



**Nebraska Early Childhood Education Endowment
Board of Trustees
Wednesday, November 18th, 2015
Minutes**

Welcome & Introductions

The meeting of the Sixpence Board of Trustees was called to order at 1:02 p.m. on November 18, 2015, at Nebraska Children and Families Foundation, 215 Centennial Mall South, 2nd floor Conference Room, Lincoln.

Mel Clancy noted that the Open Meetings Act Information has been posted.

Members present: Mel Clancy, Emily Kluver (representing the CEO of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Melody Hobson (representing the Commissioner of Education), Cara Small, Jessie Rasmussen, and Helen Raikes

Also in attendance: Amy Bornemeier (Sixpence Administrator), Karen Pinkelman, Stephanni Renn (Sixpence TA Specialist), Betty Medinger (Nebraska Children), Shane Rhian (NDE), Nicole Vint (DHHS),

Approve Minutes from September 9, 2015

A motion was made by Jessie Rasmussen to approve the minutes. Second by Helen Raikes. Voting yes: Jessie Rasmussen, Melody Hobson, Cara Small, and Mel Clancy. No opposition. Motion carried.

Nominate and Vote New Chair-Person: Mel Clancy's term ending December 2015; not seeking reappointment

A motion was made by Jessie Rasmussen to appoint Cara Small as the new Sixpence Chair-Person. Second by Emily Cluver. Voting yes: Jessie Rasmussen, Melody Hobson, Emily Cluver, and Mel Clancy. Abstaining Cara Small. No opposition. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Helen Raikes to appoint Melody Hobson as the new Sixpence Vice Chair-Person. Second by Emily Cluver. Voting yes: Jessie Rasmussen, Emily Cluver, Helen Raikes, and Mel Clancy. Abstaining Melody Hobson. No opposition. Motion carried.

T&A Grantee Status Report

Amy Bornemeier presented the Grantee Status Report to the Board Members. Board Members questioned why Aurora Public School was only serving 54% of their total agreed upon caseload of 24. Sixpence TA explained that Aurora has experienced staff turnover and has had to limit their services. Board members questioned whether there were enough of a high risk population to support having two visitors in a few of Sixpences smaller communities.

Fremont Public School is currently still looking to hire a bilingual educator. They had tried to partner with Dodge County Head Start but the program was unable to find a qualified bi lingual visitor. Fremont Public School is now partnering with Lutheran Family Services. Lutheran Family Services currently works with many Spanish and bilingual families in the community.

Discuss and Approve Alliance's request to continue serving 16 toddlers half days, rather than 8 toddlers full days per 2015-2016 funding contingency which required grantee to develop a plan to serve children a minimum of 6 hours per day by the 2016-17 grant year

Alliance Public School submitted a request to the Sixpence Board of Trustees asking them to consider allowing them to continue to serve toddlers for a half –day and only school calendar. When approving Alliance's Continuation Request, the Trustee's funded Alliance Public School on the contingency their Toddler Program would change to serve 8 toddlers, for a minimum of 6 hours a day, year around.

Rational was given regarding the request. It was discussed that serving 8 toddlers for six hours would mean 8 other toddlers would no longer receive services. The additional time served would mainly allow for a meal and a nap. It was also mentioned that currently the preschool and toddler programs align with each other, thus parents with children in each program would have to arrange for additional times to pick up their children. Several Board members discussed that the role of Sixpence was based on community need and doing what worked best for them.

Board Members discussed being open to compromise as an alternative in which Sixpence would ask that Alliance add two additional home visits in the summer. Additionally, the Board would require Alliance Public School to develop a monthly communication strategy to monitor development and progress of those children who transition to other child care programs one during the school year. In doing this, the dosage children receive would be strengthen when they are not at school.

The Board asked that Alliance start to try and figure out what they would need for staffing and financially to extend their program into the summer months.

A motion was made by Helen Raikes to approve Alliance Public School's request to continue services as usual with the agreement of adding two additional home visits in the summer and developing a monthly communication strategy to monitor development and progress of those children who transition to other child care programs. Second by Jessie Rasmussen . Voting yes: Jessie Rasmussen, Emily Cluver, Cara Small, and Mel Clancy. Voting no: Melody Hobson Motion carried.

