

Minutes
Washington County Empowerment
February 28, 2008

Board Members Present: Lonna Blodgett (citizen), Janis Gruber (faith), Jim Miksch (Board of Supervisors), Jennifer Callahan (citizen), Anna Rich (citizen), Sue Kos (vice-chair, education)

Board Members Absent: Edie Nebel, (treasurer- Health), Megan Jones-Schiebel (chair-citizen), Delores Carpenter (human services), Mark Schneider (education),

Advisory members present: Tasha Beghtol (Empowerment Coordinator), Carine Porter (Child Care Nurse Consultant), Lori Hobscheidt (Parents Place Coordinator)

Meeting called to order @ 4:30pm with a quorum established

Minutes of the January 23, 2008 meeting were approved as submitted. Motion by Jim Miksch, second by Sue Kos. Motion carried.

Financial Report: Financial report was handed out and reviewed by Tasha Beghtol. It was noted that some corrections were needed in SR Admin (general admin), SR General (GWAEA – QPPS), and Preschool Support (CART). Tasha explained that checks were issued correctly, but amounts were applied to incorrect line items. The copy of the financial report submitted to the Board reflected corrected totals as adjusted by Tasha Beghtol. Corrections have been identified for GEODE and should be reflected on their next report.

Coordinator Report: Tasha Beghtol handed out and reviewed revised financial statements for FY07. Carveout totals were incorrect in the original report submitted to the state along with the annual report. Tasha explained that the carveout amounts were changed when the *quality improvement* funds were allocated, but that the new spreadsheet was not received by WCE. Shanell Wagler, state empowerment office, was contacted and confirmed that adjusted amounts were not sufficiently sent out to all empowerment areas. Corrections were made to the financial report (totals were not affected by changes), reviewed by Treasurer, Edie Nebel, and sent to the Office of Empowerment.

Tasha handed out and reviewed the *FY07 School Ready Carry Forward and Financial Review* as provided by the Office of Empowerment. 15 areas violated the 30% allowable carryover policy equaling \$1.4 mil. Tasha explained that discussion was taking place at the state level regarding the total carry forward of all empowerment areas equaling \$10.4 mil. It was noted that legislators may set a new mandate allowing between 6 to 10% carry forward and that the total empowerment school ready allocations may be reduced for FY09. Tasha explained that if total allocations were cut, then all areas would be affected.

Tasha handed out and reviewed a WCE Resolution for the Riverboat Foundation Grant Application. Motion by Jim Miksch, second by Lonna Blodgett to approve resolution as submitted. Motion carried.

Program Reports:

Carine Porter provided information about the Child Care Nurse Consultant position and how it works with providers seeking enrollment and completion of the Quality Rating System. Carine noted her work with Health & Safety trainings for local providers and how the QRS system can benefit childcare businesses. The QRS website may be a resource for parents to find providers with completed ratings, but Carine and Tasha explained that it is often outdated. Tasha noted that she could put QRS information on the WCE website.

Lori Hobscheidt provided a brief overview of The Parents Place program and how local low-income families can benefit. Participants must meet WIC income guidelines and can earn points for attending basic trainings and/or appointments. Points are redeemed at WIC clinics for necessity items only. Approximately 150 families are currently enrolled. Lori noted that the program has undergone some changes recently with more regulations in place to establish an efficient system that works better for parents and program management.

Meeting adjourned 5:40pm

Next meeting scheduled for March 27, 2008