

TAMA COUNTY EMPOWERMENT AREA

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Tama County Empowerment Board Meeting
Tuesday, June 24, 2008 – 12:00 noon
Traer City Council Chambers

Voting Members Present:

Greg Tingley, Business

Larry Vest, Board of Supervisors/Citizen

Joyce Legg, Tama County Public Health

Cindy Skopec, proxy for Rick Vesely

Darla Thiessen, Kid's Corner

Jill Herink, Education/Meskwaki Settlement School

Angie Knowles, STC School District/Citizen

Others Present:

Anna Lee Austin, Mid-Iowa Community Action

Jerri Leighton, Child Care Resource & Referral

Lori Johnson, Empowerment Coordinator

Frank Albertsen, ISU Extension, Tama County

Jana Enfield, Child Abuse Prevention

Carla Andorf, Mid-Iowa Community Action

Niki Arends, Mid-Iowa Community Action

Pat Shank, Mid-Iowa Community Action

Apologies:

Michelle Gethmann

Angela Dreesen

Lindi Roelofse

Rick Vesely

Marisue Hartung

Royce Hickie

Richard Arp

Mandy Lekin

Annette Dunn

Laura Kopsa

Stephanie Sparks

Dawna Patzel

Deb Schlichting

Earlene Bacon

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

Minutes of Previous Meeting – Minutes for March were reviewed. Greg Tingley made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Joyce Legg seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Financial Report – Ms. Johnson disbursed the financial report. We should be at 0% of the budget left and we are at 24%. There are expenses not submitted yet. Ms. Johnson did request clarification on School Ready Allowable Carry Over. The legislatures decided that for FY 08 carry forward can be 30% without penalty. For FY 09, we will be allowed to carry forward 20%. Ms. Johnson also shared that we needed to thank Lance Horbach and his efforts regarding these carry forward percentages. **THANKS LANCE!!**

Joyce Legg made a motion to approve the financial report as presented. Angie Knowles seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Public Input – none noted.

Provider Reports – *Child Consultant*, Ms. Leighton shared the Home Consultant Activity Report. Some of the statistics she shared are: they have 31 new providers active in our community; they had 32 In-Home Visits; 20 Registration Applications submitted to DHS; they have seen a 3.45% increase in Providers and a 15.15% increase in preschool slots. Thirteen have strived towards increasing their QRS rating; which is 44% of the registered providers. They provided 30 trainings and 13 training grants were requested.

Staff Training & Retainment – Darla Thiessen shared they have 2 teachers attending educational trainings. 3 are doing the ICERS & ECERS training. They are currently working with STC regarding preschool opportunities. No report was given from Pied Piper.

Stork's Nest, Public Health Home Visitation, etc. – Ms. Legg shared effective July 1st they have made some changes to the points earned and are now offering 1 night in English and 1 night in Spanish with an Interpreter attending. Empowerment Survey results were shared. Many positive comments were noted on their survey. Her home visitation program – the month of May was slow but June and July were busy.

Coordinator – Ms. Johnson shared information regarding First Years First. Efforts will enable us to continue marketing and coordinating efforts. They will work with national partner agencies to develop a study for Iowa on the economic impact of child care and host forums to release the data across the state. Business leaders will also participate in this.

The Family Support/Home Visitation programs will be required to have Program Standards and Competencies, Data Collection and outcomes. They will have to possibly be credentialed. Ms. Johnson will set up a Technical Assistance Session to go over this information in more detail with these providers. State Contracts have been signed and submitted. Jolynn and Lori have been able to attend 2 of the 4 Coordinator Trainings. Both sessions have been informative and have a lot of resources and new information.

Infant Toddler Specialist, Dental Hygienist – Staff have attended several training opportunities this last quarter. They provided 120 dental screenings and 106 fluoride varnishes last quarter. Effective July 1, 2008, children entering kindergarten and 9th grade must have proof of a dental exam. Their nurse consultant has seen an increase in services in Tama County and will provide services on Monday's and Tuesdays and as needed.

Family Nutrition Specialist – Frank Albertsen shared that Sheryl Arp has been in her position for 1 year now. She is working closely with families and trying to balance everything out with scheduling to see them.

