

TAMA COUNTY EMPOWERMENT AREA

129 W. High Street, Toledo, IA 52342
PH: (641) 484-4788 (or) 1-866-484-4788
FAX: (641) 484-5447
E-mail: ljohnson@tamacounty.org

Tama County Empowerment Board Meeting
Tuesday, May 25, 2010 – 12:00 p.m.
ISU Extension Office Meeting Room

Voting Members Present:

Rick Vesely, Clergy/Citizen
Richard Arp, Citizen/North Tama School District
Karen Christensen, Citizen
Deb Schlichting, Pied Piper

Joyce Legg, Tama County Public Health
Annette Dunn, Department of Human Service
Jill Herink, Meskwaki Settlement School
Larry Vest, Board of Supervisors/Citizen

Others Present:

Lori Johnson, Empowerment Coordinator
Jana Enfield, Child Abuse Prevention Services
Anne Bacon, Mid-Iowa Community Action
Heidi Schminke, Benton County Empowerment Area
Rachel Porath, Mid-Iowa Community Action

Jolynn Stoneking, Tama County Public Health
Kate Pergande, Mid-Iowa Community Action
Royce Hickie, Mid-Iowa Community Action
Angela Dreesman, Child Care Resource & Referral

Apologies:	Marisue Hartung	Lindi Roelofse	Teresa McCall	Jenn Stover
	Angie Knowles	Rachel Porath	Rudy Papakee	Mandy Lakin
	Frank Albertsen	Darla Thiessen	Becky Roe	Laura Kopsa

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

Since not all of the Voting Board Members were present yet, the Board Member Recognition was moved until after the Nurse Consultant Provider Report.

Minutes of Previous Meeting – Empowerment meeting minutes for March 23, 2010 were reviewed. Richard Arp made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Karen Christensen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report – was disbursed. We should be at 17% of the funding remaining. Jill Hernik made a motion to approve the financial report as presented. Annette Dunn seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Input – none noted.

Provider Reports – *Child Consultant* – 3rd Quarter Program Report was disbursed. Angie Dreesman shared that some of the stumbling blocks that she has run into with working with providers is the background checks that is required. Effective July 1st Polk County will be handling the registered provider applications. With the local DHS office being a part-time office, they will be losing that continuity and collaboration that they have had with the local office and encouraging providers to become registered. This will slow down the provider process and being able to know who has applied until several weeks later.

They will be holding 2 super Saturday Trainings, June 15th & 19th at the State Bank of Toledo Meeting Room. One of the speakers on the 19th will be from Wisconsin.

Nurse Consultant – 3rd Quarter Report was disbursed. Terri has been training/mentoring with Karen Doughan. Angie Dreesman has met with her and they have gone through Helen McKay's information.

Board Member Recognition – Ms. Johnson shared her appreciation for the legislators and encouraged all of the members to make sure that they thank our local legislators for all their efforts this past year regarding Empowerment and for listening to our concerns that were shared and to let them know that we appreciate them for all that they have done for children, 0 – 5, and their families in Tama County.

Ms. Dunn, was recognized, and given a bouquet of flowers, certificate and Envisioning for the Future of OUR Kids Candy Bar, for her involvement with Tama County Empowerment from its inception and appreciated for her grass

roots efforts and knowledge to help mold Tama County Empowerment into what it is today. She has been a very valuable asset to our county and will be greatly missed.

Voting Board Members were recognized, and were given a certificate and candy bar with wrapper saying “Envisioning for the Future of OUR Kids”, for their willingness to participate at the Board meetings and providing valuable input with all the changes that have taken place, whether we wanted them or not.

All others present were given a candy bar “Envisioning for the Future of OUR Kids”, and appreciated for their active participation on the board and providing input as to what they felt was important to children in Tama County.

Jolynn Stoneking was recognized with a certificate and Candy Bar for her assistance with all of the Empowerment funding and data collecting and helping to keep Lori organized as much as she does.

