



**Nebraska Early Childhood Education Endowment  
Board of Trustees  
November 9, 2011  
Minutes**

**Welcome & Introductions**

The meeting of the Sixpence Board of Trustees was called to order at 1:00 pm. on November 9, 2011, at the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation (NCFF), 215 Centennial Mall South, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room, Lincoln.

*Members present:* Mel Clancy, Beth Schuler, Jessie Rasmussen, Melody Hobson (representing the Commissioner of Education) Shirley Pickens-White (representing the CEO of NDHHS), and Helen Raikes.

*Also in attendance:* Kathleen Feller from NCFF, Becky Veak and Jen Hernandez (meeting recorder) from First Five Nebraska.

Jessie Rasmussen, Chair, opened the meeting and noted the Open Meetings Act information was posted inside the room.

A motion was made by Mel Clancy *to approve the minutes from the October 23, 2011 meeting with the following corrections*; seconded by Beth Schuler. On page 2 under "approval of TA contract," change the word "suggested" to "confirmed." Voting yes: Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy, Shirley Pickens-White, Jessie Rasmussen, and Beth Schuler. No opposition. Motion carried.

**Update on Endowment Financials**

Kathleen reported that she spoke with Joe Jurich this morning. There will be a distribution to the Cash Fund on Wednesday, November 16, 2011, in the amount of \$297,642.63. The Board will know in January 2012 if the (private) Investment Advisory Committee is able to make a 4<sup>th</sup> quarter distribution to the Cash Fund.

**Addendum to 2010-2011 Evaluation**

Barb Jackson joined this part of the meeting by phone, reporting on additional evaluation pieces the Trustee requested.

- There were no significant differences found between child's duration of time in program when comparisons were made between family engagement and center-based service delivery methods.
- There were no significant differences between scores on the gain scores on the HOME inventory when comparisons were made by service delivery methods.
- There were no significant differences between gain scores on the DECA Total Protective Factor when comparisons were made by service delivery methods.
- There were no significant differences between gain scores on the PPVT when comparisons were made by service delivery methods.
- Finally, there were no significant differences between the spring PPVT scores of toddlers when comparisons were made between children whose families were English speakers or English Language Learners. However, the mean score of children whose parents were ELL were lower (94.15) compared to the English speaking peers (100.06).

These findings may suggest the programs are maintaining high degrees of fidelity to the models.

Barb suggested the Trustees think about (next year) combining years of data to see if there are significant differences in child outcomes when it comes to the number of risk factors each child has.

Barb also reported on exit reasons. (See page 2 of Sixpence Program Evaluation Addendum, August 2011.)

The final addendum request to the evaluation involved attendance. Attendance data was available from 12 of the 13 grantee projects, including 5 center-based and 7 family engagement projects. Overall, children and families participated in 84% of the services offered. This was an increase from the 79% attendance rate in the previous year. Children in center-based programs had higher participation rates overall than their peers who received services in the family engagement program.

### **Eligibility Age – Transition Guidance for Three Year Olds discussion**

Some programs transition children out (regardless if another program is available) the day they turn 3, and some programs serve children throughout their 3<sup>rd</sup> year (particularly in cases when there is no preschool program available).

Jessie posed the question: What is your interest for the practice right now?

Typically, programs enroll for preschool from kindergarten entrance back to age 3 based on the school year. The Trustees confirmed that the intent was very

definitely to serve the children through age 3, with the caveat that they are not enrolling children who are age 3, but rather continuing to serve (through age 3) children already in their program. The Trustees also agreed they want continuity for children at risk of failing in school.

The Trustees will place this as an action item on the January 2012 agenda, as well as a discussion and action item regarding possible corrective legislation.

### **Guidance on eligibility criteria**

*“Children (birth to age three) whose parents are younger than eighteen or who have not completed high school.”*

In serving teen parents, the question came up from one of the programs, “what constitutes a teen?” This is not specified in the legislation. Rule 11 states “younger than eighteen” and the RFP was written in an attempt to harmonize with Rule 11.

The Trustees clarified that teen parent is not an eligibility criteria, it is a risk factor. If they meet one of the other risk factors, they can still be eligible.

