

TAMA COUNTY EMPOWERMENT AREA

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Tama County Empowerment Board Meeting
Tuesday, March 23, 2010 – 12:00 p.m.
ISU Extension Office Meeting Room

Voting Members Present:

Rick Vesely, Clergy/Citizen
Richard Arp, Citizen/North Tama School District
Mandy Lekin, Business and Industry/Citizen
Angie Knowles, STC Elementary
Larry Vest, Board of Supervisors/Citizen, came later

Joyce Legg, Tama County Public Health
Jenn Stover, Consumer/Citizen
Karen Christensen, Citizen
Deb Schlichting, Pied Piper

Others Present:

Lori Johnson, Empowerment Coordinator
Frank Albertsen, ISU Extension
Anne Bacon, Mid-Iowa Community Action
Darla Thiessen, Tama County 4- H
Laura Kopsa, Tama County Auditor
Heidi Schminke, Benton County Empowerment Area

Allen Ricks, ISU Extension – Region 9
Jana Enfield, Child Abuse Prevention Services
Royce Hickie, Mid-Iowa Community Action
Becky Roe, Child Care Resource & Referral
Tammy Wetjen-Kesterson, Iowa County Empowerment

Apologies:	Marisue Hartung	Lindi Roelofse	Teresa McCall	Angela Dreesman
	Jill Herink	Annette Dunn	Rachel Porath	Rudy Papakee

Richard Arp, Vice-chair, called meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

Introductions were made.

Ground Rules –were disbursed and reviewed.

Minutes of Previous Meeting –Empowerment meeting minutes for February 23, 2010 were reviewed. Joyce Legg made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Angie Knowles seconded the motion. Motion passed.

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

Public Input – none noted.

Provider Reports – *Child Consultant* –Becky Roe shared that they have been having provider trainings. The DHS contact for registering providers is retiring and will cause delays in providers signing up to be come registered. They have also found some providers not being able to become registered due to lack of a social security number.

Nurse Consultant – No updates at this time.

Stork's Nest, Public Health Home Visitation, etc. – Joyce Legg shared that Stork's Nest continues to have big crowds at education sessions. Home visits fluctuate with births. Lead Care Coordination has been slow, but with spring will probably see an increase.

Coordinator – Ms. Johnson shared updated information:

- The Board of Supervisors appointed Jenn Stover as the Consumer Rep and Mandy Lekin as the Business Representative at their March 1st Meeting.
- She and Jolynn Stoneking attended the March 10th State Coordinators Meeting. There will be more fiscal accountability with the home visitation programs and all programs in general. The Coordinators will be required to submit an electronic budget form listing in detail, by funding, expenses incurred, including donated/in-kind services provided.
- March 16th Larry Vest and Lori went to the Benton County Empowerment Board Meeting. There will be more information later in the agenda.

Care for Kids –Jana Enfield shared that Dawna Heil has resigned. They will continue with their preschool programming. They will be advertising for her position and hope to have them hired by May 1st and then started by July 1st in time to set up programming for next school year.

Data shows that child abuse has increased in all counties in the care/neglect categories. It is felt that it is due to the lack of supervision and domestic abuse, and more public awareness. Those interested in the statistical data can request this from Ms. Johnson.

Infant Toddler Specialist, Dental Hygienist, and Transportation –Royce Hickie shared that they have had a shift in staff and have hired Tiffany Kunkel as a new ITDS (Infant Toddler Development Specialist). They are offering 2 socialization events a month for families in this program. They were unable to hold some of these due to the weather and low attendance.

They have hired a 3rd bus driver to have them too resign before providing the transportation service. They are currently collaborating with STC School District regarding transportation and a bus monitor.

Respite Scholarships –no updates provided.

Tobacco Funds – Frank Albertsen shared that tomorrow is the Great American Smoke and they will be applying for funds for next fiscal year.

Old Business – *SF2088* – Ms. Johnson shared Community Empowerment Legislative Update 3/3/10 handout. Local level changes were reviewed.

Community Empowerment Legislative Update – we are awaiting notification of funding allocation amounts.

Request from Benton County – Heidi Schminke had updated her Board on the LEAN Design and current language in the bill that allows for a waiver. It is felt that a waiver will most likely not be granted. Local empowerment boards have until September 1, 2010 to submit a Letter of Intent to the Office of Empowerment. Ms. Johnson and Larry Vest had attended their last board meeting and discussed the possibility of the two counties merging, if the waiver to remain a single county fails. Discussions had been held with Iowa County, but they have decided to request a waiver. Benton County Empowerment Board would like to explore the possibility of a merger with Tama County.

Poweshiek County – Ms. Johnson noted that the Poweshiek is interested in merging with us, but have been unable to meet with her.

Marshall County – there are not further updates than the last meeting. They are looking towards Hardin County.

At A Glance – Similarities and Dissimilarities – updated handout out was disbursed. Discussion was held. Each Voting Board Member was asked to share their views regarding further merger discussions. Those in attendance voted, unofficially, 4 for pursuing merger talks with Benton, 1 for pursuing talks with Poweshiek and 3 unsure. Services being currently provided in each county were briefly discussed. Ms. Johnson was asked her opinion regarding this topic. Visions were shared.

Sub-committee formed? - Rick Vesely made a motion to form a sub-committee to pursue the possibility of a merger with Benton County. Angie Knowles seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Benton County will have their Executive Committee involved in this endeavor. Those from Tama County will be: Lori Johnson, Coordinator; Larry Vest, Chair; Joyce Legg; Jenn Stover; and Richard Arp, Vice-Chair. Karen Christensen and Mandy Lakin will be subs as needed. Heidi and Lori will keep the communication open and will be in contact with each other to set a meeting date.

Iowa County will submit their information to Lori to add to the At a Glance document.

New Business – *Funding Sub-committee Recommendations* –handwritten minutes were disbursed and read. Discussion was held. Rick Vesely made a motion to approve the Funding Sub-committee Recommendations. Jenn Stover seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Updates from the State – *Family support Data State Requirements - handout* was disbursed. It was noted that the State is recommending that if providers do not meet requirements that they will have to refund funding. Clients/families need to be counted once. State statistical data is available in this document. The Des Moines Register article stated that Empowerment couldn't say how many children were impacted by the services, yet the data shows that Empowerment did know. More accountability will be required.

Tool LL – was disbursed.

Tool U – was disbursed

Correspondence – Des Moines Register Article from March 9th was shared.

Adjournment – Rick Vesely made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mandy Lakin seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Johnson, Tama County Empowerment Coordinator

Reminder: Next Regular Empowerment Board Meeting will be May 25th at Traer City Council Chambers at 12:00 Noon – Board Appreciation!!