



**Johnson County Empowerment Area Board
Executive Committee
Meeting Minutes --- October 26, 2009
Second Floor Conference Room – Health & Human Services Building**

Present: Corey Watt, Sara Baird, Amy Correia, Lance Bolton, Sally Weyer, Laurie Nash
Guests: Diane Dingbaum

1. MOTION to approve the minutes from the September 21, 2009, meeting was approved. The agenda for today's meeting was then amended to delete item 7(a) and add mediation as 3(c).
2. Information items.
 - a. Funding cut. Laurie reported that the original formula to determine the funding cuts was not accurate and that the new formula has not been made public yet. DHS is likely to cut the federal funds that they distribute to empowerment boards, resulting in early childhood funds being cut. Various budget scenarios were distributed and discussed including a budget with a 3.5% cut for early childhood funds and a 4.5% cut for school ready funds. The committee noted that the recommendation made at the joint fiscal and executive committee meeting last week will not be an option now that early childhood funds are likely to be cut. It was noted that QRS funding is going to be cut at the state level. The committee questioned what 4Cs staff will do without state support. Laurie will talk to 4Cs about that issue. Corey proposed that the board request that DHS de-link the QRS requirement from the ARRA funds. Laurie reported that the empowerment boards in Washington, Henry and Linn counties are protesting the state plan for budget cuts; those areas want to make funding decisions locally. There will be a spend-down report for the next board meeting. A MOTION was made to abandon the 10/19/09 committee recommendation and substitute a recommendation to present a budget to the board that will cut early childhood funds by 3.5% and school ready funds by 4.5% as a proposal. The motion was seconded and APPROVED.
 - b. ARRA funds. Laurie reported that we will now receive more funding than originally anticipated and the new figure is \$91,875 of which \$4,593 can be used for administrative expenses.
 - c. Mediation. Corey noted that there has been a change in board leadership since mediation was requested. He proposed that that, before the board proceeds further with the request for mediation, he and Lance sit down and meet with the two agencies involved. The committee discussed the issue of mediation, the state's response/plan and the history of the request for mediation. The committee decided that the request for mediation should be put on the agenda for the next board meeting.
3. Recommendations to Board. Laurie distributed the proposed by-laws changes and noted that the plan is to have the first discussion of the changes at the November meeting and vote in December. Board members are asked to contact Laurie as soon as possible with any changes/suggestions. The committee discussed appointing community representatives to both the executive and fiscal committees. Corey will contact board members to determine interest.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sally Weyer

Questions should be directed to Corey Watt at 319.594.9319 or coreywatt@hotmail.com