

**WASHINGTON COUNTY EMPOWERMENT
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BOARD OPERATIONS & ASSESSMENTS COMMITTEE

Minutes

**December 18, 2007 12:30
Washington Library, 2nd floor
120 E main
Washington, IA 52353**

Members present: Tasha Beghtol, Jim Miksch, Edie Nebel, and Janis Gruber

1. Redesignation –
 - a. Current update - Tasha handed out the final updates for the community plan. Revisions included additional outcome narrative as required by the state team members for redesignation.
 - b. 2011 process – Tasha handed out and reviewed the new tools for redesignation 2009-2011. She noted that several new items had been added to the list of things that must be submitted to the state. The Board self evaluation form is still a part of the packet, but no longer needs to be submitted as a document for redesignation. Board Bylaws have been added to the list of required documents and Tool X provides guidance on general items that may be included in bylaws.

2. Membership –
 - a. board status for summer 2008 – Tasha noted that Sue Kos and Mark Schneider are ending their 3rd terms in June 2008. Evan Parrott, Wellman Elementary, has indicated that he would be willing to replace Mark as Education representative. Tasha will follow-up with Evan.
 - b. Conflict of interest (provider definition) – Discussion was had concerning the definition of ‘provider’ and citizen membership. Tasha explained that renewed conversation, specifically targeted at local Empowerment Boards, has taken place at several events and meetings recently. Concern for local Boards with members who receive funding both directly and indirectly has been expressed at the state level.

Tasha noted that representation from Education, Human Services, and Health is mandatory. Finding Washington Co representatives to fulfill these requirements and not be connected to local empowerment funding would be challenging.

Extreme caution has been advised when seating any member who provides childcare and/or preschool. Discussion was held regarding Paula Buckwalter and the increased state concern for providers. Members noted that Paula represents an important and vital voice to the Board and has always abstained from voting when appropriate. Based on increased concern at the state level for provider membership, committee members agreed by consensus to recommend that Paula's Board term expire on January 31, 2008.

3. Transportation survey – Tasha reviewed the transportation recommendation made by the feasibility study. She explained that a previous committee had suggested a survey to determine what organizations might have transportation services and if they would be willing to collaborate with Empowerment to provide an affordable program that may benefit local families utilizing services. Members provided feedback on a draft letter and questions to be mailed out. Further planning and discussion for a possible transportation program will continue after information is received.

VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT: All individuals within the Washington County Empowerment Area will have a community that values and provides the opportunity to maximize their potential in a safe, stable, and nurturing environment, through partnering and collaborative efforts.