

Minutes
Washington County Empowerment
March 27, 2008

Board Members Present: Edie Nebel (treasurer- Health), Megan Jones-Schiebel (chair-citizen), Jim Miksch (Board of Supervisors), Jennifer Callahan (citizen), Anna Rich (citizen), Sue Kos (vice-chair, education), Mark Schneider (education), Delores Carpenter (human services), Jo Weidner (citizen)

Board Members Absent: Lonna Blodgett (citizen), Janis Gruber (faith),

Advisory members present: Tasha Beghtol (Empowerment Coordinator), Melissa Walker (Washington SD), Mary Airy (Grant Wood AEA), Lori Lamb (CCR&R), Susan Gray (4Cs), Brenda Miles

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

Minutes of the February 28, 2008 meeting were approved as submitted. Motion by Jim Miksch, second by Jennifer Callahan. Motion carried.

Program Reports:

Child Care Resource and Referral – Lori Lamb handed out reviewed several documents explaining the different areas of quality improvement and services that she provides to Washington Co home based child care providers. Lori provided information about her consultant activities, the REAP incentive program, the Literacy Program, the Quality Rating System, and DHS requirements for providers. Lori noted that CCR&R is not a regulatory agency like DHS. CCR&R provides technical support to help providers achieve above and beyond DHS requirements if they choose to. Lori noted that DHS does random spot checks on 20% of providers each year. Sue Kos asked how many counties Lori currently works in. Answer: 4. Lori noted that Washington Co providers faired good in comparison with other counties.

4Cs – Susan Gray handed out and reviewed an activity report. Information was shared regarding quality improvement work with centers and preschools, REAP program, and QRS. Susan noted that providers appreciate not driving to Iowa City for trainings and that was reflected in a low fall conference attendance. Timing of trainings is critical to ensure good attendance and some concern for training ‘burn out’ may mean that 4Cs will implement less trainings for next year, but focus on those that occur and best times of the year. Discipline and Guidance training seems to be most popular. Susan was asked how the 2 REAP programs work together. Lori and Susan explained that they designed the program as a joint effort and they are very similar, but not identical.

Grant Wood AEA, IQPPS – Mary Airy handed and reviewed information regarding the current participants in the Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards. Washington Co currently has 5 centers/preschools in year 2 of the process and 5 centers/preschools-completing year 1. Mary noted that the QPPS evaluation is of the program, not the staff. QPPS is a bridge between DHS and DE.

Washington District, 4 yr old preschool application – Melissa Walker handed out and reviewed information regarding current status of the preschool application and participation of community partners. Meetings have taken place with providers and there are currently 4 private preschools collaborating with the District to be a part of the application. Meetings will continue to occur and parent involvement is welcome.

Coordinator Report:

Tasha Beghtol handed out and reviewed the revised 08-09 preschool scholarship application. Sue Kos noted that Riverside might need to be added to the list on page 4. Tasha will confirm and add to the list before distribution. Megan Jones-Scheibel asked about the Head Start question on page 3. Tasha explained that Head Start enrollment is priority because it is federal funding. Empowerment should refer

clients to Head Start if they notice that they are eligible and have not applied, but WCE recognizes parental choice and does not require a child to attend Head Start. Tasha regularly checks with HS and they are typically full with a waiting list. If HS indicates a need to fill slots, then WCE will respond with plan of action for scholarships. Motion by Edie Nebel, second by Jim Miksch, to approve the 08-09 Preschool Scholarship Application with the addition of Riverside if applicable. Motion carried.

Megan Jones-Scheibel reviewed the FY09 Request For Proposal handout and noted revisions. Edie Nebel asked about the new column in the budget to identify matching funds. Specifically noting the Child Care Nurse Consultant position, matching funds could include numerous sources and numerous funding streams. Tasha agreed that sharing extensive Public Health funding on the budget would not be helpful to RFP readers, but clarified that if a proposed program requires other funding streams to accomplish the goals indicated in the WCE request, then it should be included. If the CCNC position includes other duties and other funding not applicable to the WCE contract, then those funds are not required to be on the WCE request. Motion by Mark Schneider, second by Sue Kos, to approve FY09 Request For Proposal as submitted. Motion carried.

Tasha reviewed the Riverboat Grant application. Final revisions will be made and the grant will be submitted on April 4, 2008. Members agreed by consensus that Tasha will be noted as primary contact and providing the signature on the final copy in place of Megan Jones Scheibel. Motion by Sue Kos, second by Jim Miksch, to approve the Riverboat application. Motion carried.

Financial Report: Edie Nebel reviewed the financial report and request for change of line item funding in the CCNC budget. A new person has been hired for the position and will allow for more accessibility in Washington Co. The position has been previously borrowed from Des Moines Co since October 2007. Budget changes requested reflect the new personnel and training. Motion by Mark Schneider, second by Sue Kos, to approve line item changes in the Child Care Nurse Consultant budget as submitted. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15pm
Next meeting scheduled for April 24, 2008