Child Care Partnership RFP Status

Amy Bornemeier updated the Board members on the Childcare Partnership Grant. Last month Sixpence hosted a question and answer webinar. The webinar had eighteen candidates. Interested parties were from both new sites and communities that already were receiving Sixpence funding. individuals Interest from new grantees.

North Platte, York, Falls City, Lincoln, ESU 13, Lincoln, Hall county area, Northeast NE area, Knowledge Learning Corporation (Kindercare) Hay Springs, Omaha West Side, Millard, Red Cloud, Norris, and Central City. The required Bidders Conference will be December 1st. Grant applications are due January 28th.

It was also reported that Sixpence had secured the release of information from Step Up to Quality. Sixpence staff will be able to have access to the participants and what their rating is.

Update on Trustees' Recommendation to Results Matter Task Force to Reduce GOLD Checkpoints to Fall and Spring Only for Family Engagement (home based) Programs

The results matters task force agreed with the recommendation the Board had developed. Representatives from the Nebraska Board of Education are deciding if the change can be added immediately or if the new reduction will have wait until the summer when the TA document is revised.

Review financial reports and verify funds available

Shane Rhian shared spreadsheets regarding financial projections and availability of current and future Sixpence funds.

- Sixpence currently uses \$6.15 million to support Grantees. With the addition of Omaha ELC commitments, the total number to support Sixpence Grants is 6,684,000 leaving approximately \$1.2 million to grant out.

Board members wanted to note that other expenses may arise as they discuss pay equity and expanding several center based services to year round.

Discuss guidance memo from NDE's legal counsel on using grant funds for tuition of Bilingual Home Visitors at Postsecondary Institutions

Amy Bornemeier reported to the Board the advice given from NDE's counsel on providing tuition reimbursement for bi lingual educators. Counsel could not find anything that would prevent the Sixpence Board from providing such assistance. It was advised that a policy be drawn up with many details about stipulations and expectations

Discuss and approve Grant Funds Use for Bilingual Family Engagement (home based) Staff Tuition Policy

Amy Bornemeier presented a draft policy for the Boards consideration. Many thoughts and caveats were discussed.

Board members were wondering if the tuition assistance could be used for all home visitors and not just bi-lingual visitors. Rational was given how it would only apply to bi-lingual home visitors per Quality Criteria for Family Engagement Programs- Attachment B, Staff Qualifications): "Programs may employ a Bilingual Home Visitor with an Associate degree, or the equivalency in credit hours, with a detailed education plan, created in conjunction with a higher education.

Board Members wondered if they could stipulate what degree the home visitor could receive. Discussion was held about being prescriptive with the coursework and regulations when making tuition assistance available. The caveat was that some degrees can be awarded without the beneficiary ever taking a class in Infant and Child Development or Family Centered Practices. Members thought it would be ideal to require 12 credit hours in such areas as 12 credit hours is the breaking point of quality. One thing to consider was that there are only a few higher education establishments have many hours that pertain only to infants and toddlers.

It was decided that the School District would be the one to reimburse the employee and then the District would ask Sixpence to reimburse them. One consideration would be to put a cap on the dollar amount.

The Board members decided to defer making any decisions. They were not comfortable with voting on the policy at this time.

Board members asked Sixpence TA to look into the BI Marcy Wysoc study, the BICC Teach Policy, the preliminary report from Susan Sarbor and Kris Martin. It was noted that research on what was required of a social work degree would be beneficial.

For the sake of consistency, it was requested Sixpence staff come up with several ideas and specific recommendations about all home visitors, not just bilingual. The Board hopes to see TA develop several recommendations for their consideration at the next meeting.

A motion was made by Helen Raikes to defer this vote to another meeting. Seconded by Jessie Rasmussen Voting yes: Jessie Rasmussen, Melody Hobson, Cara Small, Emily Kluver and Mel Clancy, and Helen Raikes. No opposition. Motion carried.

The meeting ended with a ***motion to adjourn*** by Jessie Rasmussen. Seconded by Cara Small. Voting yes: Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy, Cara Small, Emily Kluver, and Jessie Rasmussen. No opposition. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 2:27 p.m. **Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 13th 1:00-4:00 p.m.**