

CORNER COUNTIES EMPOWERMENT AREA AND TAYLOR COUNTY EMPOWERMENT
APRIL 29, 2010 MINUTES
PAGE COUNTY COURTHOUSE-CLARINDA PAGE ROOM

Corner Counties Empowerment and Taylor County Empowerment held a joint board meeting to discuss plans to merge the two entities over the next year.

Present from Corner Counties Empowerment Board were: Kim Behrens; Jayne Wilson; Mel Hurst, Lois Jean Ellison and Margaret Johnson.

Present from Taylor County Empowerment were: Joan Gallagher, Secretary; Arlene Abbott, Marti Cordell and Jill Breach.

Also present were: Pam Herzberg, Corner Counties Empowerment Coordinator and Jenny Ernst, Taylor County Empowerment Coordinator.

The meeting began at 6:14pm with Pam and Jenny facilitating.

Introductions were made with discussion on programs offered, geographic locations, miles to drive and the like.

Pam reviewed an email dated February 26, 2010 from Shanell Wagler outlining SF 2088, the government reorganization bill. This discussed the reasons and parameters for reorganizing Empowerment Areas. The deadline for Letter of Intent to Merge is September 1, 2010. Taylor County approved the merger at its board meeting in January. Corner Counties approved the merger at their board meeting in March.

Tool U "Process for Community Empowerment Area Boundary Change *Revised 5/09*" was reviewed.

Jenny and Pam constructed a chart that compared our "Similarities and Dissimilarities". We identified more pros than cons for the merger. Both passed redesignation last year. Our counties have the same Decat and Community Partnerships for Protecting Children area.

Pam & Jenny discussed the By-laws for each Board. They were available in our packets. Joan Gallagher, Mel Hurst and Kim Behrens agreed to serve on the By-laws review committee for the new board. Jenny and Pam will take both sets of By-laws and combine them for the committee's review and approval. Consensus was they are very similar. Deadline for this to be completed is July 2010. Much discussion on frequency of meetings and location (fixed site or rotate).

Each Board's member roster and term limits were discussed and available in our packets.

Jenny and Pam addressed each board member present to solicit their willingness to serve on the merged board next year. Mel Hurst, Kim Behrens and Marti Cordell agreed to stay on. Pam and Jenny will contact those who were not in attendance to see if they will continue. Joan Gallagher will not be eligible as her agency will be a provider for both areas starting in FY11. Implied consent from those present was to have equal representation from each county, work towards gender balance, assure mandatory representation and have to board size somewhere between 7-13 members.

Community Plans for both areas were in our packets. Marti Cordell, Mel Hurst and Jayne Wilson agreed to serve on the Community Plan committee. They will need to wait on the results of the assessment before proceeding.

A new community assessment will need to be conducted. The Early Childhood committee will be charged with the task of review the last community assessment. The new one will be distributed between July 1 and September 30, 2010. Jenny and Pam plan to have the results compiled by October 31, 2010.

Plans for Public Forum meetings were made. The purpose of a public forum meeting is to allow the public to ask questions regarding the merger. We decided to host one in each county seat. Pam and Jenny will be at each site. All Board members are not required to be at each one. Board members were encouraged to attend at least one. Jenny and Pam will

assist with transportation of Board members as needed. Dates are May 17th Clarinda, May 18th, Sidney and May 19th Bedford, from 5pm – 6pm. Pam and Jenny will take care of notifying the public

Next meeting date was not set yet, possible date in July. It was decided to wait until some of the committees got their work going.

Meeting concluded at 7:37pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Joan Gallagher
Taylor County Board Member