

Northwest Iowa Community Empowerment

CHEROKEE * LYON * PLYMOUTH * SIOUX

"Security and success for children by strengthening families and communities."

Officers

Rick Droog
Chairperson

Mark Sybesma
Secretary

Jim Henrich
Vice Chair

Joyce Vermeer
Empowerment Cord

Takysia Larsen
Early Childhood Cord

Joy Poppema
Admin Assistant

Voting Members

Deb Bagenstos
Principal River Valley

Randy Bosch
Lyon County Supervisor

Janice R. Carlson
Cher Reg Medical Center

Jeanne Feeck
DHS representative

Bev Hanno
Child Care

Audrey Hansen
Area Education Agency IV

Mark Leeds
Cherokee Co. Supervisor

Dale Lint
Faith Community Rep

Kendra Loutsch
Mid-Sioux Opportunity

**Coleman
McAllister**
County Attorney

Julie Schulenberg
CAASA Director

Joanne Smith
Education

David VanNingen
Decategorization
Governance Board

Shane Walter
Citizen/Consumer

Minutes

December 1, 2009 1:00 PM

Upstairs Conference Room – Sioux County Office Bldg
Orange City, IA

I. Welcome and Introductions

Rick welcomed all in attendance. Members present: Mark Sybesma, Randy Bosch, Jim Henrich, Dale Lindt, Joanne Smith, Kendra Loutsch, Bev Hanno, Shane Walter, Rick Droog, Audrey Hansen, and Coleman McAllister. Members absent: Mark Leeds, David VanNingen, Jeanne Feeck, Janice R. Carlson. Staff present: Joyce Vermeer, Joy Poppema & Takysia Larsen. Guests present: Julie Schulenberg, Deb Bagenstos and Dawn Sickelka.

II. Review/Approve Minutes of September 10, 2009 (Action)

Coleman made a motion to approve minutes of September 10, 2009, Joanne supported the motion and approved unanimously.

III. Old Business

No old business.

IV. Iowa's Lean Design Plan for Empowerment (Information)

Joyce presented information regarding the Lean Design Event that is currently being proposed for Iowa Empowerment. There are currently 58 community empowerment areas (CEA) and the goal is to narrow it down to between 30-38 empowerment areas. Iowa Community Empowerment (ICE) is giving local areas the opportunity to give input as to how the areas will be divided. No county can stand alone any longer unless they have a 0-5 population of 5,000, and no more than four counties can be a CEA together (there may be some flexibility with this requirement) and counties within a CEA need to have a contiguous border. Instead of designation, CEA's areas would then have levels of excellence. It is also proposed that Empowerment will join Early Childhood Iowa, which would mean a name change.

Cherokee/Ida County: Ida has to join with another CEA, and there were some individuals in Cherokee that wanted exploration for Cherokee breaking off from E and joining with Ida County. NICE staff held a forum to get input from individuals from the Cherokee County Planning Council and early childhood professionals in which input was gathered. A survey was conducted at this forum after much discussion and the results of the survey are as follows: "Do you want

to further explore Cherokee County breaking away from NICE and joining Ida County?" 8 voted to have Cherokee County stay with NICE, 2 voted to further explore the option of breaking away and 14 (all) said they understand more about NICE as a result of this meeting.

B. 2010 Redesign Suspension: Joyce presented a letter from ICE stating the suspension of redesignation while lean design is underway.

V. Report from the By-Laws Committee (Action)

Coleman presented the 3rd draft of the restated and amended By-laws. The NICE Governing Board is now stated as NICE Board, language was added regarding Iowa Code Chapter 28 - Community Empowerment Act, and NICE Board membership is defined clearer. Coleman recommended board members look at the section that will now state that if board members miss (unexcused) three consecutive absences a member will be terminated from the NICE Board without any other action needed. The By-Laws also clarify the relationship between the planning councils and advisory boards and explain that they have no independent decision making authority, they are strictly advisory. Now within the By-Laws is the authority to the executive director to move up to \$2,000 within the budget without NICE board approval. This has already been occurring in practice and needed to be spelled out within the by-laws. Coleman brought up the issue of having a quorum to have a vote, majority plus one – right now 9 people are needed in attendance, and five people need to vote yes in order for a motion to pass. These are received as information, voting for approval will occur at next meeting.

VI. Report from the Nominating Committee (Action)

Bev reported that male/female ratio is good and County representation is also good according to the 0-5 population of each. The Nominating Committee would like more representation at planning councils from NICE Board members. Also, the Nominating Committee requests that females be added to the Executive Finance Committee. Deb Bagenstos and Julie Schulenberg are visiting and are currently NICE Board candidates. Mark Sybesma moved to approve both candidates for NICE Board and to accept Kathy Tritz-Rhodes resignation. Motion seconded by Jim and approved unanimously.

VII. Financials through 10-31-09 (Action)

Joyce explained that NICE is 33% of the way through the fiscal year and has expended \$250,564 of the \$1,100,886. Audrey made motion to approve financial, Joanne seconded and approved unanimously.

VIII. Utilization of Preschool Scholarships (Action)

Joyce presented that NICE is currently spending \$28,432 each month on scholarships – 298 scholarships. Staff is predicting a shortfall since the program is being used so extensively. Total allocation is \$203,720 and \$43,717 has been spent as of October 31, 2009. Option A) Fund all scholarships through February and have parents pay ½ scholarships March - May and have \$3500 carryover. B) Fund scholarships through March then stop completely with \$17,840 carryover C) Fund scholarships through March then find \$40,000 from general aid. Audrey made motion to take \$18,000 from *Your Child's Workshops*, taking the remainder of what is needed from *QRS Grants for Centers (E14)* and *Training/Consulting (E18)* at the discretion of NICE staff. Motion seconded by Dale and approved unanimously.

IX. Across the Board 10% State Cut (Action)

Joyce explained we need to cut 7% from Early Childhood (\$4,135) and 10% from School Ready (\$87,000). Option 1) Specific Selection - staff went through the budget to try to protect research and evidence based programs so those programs will not have to be cut or not cut as much 1a) Specific Selection plus take away 4% increase to NICE staff 2) 10% cut across the board. Jim commented

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that it would not make sense to cut 10% across the board, or to cut employee salaries. Mark Sybesma indicated that Specific Selection looks well thought-out. Dale made a motion to approve, seconded by Audrey and approved unanimously.

X. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funds

(Action)

Joyce explained how the ARRA funds increased from \$19,000 to \$23,000 since some CEA's rejected the money. This money pays for child care for infants and toddlers and can only be used with programs that are a QRS level 3 and above. Joyce presented the ARRA budget. Jim made a motion to approve, Coleman seconded and approved unanimously.

XI. New Business *(Information)*

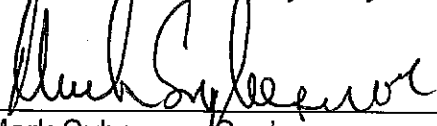
No new business.

XII. Next Meeting, March 11, 2010

XIII. Adjourn

Rick adjourned the meeting at 2:28pm.

Minutes submitted by Takysia Larsen



Mark Sybesma, Sec'y

3-11-10
Date