Heidi Schminke, Benton County Empowerment Coordinator, was recognized with a certificate and candy bar “Envisioning for the Future of OUR Kids”, as we continue to move forward to collaborate and work together to assure services help children to be healthy, ready to succeed in school, have a safe, secure, nurturing home as well as child care.

Ms Johnson was recognized and given a card, certificate, and bouquet of flowers for all of her efforts.

Provider Reports Continued: *Stork’s Nest, Public Health Home Visitation, etc.* – Joyce Legg shared that Stork’s Nest has been going well and MICA staff have been helping with the education given. Home visits are sporadic. The Interpreters that they currently use have all ten on full-time jobs and she is using a Stork’s Nest recipient to provide interpretation. There have been no children with severely high lead levels. The WIC nurse will be testing for high lead levels at the Settlement WIC clinic. Health Care Coordination – is helping families as needed.

Board Member Recognition Continued: Representative Lance Horbach joined the meeting – appreciation was shared for all his efforts this past year regarding Empowerment and listening to concerns shared and all that he has done for children and families in Tama County. Lance shared comments regarding the past session and the communications that he had received.

Provider Reports Continued: *Coordinator* – Ms. Johnson shared updated information: She and Larry met with the Benton County Empowerment board on May 11th. She has been participating on the FAWG (Fiscal Accountability Work Group) . FY 11 Funding Allocation amounts will be less than last year. School Ready Funding will be \$222,544; Early Childhood \$31,057. Survey’s were done regarding fiscal agents of which 25 of the 58 areas currently use county government offices for their fiscal agents. Liability Insurance survey showed 1 county does not have any coverage and Polk County’s costs \$21,914. Tama County’s is currently provided in-kind. Board Representation survey was discussed with the changes with in DHS and how our current by-laws state the Education, Health & Human Services representatives have to be from those departments. From the May 19th Coordinators Meeting the following handouts were shared: Tool MM Executive Director Competencies/Skills; Formulas for Determining Early Childhood Iowa School Ready & Early Childhood Funding; State-wide Performance Measures for FY 11; and Results Program Training schedule. Request for Family Stories for the next Day on the Hill Event was given. Levels of Excellence levels were explained. Time Study and Child Care Nurse Consultant information was shared. List of Child Nutrition & Physical Activity Resources is available.

Care for Kids –Jana Enfield shared that their education director has resigned. They are restructuring and will be dividing up the duties with current staff.

Infant Toddler Specialist, Dental Hygienist, and Transportation –Royce Hickie shared two handouts (November – February; and March & April) They have been working with several teen parents. Staff recently presented topics Stork’s Nest. Two staff members have just completed the Mental Health First Aide USA training.

Respite Scholarships –no updates provided.

Tobacco Funds – Rudy Papakee has received his masters in health administration degree and will be resigning. ISU Extension will be receiving the grant again next fiscal year and will be seeking someone for his position. He will be greatly missed!

Old Business – *Merger Sub-committee Report - April 15 2010 Meeting Minutes* were disbursed. Summary of the meeting was provided by Ms. Johnson.

Letter of Intent – draft letter was disbursed. Ms. Dunn shared that she felt we were moving away from local grass roots and loosing local control. Question was raised by Representative Horbach as to why we felt we needed to merge. Due to the legislative language adopted, he was given a verbal exemption for Tama County by Shanell Wagler, State Empowerment Director. Discussion was held. Richard Arp made a motion to approve the Letter of Intent, as written, to merge with Benton County Empowerment Area. Jill Herink seconded the motion. Each local board would serve as a sub-committee with the combined Board (with members of both current local boards) serving as the governing board. Motion passed unanimously.

Request from Poweshiek County – Ms. Johnson shared she had been contacted again by the Poweshiek Coordinator. She informed her that we were pursuing talks with Benton County at this time. With the base amount allocation to each area currently received being cut, with an additional area would be cut even more. It was felt that a two county area would be the direction that our area would like to do at this time.

