

Minutes
Washington County Empowerment
September 25, 2008

Board Members Present: Janis Gruber (vice-chair, faith), Jim Miksch (Board of Supervisors), Lonna Blodgett (citizen), Jennifer Callahan (citizen), Delores Carpenter (human services), Anna Rich (citizen), Evan Parrott (education)

Board Members Absent: Megan Jones-Schiebel (chair-citizen), Edie Nebel (treasurer- Health)

Advisory members present: Tasha Beghtol, Renella Crawford, Jeannie Pedrick, Mary Ann Williams

Meeting called to order @ 4:30pm with a quorum established. Janis Gruber is acting chairperson in Megan Jones absence.

Motion by Jim Miksch, second by Lonna Blodgett, to approve minutes of the August 28, 2008 meeting as submitted. Motion carried.

Financial Report

Current financial report from Geode RC&D was handed out and reviewed. Tasha Beghtol noted that a few changes have been identified to adjust the report to accurately reflect the new FY09 budget. Changes to be done do not reflect errors in spending or accounting.

Coordinator report:

Tasha Beghtol handed out and reviewed the list of participants who collaborated to submit a Riverboat Foundation grant for playground assistance. Karen Sherman from the National Playground Compliance Group supplied formal estimates for all of the 9 participating sites. The total cost for submission to the Riverboat is based on full service quotes. Renella Crawford asked if an award is made are the preschools required to use the company that provided the estimates. Members noted that previous Riverboat awards were not subject to specific contractors. If WCE receives the playground grant, then participating sites may choose to utilize other playground providers as long as the initial project plan is being completed. Motion by Evan Parrott, second by Jim Miksch, to approve Tasha Beghtol to complete a Riverboat application based on the playground estimates provided and submit the application after approval by the Board Operations committee. Motion carried.

The new state Tool P was handed out. Tasha Beghtol noted that new policies are currently being discussed and developed regarding mid year reporting and amended budgets. More information will be shared after the Iowa Empowerment Board meets in November.

Program Committee:

Anna Rich provided an update and overview of the preschool transportation meeting. Representatives were present from local preschools, Mini Bus, Empowerment, and the Washington School District. It was determined that 3 & 5 year olds may still need Empowerment support for transportation FY09. The Washington district is not supplying preschool transportation at this time and individual preschools will be responsible for meeting the transportation needs of their students. Based on information shared Jim Miksch made the motion to increase the FY09 transportation budget, contracted through Washington Co Mini Bus, by \$5,600. Evan Parrott seconded the motion. Motion carried. The total FY09 transportation budget contracted to Mini Bus is \$7,600.

A request for additional funding from Parents as Teachers (PAT) was handed out and discussed. Karen Arbuckle provided clarification for the additional costs in the FY09 budget. PAT plans to enhance programs with the addition of Music Play & Therapy provided by Elizabeth Tinnes and staff has also

noted a need for additional salary due to the extensive time that will be required to successfully complete the peer review process. Jim Miksch asked Tasha for a general opinion on the proposal from PAT. Tasha explained that she does not provide recommendations for proposals that come to the Board. Jim noted her concerns, but requested some direction be provided as the Board Coordinator. Tasha explained that the Board has unallocated funds that need to be considered and the additional request from PAT is reasonable and valid. Motion by Lonna Blodgett, second by Anna Rich, to approve additional funding to Parents as Teachers for FY09 in the amount of \$15,401.76. Motion carried. Total FY09 contract for PAT is \$169,901.76.

Tasha Beghtol explained that the FY09 budget needs to be amended to ensure proper categorical spending to cover the additional funds just allocated to PAT. Motion by Jim Miksch, second by Jennifer Callahan, to move \$3,132.18 for CCNC from School Ready Other to Early Childhood. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45pm