



**Nebraska Early Childhood Education Endowment  
Board of Trustees  
Wednesday, September 14, 2016  
Minutes**

**Welcome & Introductions**

The meeting of the Sixpence Board of Trustees was called to order at 1:00 p.m. on June 8, 2016 at Nebraska Children and Families Foundation, 215 Centennial Mall South, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Conference Room, Lincoln. A working lunch was provided. Cara Small noted that the Open Meetings Act Information has 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), Jessie Rasmussen, and Helen Raikes (arriving at 1:09.)

Also in attendance: Amy Bornemeier (Sixpence Administrator), Karen Pinkelman and Stephanni Renn (Sixpence TA Specialists), Jack Round (Nebraska Children CFO), Shane Rhian (NDE Finance Director), Eva Lester (Buffet Early Childhood Fund), Joan Luebbers (Head Start State Collaboration), Becky Veak (First Five Nebraska), Sara Hulac (NDE Legal Counsel) and Barb Jackson (UNMC-MMI.)

**Approve Minutes from June 8, 2016**

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

**Review Financial Reports and anticipated CCDBG funds**

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 Sixpence will have significant expenditures out of the Endowment Cash Fund. A \$1.2 million transfer was 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.

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

At the November Board Meeting Shane Rhian and Jack Round will present a projection of the financials for the next five years.

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 next Spring.

### **Discuss future plans to select additional Child Care Partnership Grants**

Amy Bornemeier presented to the Board information pertaining to sustaining commitments of current grants and obligations before granting new CCP Grants. The recommendation was made to hold off on awarding any new CCP Grants until we know more about CCDF funds, as well as the projected financial report Jack and Shane will present in November. Shane stated he would like to go on record to say there is no more spending authority until we receive funding from CCDF for the current year; all of the General Funds and Cash Funds have been obligated.

It was noted that the Child Care Partnership grants RFP, that a second round of remaining applicants may be selected in the Fall of 2016, depending on the availability of funding. There will be an action item on the November agenda on whether to award or not award a second round of CCP Grants.

### **Review Grantee Status Report**

Amy Bornemeier, Karen Pinkelman, and Stephanni Renn presented the Grantee Status Report. The Board discussed grantees who are experiencing challenges in meeting the 85% enrollment quality indicator. Additional TA is being provided to those grantees to assist with recruitment and filling staff vacancies. The Board indicated a desire to review the status at the January meeting, and will take enrollment into consideration when approving future continuation grants. It was requested to add an additional column to the Grantee Status Report to report unspent funds for the 2014-15 and 2015-16 program years for future reference. The Board discussed the possibility of requiring a community needs assessment every two years for continuation funding.

### **Approve Carryover Requests from Millard, Omaha, and Garden County**

Amy Bornemeier presented carry over requests from Omaha, Millard, and Garden County Public Schools. Omaha Public School requested to carry over \$13,000 for Educare's center and home-based programs. Millard Public School requested \$1,900. Garden County Public School requested \$22,500.

A motion was made by Helen Raikes to approve Omaha Public School's carryover request. Second by Jessie Rasmussen. Voting yes: Helen Raikes, Cara Small, Sophie Kock and Nicole Vint, Melody Hobson. Absent Jessie Rasmussen. No opposition, motion carried.

A motion was made by Melody Hobson to approve Millard Public School's carryover request. Second by Helen Raikes. Voting yes: Helen Raikes, Cara Small, Sophie Kock and Nicole Vint, Melody Hobson. Absent Jessie Rasmussen. No opposition, motion carried.

A motion was made by Helen Raikes to approve Garden County Public School's carryover request. Second by Nicole Vint. Voting yes: Helen Raikes, Cara Small, Sophie Kock, Jessie Rasmussen and Nicole Vint. Voting no: Melody Hobson. Motion carried.

