Nebraska Early Childhood Education Endowment
Board of Trustees
Wednesday, January 18, 2017
Minutes

Welcome & Introductions

The meeting of the Sixpence Board of Trustees was called to order at 1:00 p.m. on January 18, 2017 at Nebraska Children and Families Foundation, 215 Centennial Mall South, 2nd floor Conference Room, Lincoln. Cara Small noted that the Open Meetings Act Information had been posted.

Members present: Sophie Kock, Nicole Vint (representing the CEO of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services), Melody Hobson (representing the Commissioner of the Nebraska Department of Education), Cara Small (Board Chair), and Jessie Rasmussen (arriving at 1:17).

Also in attendance: Amy Bornemeier (Sixpence Administrator), Karen Pinkelman and Stephanni Renn (Sixpence TA Specialists), Jack Round, Cheryl Marks and Betty Medinger (Nebraska Children), Shane Rhian (NDE Finance Director), Joan Luebbers (Head Start State Collaboration), Mike Medwick (First Five Nebraska), and Stacy Frank (DHHS).

Approve Minutes from January 18, 2017

A motion was made to approve the minutes by Sophie Kock. Second by Nicole Vint. Voting yes: Cara Small, Nicole Vint, Sophie Kock and Melody Hobson. Absent Helen Raikes and Jessie Rasmussen. No opposition, motion carried.

Review Financial Reports; anticipated CCDBG funds and potential budget cuts

Shane Rhian discussed the Sixpence financial reports. The Sixpence Early Learning Fund currently has $7.7 million in obligations, including the approved Child Care Partnership (CCP) Grants. Shane stated this is the first year that Sixpence will have significant expenditures out of the Endowment Cash Fund. A $1.2 million transfer is scheduled for April. Shane Rhian discussed the issue of spending authority: $5 million in State General Funds that are appropriated for Sixpence; state legislature provides the authority to spend up to $3.1 million in the Endowment Cash Fund. Funds from the Private Endowment are deposited into the Endowment Cash Fund and are subject to the $3.1 million spending limit. To authorize spending the additional appropriated funds, NDE will request the spending authority be increased to $3.5 million annually, to ensure there is enough money to cover TA and Evaluation costs. Shane made adjustments to the assumptions on the future revenue from the public endowment. When reviewing the quarterly interest disbursements from the fund, those have been trending downward from quarter to quarter. Instead of using an average of the last 4 distributions, Shane used the most recent distribution which would be the most conservative estimate.

The Board discussed the proposed budget cuts from LB22 which would reduce $200,000 from general funds. For the program that would result in a reduction of $190,000.00 in aid and $10,000 for technical assistance and evaluation.

Nicole Vint reported that the exact amount of CCDF funds that can be accessed and available is currently unknown at this time. Nicole will keep the Board appraised as federal reauthorization and guidance is released.

The Board discussed that it would be reasonable to consider looking at the historical figures in the area of funding, expenses, attendance and enrollment data of Grantees when setting program allocations at the next meeting.

Discuss request from Legislative Fiscal Review Office regarding fiscal expenditures and approve response letter

Amy Bornemeier and Shane Rhian presented to the Board information on a request from the Legislative Fiscal Review Office regarding the 2015 and 2016 cash fund expenditures. Shane shared the Nebraska Early Childhood Endowment Program Receipt & Expenditure Activity Report for the FYE June 30, 2015, 2016, and 2017. The report noted "Grant activity in FY 15 & FY 16 were not high enough to warrant significant expenditure activity in the Endowment Case Fund. Expenditures out of the General Fund an Lottery Fund were prioritized to reserve Endowment Funds for future increases in activities. The Board discussed previous decisions to preserve the endowment fund and maximize the use of general funds to help grow the cash fund balance to sustain current obligations into the future.

A motion was made to not seek action with response letter by Jessie Rasmussen. Second by Sophie Kock. Voting yes: Cara Small, Nicole Vint, Sophie Kock, Jessie Rasmussen and Melody Hobson. Absent Helen Raikes. No opposition, motion carried.

Review Grantee Status Report

Amy Bornemeier, Karen Pinkelman, and Stephanni Renn presented the Grantee Status Report. The Board discussed issues regarding enrollment rates of Grantees that are not currently meeting the 85% enrollment indicator. Additional TA is being provided to those grantees to assist with recruitment and filling staff vacancies. Some grantees have historically struggled with meeting the indicator which may be an indication that there's a need to change their program model. This information will be reviewed by the Board during the next meeting. The Board will take enrollment, attendance and financial history into consideration when approving future continuation grants. The Board requested to add an additional column to the Grantee Status Report to reflect unspent funds for the 14-15, 15-16 program years. The Board discussed the possibility of requiring a community needs assessment every two years. Overall, there's been an increase by 40 children since last report. All programs are currently serving over 1400 children.

Discuss evaluation plan for Child Care Partnership Grants

Amy Bornemeier presented the evaluation proposed protocol for the Child Care Partnership Grantees. The current evaluation plan is fully implemented in Fall City and Kearney. In the Panhandle, the coaches have to become reliable and receive Nebraska approval to conduct ERS observations on their peers' programs, not their own programs they're coaching in. Unfortunately, it is a much more difficult and lengthy process than anticipated. As a result, there is a need to contract with reliable observers to do the observations in the Panhandle.

Approve Budget Amendment request from UNMC MMI to increase contract amount, to support baseline Environmental Scale observations of Sixpence Child Care Partnership grants, designating Board chair to sign contract amendment

Amy Bornemeier presented a budget amendment for the UNMC MMI evaluation contract to enable them to contract with the two observers to do the baseline observations in the Panhandle. This is a one-time only cost for the first year baseline observations. The Board discussed the possibility of funding the additional evaluation costs privately.

A motion was made to not approve the budget amendment by Melody Hobson. Second by Sophie Kock. Voting yes: Cara Small, Nicole Vint, Sophie Kock, Jessie Rasmussen and Melody Hobson. Absent Helen Raikes. No opposition, motion carried.

Approve revised Program Quality benchmark for Infant Toddler Environmental Rating Scale-Revised

Amy Bornemeier presented a document prepared by UNMC MMI and the Board discussed the rationale to change the benchmark for the ITERS-R to a 5 overall, with no requirements for subscale.

A motion was made to accept the recommendations for changing the benchmark by Melody Hobson. Second by Jessie Rasmussen. Voting yes: Cara Small, Nicole Vint, Sophie Kock, Jessie Rasmussen and Melody Hobson. Absent Helen Raikes. No opposition, motion carried.

Approve budget revision request for Panhandle Child Care Partnership

Amy Bornemeier presented a budget revision request for the Gering CCP to reallocate $20,000 from the original purpose of tuition scholarships to minor facilities modifications.

A motion was made to approve the Panhandle budget revision by Sophie Kock. Second by Jessie Rasmussen. Voting yes: Cara Small, Nicole Vint, Sophie Kock. Voting no: Melody Hobson. Absent Helen Raikes. Motion carried.

The meeting ended at 2:49 with a ***motion to adjourn*** by Sophie Kock. Seconded by Melody Hobson. Voting yes: Sophie Kock, Cara Small, Nicole Vint, Jessie Rasmussen, Melody Hobson. Absent Helen Raikes. **Next Meeting Date: March 15th 1:00-4:00 p.m.**