



**Johnson County Empowerment Area Board
Meeting Minutes
May 1, 2008
6:30 to 8:15 PM
McAuley I, Mercy Medical Plaza
Iowa City, Iowa**

Board Members Present: Alice Atkinson, Sara Baird, Cheryl Whitney, Nancy Chown, Jill Dodds, Nadine Fisher, Joe Fleming, Carol Hans, Lisa Haverkamp, Suzanne Henry, Terri McGraw, Larry Meyers, Carol Nordquist, Brenda Parker, Justine Retz, Jean Saunders, Mary Scamman, Phyllis Tucker.

Others Present: Laurie Nash, Amy Correia

Members with Absence Excused: Sally Weyer, Mary Aquilino

Consent Agenda:

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of April Board Meeting Minutes
3. Accept Budget Reports
4. Accept Committee/Work Group Reports

Corrections to the April minutes are: Lisa Haverkamp should be included in the Absence Excused list. Ulrike Schultz (not Mike) was a guest. Abstaining from the Arc proposal vote were Nancy Chown, Terri McGraw, Phyllis Tucker, Jill Dodds, Justine Retz.

Consent agenda with corrections noted for the April Board Meeting minutes were approved with motion by Saunders and second by Hans.

Review of FY 09 requests for funds

Laurie reviewed the FY09 budget picture. The anticipated grant amounts are \$1,180,632. We have uncontracted dollars of \$52,915. It is expected that we will have significant carry over from programs that are underspending in FY 08. We are allowed \$294,808 in carryover for FY 08 (30%). Last year our carryover was 20.7%. Laurie expects our FY 08 carryover will be approximately 20%. The renewal requests total \$991,881.70. The FY 09 new requests total \$462,520. Requests total \$1,454,401 with a difference of \$220,854.70.

Work groups are reviewing the grant applications. The process is taking more time this year because the Health and Parent Education Work groups are reviewing proposals previously reviewed by the Early Education Workgroup (due to the number of conflict of interests within the Early Education Workgroup). There is a total of 4 new programs with these grant applications. All grant applications are posted on the Empowerment web site. The Board will make funding decision at the June meeting. Laurie and Alicia are providing each Board member a packet with all the renewal grant applications so members will not have to copy these from the web site. The packet will also include the grant review/comment worksheets.

Initial FY 09 budget

There is legislative language from the 08 session requiring Empowerment Boards to contract with Title V for services from the childcare nurse consultant. Two years ago the Legislature required Title V agencies to employ at least a .5FTE childcare nurse consultant but did not fund this mandate.

Approve Nominating Committee priorities and receive recruitment update

Sara Baird reported the Nominating Committee met April 17. They are suggesting the criteria to prioritize recruitment of new members: faith-based, rural (non-Iowa City), business, schools, consumers, nonwhite, male. The application for new board members will be updated and placed on the website. Recommendations for new members should be given to the Nominating Committee. The Board will vote on acceptance of new members at the September meeting.

Other Business/Public Comment

Letters of Support for Clear Creek/Amana and Lone Tree School Districts grant applications for the Voluntary Preschool Program: The Board reviewed the draft letters and approved them on the motion of Hans and second by Fleming.

Parent Education/Family Support Workgroup Meeting of March 13, 2008:

Laurie brought to the board's attention that providers are concerned about racism in our community and that the figures regarding the race of children in foster care are a reflection of this racism. Laurie suggested that Empowerment host a community-wide forum regarding racism. Amy Correia spoke about efforts by DHS and Juvenile Court to address the issue of disparate number of minority children in foster care. She also stated that the Iowa City Human Rights Commission recently held two public forums related to racism.

Adjourned at 8:04 PM.

Submitted by Cheryl Whitney

Questions about these minutes should be directed to Alice Atkinson at 319.337.4866 or amatkinson@mchsi.com