

PALO ALTO & KOSSUTH COUNTIES



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

PAK Empowerment Board Meeting Minutes October 22nd, 2007 At Smith Wellness Center in Emmetsburg

Mission:

- * Provide developmentally appropriate learning experiences for all children age's birth to five.
- * Provide training support to parents and other caregiver of the birth to five populations.
- * Prepare children age birth to five with the skills needed to learn to be ready to take advantage of educational opportunities and learn to the best of their ability.

Voting Members Present

Dini Anderson
Roberta Anderson
Nancy Clark
Ted Erb
Barb Grandstaff
Arlet Johnson
Mike Orthel
Ellen Picray
Jack Plathe
Blair Redenius
Erv Rowlands
Marc Singer
Sara Stevens
Linda Tienter
Billie Wille
Keith Wirtz

*recorded absence

Voting Members Absent

Dixie Meyer

Others Present (non-voting)

Sara Curtis
Kristin Faber
Paige Hollinger
Amanda Schmidt
Carol Blass
Betsy Moritz
Robin Montgomery

The meeting was called to order at 1:15 p.m. at Smith Wellness Center in Emmetsburg

Administrative Items

- A. The minutes** from the Sept. 24th board meeting were read. Jack Plathe made a motion to approve the minutes. Ellen Picray seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- B. Introduce New board members** – Ted Erb was introduced as a new board member to replace Jerry Hofstad in the Palo Alto County Supervisors position on

- the board. Linda Tienter was introduced as a new board member to replace David VanOosbree in the Palo Alto school board position. A motion was made to approve Ted Erb and Linda Tienter as new board members. The motion passed.
- C. The budget and expenditures sheets** were distributed and read. Paige shared that we will have more money allocated in Tuition Assistance as she is still receiving more applications. She anticipates that we will spend most of that allocation. Marc Singer questioned the overage on CDI forms. Paige explained that forms cost more than anticipated due to the large number of children currently on tuition assistance. Marc Singer made a motion to accept the budget and expenditure sheets. Roberta Anderson seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- D. Update on Tuition Assistance**– Paige reported that currently we have approximately 150 children on tuition assistance. She still is receiving new applications. Most of the preschools have signed their contracts and are receiving tuition payments. Paige is in process of scoring Child Development Inventories.
- E. Set up Outcome Committee Meeting** – Paige shared the need for the outcome committee to meet to review program reports from FY '07. They will set a meeting time after the board meeting. (Oct. 29th at 8:00 at the AEA in Algona)
- F. Board Training –Update on budget carve outs and uses** Paige reported on the various carve outs and passed out legislation and information from the state Empowerment toolkit on each area.
- G. Fall Fun activities** – Paige shared that we had good turn out for the fall fun event at Bertha Godfrey in Algona and the Wellness Center Gym in Emmetsburg. She and Sara set up a few different fall art activities, some games and playdough for parents to do with their child. 141 different people attended the two events. 49 families (17 PA/32 K) 79 children (31 PA/ 48 K)

II. Developmentally Appropriate Learning Experiences

- A. Wolverine Den Report** – Amanda Schmidt reported for the Den as both a school representative and parent. She shared a power point presentation of the Den. This summer they moved from a modular to a couple rooms at St. Peter and Paul church. With the Empowerment funding for expansion they have been able to add a new toddler and infant room. They have partnered with West Bend/Mallard schools to provide lunches for the children. Amanda thanked the board for the funding for this expansion project.
- B. KIDS Program Report** – Betsy Moritz reported for the KIDS program. She introduced Robin Montgomery to the board as one of the KIDS workers who provides services in Palo Alto and Kossuth. Betsy shared on the history of the KIDS program and shared that 98% of the families they work with are high risk. She shared a digital video presentation of a family story in the words of the mom. Betsy is also privileged to be able to represent family support to a legislative committee. Betsy thanked the board for their continued support of their program.

III. Open discussion

Paige shared that our insurance is up for renewal. She talked with the representative to gain a better understanding of our coverage. Presently equipment breakage is not covered. There was discussion on the need for this and what was covered by the AEA. The recommendation was to stay with the current insurance and look further into the need for more coverage for the next board meeting.

Paige asked the board about the need for having the December board meeting as it is the week before Christmas. The board was in agreement to cancel the December board meeting and reschedule the programs are scheduled to report for another board meeting.

Billie Wille made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jack Plathe seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The next board meeting is set for Nov. 26th at 1:15 at the First United Methodist Church in Algona.

State Empowerment Web Site www.empowerment.state.ia.us

PAK Empowerment Web Site www.pakempowerment.com