



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

PAK Empowerment Board Meeting Minutes March 23rd, 2009 At the AEA in Algona

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	Donna Bonnstetter*	Sara Curtis
Roberta Anderson (arrived 1:27)	Keith Buckridge*	Paige Hollinger
Nancy Clark	Barb Grandstaff	Kristin Faber
Jon Dunbar	Erv Rowlands*	Melissa Tolzin
Ted Erb		
Arlet Johnson		
Dixie Meyer (arrived 1:25)		
Ellen Picray		
Jack Plathe		
Marc Singer		
Linda Tienter		
Billie Wille (arrived 1:25)		
Keith Wirtz		

*recorded absence

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

I. Administrative Items

- A. Approve Minutes from Feb 23rd Meeting** – Jack Plathe made a motion to approve the minutes. Keith Wirtz seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- B. Distribute budget and monthly expenditure sheets** – Paige distributed the monthly budget and expenditure sheets. She shared that she changed around the expenditures in Kristin's supplies and incentives to more accurately reflect the purpose of the expenditures and to balance out the line items. Total amount between the line items is the same. A question was asked to clarify the TANF – Early Childhood grant versus School Ready. Paige explained that the Early

Childhood grant is from federal funding and is used to expand quality and capacity of childcare. Our School Ready grant is state funded. Paige shared that she will be contacting programs again this month to estimate where we are in regards to carry over for this year. Ellen Picray made a motion to approve the monthly budget and expenditure sheets. Marc Singer seconded the motion and the motion passed.

- C. Results Accountability Training** – Paige shared that the Lakes Area Empowerment is hosting results accountability training on Tues. April 14th for coordinators and board members. Paige will be attending and if there are any board members that are interested, please let her know.
- D. Committee List** – Arlet explained that she tried to use the committee interest survey to assign committees. While assigning committees she also took into account possible conflicts of interest. Marc Singer made a motion to accept committee assignments. Billie Wille seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- E. FY 09 Tuition Assistance Applications** – (Should be FY 10) Paige explained that she has not sent out tuition assistance applications for next year. Because of the difficulty collecting paperwork, she is planning on having parents complete all paperwork upon applying. She would like to wait until we have a better idea of funding and until we know if any schools receive statewide funding before sending out applications. This way we can have only the parents who will be eligible for funding complete the paperwork. She will work with preschools at the end of this school year to send out applications.
- F. School Ready Grant Applications** – Paige passed around a copy of the application that was sent out to programs, posted on the website and noted in the newspaper. Applications are due April 15th, 2009. One program questioned whether they should be applying for school ready or early childhood. She explained that the board collects applications and fits the program to the outcomes desired with the funding. Paige noted that next year we will change the name on the application to reflect both funding from School Ready and Early Childhood.
- G. Personnel Committee Report** – Paige distributed minutes from the committee meeting. Marc Singer reported for the committee. The committee met to discuss the impact of impending funding cuts on personnel issues. The committee discussed possible furloughs for employees and the option of offering the choice to employees of furloughs versus no pay increases. The committee suggested Paige work the budgets with a 0% increase, 1% increase and a 2% increase. The committee also reviewed spring trainings and approved to send a letter of support for Paige and Sara to attend the Ages and Stages train the trainer training.
- H. Outcome Committee Report**– Paige distributed minutes from the committee meeting. Ellen Picray reported for the outcome committee. Ellen Picray reported that the committee reviewed program outcomes to see how they fit Empowerment goals and priorities. The committee reviewed and prioritized programs in lieu of impending budget cuts. The committee discussed nursery programs matching outcomes with priorities. The committee questioned the accuracy of some of their reported numbers. Nancy Clark shared that the committee will follow up and meet with the PA childcare council board. The committee also reviewed the School Ready application and suggested adding the website information to the bottom of the application.
- I. Revised By-Laws** – Paige reported that she submitted the by-laws to Janet Gartin at the state for review. The board reviewed the comments and suggested changing the last bullet point in article 3 to state “Board members can be reimbursed for

PAK Board meeting expenses - \$30 stipend for citizen board members, childcare expenses, and mileage.” And article 14 to state “On dissolution of the organization any funds or real assets remaining shall be returned to the state” Ted Erb made a motion to approve changes to by-laws. Ellen Picray seconded the motion and the motion passed.

- J. Legislative Update** – Paige reported that we may still receive budget cuts for this year. Any cuts will need to be made before April 1st. Paige also shared that Early Childhood funds should remain the same for next year. She also shared there is new legislation in process in regards to changes in open meeting laws, changes in preschool support funding requirements, and in required statewide indicators collected by state Empowerment.
- K. Empowerment 101 Training** – Paige presented the power point given by the state as a board training.
- L. April Board Meeting** – Paige shared that Janet Gartin and Sonni Vierling from the State team will be attending our next board meeting. It will be a great chance to meet them and learn as we prepare for redesignation.

II. Program Reports –

- A. Palo Alto Growing Healthy Kids** – Roberta Anderson reported outcomes and statistics for Growing Healthy Kids. She shared that they see all moms prenatally and help them to sign up for insurance if needed. All moms are also offered a home visit once they deliver the baby. At risk and first time moms are eligible for their program. They have an at risk assessment that they use as well as various screenings such as a screening for postpartum depression. The majority of families are seen on a monthly basis, but some families are seen weekly or twice weekly if necessary. They have 3 staff that do visits. They provide sibling and prenatal classes 3x a yr. They provide board books and storks closet points to families for incentives.
- B. Kossuth Growing Healthy Kids** – Dixie Meyer reported. Dixie reported that Salina Siefkin is the primary nurse working with Kossuth Growing Healthy Kids. Their program only sees high risk families, but all moms are offered a one time Health Promotion visit. Dixie shared a couple of success stories. The first story demonstrated the impact strong collaboration between programs and strong family support can make in the life of a child. The second story shared the importance of support for young families.
- C. Open Discussion-**

Paige shared that she has linked the website with many school sites as well as both counties. She is also looking at updating the website. Marc Singer suggested talking with Jackie Fonley to find a high school who may be able to help with web design.

Kristin Faber shared a flyer on the special event to be held in each county next month. Sara Curtis passed around the most recent newsletter.

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

III. Next Meeting - The next board meeting is set for April 27th at 1:15 at ILCC in Emmetsburg

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

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