

TAMA COUNTY EMPOWERMENT AREA

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Tama County Empowerment Board Meeting
Tuesday, September 1, 2009 – 12:00 noon
ISU Extension Office Meeting Room

Voting Members Present:

Larry Vest, Board of Supervisors/Citizen
Deb Schlichting, Pied Piper
Jenn Stover, Business and Industry/Citizen
Angie Knowles, Citizen/STC School District
Mandy Lekin, Citizen/Consumer

Joyce Legg, Tama County Public Health
Richard Arp, Citizen/North Tama School District
Karen Christensen, Citizen
Annette Dunn, Department of Human Services
Jill Herink, Education/Meskwaki School District

Others Present:

Representative Lance Horbach
Angela Dreesman, Child Care Consultant
Lori Johnson, Empowerment Coordinator
Frank Albertsen, ISU Extension
Rachel Porath, Mid-Iowa Community Action
Royce Hickie, Mid-Iowa Community Action
Heidi Schminke, Benton County Empowerment

Laura Kopsa, Tama County Auditor
Lindsey Drew, Mid-Iowa Community Action
Jana Enfield, Child Abuse Prevention
Allen Ricks, ISU Extension
Cindy Skopec, AEA 267
Linda Rosenberger, Tama County Public Health

Apologies:	Michelle Gethmann	Marisue Hartung	Lindi Roelofse	Rudy Papakee
	Teresa McCall	Rick Vesely	Darla Thiessen	Jerri Leighton

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

Agenda - One agenda item needed to be added. Under New Business: Approve FY 09 Showcase Report. Lean Design Discussion will be held after Public Input. Agenda revisions were approved.

Introductions were made.

Minutes of Previous Meeting –Empowerment Regular Meeting Minutes for July 14, 2009 were reviewed. Joyce Legg made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Deb Schlichting seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Empowerment SPECIAL Meeting for July 22, 2009 were reviewed. Mandy Lekin made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Joyce Legg seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Financial Report – was disbursed. Twenty children are receiving preschool scholarships so far. Ms. Legg made a motion to approve the financial report as presented. Richard Arp seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Public Input – none noted.

Lean Design – Forums will be held in Winterset (9/17) and Iowa City (9/15). Lori is scheduled to meet with Benton and Iowa Coordinators and their legislators.

Data should be considered when making decisions. What does the data show for the multi-county areas vs. the single county areas? What difference are they making?

State and Community Demographic and Indicator Profiles were shared. 4 areas had large carryovers in 2007, of which all of these were multi-county areas. Thirteen counties had over the recommended carryover for 2008, of which 4 were the same multi county areas as 2007.

Compiled responses that the State Team has collected were shared (38 pages).

What is the goal of the Lean Event? document was shared with key points noted regarding carryovers, indicators, Suggestions for Coordinators, Fiscal Agent Fees, Tama County Key Points (Pros & Cons) regarding remaining a Single County Area.

Henry & Washington County have merged and found that according to Tool U they have to return all carryover funds remaining, since they would no longer be that “board” any more.

Survey was sent out from the state requesting: How long you've been a CEA Coordinator; Do you provide coordination service more than 1 CEA; is your position full time, if not how many hours a week are Empowerment; what is the hrly wage; % of salary paid by Empowerment; any benefits provided by Empowerment; do you have an assistant; do you manage a program in addition to your coordinator duties; who is your employer of record; does the CEA pay for the Employer of Record services & how much; who is the fiscal agent; how much does the CEA pay for the fiscal agent services; do you receive any in-kind support?

Workgroups have been formed studying partial information received – draft estimate savings are \$1 million dollars. One fiscal agent receives \$27,000; one coordinator receives \$60,000 out of \$200,000 in allocations.

Comments shared were:

- Hardin and Marshall County's Show Case Reports are blank in the complied listing.
- Five counties are abusing guidelines, and the other areas have to be impacted by this.
- Why 5,000 children as a bench mark.
- Representative Horbach will be meeting with 7 other legislators September 8th with Shannell and Teresa (Department of Management Director).
- Full-time lobbyist
- Restructuring the Technical Assistance Team.
- Lean Design is to help with the state's budget.
- Will force Board members to travel to other areas for Board Meetings.
- Communication is the foundation of Empowerment.
- Finished results will decrease, with having to stretch resources further.
- Every child gets all opportunities to receive services currently.
- Local budgets will increase.
- Being bigger isn't better.
- Want to know the "true savings".
- Projections of efficiencies.
- CPPC has own control.
- Local person/local control. Locals protect and know their kids the best.
- Look at counties who aren't doing what they are supposed to be doing.
- Costs of HAWK-I insurance were discussed.

