



**Nebraska Early Childhood Education Endowment  
Board of Trustees  
Wednesday, March 27, 2019  
Minutes**

**Welcome & Introductions**

The meeting of the Sixpence Board of Trustees was called to order at 1:04 p.m. on March 27, 2019, at Nebraska Children and Families Foundation, 215 Centennial Mall South, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Conference Room, Lincoln.

Trustees present: Sophie Kock, Melody Hobson (representing the Commissioner of the Nebraska Department of Education), Nicole Vint, Holly Hatton Bowers, and Helen Raikes (joined at 2:17 pm).

Also in attendance: Amy Bornemeier (Sixpence Administrator), Karen Pinkelman and Stephanni Renn (Sixpence Administrative Education Specialists) Deb Reiman (Sixpence Administrative Education Specialist for CCP), Caitlin Goin and Mary Jo Pankoke, (Nebraska Children), Ben Baumfalk (First Five Nebraska), Michaela Hershman (DHHS), and Shane Rhian (NDE Finance Director).

**Approve Minutes from January 16, 2019**

A motion was made by Sophie Kock to approve the minutes. Second, by Nicole Vint. Voting yes: Melody Hobson and Sophie Kock, Nicole Vint and Holly Hatton Bowers. No opposition, motion carried.

**Review Financial Reports, funding forecast and status of CCP grants**

Shane Rhian presented the financial reports; currently, there's \$3.1M in the Cash Fund and \$2M in State General Funds. It is projected to have \$1.8M carryover at the end of the grant cycle for grant activities and carry over \$22,000 in TA funds. The General Fund appropriation from the Legislature for the 2018-19 term was \$4.8M which was \$200,000 less than the previous year. Currently, the appropriations committee has written the restoration of \$200,000 into the

budget. Concerns were raised with the economic forecasting for agriculture due to the recent flooding.

Kevin Cloonon shared the 5-year Forecast Report for the State and private funds and noted that there will be TA and evaluation funding constraints in 2021 under the current funding availability.

Nicole Vint provided an update and stated there is extra funding from 2018 for Infants and Toddlers. They are currently working on amending the 2018 subaward to NCFE to include \$26,767 for evaluation of the CCP grants March 1- June 30, 2019, reducing the contracted amount of the evaluation contract from NDE. Next year \$65,000 is projected for CCP evaluation costs, which can be covered entirely by CCDF subaward to NCFE via contract with UNMC.

#### **Discuss and approve the use of grant funds for District-owned building occupancy costs**

Amy Bornemeier requested clarification surrounding whether districts can use their Sixpence funds to pay for occupancy cost of their Sixpence programs and Sixpence staff members. Historically, this allocation of funds has not been requested, and districts were advised to use occupancy costs as a match.

A motion was made by Helen Raikes to deny the use of grant funds to pay for any occupancy cost for Sixpence funded employees and programs housed in buildings owned by the District. Seconded Nicole Vint. Voting yes: Melody Hobson, Nicole Vint, Holly Hatton Bowers, and Helen Raikes. No opposition, motion carried.

#### **Discuss letter received from Tim Heckenlively (Falls City) and approve response letter**

Amy Bornemeier shared a letter discussing reimbursement concerns from Falls City's Superintendent, Tim Heckenlively. As of Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>, Fall City Public Schools did not have reimbursement for their expenditures that they've been incurring since July 1, 2018 for their CCP program. Amy explained that the delay was due to the delay in funding allocation from the feds to DHHS and then the subsequent delay of subaward to NCFE. Amy shared that no communication from Falls City regarding hardships had been shared with her. Falls City has since received its reimbursement for \$89,819. There has not been another claim submitted at this time. Concerns regarding the fact that this was the second year in a row there was a lag time for funds being released to grantees. DHHS is already working on the 2019-20 subaward for the known CCDF Infant/Toddler funds of \$413,194 to NCFE to avoid the lag time in the future. The additional allocation from the feds can be amended when that amount is known.

A motion was made to approve the response letter by Sophie Kock. Second, by Melody Hobson. Voting yes: Melody Hobson, Sophie Kock, Nicole Vint, and Holly Hatton Bowers. No opposition, motion carried.