Developmental Testing Services, Scholarships – Ms. Skopec shared she has seen an increased need for respite services. One child has been in the hospital more than it has been out of the hospital and the family has used respite services for the 2 year old sibling. This family is very appreciative of the services.

Care for Kids – 3rd Quarter report was shared. They have seen a decrease in the number of confirmed child abuse – 2006 = 83; 2007 = 78. They have been able to schedule and complete their programs at MICA Head Start, Kids Corner, The Playhouse, Raggedy Ann & Andy, South Tama, and Meskwaki Settlement. They were not able to provide their program at Pied Piper, Gladbrook Reinbeck and North Tama due to scheduling conflicts, increase demand for program, and the winter. They are encouraging them to sign up sooner for their program. They provided 49 child education sessions to 231 preschool and kindergarten children. Adults attending parent education agreed or strongly agreed 100% that the training improved their abilities to identify appropriate and inappropriate sexual behaviors, respond to children's questions, protect children from sexual abuse, and where to get help if needed. They conducted 6 community awareness activities.

Tobacco Funds – July 1st the Smokefree Air Act law went into effect. Handouts were shared.

Old Business – none

New Business – *Carry Forward Clarification* – previously discussed.

Funding Committee Recommendations – Funding sub-committee meeting minutes were reviewed. After reviewing handouts, Greg Tingley made a motion to approve the Funding Sub-committee's Recommendations. Larry Vest seconded the motion. All voting members who are providers abstained. Motion passed.

Approve FY 09 Early Childhood and School Ready Budget – FY 09 Early Childhood and School Ready Budgets were disbursed. After review, Jill Herink made a motion to approve the budgets as presented. Angie Knowles seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Approve and Authorize Chair to sign agreement – Joyce Legg made a motion to approve and authorize Empowerment Board Chairman to sign agreement (contract) between Tama County Empowerment and the Iowa Empowerment Board, State of Iowa – Departments of Management, Education and Human Services. Greg Tingley seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Approve and Authorize Chair and Fiscal Agent – Greg Tingley made a motion to approve and authorize Empowerment Board Chairman and Fiscal Agent to sign the Compliance Assurance form. Darla Thiessen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Approve and Authorize Chair and Fiscal Agent - Joyce Legg made a motion to approve and authorize Empowerment Board Chairman and Fiscal Agent to sign the Fiscal Agent Agreement. Greg Tingley seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Recommend Board Member Appointments to the Board of Supervisors – Darla Thiessen made a motion to recommend Richard Arp, Mandy Lakin, Joyce Legg, Annette Dunn and Rick Vesely to the Board of Supervisors for Empowerment Board Member appoints, with terms as noted. Angie Knowles seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Ms. Johnson will take their recommendation to the next Board of Supervisors meeting for their approval.

Organizational Chart – Organizational Charts for our Tama County Empowerment Board were disbursed for review.

Elect Officers, effective 7/1/08 – Joyce Legg made a motion to have current officers, Larry Vest as Chair; Richard Arp as Vice-Chair, remain in their current positions. Greg Tingley seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Recommend to the Board of Supervisors re-appointment – Greg Tingley made a motion to recommend to the Board of Supervisors re-appointment of the Fiscal Agent (Laura Kopsa) and Coordinator (Lori Johnson). Darla Thiessen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Ms. Johnson will take their recommendation to the next Board of Supervisors meeting for their approval.

Updates from the State –Ms. Johnson shared copies of:

- June Empowerment Newsletter (available for review)
- Tool EE and LL (e-mail from Shanell Wagler dated April 17, 2008) – handouts disbursed
- Tool FF & FF(A) – handouts disbursed
- Draft Tool CC (A) & CC (B) – handouts disbursed
- Preliminary FY 2009 Allocations for Early Childhood and School Ready Funding – handouts disbursed – we are currently funding 20 programs with our School Ready Funding and 3 programs with the Early Childhood funding.
- Dibels summary and Assessment Scores – handout disbursed – It was noted that Meskwaki and STC use PAT for their assessment tool.

Correspondence – Copies of the Child Care Resource & Referral Provider Newsletter and Care for KIDS Newsletter were available for review.

Adjournment – Greg Tingley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Darla Thiessen seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Johnson, Tama County Empowerment Coordinator