

TAMA COUNTY EMPOWERMENT AREA

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Tama County Empowerment Board Meeting
Tuesday, July 14, 2009 – 12:00 noon
ISU Extension Office Meeting Room

Voting Members Present:

Larry Vest, Board of Supervisors/Citizen
Rick Vesely, Clergy/Citizen
Jenn Stover, Business and Industry/Citizen
Darla Thiessen, Kid's Corner, proxy for Jill Hernik

Joyce Legg, Tama County Public Health
Deb Schlichting, Pied Piper
Karen Christensen, Citizen

Others Present:

Angela Dreesman, Child Care Consultant
Lori Johnson, Empowerment Coordinator
Jana Enfield, Child Abuse Prevention
Rachel Porath, Mid-Iowa Community Action
Jerri Leighton, Child Care Resource & Referral

Carrie Soddors, Mid-Iowa Community Action
Royce Hickie, Mid-Iowa Community Action
Frank Albertsen, ISU Extension
Cindy Skopec, AEA 267

Apologies:	Michelle Gethmann	Marisue Hartung	Lindi Roelofse	Laura Kopsa
	Linda Rosenberger	Annette Dunn	Rudy Papakee	Mandy Lekin
	Teresa McCall	Richard Arp	Angie Knowles	

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

Agenda - Two agenda items were noted that needed to be revised. Under 1 needed to add: 1) Nominate Chair and Vice-Chair, and 2) move from New Business – Recommend to the Board of Supervisors to appoint Karen Christensen to the Empowerment Board as Citizen Representative. Agenda revisions were approved.

Chair/Vice-Chair – motion by Joyce Legg that the Chair, Larry Vest, and Vice-Chair, Richard Arp, remain the same. Rick Vesely seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Citizen Representative – Jenn Stover made the motion to recommend to the Board of Supervisors to appoint Karen Christensen to the Empowerment Board as Citizen Representative. Rick Vesely seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Introductions were made.

Minutes of Previous Meeting –Empowerment Funding Sub-committee Meeting Minutes for May 19, 2009 and Empowerment Board Meeting Minutes for May 26th were reviewed. Joyce Legg made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Darla Thiessen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Financial Report – Ms. Johnson disbursed a rough year end financial report balance handout. There are several vouchers pending for June. We should have less than 20% carry over and we are at 14%. Rick Vesely made a motion to approve the financial report as presented. Jenn Stover seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Public Input – none noted.

Provider Reports – *Child Consultant* –Angie Dreesman shared that things have been a little slow over the summer months. Jerri Leighton shared copies of the Consultant Activity Report. They have seen an increase in the number of providers and also providers participating in the QRS program.

Nurse Consultant – Handouts were shared showing services provided for July 08 – June 09.

Stork's Nest, Public Health Home Visitation, etc. – Joyce Legg shared that they have moved to a different room at the Partnership Center. The new room is ½ the size of the previous room. They are providing Stork's Nest education in

English and Spanish. Twenty-eight attended last night. They are looking for volunteers to help assist with Stork's Nest shopping, and tallying points, etc, as Joyce is unable to do this and provide the education at the same time. Home visits were slow for May and June but have increased for July. Their interpreter is out of state at this time, but should be returning soon. Tama County has been included in a lead remediation grant that Marshalltown has received. Twenty-five homes are eligible for assistance. Priority will be given to those with high lead levels. Each home is eligible for up to \$24,999 in assistance. They are looking for local contractors to be willing to attend this training and then provide remediation services in Tama County, instead of using a contractor from a surrounding county.

Coordinator – Ms. Johnson shared updated copies of the Empowerment Board Member list; e-mail communication from Deb Scrowther regarding Evidence-based/Promising Practice Programs; e-mail from Shanell Wagler regarding Error in FY 2009 Empowerment Allocations; and draft handout regarding American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funding.

Care for Kids –Jana Enfield shared 4th Quarter Report overview and copies were disbursed. They have provided 133 child education sessions to 981 children.

Infant Toddler Specialist, Dental Hygienist, and Transportation –Royce Hickie disbursed a handout listing services provided for May/June. They disbursed information regarding H1N1; Tama Healthy Families children are 100% up to date with immunizations; and they have completed several Early Head Start applications.

Ms. Johnson shared e-mail communication she had received regarding 4th quarter dental services provided. 95 Fluoride Varnishes; 110 Screenings; and 25 children received sealants. For the year 354 Fluoride varnishes and 460 screenings completed.

Transportation – they are off for the summer and currently have no bus.

Family Nutrition Specialist –Frank Albertsen will be done August 31st, with Al Ricks, Waterloo, being District Director. FNP programming is phased out in Tama County and was completed at the end of June. Their other ISU services will still be available.

Respite Scholarships – Cindy Skopec reported there is a huge need for these scholarships and has had an increase in the number of kids using this funding in June.

Tobacco Funds – Frank Albertsen shared that the contract has been renewed and Rudy Papakee has been placing articles in the local newspapers.

Old Business – none noted.

New Business – *Approve and authorize Board Chair and Fiscal Agent to sign compliance Assurances* – Joyce Legg made a motion to approve and authorize the Board Chair and Fiscal Agent to sign Compliance Assurances. Jenn Stover seconded the motion. Motion passed.

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 – Darla Thiessen made a motion to approve the Board Chair to sign the Agreement. Jenn Stover seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Approve to have Laura Kopsa, Tama County Auditor continue as Fiscal Agent – Joyce Legg made the motion to have Laura Kopsa continue as the Fiscal Agent. Rick Vesely seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Approve to have Lori Johnson continue on as Empowerment Coordinator – Jenn Stover made the motion to have Lori Johnson continue on as Empowerment Coordinator. Darla Thiessen seconded the motion. Motion passed. Joyce Legg abstained from voting.

