

TAMA COUNTY EMPOWERMENT AREA

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Tama County Empowerment Board Meeting
Tuesday, February 23, 2010 – 12:05 p.m.
ISU Extension Office Meeting Room

Voting Members Present:

Larry Vest, Board of Supervisors/Citizen
Richard Arp, Citizen/North Tama School District
Cindy Skopec, proxy for Rick Vesely
Jill Herink, Education/Meskwaki School District
Deb Schlichting, Pied Piper

Joyce Legg, Tama County Public Health
Jenn Stover, Business and Industry/Citizen
Karen Christensen, Citizen
Annette Dunn, Department of Human Services

Others Present:

Lori Johnson, Empowerment Coordinator
Frank Albertsen, ISU Extension
Rachel Porath, Mid-Iowa Community Action
Darla Thiessen, Tama County 4- H
Rudy Papakee, Tama Co. Tobacco Coordinator
Heidi Schminke, Benton County Empowerment Area

Lindsey Drew, Mid-Iowa Community Action
Jana Enfield, Child Abuse Prevention Services
Royce Hickie, Mid-Iowa Community Action
Ginny Bidwell, Jasper County Empowerment Area
Kristi Daniel, Kids Corner

Apologies:	Marisue Hartung	Lindi Roelofse	Teresa McCall	Rick Vesely
	Mandy Lekin	Laura Kopsa	Angela Dreesman	Angie Knowles

Larry Vest, Chair, called meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

Introductions were made.

Ground Rules – due to merger discussion later on in the meeting, Ground Rules were disbursed and reviewed.

Minutes of Previous Meeting –Empowerment meeting minutes for November 24, 2009 were reviewed. Joyce Legg made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Deb Schlichting seconded the motion. Motion passed. The January 26th meeting was postponed due to the weather.

Financial Report – was disbursed. Jenn Stover made a motion to approve the financial report as presented. Richard Arp seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Public Input – none noted.

Provider Reports – *Child Consultant* –Ms. Johnson shared 2nd Quarter (October – December) handout. They are currently working with 65 providers as of December 2009.

Nurse Consultant –Lindsey Drew shared that they are working with Home Care Plus to have Terri Rottink trained to provide Child Care Nurse Consultant Services. The training will be held March 29th – June 10th. It will be 40 hours a week for 10 weeks.

Stork's Nest, Public Health Home Visitation, etc. – Joyce Legg shared that she has received a referral from Covenant, where in the past they have provided their own services. One Interpreter has taken full-time employment, and they are possibly looking at hiring another interpreter. Four children that were tested were found to have high lead levels this past month. There is grant funding available for families whose children have high lead levels and their homes need to be remediated.

Coordinator – Ms. Johnson shared updated information:

- Child Care Resource and Referral possible restructuring and Tama County going in Region 3, Northeast District,
- DHS regionalization with Tama County going in the Cedar Rapids District
- No Coordinator's meeting in December

- Performance measures and statistical information on Annual report information updated regarding high school education level, developmental delays, Stork's Nest visits, number screened, and outcome data process updated.
- SF 2088 with H8076 amendments summary reviewed. Update on SF 2088 given.

Care for Kids –2nd Quarter Report was disbursed. Dawna Heil has obtained her masters degree and has resigned effective March 12th. They have cross trained two other employees to continue to provide services as planned. They will possibly fill this position in the summer.

Infant Toddler Specialist, Dental Hygienist, and Transportation –handout was disbursed. Royce Hickie shared that they have 2 new children enrolled in Tama Healthy Families. Referrals are given to Cindy Skopec as needed. Jessica McNaul transitioned out of her position in the Tama Healthy Families to the Early Head Start program. They have hired Tiffany Kunkel to fill the Infant Toddler Specialist position. She is also trained in Parents as Teachers. They have a waiting list of 29 – 30 families.

Lindsey Drew shared that Carley (Dental Hygienist) has been doing sealants at the Meskwaki Settlement School for the 1st time. They are also participating in the Meskwaki Health Fair and providing services to 3rd and 7th graders at the school districts.

Respite Scholarships – Cindy Skopec shared that 6 families are currently using respite services. Comments were shared regarding services offered in Tama County. Families struggle when they move out of county, since these are not available in all counties.

Ms. Enfield shared that there are also Emergency Child Care Services available in Marshall County, if families need to access these. Contact information was shared.

Tobacco Funds – Rudy Papakee shared that they have had their funding cut by 9%. Upcoming events were noted.

Old Business – *Request from Benton County* – Ms. Johnson met with Heidi Schminke on February 16th. Notes from that meeting were disbursed.

Request from Poweshiek County – Ms. Johnson noted that the Poweshiek Coordinator had contacted her, and they were unable to attend today's meeting.

Questions were asked regarding requests. This was tabled until later in the meeting.

Annual Report Summary with Tami Foley update – Summary report was disbursed with notations regarding board makeup and in-kind support reviewed.

New Business – *Request from Marshall County* – Vicki Ocasio, Coordinator, had contacted Ms. Johnson regarding interest for merger discussions. They have scheduled a meeting with Hardin County. It was decided to “keep the communication open”.

SF 2088 – previously discussed.

Board Makeup – Motion by Joyce Legg to recommend to the Board of Supervisors to appoint Mandy Lekin as the Business Representative and Jenn Stover as the Consumer Representative. Annette Dunn seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Funding Sub-committee Recommendations – meeting minutes from the Funding Sub-committee Meeting were disbursed. After review of the minutes, Jenn Stover made a motion to approve the Funding Sub-committee's recommendations. Karen Christensen seconded the motion. Discussion was held. Motion passed.

At a Glance – Similarities and Dissimilarities for Tama, Poweshiek and Benton – was disbursed. Ms. Johnson shared that each area has its own strengths and we should “build on each other's strengths”. Possible visions were shared regarding Governing Board, Local Advisory Boards, Fiscal Agent, coordinator roles, and conference calling options. Concerns regarding volunteer board members having to drive out of county, will they be willing to stay involved and be compensated travel expenses. It was noted that Tama County currently has 3 AEA's covering the county. Question regarding who would compile information for annual report.

Letter of Intent discussed. Ms. Herink stated that “a Letter of Intent should be drafted upon final legislation. At that time the board would put together a plan. We should continue conversations with surrounding counties and make an informed decision at that time.” It was the consensus of those present, that this will be tabled at this time. All options will be kept open at this time.

Updates from the State – *Estimated Allocations for FY 11 School Ready Funding* - were disbursed.

Draft Merger Guide – was disbursed.

Correspondence – E-mail from Cindy Skopec was shared. Child Care Resource & Referral Newsletter, December 2009 Iowa Community Empowerment Newsletter were available for review. News Articles “Community Empowerment – Do or die? – from the desk of Rep. Betty DeBoef”; “House hears reorganization plan concerns” – from The Gazette; “Reorganization may impact empowerment programs” – from Washington Evening Journal; “Bill would move Empowerment to the Department of Education” – from the Mt. Pleasant News; and “Empowerment to lobby state” – from The Hawkeye, were available for review.

Ms. Bidwell shared comments regarding current DECAT area being followed for Empowerment Areas. Concerns were shared regarding this.

Adjournment – Richard Arp made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jenn Stover seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Johnson, Tama County Empowerment Coordinator

Reminder: Next Regular Empowerment Board Meeting will be March 23rd at ISU Extension at 12:00 Noon