Representative Horbach was thanked for attending and for taking back our information with him for the next legislative session.

Provider Reports – *Child Consultant* – Angie Dreesman shared that Ages and Stages tools are available. Mandatory guidelines were discussed. She has been receiving a lot of contacts recently. Three to four contacts a week with ½ of them following through.

Nurse Consultant – Lindsey Drew shared that the nurse consultant has been providing services approximately 4 hours a week and has been struggling to see providers due to lack of adequate time.

Stork's Nest, Public Health Home Visitation, etc. – Joyce Legg shared things are going well. Children turning one year old are "aging" out of the Stork's Nest program. There are approximately 20 pregnant women/moms attending each month. They have a stable interpreter now. High lead level numbers have decreased with increased education and more testing being done. Tama County has received a lead grant in the amount of \$250,000 where homes can be remediated up to \$24,999. Guidelines for this program were shared.

Coordinator – Ms. Johnson shared she and Jolynn had attended the quarterly Empowerment Coordinators meeting and attended training regarding Open Meetings Law. Karen Christensen was appointed by the Board of Supervisors as the citizen representative. Delays in the 1st quarter payment e-mail was shared. It was due to the changes in legislative language there was some confusion, at the State level, regarding the categories of funding. The Early Childhood funding contracts are requiring more signatures than previous years.

Care for Kids – Revised goals were disbursed.

Infant Toddler Specialist, Dental Hygienist, and Transportation – handout was disbursed listing services provided for July. They have hired a new Infant Toddler Specialist. Carley remains their Dental Hygentist. Head Start starts next Tuesday and they are estimating 16 children to be served. They have 1 opening with a waiting list.

Respite Scholarships – 6 are utilizing this funding. It assists with prevention of abuse/parent stress.

Preschool Scholarships – 89 children are registered at STC with 2 on a waiting list; Meswkaki Settlement School is full (40 students) with a waiting list; Pied Piper has 30 – 4 year olds and still have room for more. North Tama will be applying for the Volunteer Preschool grant next year.

Tobacco Funds – Frank Albertsen shared that Rudy is busy with a teleconference this morning and not able to attend. He has been busy contacting schools in the county.

Al Ricks was introduced as the new Regional Director for ISU Extension. Frank will continue on as ½ time Coordinator for Tama County.

It was shared that Frank is appreciated for all that he has done for Tama County and values the work he does for children. He is a true “gem” for our community.

Old Business – Revised FY 10 Early Childhood Community Empowerment Budget handout was disbursed with notations of changes on the Child Care Consultant lines (split between A & G and under the regular Home or Center Child Care Consultant funding line).

Revised FY 10 School Ready Community Empowerment Budget handout was disbursed with notations of changes to Crayon Corner carryover funds and Expansion of Services – Hard to Serve Children.

New Business – *Board Member Appreciation* – cards were passed for members to sign in appreciation for Frank & Earlene’s dedication to the Empowerment Board/Sub-committees.

Accept/Reject ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009) Funding – Jenn Stover made a motion to accept this funding. Richard Arp seconded the motion. Discussion was held regarding the required documentation and timelines involved. This funding is part of President Obama’s stimulus package. All voting members voted no to the motion. Motion failed. Fiduciary responsibility for the amount of administration dollars; no child care spots available/lack of availability; no funding available for marketing and administration allowable fees projected to last approximately 2 weeks were reasons noted. Joyce Legg made a motion to approve Empowerment Board Chair and Coordinator to sign Funding Allocation form, noting rejection and reasons. Jill Herink seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Approve Empowerment Annual Report – Jenn Stover made the motion to approve the annual report as presented. Deb Schlichting seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Approve FY 09 Early Childhood Financial Statement and FY 09 School Ready Financial Statement – Joyce Legg made the motion to approve the financial statements as presented. Karen Christensen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Approve FY 09 Showcase Report – Jenn Stover made the motion to approve the Showcase Report as presented. Richard Arp seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Re-designation –this will be put on hold pending the State Board Meeting.

Updates from the State – *Open Meeting Training* – available September 2nd.

Correspondence – Building Quality Together Training; E-mail from Deb Scrowther re: Fall and Spring Family Development and Parenting Education Training offered by ISU Extension; and CCR & R Newsletter were shared.

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 November 24th at ISU Extension at 12:00 Noon