Approve and authorize Chair and Fiscal Agent to sign Fiscal Agent Agreement – Rick Vesely made the motion to approve and authorize the Chair and Fiscal Agent to sign the Fiscal Agent Agreement. Jenn Stover seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Approve Funding Sub-committee Recommendations – The June 29th Funding Sub-committee Meeting minutes were disbursed. After review of the minutes, Rick Vesely made the motion to approve the Funding Sub-committee Recommendations. Jenn Stover seconded the motion. Joyce Legg, Deb Schlichting, and Darla Thiessen abstained from voting. Motion passed.

All allocations are pending State approval.

Approve FY 10 Early Childhood and School Ready Community Empowerment Budgets – After review of the budgets, Jenn Stover made the motion to approve the FY 10 Early Childhood and School Ready Budgets as presented. Rick Vesely seconded the motion. Joyce Legg, Deb Schlichting, and Darla Thiessen abstained from voting. Motion passed.

Review and approve revised Project Coordinator Job Description – the job description has not been reviewed since 2000, and Ms. Johnson felt it should be reviewed. Three items were recommended to be added to the job description. Darla Thiessen made the motion to approve the revised Project Coordinator Job Description as presented. Jenn Stover seconded the motion. Joyce Legg abstained from voting. Motion passed. Those in attendance thanked Ms. Johnson for her hard work and helping them to keep the funding streams straight.

Re-designation - Timeline – It was noted that this next fiscal year we will be going through re-designation. Ms. Johnson presented a Timeline handout. It is felt that we should be able to go through the re-designation process during our regular scheduled Empowerment Board meetings, with the possibility of 1 extra meeting in August 2010. These meetings may be a little longer than usual.

Updates from the State – Lean Design Discussion - The LEAN event was held June 15 – 19th with a report held June 19th.

Empowerment staff, 5 local coordinators, state department directors, various agencies, and legislators attended this event.

The purpose of this event was to:

- Look at the empowerment structure and determine what works and what doesn't
- Determine recommendations for the 2010 legislative session
- Focus on what will propel empowerment and other early childhood initiatives to be the best system for all children in Iowa

Results were:

- Levels of excellence
- Regionalization
- State Structure
- Marketing

Timeline: Initially a map was presented to be recommended to legislature, with changes going into effect 7/1/2010. This map showed Tama County being combined with Jasper and Poweshiek.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

It is the intention of the team to have the necessary legislative changes take place during the 2010 legislative session.

A tiered system will be established for local empowerment areas to work towards higher levels of quality. The current system identifies each area as either being in compliance with regulations or not by being Designated or Conditionally Designated. The new system would offer specific criteria for reaching a new level of excellence. There would be incentives attached such as flexibility with funding, priority consideration for additional funding opportunities, access to nation system of quality Early Childhood programming and mentoring.

The number of local Empowerment areas will be reduced from 58 to approximately 35. Of those 35, 20 areas would remain unchanged. Some criteria considered in this process will be:

- no area larger than four counties,
- Single county areas with greater than 5,000 children 0 – 5 would remain single,
- Existing multi-county areas would not be split,
- Counties would combine with counties that share a border.

The concept of regionalization is being considered for fiscal, legal and auditing purposes.

The state structure of Empowerment (and the Early Childhood system) will be reorganized to increase efficiency, create one unified Early Childhood organization with one message that is easily recognized.

The leading movement in this effort will be the blending of Early Childhood Iowa and Empowerment.

The Technical Assistance team will be examined.

Also discussed was the need for a full-time legislative liaison for Early Childhood.

Marketing is also a piece of the big picture to be examined.

Summary of Recommendations was shared. This will be reviewed more at the meeting to be held with the legislatures next Wednesday, the 22nd at noon at ISU Extension.

Highlights were:

- Why a Review of Community Empowerment?
- How was the Lean Event conducted?
- Coordinators that attended were:
 - LeeVan Buren
 - Polk
 - Linn
 - Decorah
 - BeunaVista
- Priorities were Identified
- Recommendations were made
- Recommendations for Levels of Excellence were made:
 - Emerging – this level would reflect those areas that need additional support
 - Capacity Building – this level would reflect areas that are meeting the required expectations
 - Model – this level reflects an area that is surpassing the required expectations and would allow them to have additional flexibility and possibly offer various incentives.

It was agreed that Community empowerment Area boards should maintain the local/community planning piece.

- Recommendations for the State Structure and Marketing were made

Opportunity for Feedback will be reviewed at next weeks meeting.

Much discussion and frustrations were shared. Some in attendance felt we should remain a single county and should fight to remain a single county.

It was recommended that Ms. Johnson also contact Tom Rielly and Betty De Boef to attend this meeting next week as well.

Question was asked if there should be a sub-committee or the full board participating further in the Lean Design Discussion. It was felt that whoever can attend should attend.

Correspondence – Thank you cards were passed around for those in attendance to review.

Ms. Johnson shared an e-mail from Deb Scrowther regarding Healthy Home Update Documents that are available from the CDC. Ms. Johnson will forward this information to those that requested it.

Adjournment – Darla Thiessen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jenn Stover seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Johnson, Tama County Empowerment Coordinator

Reminder: SPECIAL Meeting will be July 22, 2009 at Noon

Next Regular Empowerment Board Meeting will be September 1st at ISU Extension at 12:00 Noon