After much discussion around serving children who are at risk and particularly those of teen parents, the Trustees will include as an action item on the January 2012 agenda a change in the risk factor from “younger than eighteen” to “younger than twenty.”

The Trustees also suggested that when Rule 11 is opened up, NDE consider revising “younger than eighteen” to “younger than twenty.”

### **Annual Report**

Kathleen asked the Trustees if they would like an annual report (different from the evaluation report). Helen suggested an Annual Report would include a description of the TA provided by Martha and Kathleen. Jessie said it might be good to have a historical document, not necessarily each year (perhaps every 3 years?) and might be particularly helpful when other states inquire about Sixpence. A description of the partnerships might also be considered for inclusion. On years when the Trustees provide an Annual Report, the evaluation report could be included in the annual report.

Kathleen will check with Margaret (including the TA contract and the evaluation contract) regarding use of TA funds for Kathleen’s time to write the report. Perhaps an addendum to the TA contract would be in order.

The Trustees would like to have a report (including evaluation, TA, and partnerships) done every 2 or 3 years (perhaps in coordination with when reports are due to the Legislature on odd-numbered years), with evaluation reports continuing annually.

On the January 2012 agenda, Kathleen will bring to the Trustees the advice from Margaret whether TA funds can be used, a budget, a timeline, and any work previously done or drafted in this regard.

### **Enrollment Update**

Kathleen reported on anticipated and current enrollment numbers of children. The Trustees discussed the enrollment numbers of the Lincoln – Student Child Learning Centers program, as they have been low for quite some time. Kathleen asked the program director to look back historically over time to get a better sense of how many teen parents need to be served. Have they overestimated how many children need to be served? Should they try a different method (combo method) of service delivery? The Trustees asked Kathleen to continue working with the programs to ensure their anticipated enrollment numbers reflect the needs of the community's children and their parents, and their current enrollment numbers are a good use of Sixpence funds.

### **Proposed 2011 Meeting Dates**

January 11, 2012  
March 14, 2012  
May 9, 2012  
July 11, 2012  
September 12, 2012  
November 14, 2012

The Trustees considered moving the July meeting to a June meeting and decided to have a meeting June 13 instead of July 11. Kathleen will send out Outlook invitations for Trustees calendars.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be January 11, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. at the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation conference room.

Mel Clancy moved to adjourn the meeting with a second from Beth Schuler.

Voting yes: Mel Clancy, Shirley Pickens-White, Helen Raikes, Jessie Rasmussen, Beth Schuler, and Melody Hobson. No opposition. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.



**Nebraska Early Childhood Education Endowment  
Board of Trustees  
October 24, 2011  
Minutes**

**Welcome & Introductions**

The meeting of the Sixpence Board of Trustees was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on October 24, 2011, at the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation (NCFF), 215 Centennial Mall South, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room, Lincoln.

*Members present:* Beth Schuler, Roger Breed, Helen Raikes, Jessie Rasmussen, and Chris Hanus representing the CEO of NDHHS. Mel Clancy was absent.

*Also in attendance:* Martha Nash, Melody Hobson and Greg Prochaska from NDE. Kathleen Feller from NCFF and Becky Veak (meeting recorder) from First Five Nebraska.

Jessie Rasmussen, Chair, opened the meeting and noted the Open Meetings Act information was posted inside the room.

A motion was made by Helen Raikes *to approve the minutes from the September 14, 2011 meeting with the following corrections*; seconded by Beth Schuler. On page 1, Sandy Sostad's place of work is the Legislative Fiscal Office and not the Policy Research Office, and Amiee McAlvey, Head Start was in attendance but omitted. Voting yes: Roger Breed, Chris Hanus, Helen Raikes, Jessie Rasmussen, Beth Schuler. No opposition. Motion carried.

**Update on Endowment Financials**

Greg Prochaska from NDE reported on the current financials. As of October 18, 2011, the cash balance is \$2,092,230.70. After paying current obligations, at this point the available cash balance for 2012-2013 will be a negative \$686,556.35.

The trustees will watch the progress of the financials closely and monitor whether they will be able to open up the process for new funding opportunities. They will know more in December if there is a disbursement of private funds. January will be the latest that a decision can be made whether to expand grants. At this

point, it doesn't appear that they will be able to expand next year, but there may be additional donors into the private funding as well as a turnaround in the market. All of these factors will play a role.

