

# TAMA COUNTY EMPOWERMENT AREA

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Tama County Empowerment Board Meeting  
Tuesday, September 7, 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  
Karen Christensen, Citizen  
Jenn Stover, Consumer/Citizen

## **Others Present:**

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

Angela Dreesman, Child Care Resource & Referral  
Allen Ricks, ISU Extension- Region 9  
Frank Albertsen, ISU Extension of Tama County

**Apologies:** Teresa McCall                      Deb Schlichting                      Jill Herink                      Jana Enfield  
                         Heidi Schminke                      Angie Knowles                      Becky Roe                      Laura Kopsa

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

Due to Ms Lekin having to leave by 12:45 pm, agenda order was changed, moving Old and New Business after Public Input.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting** –Empowerment meeting minutes for July 27, 2010 were reviewed. Rick Vesely made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Richard Arp seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Financial Report** – no financial report was provided.

**Public Input** – none noted.

**Old Business** – *By-laws* – updated copies were available for review. Ms. Johnson has not received any response from the DHS Representative at the Vinton office. By changing the Public Health, Department of Human Services and Education, would allow the board more flexibility with membership. Current Board members could remain on the board until the merged board is formed. Empowerment would be changed to Early Childhood Iowa (ECI). Mandy Lekin made a motion to approve the By-laws as presented. Rick Vesely seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**New Business** – *Funding Sub-committee Recommendations* – meeting minutes were disbursed with recommendations for Hard to Serve Funding; Respite Services; Request from Child Care Resource & Referral and Carry Over Funding Allocations noted. Darla Thiessen made a motion to approve the recommendations as noted in the minutes. Karen Christensen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

*NACRHHS (National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Service)* – site visit will be September 16<sup>th</sup>. They have chosen to come to Tama County. Handout was provided regarding the days events. This site visit will provide input regarding the report given to the Secretary for Rural Health & Human Service Issues and will help make recommendations regarding policies. All members were encouraged to attend.

*Recommend to the Board of Supervisors Darla Thiessen as human services representative.* – Jenn Stover made the motion to recommend Darla Thiessen as the human services representative to the Board of Supervisors. Richard Arp seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

*ECI Director Evaluation Form* –To assist with our ECI area meeting levels of excellence under operations – an annual evaluation has to be done on the Director. Forms and envelopes were disbursed. Consensus of the group was to have all providers and members complete the evaluation form, not just the voting board

members. Ms. Rosenberger, CEO/Executive Director of Tama County Public Health & Home Care will compile the information and then meet with Ms. Johnson regarding the results.

*Approve Annual Report* – copies were disbursed. Richard Arp made a motion to approve and authorize Larry Vest and Laura Kopsa to sign the annual report as presented. Rick Vesely seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

*Approve Showcase Report* - copies were disbursed. Ms. Johnson shared that Penni Upah had created this document. Everyone thought that the Showcase Report looked very professional, easy to read, and that she did a wonderful job. Success Story for this year featured Respite Scholarships. Data featured was founded child abuse and number of providers participating in QRS and # of licensed/registered child care providers. Karen Christensen made a motion to approve the Showcase Report as presented. Jenn Stover seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

*Approve FY 10 Financial Statements* – copies were disbursed. It was shared how the report ties to the annual report information. Jenn Stover made a motion to approve and authorize Laura Kopsa, Fiscal Agent to sign the Financial Statements as presented. Mandy Lakin seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

*2011 Meeting Schedule* - was disbursed.

**Provider Reports** – *Child Consultant and Nurse Consultant* –Angie Dreesman shared that they have been working with Regional Nurse Consultant from Davenport to assist with providers meeting QRS levels. Terri has been meeting with local providers, but has not been able to take the Nurse Consultant Training. With the DHS restructuring many stumbling blocks have occurred with providers. After staff were trained in Jasper, the application process transferred to Polk County. Many providers are awaiting payment for several months.

*QECE (Quality Early Childhood Environments)* – no formal report at this time. Will have more to report in the spring.

*Stork's Nest, Public Health Home Visitation, etc.* – Joyce Legg shared that things are going well. Has received 4 home visit referrals this week. Interpreters received competency and confidentiality training. There has not been any really high lead poisoned children so far this year. They continue to provide information to parents.

*Coordinator* – Ms. Johnson shared updated information: copies of the ECI State Board meeting from 7/29/10 were disbursed. Merger Letter of Intent was sent. We found out that since we had put 2012 as our merger year, our letter of intent is not being taken to the ECI Board for their approval. This year is voluntary and 2012 it will be mandatory that we merge. We are ahead by choosing who we want to go with and with the discussions that we have already had, we have a good start on our merger process. An updated brochure regarding Empowerment Funded Programs was disbursed.

*Care for Kids* – no activities yet this 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. They hired a new Sexual Abuse Education Director who began August 23<sup>rd</sup>, then resigned due to family health problems. They are re-advertising for this position.

*Infant Toddler Specialist, Dental Hygienist, and Transportation* –Royce Hickie shared that she had attended a Period of Purple Crying training that they will be implementing with their ITDS home visits.

*Respite Scholarships* – these continue to be a big need and Cindy commendeds the quality of the staff that works with the families.

*Tobacco Funds* – Frank Albertsen reported that Rudy Papakee has resigned and he will be advertising for his position.

**Updates from the State** – we had 100% rating on the survey response for family support conducted by the state.

**Correspondence** – flier for Early Childhood Iowa Congress shared. A Community Needs Assessment Survey was disbursed for Tama County Public Health & Home Care.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Johnson, Tama County Empowerment Coordinator

**Reminder:** Next Regular Empowerment Board Meeting will be November 23<sup>rd</sup> at ISU Extension at 12:00 Noon.