

Corner Counties Empowerment Area Community Board Meeting
Tuesday, January 12, 2010
Page County West Building, Shenandoah, Iowa

Members Present: Kim Behrens, Chair; Jill Travis, Vice Chair; Jayne Wilson, Secretary; Janie Stearns; Lois Jean Ellison; Marlene Bashaw

Staff Present: Pam Herzberg, Director

Members Absent: Margaret Johnson; Mel Hurst; Erin Smith

Public Present: Mary Kesterson, Southwest Iowa Home Health; Joan Gallagher, Taylor County Public Health; Penny Bredensteiner, Farragut Community School; Rachel Shenkle, Turnbull Child Development Center; Angie Wallick, Southwest Iowa Families; Kathleen Keefer, Southwest Iowa Families; Carol Bellairs, Southwest Iowa Families; Robert Keefer; Mary Anne Gibson, Waubonsie Mental Health

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Chair Kim Behrens called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm. Introductions were made.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Marlene Bashaw moved that the agenda that was distributed in advance be approved as the agenda for this meeting; Jill Travis seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

ELECTION OF BOARD SECRETARY

The Board needed to elect a new secretary to relieve Jayne Wilson of her duties. Jill Travis graciously volunteered. Jayne Wilson moved that Jill Travis be elected as the new Board Secretary; Lois Jean Ellison seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

RECOGNITION OF RECENT OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS – MARY ANNE GIBSON AND ROBERT KEEFER

The Board recognized the years of service contributed by Mary Anne Gibson and Robert Keefer to the CCEA Board. A certificate was presented to Mrs. Gibson and Mr. Keefer by Board Chair, Kim Behrens. The current CCEA Board Members expressed their gratitude and appreciation to Mrs. Gibson and Mr. Keefer for the years of dedication and service to the children in Fremont and Page Counties.

ORAL REPORTING

Mary Kesterson – Southwest Iowa Home Health, Fremont County Child Screens, 0-5 Coalition; Joan Gallagher – Maternal Child Health of Southwest Iowa – Page County Preschool Oral Screens; Carol Bellairs and Angie Wallick -- Southwest Iowa Families, Inc. – Social Emotional Screenings and Dinosaur School; Rachel Shenkle – Turnbull Child Development Center – Liability Insurance and Professional Development presented oral reports of progress to the CCEA Board.

PRESCHOOL EXCHANGE GROUP UPDATE

Penny Bredensteiner reported that the most recent meeting of the Preschool Exchange Group was very well attended. The effects of budget cuts on current programs were discussed at the meeting.

EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMITTEE UPDATE

Pam Herzberg and Lois Jean Ellison provided an update on the Early Childhood Committee meeting. This meeting was also very well attended. The Early Childhood Committee will soon be involved in a collaborative project that involves a Book Drive the week of April 12, 2010. Amy Faust of Waubonsie Mental Health Center presented a program on Child Interaction Therapy.

REVIEW/APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 10, 2009 AND DECEMBER 7, 2009 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Lois Jean Ellison moved that the minutes of the meeting of November 10, 2009 be approved as distributed; Marlene Bashaw seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. Marlene Bashaw moved that the minutes of the meeting of December 7, 2009 be approved as distributed; Jill Travis seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee reported approval of the payment of bills for November 2009 and December 2009 as follows:

School Ready Account

Clarinda Community Preschool	\$1,930.00
Clarinda Community Preschool	\$1,890.00
Clarinda Community School District	\$210.00
Clarinda Community School District	\$140.00
Counsel Office and Document	\$24.04
Counsel Office and Document	\$48.54
Easter's True Value/Radio Shack	\$64.93
Essex Child Care Center	\$436.00
Essex Child Care Center	\$493.00
Farragut Community Schools – Preschool	\$425.00
Farragut Community Schools – Preschool	\$615.00
Fremont County Extension	\$3,001.22
Fremont County Extension	\$3,407.71
Fremont Mills Schools – Preschool	\$900.00
Grandma's House Daycare	\$195.72
Grandma's House Daycare	\$700.32
Great Beginnings Preschool – Sidney	\$1,559.52
Great Beginnings Preschool – Sidney	\$1,698.76
Hamburg Community Schools – Marnie Simons Preschool	\$325.00
Inukshuk Technologies	\$53.50
Iowa Telecom	\$72.30

Iowa Telecom	\$175.59
Page County Auditor	\$1,161.60
Page County Extension	\$2,027.75
Page County Extension	\$1,761.23
Pam Herzberg	\$80.81
Pam Herzberg	\$108.35
Qwest	\$1.84
Qwest	\$9.11
South Page Community Schools – Preschool	\$1,133.22
Southwest Iowa Families, Inc.	\$7,883.03
St. John’s Noah’s Ark Preschool	\$860.00
St. John’s Noah’s Ark Preschool	\$860.00
The Clarinda Foundation	\$8,160.00
Turnbull Child Development Center	\$1,065.00
Turnbull Child Development Center	\$1,065.00
West Central Community Action	\$214.14
West Central Community Action	\$348.42
Total Payments	\$45,105.65

Early Childhood Account

Kornerstone Kids Child Care Center	\$2,500.00
Page County Auditor	\$701.20
Page County Public Health	\$2,230.58
West Central Community Action	\$2,147.35
Total Payments	\$7,579.13

OVERALL TOTAL PAYMENTS \$52,684.78

Janie Stearns moved that the report be received and approved to be filed for audit; Jill Travis seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