If donors are allowed to contribute funds directly into the cash fund, there may be an opportunity to look at funding one-time costs such as post-secondary education opportunities.

### **Election of Officers**

The terms of Jessie Rasmussen and Beth Schuler expire at the end of December 2011. They both expressed interest in being nominated again to the Board of Trustees; their names will be submitted to the Governor for consideration.

Beth Schuler nominated Helen Raikes to serve as Chair and Mel Clancy to serve as Vice Chair for 2012; Jessie Rasmussen seconded the nomination. Voting yes: Beth Schuler, Roger Breed, Chris Hanus, Jessie Rasmussen and Helen Raikes. No opposition.

### **Approval of Technical Assistance Contract**

As referenced at the September meeting, this contract has gone through the NDE deviation process as confirmed by the Department of Administrative Services in order to justify NCFF as a sole source for this two-year contract.

Chris Hanus from NDHHS asked if it would be preferable to undertake a bid process given the profile of the Board of Trustees and the fact it has no legal status in statute. The trustees feel they have set a strong technical assistance process in place and are not interested in disrupting it by putting this contract out for bid every year. They also raised concern of the difficulty in attracting the appropriate qualifications for the position when it would only be funded for one year at a time.

Roger Breed moved to approve the contract, seconded by Beth Schuler. Voting yes: Helen Raikes, Roger Breed, Beth Schuler, Jessie Rasmussen. Voting no: Chris Hanus. Motion carries.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 9, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. at the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation conference room.

Jessie will chair the November meeting, and Helen will take over the meetings in January. Shirley Pickens-White will attend the November meeting in place of Chris Hanus.

Roger Breed moved to adjourn the meeting with a second from Beth Schuler. Voting yes: Jessie Rasmussen, Chris Hanus, Helen Raikes, Beth Schuler, and Roger Breed. No opposition. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.



**Nebraska Early Childhood Education Endowment  
Board of Trustees  
May 11, 2011  
Minutes**

**Welcome & Introductions**

The meeting of the Sixpence Board of Trustees was called to order at 12:05 p.m. on May 11, 2011, at the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation (NCFF), 215 Centennial Mall South, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room, Lincoln.

*Members present:* Mel Clancy, Melody Hobson (representing the Commissioner of Education), Helen Raikes, Jessie Rasmussen, Shirley Pickens-White (representing the CEO of NDHHS), and Beth Schuler.

*Also in attendance:* Mary Webster (Board president) and Dr. Calvin Jones (Superintendent) from Umo' Ho' Nation Public Schools, Martha Nash and Carol Fichter from NDE; and Kathleen Feller, Becky Veak, Jody Hatz, and Jen Hernandez (meeting recorder) from NCFF.

Jessie Rasmussen, Chair, opened the meeting and noted the Open Meetings Act information was posted inside the room.

A motion was made by Mel Clancy *to approve the minutes from the March 9, 2011 meeting*. Second by Beth Schuler. Edits: Page 2 under one-time mini-grants: Margaret Worth is not finalizing draft, but submitting legal considerations. Roll call vote. Voting yes: Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy, Shirley Pickens-White, Jessie Rasmussen, Beth Schuler. No opposition. Motion carried.

**Calvin Jones, Umo' Ho' Nation Superintendant**

The Superintendent described the situation when he first came to Macy in July 2010. They have a great facility, and great environment for children and their families, but he walked into a very difficult situation, including financially. The school is funded with federal impact aid, and they don't have a tax base since they're on the reservation. Dr. Jones described the difficult budget situation there: no carryover, in debt, secured \$900,000 line of credit to pay salaries.

Currently in “clean up” stages. Early childhood Sixpence grant is the one of the best investments the school has.

8 (of 18) current high school graduates are graduating because of the Sixpence program. Dr. Jones reported that Kathleen told him the Umo’ Ho’ site has “some of the best relationships of any of the Sixpence programs around the state.” He acknowledged their deficiencies, but pointed out their action plan and said the action plan is being taken seriously. Dr. Jones also mentioned that they still have some unaddressed needs, such as the playground.