## **Discuss 2015-16 Evaluation Report**

Barb Jackson from UNMC-MMI distributed the annual report and presented the findings from the 2015-2016 program evaluations. Highlights include:

1,107 children (in 961 families) and 117 pregnant mothers were served

### **Risk Factors**

- 95% of Sixpence children came from low income households
- 51% of Sixpence children come from single parents
- 41% of Sixpence parents had no high school diploma
- 38% were English Language Learners
- 30% of Sixpence parents were teens
- 31% had parents with mental health issues including drug or alcohol abuse
- 12% experience parental absence
- 11% had an incarcerated parent
- 11% were living in foster care or had CPS referral
- 10% witnessed violence
- 61% of the children had three or more risk factors

Sixpence center-based classroom environments were of high quality

- 94% of the classrooms consistently demonstrated high quality social-emotional support

### **Quality of home visit instruction**

- 82% of home visitors consistently used best practices to support families.
- Home Visitors scored 6 points of a 7 point scale in for quality home visit instruction
- Nearly half of the children met the program goal for comprehension. Language production was lower with 54% not meeting the program goal.
- Children with three or more risk factors and ELL children scored significantly lower on vocabulary

### **Pregnant mothers enrolled in Sixpence**

- All Sixpence pregnant mothers received consistent prenatal care
- 91% abstained from drugs and alcohol
- 74% abstained from smoking
- 82% initiated breast feeding

### **Children's social – emotional outcomes**

- 76% met the program goal for social emotional competencies
- Participation in Sixpence resulted in significant improvements in initiate, attachment and self-regulation
- While in Sixpence, the children's total Protective Factors increased significantly

### **Parent-child interaction skills**

- By spring, 72% met the program goal in Building relationships with their child.
- Families demonstrated higher quality interactions with their children the longer they were involved with Sixpence
- 35% read to their child daily
- ELL parents demonstrated higher nurturing and attachment scores

- Parents whose primary language was English had significantly higher parent-child interaction and concrete support scores

The Board requested that the risk factors of mental health and alcohol/substance abuse be separated for the 2016-2017 Evaluation Report.

### **Discuss Biennial Report to Governor**

Amy Bornemeier reviewed the 2013-14 Biennial Report and requested recommendations for changes to the next report, due December 2016. The Board recommended highlighting the significant role of TA, in addition to updating with new locations and evaluation highlights. The Board suggested including information on Sixpences' evolution and expansion. Amy Bornemeier will send a draft for Board members to review prior to the November meeting, at which time an action item will be placed on the agenda to approve the report.

### **Discuss upcoming Trustee appointment terms expiring**

Discussion was held pertaining to Helen Raikes' current term expiring December 2016.

### **Approve 2017 meeting dates**

- Wednesday, January 18, 2017, 1:00-4:00pm
- Wednesday, March 15 2017, 1:00-4:00 (approve continuation allocations)
- Wednesday, ~~June 7~~ May 31, 2017, 12:00-4:00 (approve continuation grants and evaluation contract)
- Wednesday, September 20, 2017 1:00-4:00 (Evaluation Report & ECTA contract)
- Wednesday, November 15, 2017 1:00-4:00

A motion was made by Melody Hobson to approve the 2017 meeting dates with the change of the June 7<sup>th</sup> meeting to May 31, 2017. Second by Helen Raikes. Voting yes: Helen Raikes, Cara Small, Sophie Kock and Nicole Vint, Melody Hobson. Absent Jessie Rasmussen. No opposition, motion carried.

### **Discuss branding Sixpence programs**

The Board discussed issues related to the use of the Sixpence logo. Some grantees have used, or have requested the use of a customized logo. The Board discussed a desire for programs to identify with Sixpence, while honoring the unique community partnerships. The Board requested TA to develop logo and branding guidelines for their consideration at the November meeting.

The meeting ended at 3:47 with a ***motion to adjourn*** by Sophie Kock. Seconded by Melody Hobson. Voting yes: Sophie Kock, Cara Small, Nicole Vint, Jessie Rasmussen, Melody Hobson and Helen Raikes. No opposition, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 3:04 p.m. **Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 9th, 2016 1:00-4:00 p.m.**