Dunn.

Ms. Johnson shared flier regarding Community Needs Assessment that Public Health is wanting everyone in Tama County to complete.

Ms Johnson informed the board of Ms. Shanek's, previous committee member, husband passing away.

Adjournment – Richard Arp made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Darla Thiessen seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Johnson, Tama County Empowerment Coordinator

Reminder: Next Regular Empowerment Board Meeting will be September 7th at ISU Extension at 12:00 Noon