Board asked a question about participation (or lack thereof). Dr. Jones reported that strategies for ensuring participation include Level One driver training to pick up mothers and children. In addition, staff are making phone calls to students every morning. Mary Webster (Umo’ Ho’ Nation School Board President) said it was her dream to get a social worker involved in families’ lives (educational barriers, financial barriers, WIC, etc).

The Sixpence Board asked the following question of Dr. Jones: Is the action plan tight enough so your students and staff can be successful? Dr. Jones answered that it was, but it will take some time. “The plan is there and it will happen.” Kathleen described significant changes in short timeframe with new staff. Martha and Kathleen both affirmed the significant changes that have been made to improve the program.

The Sixpence Board thanked Dr. Jones and Mary Webster for coming and for taking the time to explain how Sixpence is working in Macy. The chair offered her thought that their presence was a statement of commitment to the Sixpence program and standards.

### **Update on Endowment Financials**

#### *Support materials provided*

Board wants to see distribution from Education Lands and Trust Fund. What is the percentage of return for Sixpence? The percentage of return for Sixpence should be the same percentage of return for K-12.

The Board also continued to ask a question they have asked many times in the past: What seems to be the hold up to make disbursements in a reliable timeframe? Kathleen and Martha will follow up and try to secure some answers.

### **Endowment funds to assist current programs in meeting Rule 11 Teacher Qualifications**



Can programs use future funds to meet Rule 11 teacher qualifications? Kathleen received the following advice from Margaret Worth, NDE legal counsel. "It is her instinct to suggest there is a fine line between professional development and secondary education which would not allow for the use to support Rule 11." Margaret stated that the Attorney General's office would make the final decision. Margaret offered to draft letter to AG. An AG response would take a minimum of 3 months.

If pursued an AG opinion, Melody suggested the Board be careful to word the request as "Endowment funds only," and request couched in terms of legislative language.

Statute language says one of the responsibilities of the Board is to develop criteria, and in the criteria (RFP), teacher qualifications are an allowable expense. The Board's position/desire is that funds be used for teacher qualifications.

Jessie outlined two options: AG opinion or clarification of statute (from author of legislation, Kermit Brashear)?

Kathleen will visit with Margaret about draft language for an AG opinion. This will be on the agenda in July for a vote.

In terms of timeframe for current programs to meet Rule 11, Kathleen needs guidance from the Board on what to tell current programs. From this point forward (as opposed to three years ago), letter of agreement should reflect "expedite with all deliberate speed." NDE, not Sixpence Board, has authority over this. The process (draft, public hearing) will take a while.

#### **Approve recommended procedure for involuntary defunding**

The procedure for involuntary defunding has been approved by Margaret Worth, NDE Legal Counsel. Programs could be defunded for:

1. Failure to meet grant requirements
2. Fraud or fiscal mismanagement
3. Lack of adequate funding

Motion by Mel Clancy *to approve the written involuntary funding withdrawal policy recommended to the Board and approved by Margaret Worth.* Second by Shirley Pickens-White. Roll call vote. Voting yes: Shirley Pickens-White, Jessie Rasmussen, Beth Schuler, Melody Hobson, and Mel Clancy. No opposition. Motion carried.

#### **Approve 3 year grants to current endowment grantee**

The Sixpence Board went through each current grantee, reviewing program design, evaluation, highlights, and any quality indicators that have not been met. Kathleen and Martha provided program by program written continuation funding recommendations.

The Board also implemented a collective contingency plan, including average daily attendance of 85% and full enrollment average. Contingency plans for all grantees are due September 1, 2011, and will be measured by June 30, 2012.

The Board asked Kathleen and Martha to recognize one or two highlights for each program to pass along as commendations. Kathleen and Martha will do that, providing commendations to each grantee.

**Umo' Ho' Nation** – Has a very thorough plan to meet the quality indicators that are not currently met: teacher qualification requirements, supervision, family involvement, health and safety, classroom practices and curriculum, screening and assessment. The Board discussed continued funding for 3 years based on implementation of plan to meet quality indicators, with option to defund at any point in time according to the procedure for involuntary funding withdrawal.

Motion by Beth Schuler *to continue funding Umo' Ho' Nation for 3 years at \$75,000 based on their implementation of the plan to meet quality indicators.* Second by Mel Clancy. Roll call vote. Voting yes: Jessie Rasmussen, Beth Schuler, Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy, and Shirley Pickens-White. No opposition. Motion carried.