PRINTING COSTS FOR THE CLARINDA FOUNDATION

The Clarinda Foundation has been using the Corner Counties Empowerment Area printer from time to time for color copies and a few black and white. Since the Foundation is providing office space and utilities free of charge other than the telephone to the Empowerment Board the Finance Committee felt that the Board should provide a certain dollar amount of copying at no charge to the Foundation as a token of appreciation. This would also show that the two entities are collaborating. Lois Jean Ellison made a motion that the Corner Counties Empowerment Area Board not charge the Clarinda Foundation copying/printing fees other than those exceeding \$30.00 per month. Janie Stearns seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

PRINTER FOR THE ESSEX CHILD CARE CENTER

Pam Herzberg stated that she sent an email to providers to see if anyone could use a printer that the Corner Counties Empowerment Area was no longer using. Essex Child Care Center was the only provider to respond. Marlene Bashaw made a motion that the

Board give the printer to the Essex Child Care Center; Jill Travis seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

FAMILIES DECLINING TO ANSWER DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION REQUIRED BY THE STATE

Pam Herzberg shared that families participating in home visiting/parent education programs are required to provide certain demographic information. Pam received an e-mail from Janet Gartin dated December 11, 2009 that she had forwarded to the Board prior to this evening's meeting and also provided a hard copy of this e-mail to the Board at this evening's meeting. Within this e-mail Janet addressed the fact that one Corner Counties Empowerment Area family had declined to provide information. Janet stated "This is not acceptable practice. The family can of course decline to answer but then they should not receive the services. These are tax dollars and we are held accountable for how they are spent and the required data." Jill Travis made a motion that from this date forward any family that wished to receive services provided through Empowerment funding must provide the necessary information required by the State or be denied services; Janie Stearns seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. Pam would send out notice of this to the providers tomorrow.

RFP FOR SFY'2011

The Board reviewed the RFP for SFY'2011. Pam reported that 25% reduction in funds is anticipated. She noted that the Board will have some difficult decisions to make. Jayne Wilson made a motion to approve the RFP for SFY'2011; Lois Jean Ellison seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

EARLY CHILDHOOD AND SCHOOL READY BUDGETS AFTER THE ATB REDUCTIONS

Pam Herzberg provided board members with copies of Early Childhood and School Ready Budgets that include the reductions in funding. These copies are to replace the budgets currently filed in board member's notebooks.

DESIGNATION ACTION – IOWA EMPOWERMENT BOARD JANUARY 8, 2010

Pam Herzberg and Kim Behrens report that they attended the Iowa Empowerment Board Meeting via teleconference on January 8, 2010. Pam confirmed that the CCEA Board was recommended for an unconditional designation and it was approved by the State Board at this meeting. Pam also reported that the Governor's office is proposing to move Empowerment out of the Department of Management and into the Department of Education.

FIRST QUARTER REPORTS

Board Members reported on their review of the first quarterly reports from providers. Jill Travis, Kim Behrens and Jayne Wilson reported for their respective teams. Pam Herzberg reported on the Preschool Tuition Grants.

SECOND QUARTER REPORTS

The Second Quarter Reports are due into Pam Herzberg from the providers by January 14, 2010. Questions and comments from the Board are to be communicated to Pam Herzberg by February 21, 2010. Pam noted that teams should be ready to report at the Board Meeting to be held on March 9, 2010.

TAYLOR COUNTY BOARD MEETING (POSSIBLE MERGING OF EMPOWERMENT AREAS)

Pam Herzberg provided the Board with information regarding the similarities and differences between the CCEA Board and the Taylor County Board. The Board reviewed this information.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT/EDUCATION COMPONENT

Pam Herzberg provided a report on the following topics:

New Board Membership Efforts – Pam reminded the Board that we need to work toward a gender balanced board when nominating potential board members. The search for additional board members continues and is specifically targeted to Fremont County.

Early Childhood Administrative Update

- *Early Childhood Congress – Cancelled (Due to funding issues.)

- *Day on the Hill – February 3, 2010

- *Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) – Request for Proposal –

Pam reported that there is some discussion about restructuring CCR&R.

- *Legislative Language to Support the Lean Recommendations – Pam shared with the Board that the State Board has approved this and that it will now go to the Legislators.

- *Early Childhood Funding Formula

- *Training Options for Local Boards

- *Communication Protocol for the Community Empowerment State Technical Assistance Team – The team has changed with layoffs and furloughs.

- *Tool LL (Revised November 16, 2009) – Board members were provided with a revised Tool LL to review and to place in their notebooks.

CALANDER OF EVENTS

- *January 13, 2010 – first meeting with the TA Mentor for the Growing Strong Families Programs to be held in Bedford beginning at 9:30 AM.

- *January 14, 2010 – 2nd Quarter written reports due to Pam.

- *January 19, 2010 – Early Childhood Iowa Results Accountability Workgroup, 1:30 -3:30 PM

- *January 21, 2010 – Southwest Iowa Regional Coordinators Meeting

- *January 28, 2010 – Janet Gartin, State Family Support Specialist, Technical Assistance for Family Support workers, Empowerment Director and Board Members at 10:00 AM at the CCEA Office in Clarinda

- *February 1, 2010 – Regional Coordinators Meeting Creston, 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

*February 2, 2010 – Preschool Exchange Group, 5:00 PM, Shenandoah Page County West Building

*February 3, 2010 – Day on the Hill at the Capitol

*February 15, 2010 – Corner Counties Empowerment Area Office Closed – President’s Day Holiday

*March 2, 2010 – Early Childhood Committee Meeting at 2:00 PM in Shenandoah at the Page County West Building

*March 9, 2010 – Corner Counties Empowerment Board Meeting

*Week of April 12, 2010 – Collaborative Project – Book Drive

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The audience members had left the building and therefore there were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The next stated meeting of the Board will be March 9, 2010 at 5:30 pm at the Page County West Building, Shenandoah.

All business having been concluded, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Jayne S. Wilson, Secretary