## **Review All Grantee Status Report**

Amy Bornemeier, Karen Pinkelman, and Stephanni Renn presented the grantee status report, including program updates and allocation recommendations.

A discussion was held about Hastings, Lincoln, and Kearney as they will be losing supervisors and administrators at the end of the program year. Updates were given regarding communities that were affected by the recent flood. The Board requested keeping the external circumstances in mind in looking at attendance rates and the timing of evaluations for those programs in communities effected by the flooding.

Seward: Superintendents of Milford, Seward, and Centennial Schools have decided to move away from the current level of partnership with Blue Valley Community Action. They've decided to partner with ESU6 for the 2019-20 year. ESU6 will take over the supervisory role of the program and employ the Sixpence staff members. Blue Valley employs current home visitors. The home visitors will be given the option to stay with Sixpence and become employees of ESU6.

Kearney: The Board was informed of the upcoming retirement of the Administrator that oversees the Sixpence programs. Staff turnover and supervision have been, and currently, are concerns. Sixpence staff conducted a CQI visit and reviewed files in August and interviewed KPS staff. Due to lack of follow through with grant requirements, KPS was provided an action plan in September. As a result of the August action plan, a file review was conducted again in February. The same quality indicators were still not being met during this subsequent review. Funding allocation options were discussed. Karen Pinkelman asked the Board to give Kearney time to restructure and recommended partial funding with the ability to receive additional funding mid-term if action items were satisfactorily addressed. Intensive TA will be provided.

The Board discussed a recurring concern for Sixpence is the high turnover rate for home visitors. Helen Raikes asked for more information from Sixpence staff on why the turnover rate is high and different solutions to explore with a focus on pay equity.

Amy Bornemeier provided updates on Child Care Partnerships. The allocation of federal funds is projected to be the same if not slightly higher. As the first cohort of five districts are ending their first year three-year grant terms, programs are seeking new partnerships, as well as supporting the initial partners with training and coaching with reduced monthly visits. Nicole Vint expressed concern on the number of dollars that were left unspent and the ramifications for DHHS. The Board discussed considering the amount of unused funds for the CCP grants as they vote on 2019-20 allocations.

**Review and approve 2019-20 funds allocations**

<u>Grantee School District</u>	<u>Program Model</u>	<u>Recommended 2019-20 Allocation</u>
Alliance	Center	\$95,250
Auburn	Home	\$84,392
	CCP	\$200,000 (CCDF funded)
Aurora	Home	\$75,000
Broken Bow	Home	\$183,500
Central City	Home	\$75,000
Chadron	CCP	\$191,134 (CCDF funded)
Columbus	Home	\$150,000
Crete	Home	\$327,500
Falls City	Home	\$273,958
	CCP	\$225,000 (CCDF funded)
Fremont	Home	\$322,000
Garden County	Home	\$86,000
Gering	CCP	\$228,124 (CCDF funded)
Grand Island	Home	\$159,870
	CCP	\$225,000
Hastings	Home	\$75,000
	CCP	\$225,000
Humboldt Table Rock	Home	\$80,000
Steinauer		
Kearney	Home	\$230,000
	Center	\$284,712
	CCP	\$186,625 (CCDF funded)
Lexington	Home	\$229,450
Lincoln	Center- Educare	\$379,900
	Home	\$181,200
	Center- SCLCs	\$406,300
Loup City	Home	\$161,250
Millard	Home	\$75,025
Norfolk	Home	\$150,000
Omaha	Center- Educare	\$581,250
	Home- Educare	\$159,710
	Center- OELCs	\$534,040
Ord	Home	\$79,000
Papillion-LaVista	Home	\$81,000
Plattsmouth	Home	\$75,000
Santee	Center	\$88,750
Schuyler	Home	\$305,000
Scottsbluff	Home	\$305,000
Seward Consortium	Home	\$160,000
Sidney	CCP	\$235,719 (CCDF funded)

St. Paul	Home	\$75,000
Umo <sup>o</sup> ho <sup>o</sup> Nation	Center	\$121,050
Winnebago	Center- Educare	\$250,000
York	Home	\$321,610
	CCP	\$225,000 (CCDF funded)
Total Allocations	Home & Center	\$7,221,717
Total Allocations	CCP	\$1,941,602 (CCDF funded)
Grand Total Allocations		\$9,163,319

The Board discussed the opportunity for current grantees to request additional funding to address their unmet needs in their Year-End Report and 2018-19 Continuation Request.