**Alliance** – Are there not more at-risk kids to be served? The Board discussed continued funding for 3 years based on the demonstration of serving the most at-risk children, responding to the needs of the community (start earlier with the children and offer full-day program), and demonstrating true partnership with EHS. The Board also made it clear that the grantee cannot reduce the number of children at-risk being served with Sixpence funds.

Motion by Mel Clancy *to continue funding for 3 years with the following contingencies:*

1. *Demonstration that they are serving the children most at-risk*
2. *Look at plan/model to move towards a full-day program*
3. *Starting with younger children through linkages with other 0-3 programs*
4. *Cannot reduce the number of at-risk children being served*

Second by Helen Raikes. Roll call vote. Voting yes: Beth Schuler, Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy, Shirley Pickens-White, Helen Raikes, and Jessie Rasmussen. No opposition. Motion carried.

**Broken Bow** – Does the program design effectively serve at-risk children and families?

Motion by Beth Schuler *to continue funding for 3 years with contingency that the most at-risk children are being served by the partnership.* Second by Mel Clancy. Roll call vote. Voting yes: Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy, Shirley Pickens-White, Helen Raikes, Jessie Rasmussen, and Beth Schuler. No opposition. Motion carried.

**Crete** – Main program component is family engagement. Center-based services are offered as supplemental service. Kathleen and Martha pointed out that this grantee has made improvements in many areas of ITERS.

Motion by Beth Schuler *to continue funding for 3 years with contingency that they accurately document services to families.* Second by Shirley Pickens-White. Roll call vote. Voting yes: Mel Clancy, Shirley Pickens-White, Helen Raikes, Jessie Rasmussen, Beth Schuler, and Melody Hobson. No opposition. Motion carried.

**Lincoln** – Does not use research-based home visitation program, and offer no training on home visitation curriculum. In the home visitation program, the focus may be more on teen moms and keeping them in school, rather than on the interactions between teen moms and their children. Missed home visits are not rescheduled. Is the family engagement design adequate? They intend to correct the home visitation deficiencies with funds from the one-time mini-grant.

Motion by Mel Clancy *to continue funding for 3 years with the following contingencies:*

1. *180 minutes of home visiting provided for each client.*
2. *Home visitors will receive appropriate supervision and training.*
3. *Develop linkages with other 0-3 services.*
4. *Contingency plan to contact hard to reach teen parents with children in the center-based program.*
5. *Consistent ASQ whenever a home visit is missed.*

Second by Melody Hobson. Roll call vote. Voting yes: Shirley Pickens White, Helen Raikes, Jessie Rasmussen, Beth Schuler, Melody Hobson, and Mel Clancy. No opposition. Motion carried.

**Loup City** – The Sixpence Board wanted to make sure the most at-risk children were being served through the EHS/Sixpence partnership.

Motion by Beth Schuler *to continue 3 year funding with contingency that the most at-risk children are being served by the partnership.* Second by Mel Clancy. Roll call vote. Voting yes: Helen Raikes, Jessie Rasmussen, Beth Schuler, Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy, and Shirley Pickens-White. No opposition. Motion carried.

**Omaha** – The major change to the Sixpence program in Omaha is that Visiting Nurses Association (VNA) and CSI will no longer be partners in the Sixpence program. Going forward, Educare and Omaha Public Schools will be the partners, serving the same number of children at-risk.

Motion by Mel Clancy *to continue 3 year funding with the contingency for plan for assuring 5 teacher assistants meet rule 11.* Second by Beth Schuler. Roll call

vote. Voting yes: Jessie Rasmussen, Beth Schuler, Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy, Shirley Pickens-White, and Helen Raikes. No opposition. Motion carried.

**Plattsmouth** – The Board talked about their concern with attendance issues in Plattsmouth.

Motion by Melody Hobson *to continue 3 years of funding*. Second by Mel Clancy. No additional contingencies outside of the aforementioned collective contingency plan. Roll call vote. Voting yes: Beth Schuler, Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy, Shirley Pickens-White, Helen Raikes, and Jessie Rasmussen. No opposition. Motion carried.

