



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

PAK Empowerment Board Meeting Minutes February 23rd, 2009 At ILCC 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.

<u>Voting Members Present</u>	<u>Voting Members Absent</u>	<u>Others Present (non-voting)</u>
Dini Anderson	Keith Buckridge	Sara Curtis
Roberta Anderson	Ted Erb	Paige Hollinger
Donna Bonnstetter	Arlet Johnson*	Lynn Beisch
Nancy Clark	Dixie Meyer*	Kristin Faber
Jon Dunbar	Marc Singer*	
Barb Grandstaff		
Ellen Picray		
Jack Plathe		
Erv Rowlands		
Linda Tienter		
Billie Wille		
Keith Wirtz		
*recorded absence		

The meeting was called to order at 1:15 p.m. at ILCC in Emmetsburg

I. Administrative Items

A. Introductions-

B. Approve Minutes from Jan. 26th Meeting – Ellen Picray made a motion to approve the minutes. Nancy Clark seconded the motion and the motion passed.

C. Distribute budget and monthly expenditure sheets – Paige distributed the monthly budget and expenditure sheets. She shared that we are on track for our spending to have less than 20% carry over. Paige noted some of the categories where the full allotment will not be spent. Erv Rowlands made a motion to approve the monthly budget and expenditure sheets. Jack Plathe seconded the

motion and the motion passed. Jon Dunbar inquired about the website. Erv Rowlands suggested linking the website to school and Jack Plathe suggested checking into linking it with the counties to make more families aware of the website.

- D. Governor's FY2010 budget recommendations** – Paige shared that the Governor's proposed budget cuts Empowerment by around 14%. The final amounts will be decided in the legislature this spring.
- E. Report of Early Childhood Congress** – Paige shared that she, Kristin Faber and Sara Curtis attended the Early Childhood Congress and Day on the Hill. She had a chance to talk with our legislators (Marcella Frevert, and Dolores Mertz) as well as other legislators not from our area. They sat in on an Education Appropriations committee meeting where Shanell Wagler presented for Empowerment. Paige shared with our legislators the need to continue with preschool support as we have no other funding to pay for preschool in our area. Paige shared that she will also be keeping contact with our legislators and will encourage them to support local control and not increase the requirements with program funding. Although we have 3 programs in the credentialing process, further restrictions make it difficult to design programs around what works best in our own area. Sara Curtis passed around a picture from the newspaper of Kristin and Paige with 2 of our legislators.
- F. KIDS Program Report** – Lynn Beisch reported that the KIDS program received their final peer review in Dec. and received the report in Feb that they had not received credentialing. They have 90 days to form a plan that addresses the issues they did not receive a sufficient score in. The positive was that the areas they need to comply on deal with policy issues and not with their services to families. The state has assigned them 2 Technical Assistants that will help them to become credentialed. Lynn also reported that Sarah Johnson the KIDS worker in Palo Alto has resigned to take a position elsewhere. She will be missed. The KIDS program is prioritizing needs of families and is working with other agencies to meet family needs. Even in lieu of budget cuts the board encouraged the KIDS program to start the process of rehiring for Sarah's position. They encouraged the KIDS program to be honest with applicants about possible cuts, but remains hopeful that this position will continue to be funded. The board agreed that we cannot leave these families without the support they need.
- G. Outcomes and Personnel Committees to meet** – Paige will e-mail those on the personnel committee and the outcomes committee to set a meeting this month. She will post committee agendas and minutes on the website.
- H. Policy Procedure Meeting** – The board received a copy of the committee minutes along with a revised copy of the by-laws. The committee used the state template to revise the by-laws and then submitted them to the state for review. The committee met again to review suggestions from the state and to make necessary changes to by-laws. Paige noted that the most significant changes were in the area of quorum and membership. The membership rules were changed to reflect only those that are required by the state. Although this does not affect our current membership, it allows for more flexibility in replacing board members. Another change in the by-laws requires board members to have full communication with board via technology in order to be counted in quorum and to be allowed voting privileges. Paige encouraged the board to read through the by-laws carefully. She will submit them to the redesignation team for review. Erv Rowlands made a motion to accept the first reading. Keith Wirtz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

- I. Mid-Year Program Reports** – Board received copies of mid-year program reports. Lynn Beisch explained some about the Life Skills Progression Form and the newness of working with it in their program. Some of the outcome measurements were lower, but as they continue to work with families and become more familiar with the tools she hopes scores will improve.
- J. Statewide Voluntary Preschool update** – Paige shared that 5 of our area districts are planning on applying for statewide funding. The process is difficult for districts and Paige is working with districts to help form their area plan.

II. Program Reports –

- A. Palo Alto Nursery Report** – Patty Kelly reported for Nursery. She shared that nursery runs 3 mornings a week from 8:15-11:15. They average 18 children and have the ability to care for 4 infants and 24 toddlers. Children attending represent 6 towns. They have had 6 parenting classes with an average of 20 parents attending. Sara Curtis asked that since they were collaborating with the KIDS program with these classes, if these parenting numbers also included parents from the KIDS program. Patty said this number reflected parents from nursery. The first parent meeting had around 38 parents in attendance including those from the KIDS program. They have had parent info and discussions on finances, fun things to do with kids, connecting to the community, things to reduce stress. Nursery Meets at Trinity Episcopal Church. Erv Rowlands inquired as to where they advertise. Patty reported that they send flyers through schools, advertise on the roll-up, and through brochures. Billie Wille asked about the children in attendance that come with childcare provider. Patty reported that 1-2 childcare providers work on staff. Billie Wille asked if they are receiving childcare payment from parents while bring the child to nursery. Ellen Picray reiterated that we need to watch paying double. Patty reported that they are not billing for daycare during that time, but will check further.
- B. Childcare Coordinator Report** – Kristin Faber reported on working with child care providers. She sends out a newsletter to all known childcare providers, both registered and unregistered. Kristin passed around materials that she gives to new childcare providers. Kristin provides training in each county monthly. An Iowa Early Learning Standards class was also offered this fall and winter. Kristin is working with the Childcare Nurse Consultants to provide training and to encourage providers to meet with the nurse consultant. The nurse consultant will go through the safety check list and can use Empowerment funds to replace broken or recalled materials.

C. Open Discussion-

Ellen Picray made a motion to adjourn, Donna Bonstetter seconded the motion and the motion passed.

III. Next Meeting - The next board meeting is set for March 23rd at 1:15 at AEA in Algona

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

PAK Empowerment Web Site www.pakempowerment.com