After reviewing the recommended allocations and considering the discussion, a motion was made by Helen Raikes to approve the 2019-2020 funding allocations for the previously awarded amounts except for Kearney Public Schools home-based program and Childcare Partnership Grants. Seconded Nicole Vint. Voting yes: Melody Hobson, Nicole Vint, Holly Hatton Bowers, and Helen Raikes. No opposition, motion carried.

A motion was made by Helen Raikes to approve funding for Kearney Public Schools at a half rate of \$115,000 with the opportunity to release the remaining funding after six months if contingencies are met. Seconded Melody Hobson. Voting yes: Melody Hobson, Nicole Vint, Holly Hatton Bowers, and Helen Raikes. No opposition, motion carried.

A motion was made by Nicole Vint to approve the Childcare Partnership Grant 2019-2020 funding allocations for the previous amounts except for Chadron, Sidney, and Gehring Public Schools, whose allocations shall reflect a deduction amount consisting of half of the unspent funds from 2018-19. Seconded Melody Hobson. Voting yes: Melody Hobson, Nicole Vint, Holly Hatton Bowers, and Helen Raikes. No opposition, motion carried.

**Discuss the strategy of utilizing all publicly available funding sources**

The Board discussed whether Sixpence center-based programs should be required to have the families they serve to apply for the DHHS childcare subsidy and utilize the CACFP. It was advised that all publicly available sources of funding should be utilized, if possible, by school districts. It was suggested that districts may want to explore the possibility of an incentive program for parents of the enrolled children to fill out the necessary paperwork for child care subsidy. The Board requested that Districts keep documentation regarding the efforts they have made towards receiving child care subsidy.

### **Discuss CCP partnership challenges related to LB 547**

Amy Bornemeier communicated to the Board challenges districts were having surrounding the language in LB547, which created the funding for CCP grants. The language of the law states that the childcare provider must be enrolled in Step Up to Quality before the grant term beginning. The language excludes Districts from partnering with any providers who were not previously enrolled. Obtaining a Step three by the end of the initial three-year grant term has also been a challenge for those providers that started their partnership after the initial grant start date.

### **Approve revised Quality Criteria/Indicators for all Sixpence grant models**

Amy Bornemeier presented requested changes to Sixpence Quality Indicators/Criteria for all program models. Changes were made to:

- Staff Qualifications (Home and CCP) and related Policy on using grant funds for home-based staff tuition reimbursement, allowing all home-based staff, not just bilingual staff, to follow that policy;
- Evaluation (CCP) to provide additional evaluation options for CCPs who have achieved a Step 5 to continue partnering beyond the initial 3 year grant term;
- Intensity and Duration of Services (Home) to include documentation of parent-child interactions at home visits;
- Supervision (Home and CCP) to include documentation review for grant compliance and CCP Coach Supervision aligned with the home and center grants;
- Administration (all models) to include use of the Technology Position Statement.

A motion was made by Helen Raikes to approve all the revised quality indicators except for the requirement that the CCP providers follow the Technology Position Statement. Seconded Nicole Vint. Voting yes: Melody Hobson, Nicole Vint, Holly Hatton Bowers, and Helen Raikes. No opposition, motion carried.

### **Review and approve the 2017-18 Biennial Report**

The Board reviewed the report and complimented First Five Nebraska on the quality.

A motion was made to approve the Biennial report (pending the “s” typo on page 2) by Holly Hatton-Bowers. Seconded by Melody Hobson. Voting yes: Melody Hobson, Nicole Vint, Helen Raikes, and Holly Hatton Bowers. No opposition, motion carried.

### **Review Board Appointment Terms**

Amy Bornemeier thanked Sophie Kock for her attendance at the meeting. The Governor's office has yet to name a replacement for her position.

The meeting ended at 3:55 pm with a ***motion to adjourn*** by Nicole Vint. Second by Helen Raikes. Voting yes: Melody Hobson, Nicole Vint, Helen Raikes, and Holly Hatton Bowers. No opposition, motion carried.

**Next Meeting Date: June 12, 2019;** approval of continuation funding and evaluation budgets

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