**Santee** – Katheen reported a major increase in ITERS scores in a 6 month timeframe after program director change. In addition, attendance is slowly increasing. Helen pointed out that growth in the DECA was very good.

Motion by Mel Clancy *to continue 3 years of funding with contingency plans to address staff qualification and family involvement deficiencies*. Second by Helen Raikes. Roll call vote. Voting yes: Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy, Shirley Pickens-White, Helen Raikes, Jessie Rasmussen, and Beth Schuler. No opposition. Motion carried.

**Walthill** – Attendance has increased with the use of an attendance officer. The infant classroom does not have a lead teacher with a BA, nor plans for her to get one. Kathleen and Martha think that the program quality has improved over the last 3 years. They also noted a lengthy waiting list.

Motion by Mel Clancy *to continue funding with contingency to address staff qualification deficiency*. Second by Melody Hobson. Roll call vote. Voting yes: Mel Clancy, Shirley Pickens-White, Helen Raikes, Jessie Rasmussen, Beth Schuler, and Melody Hobson. No opposition. Motion carried.

**York** – The Board expressed some questions and concern over the evaluation data.

Motion by Mel Clancy *to continue 3 years of funding with contingency to address supervision deficiency*. Second by Helen Raikes. Roll call vote. Voting yes: Shirley Pickens-White, Helen Raikes, Jessie Rasmussen, Beth Schuler, Melody Hobson, and Mel Clancy. No opposition. Motion carried.

### **Recommendations for Quality Indicator Changes**

Martha, Helen, Beth, and Kathleen worked on recommendations for changes to the quality indicators, seeking input from current grantees. Most grantee recommendations were adopted as recommendations to go before the full board, and the others were addressed and included in recommendations through

compromises. Edits to attachments A and B were reviewed (and edited further) during the meeting.

Motion by Melody *to approve the recommendations for changes to the quality indicators, effective July 1, 2011.* Second by Mel Clancy. Roll call vote. Voting yes: Helen Raikes, Jessie Rasmussen, Beth Schuler, Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy, and Shirley Pickens-White. No opposition. Motion carried.

### **Approve one-time mini-grants**

Kathleen presented five mini-grant applications and reviews scoring and comments.

**Broken Bow Public Schools** – increase understanding and use of the KIPS Evaluation, putting research into practice.

**Omaha Public Schools-** Promotion of breastfeeding and purchasing equipment to support.

**Lincoln Public Schools-** Purchase and train staff on the use of an evidence based home visitation curriculum.

**Crete Public Schools-**Maintain Nurse partnership for coming year.

**Alliance-** Increased family involvement activities

Mel moves to approve the following grantees for one-time funding; seconded by Beth:

Crete for \$10,000

Lincoln \$10,000

OPS for \$6,000 contingent based on submission of a modified budget (to purchase breast pumps)

BB for \$4,000 with modified budget (liked BB since it was all about “research to practice” and continuous quality improvement.

### **NDE RFP for Technical Assistance Contract**

Issue for technical assistance staff with loss of consistency, for grantees, etc. If we do sole source deviation process, it would have to be done through Department of Administrative Services to offer multi-year contract. Kathleen and Melody will follow-up with DAS to review process for request, who, what, when, and how.

Jessie will help with justification language of why going the route of “deviation”. Need clarification and authorization from DAS about who initiates this action? Is it Jessie on behalf of the Trustees or is it NDE? Ask for guidance.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be 1:00-3:00 p.m. July 13, 2011, at the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation (NCFF), 215 Centennial Mall South, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room, Lincoln. The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.



**Nebraska Early Childhood Education Endowment  
Board of Trustees  
March 9, 2011  
Minutes**

**Welcome & Introductions**

The meeting of the Sixpence Board of Trustees was called to order at 1:00 p.m. on March 9, 2011, at the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation (NCFF), 215 Centennial Mall South, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room, Lincoln.

*Members present:* Mel Clancy, Melody Hobson (representing the Commissioner of Education), Helen Raikes, Jessie Rasmussen, Todd Reckling (representing the CEO of NDHHS), and Beth Schuler.

*Also in attendance:* Martha Nash from NDE; and Kathleen Feller, Becky Veak, and Jen Hernandez (meeting recorder) from NCFF.

Jessie Rasmussen, Chair, opened the meeting and noted the Open Meetings Act information was posted inside the room.

