



**Johnson County Empowerment Area Board Executive Committee Minutes
November 23, 2009---5:00 to 6:15 PM
Johnson County Administration Building**

Present: Corey Watt, Sally Weyer, Sara Baird, Cheryl Whitney, Nadine Fisher, Laurie Nash, Amy Correia
Guests: Diane Dingbaum

Introductions: -were not needed

October Minutes-There were no concerns regarding the October minutes.

ARRA Funds-Laurie reported that she had signed the contract and submitted it to DHS by the due date. She met with An Fevold at Johnson County Social Services to discuss program procedures. Laurie reported that we are required to have an appeal process for the ARRA program. There was discussion about the details of that process in terms of number of days after the decision for the family to file their appeal, number of days for the Board to hear the appeal and then issue a Notice. The Early Ed Workgroup will make a recommendation for the Board's consideration at the December meeting.

Meeting Attendance and Quorum-Laurie explained that we are required to have 50% plus 1 for a quorum at our meetings. Thus, the current quorum number is 11. We did not have a quorum for this year's July and November meetings. Laurie stated that in the past the chair of the Nominating Committee (our Vice Chair per by-laws) sent letters to members who have poor attendance so they realize the problems this creates in conducting business.

Mediation Update-Anne Tucker provides mediation services at the rate of \$150 hr; she may be willing to negotiate on the fee. Diane reported that she spoke with Ms. Tucker and learned that she is willing to do a 1 hr meeting plus preparation of 45 minutes without charge. The Committee asked Laurie to follow up with Ms. Tucker so the process can begin as quickly as possible.

Contract Compliance-1st Quarter Reports-Laurie reported that there were no concerns identified during the reviews.

By-Law Changes: The December Board meeting will review the 2nd posting of proposed By-Law changes.

Obesity Task Force Pledge-Laurie reported that the Health Work Group recommended that the Board sign the Pledge and that work group members, Chuck Hesse and Pete Wallace volunteered to represent Empowerment on the Task Force. Corey was asked to sign the Pledge stating that Empowerment will be a member of the group.

Community Representative to Executive and Fiscal-Corey agreed to contact Sam Kinzer and Pat Kelley to see if either of them would be willing to serve as the Community Representative to the Executive and Fiscal Committees.

ARRA Implementation Policies: The Early Ed Workgroup is recommending that graduate students be eligible for child care services for a maximum of 1 year per child. They recommend that this be approved on a trial basis for 1 year.

Kathy Sweka-NAFCC-Laurie reported that Kathy had her site visit and is hoping to be accredited as an in-home child care provider.

Agenda for December meeting-Because there was not a quorum at last month's meeting, its action items will be added to the December agenda. The agenda should also include By-Law changes, Obesity Task Force information, attendance/quorum concerns, and an update on mediation.

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Watt.

Submitted by Cheryl Whitney Direct questions to Corey Watt at coreywatt@hotmail.com or 319 594 9319.

Johnson County is a safe and healthy community in which to learn, work, and live.

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