

TAMA COUNTY EMPOWERMENT AREA

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Tama County Empowerment Board Meeting
Tuesday, January 22, 2008 – 12:00 noon – 12:55 p.m.
ISU Extension Meeting Room

Voting Members Present:

Richard Arp, North Tama School District
Earlene Bacon, Citizen
Larry Vest, Board of Supervisors/Citizen
Joyce Legg, Tama County Public Health
Jill Herink, Education/Meskwaki Settlement School

Darla Thiessen, Kid's Corner
Rick Vesely, Clergy/Citizen
Mandy Lekin, Consumer/Citizen
Angie Knowles, STC School District/Citizen

Others Present:

Frank Albertsen, ISU Extension
Lori Johnson, Empowerment Coordinator

Jerri Leighton, Child Care Resource & Referral

Apologies:

Deb Schlichting
Angela Dreesen
Lindi Roelofse

Michelle Gethmann
Dawna Patzel
Greg Tingley

Marisue Hartung
Niki Arends
Steph Sparks

Annette Dunn
Pat Shank
Royce Hickie

Cindy Skopec
Laura Kopsa
Jana Enfield

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

Minutes of Previous Meeting – Minutes for November were reviewed. Rick Vesely made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Richard Arp seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Financial Report – Ms. Johnson disbursed the financial report. It was noted that she had contacted CCR & R regarding the Professional Development Funding and they are planning to provide a “Super Saturday” training prior to June 30th, but are still working the details out. Joyce Legg made a motion to approve the financial report as presented. Mandy Lekin seconded the motion. Motion passed

Clarification was requested by Ms. Legg regarding Intrepreters time being reimbursed. It was felt by those present that the details of the program are up to the provider, but did feel that paying them 15 minutes per phone call would be acceptable.

Public Input – none noted.

Provider Reports – *Child Consultant*, Ms. Leighton shared the Home Consultant Activity Report. She shared the steps that Angie follows when she meets with the providers, benchmarks, training reimbursement schedule, and reviewed the statistics of the providers she is currently working with.

Staff Training & Retainment – Ms. Schlichting was unavailable. Ms. Thiessen shared they enrolled 5 new kids yesterday and are seeing increases in the amount of foster kids they are serving. She has hired a Program Director to work with the teachers and the curriculum used. They are also inputting information into their new computer system and are getting their information set up the way they would like it. They hired new staff in November, and things are going well.

Stork's Nest, Public Health Home Visitation, etc. – Ms. Legg reported the new schedule for educational classes for Stork's Nest is out and she has others helping her provide these classes. She shared a recent request she had received for Home Visit services. They continue to struggle to have adequate Intrepreters available when they need to make home visits.

Coordinator – Ms. Johnson shared she was unable to attend the State Empowerment Board meeting but will be attending the Regional Coordinators meeting at the end of the month.

Infant Toddler Specialist, Dental Hygienist – Ms. Johnson shared a a Dental Hygentist report from Carla Andorf. They were able to provide 94 screenings; 61 Fluoride Applications and have seen a decrease in services for Meskwaki medical and dental services. They are expecting an increase in the number of families accessing their services.

Family Nutrition Specialist – Frank Albertsen reported that Ms. Arp is way above last years numbers and has 4 new enrollees. She is has been very flexible with her hours, providing contacts with families on the weekends or at night, doing whatever is needed to work with these families.

Developmental Testing Services, Scholarships – Ms. Skopec was unable to attend but had sent a written report to Ms. Johnson. She shared copies of the report submitted. Ms. Thiessen shared that the families that are using these services at her facility feel they are very useful and appreciated. They are currently providing services to 3 children that are requiring 1 on 1 care.

Care for Kids – Ms. Enfield was unable to attend but Ms. Heil had submitted their 2nd Quarter Report. Ms. Johnson shared copies of the report received.

Ms. Knowles shared that they are trying to plan a parent education at the STC Elementary School, but have had to cancel due to weather. They are still hoping to reschedule this.

STC School District will be applying for the Department of Education Preschool Funding. They are hoping to offer 5 day Kindergarten, utilizing the Kid's Corner facility. They are discussing having all day preschool Monday /Wednesday or all day Tuesday/Thursday or ½ day (either morning or afternoon) Monday through Thursday. They are still working out the details.

Ms. Herink shared they are adding a 3 year old section at the Meskwaki Settlement School January 28th, providing preschool Monday/Wednesday. They have received notification that their Baby Face Program funding was exhausted at the end of December, and may be seeking Empowerment funding in the future.

Tobacco Funds – Mr. Albertsen stated Ms. Kasal resigned. They have interviewed and hired someone to take her place, but she has been unable to start due to family illnesses or deaths. Frank expressed his sincere thanks to Linda Rosenberger and Joyce Legg for their efforts with the Tobacco Coalition to keep the events going in this transition. This position is a 10 hour a week position. The quarterly report has been submitted.

Ms. Legg added that the Tobacco Coalition is under the umbrella of SKIP (Supporting Kids in Prevention) and provides services to 0 – 18 year olds. This also encompasses Pregnancy Prevention, Substance Abuse, and Child Abuse. These meetings are held the 4th Thursday at 10 a.m. at ISU Extension. They will be holding a program at North Tama February 14th, similar to the program at Green Mountain Garwin schools. She noted that they are already exceeding last years number of teen pregnancies, with a lot of them waiting until at least their second trimester (or later) before requesting assistance. They are wanting to form a Substance Abuse Coalition with SATUCI and have the police departments involved.

Old Business – State Team Review – Ms. Johnson shared communication from the state regarding clarification if services were “to” 5 year olds or “through” 5 year olds. According to the Iowa Code it is “through”. (Iowa Code 28.1). Ms. Wagler had sent an e-mail to Ms. Johnson asking “Why our board if funding a program for school-age children?”

Ms. Johnson had shared her response to this e-mail with the voting board members.

Our county's statistics show that child abuse is high. It was felt that if this program doesn't continue, how will kids know when they are not appropriately touched. It was felt that no changes would be made to this program and it will continue as planned.

New Business – *Results Accountability Training* was discussed. It was decided to have the State Team come in March to provide this training.

March Meeting Date – Ms. Johnson will be out of town on March 25th. It was decided to hold the next meeting March 18th at Noon at ISU Extension.

Funding Committee Recommendations – handwritten meeting minutes were disbursed. Ms. Hernik made a motion to allocate \$63.21 (\$63 from ISU Parenting Class; .21 from A & G – under the School Ready Funding) to the Respite Scholarship Program and to reallocate \$6,000 of the unallocated Preschool Scholarship Funding to Preschool Scholarships. Ms. Knowles seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Updates from the State –Ms. Johnson shared copies of a Letter (dated 1/17/08) to the Empowerment Board Chair regarding Fiscal Accountability. Also attached was the adopted State Empowerment Expenditures and Reporting Policy. Both documents encourage utilizing the appropriated funding according to legislative guidelines.

Ms. Leighton shared they have copies of a Family Child Care Handbook (also available in Spanish) for those interested in this information for child care providers. It is available through their office.

Correspondence –none received.

Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 12:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Johnson, Tama County Empowerment Coordinator

Reminder: Next meeting will be March 18th at ISU Extension at 12:00 Noon