A motion was made by Mel Clancy *to approve the minutes from the January 19, 2010 meeting*. Second by Beth Schuler. One amendment to January minutes: On page 3, last sentence under "Teacher Qualifications" should say "partners with a school district or Educational Service Unit operated program" instead of "NDE funded program". Roll call vote. Voting yes: Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy, Todd Reckling, Helen Raikes, Jessie Rasmussen, Beth Schuler. No opposition. Motion carried.

**Update on Endowment Financials**

Kathleen reported that there has been no change since the last meeting, including no distributions since the last meeting. The next distribution was slated for February/March 2011.

Jessie reported that slightly over \$5 million still needs to be raised from the private sector. Funds need to be “irrevocably committed” by June 30, 2011. Several private donors have asked if they can have another year to give the funds.

### **One-Time Mini-Grants**

In January, this Board voted to offer up to \$10,000 one-time mini-grants, not to exceed a total of \$30,000. Kathleen has been coordinating with Margaret Worth (NDE Legal), who will submit legal considerations.

April 15: Deadline to submit application via website.

April 18 - May 2: Review teams will score applications.

May 11: Board of Trustees final vote on applicants.

May 30: Announce grants.

July 6-7: Decision of Sixpence Board goes before the State Board of Ed.

August 1: Start date of grants.

### **Rule 11 Teacher Qualifications**

In January meeting, this Board discussed an announcement of Rule 11 teacher qualifications sent to grantees from this Board. Kathleen provided the Board with an announcement she and Martha drafted, with edits and comments from Margaret Worth. Margaret’s main comments centered around the opinion that this Board does not have the authority to inform grantees about Rule 11.

Helen asked if there should or could be some language in the announcement (perhaps a footnote?) recognizing the new birth to kindergarten program at UNL. The birth to kindergarten program was developed specifically with infants and toddlers in mind, so it would be helpful for programs to have information on all possible options available to them to meet the Rule 11 requirement for teacher certification.

Melody was concerned (and wanted Margaret’s legal opinion) about whether the new program, which is only offered by UNL, can be listed. The endorsement isn’t technically approved yet, although Melody does believe it will be approved. A second concern she voiced is that since this program is only offered at UNL under a “Special Authorization,” as opposed to the other options being offered at different colleges, so it perhaps shouldn’t be listed until it is available to any college to offer.

The Board directed Kathleen and Martha to create a matrix/table of all options available from all colleges/universities to programs to meet the requirement. They also instructed that the announcement recognize the clarification we have received about meeting Rule 11 requirements, specifically acknowledging that Rule 11 takes precedent over Sixpence guidelines, and that only NDE has the

authority to give direction on Rule 11. While quality indicators were more permissive, Rule 11 takes precedence. Finally, the Board gave Helen permission to give final approval on the announcement to grantees.

In further discussion, the question arose: *Can programs use future funds to meet Rule 11 teacher qualifications?* The sentiment of the chair was that raising staff qualifications is, in fact, an effort to improve program quality, as quality is directly impacted by the qualifications of the teacher.

Kathleen and Jessie will meet with Margaret before the announcement is distributed, as Jessie feels strongly that it is the Board's responsibility to do whatever they can in an effort to be clear about what has to happen in programs since the rules have been clarified.

Question: Will we change the indicator to meet Rule 11 for future RFP? The Board answered "yes."

Melody will sign off on the announcement as the Office of Early Childhood, so grantees know the Sixpence Board and the Department of Education has communicated on this.

### **Update NDE RFP for Technical Assistance Contract Discussion**

Because the TA contract is more than \$50,000, Melody handed out information on the process to get bids on TA.

Todd raised questions about NCFF employees being in the room if NCFF plans to submit another bid for the contract:

1. Legal problem
2. Public perception problem

Discussion ceased. The item will be addressed in Executive Session at the May meeting.

### **Alliance Request for exception to Group Size Quality Indicator**

Alliance was a continuation program serving toddlers, originally with a class size of 12 and 3 staff. The program changed their class size to 8 toddlers to meet the Quality Indicator Requirements while still having three staff. The program runs a lengthy waiting list and would like to serve more families some of which may not meet one of the required Sixpence risk factors. The ratio will be maintained, but they have requested permission to exceed the group size, from a group size of 8 to a group size of 10.