New Business – *Approve Laura Kopsa, Tama County Auditor continue as Fiscal Agent* – Joyce Legg made the motion for Laura Kopsa to continue on as the fiscal agent. Annette Dunn seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. She will continue to provide this at no cost for this next fiscal year. Question was asked if she would continue to do this once the two counties were merged. Currently Benton County Auditor charges 1.6% of the Empowerment Funds. Laura has indicated that she would continue to provide this service at a 1% fee.

Approve and Authorize Chair and Fiscal Agent to sign Fiscal Agent Agreement; Approve and Authorize Board Chair and Fiscal Agent to sign Compliance Assurances – Motion by Annette Dunn to approve the Chair and Fiscal Agent to sign the Fiscal Agent Agreement and Compliance Assurances. Deb Schlichting seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Approve and Authorize Board Chair to sign Agreement between the Iowa Empowerment Board, the Department of Education, the Department of Human Services, Department of Management and Tama County Empowerment Board – Joyce Legg made a motion to approve the Chair to sign the above stated agreement. Richard Arp seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, with Annette Dunn abstaining from voting.

Approve to have Lori Johnson continue on as Empowerment Coordinator – Karen Christensen made a motion to have Ms. Johnson continue as the Coordinator. Annette Dunn seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

By-Laws – current By-laws were disbursed. Discussion was held regarding current board representation language. Joyce Legg made a motion, regarding Article IV, Section 2, that Public Health, Human Services, and Education be changed to public health, human services, and education. Annette Dunn seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Written notification will be disbursed at the July meeting, with the changes being voted on at the September meeting, per Article X. Amendments to By-Laws. Discussion was held regarding electronic voting. Current by-laws, Article V. Section 1, reflect that telephone and electronic meetings are not allowed. It was noted that it is due to the public not being able to be notified of this type of meeting. Effective 7/1 there have been some changes to the open meetings law. Ms. Johnson will check with the County Attorney regarding electronic voting/open forum/telephone conference calls.

Funding Sub-committee Recommendations – April 27th & May 21st Meetings – Meeting minutes were disbursed and summarized with re-allocations as noted. Rick Vesely made the motion to approve the recommendations as noted in the April 27th Funding Sub-committee Meeting Minutes. Richard Arp seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, with Deb Schlichting and Joyce Legg abstaining.

Ms. Johnson noted a correction to the May 21st Meeting minutes, page 2 Child Care Consultant should be \$18,997, and on page 1 under the preschool requests, Pied Piper had submitted their \$448.88 request and was approved by the Funding Sub-committee.

Rick Vesely made the motion to approve the recommendations as noted in the May 21st Funding Sub-committee Meeting Minutes. Jill Herink seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, with Deb Schlichting and Joyce Legg abstaining.

Discussion was held regarding liability coverage of a negligent act by an employee being paid more than \$500. Ms. Johnson is not an employee of the Empowerment Board, but is contracted through Tama County Public Health to provide the coordinator services.

Empowerment Board Member Terms – there are none expiring in 2010.

Approve FY 11 Early Childhood Community Empowerment Budget & Approve FY 11 School Ready Community Empowerment Budget – Rick Vesely made a motion to approve the FY 11 Early Childhood and School Ready Budgets as presented. Richard Arp seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Updates from the State – More on the local level - the local DHS office will be less than full-time one with their office being open for appointments 2 days a week with a social worker retaining her office in Tama County. They are unsure if there will be receptionist coverage for this office.

Correspondence – The April 15th Merger Meeting News Release, Thank you received for the Parenting Classes offered through Stork's Nest, CCR & R Newsletter and the Empowerment Newsletter were shared/available for review.

Adjournment – Richard Arp made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rick Vesely seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Johnson, Tama County Empowerment Coordinator

Reminder: Next Regular Empowerment Board Meeting will be July 27th at ISU Extension at 12:00 Noon