Questions from Trustees while considering the request from Alliance:

What are the ages of the children in the program?

Answer: Most of the children are 2-3 years old.

What are the risk indicators of the ones they want to serve?

Answer: Unsure

Would they charge for those children?

Answer: Unsure

What are the implications for changing the rules for one program?

After much discussion, the Board agreed it was important to change the indicator for all, rather than grant the request of one particular program.

How large is their existing classroom? Does the classroom meet appropriate standards?

Answer: The space meets standards and is ample for 10 children.

The Trustees had further discussion that Alliance has made a good case for children in the community needing care, as there is a waiting list of 21. The Board wanted to make sure they were serving children at-risk, not just any child who needs care.

Melody argued against granting this request unless it is granted for all programs. She posed the question: Are we confident in having a maximum group size of 8, or not?

Helen suggested there may be no quality trade off in this request, as the ratio would be maintained. We know ratio and group size matters in toddler care, but don't have research for these specific gradations (i.e., group size of 8, group size of 10, etc.).

Mel made the point that Sixpence funds are not going to be used to pay for the additional children in the group size.

Kathleen and Martha both suggested that while the program design is limited in terms of being a half-day program, when the children are there, they are receiving a very high quality program.

Helen suggested a comment period for current grantees. Rather than just changing them, should the Board open up the indicators for comment? If we were to look at the quality indicators, are there other things that this Board would want to consider changing? At the end of this third year (not every year), this Board could offer the opportunity for programs to respond to requirements and make recommendations.

Motion by Mel Clancy to approve Alliance proposal with notification to all programs concerning the changes. No second. Motion dies.

Motion by Melody Hobson *to deny the Alliance request with the notation that this Board will be asking for input regarding all indicators before the next year (2012), and Alliance would have the opportunity to submit their recommendation at that time.* Second by Beth Schuler. Discussion: Helen would like to see the process go more quickly, and there might be several more changes to indicators. *Amendment by Helen to implement with for the new funding year, defined as 2011-12 funding year.* Amendment to motion seconded by Melody Hobson. Roll call vote on amendment to motion. Voting yes: Helen Raikes, Jessie Rasmussen, Beth Schuler, and Mel Clancy. Voting no: Todd Reckling, Melody Hobson. Amendment adopted. Roll call vote on motion as amended. Voting yes: Helen Raikes, Jessie Rasmussen, Beth Schuler, Mel Clancy. Voting no: Melody Hobson, Todd Reckling. Motion carries.

The immediate work of soliciting and reviewing comments from grantees will happen in a subcommittee of no more than 3. Helen will chair the subcommittee. Beth and Melody will be the other 2 trustees on the subcommittee. Kathleen and Martha as ex-officio members. Scope: (1) Review the input of grantees for possible changes to the quality indicators; (2) review suggestions of Kathleen, Martha, and other Trustees for possible changes to the quality indicators; (3) recommend changes on any and all indicators to the full Sixpence Board of Trustees at the May meeting.

All input from grantees should be received by April 15. The subcommittee will begin reviewing grantee suggestions April 18. Once the subcommittee finishes their work, review by Margaret. The Board decided to expand their May 11 meeting to 12:00 – 5:00 in order to make time to review and make final decisions on possible quality indicator changes.

### **Opportunity for Board of Trustees to visit York Prison Sixpence Program**

Kathleen reported that a national expert on infants and toddlers came to Nebraska, funded in part by American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Child Care Development Block Grant quality funds. Jeff Johnson gave several presentations on infants and toddlers and play, in partnership with the Early Childhood Professional Development Network and York Sixpence program, including one at the York Sixpence Prison nursery program. Jeff remarked: “For two hours, those moms forgot they were in prison and remembered they were moms.”

On the afternoon of May 24, 2011, the York program is arranging an opportunity for the Sixpence Board to come and view the nursery program and see firsthand the impact the Sixpence program is having in the lives of these young children at risk.

### **Enrollment Update**

Trustees had a hard copy enrollment update in their packet of supplemental materials.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be 12:00-5:00 p.m. May 11, 2011, at the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation (NCFF), 215 Centennial Mall South, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room, Lincoln.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.