



**Nebraska Early Childhood Education Endowment
Board of Trustees
Wednesday, March 9, 2016
Minutes**

Welcome & Introductions

The meeting of the Sixpence Board of Trustees was called to order at 1:02 p.m. on March 9, 2016 at Nebraska Children and Families Foundation, 215 Centennial Mall South, 2nd floor Conference Room, Lincoln. 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), Joan Luebbers (representing the Commissioner of Education), Cara Small (Board Chair,) and Helen Raikes. Absent: Jessie Rasmussen

Also in attendance: Amy Bornemeier (Sixpence Administrator), Karen Pinkelman and Stephanni Renn (Sixpence TA Specialists), Betty Medinger (Nebraska Children), Shane Rhian (NDE) Eva Lester (Buffet Early Childhood Fund) Jen Goettemoeller, Mike Medwick and Ashley Bykerk (First Five Nebraska), and Barb Jackson and Kerri Miller (UNMC), arrival 3:30 p.m.

Approve Minutes from January 13, 2016

A motion was made to approve the minutes by Sophie Kock with an edit to Evaluation Report Addendum discussion adding "*were discussed*" to the following sentence, "Specifically, the effect of age and the correlation of family literacy resources and physical environments on the children's language outcomes *were discussed*." "Second by Nicole Vint. Voting yes: Joan Luebbers, Cara Small, Nicole Vent and Sophie Kock. No opposition. Motion carried.

Review Financial Reports and Verify Funds Available

Shane Rhian reported on the financial projections and availability of current and future Sixpence funds. Sixpence currently has roughly \$8M available to support current grantees, and new projects in the 2016-2017 funding year. Projections to fund continuation grants to current grantees is \$6.5M, leaving approximately \$1.5M for new projects, including evaluation and TA contracts. The Board discussed the need to approve allocations for the current grantees to apply for 2016-17 continuation funding through the Grants Management System (GMS.)

The Board noted and discussed the grantees who have a history of leaving funds unspent and the status of their reimbursement requests thus far. The Board will take this into consideration when approving allocations for continuation grants.

Related to the new Child Care Partnership (CCP) grants, Nicole Vint presented information on the CCDBG Proposed Rules 98.53 *Activities to improve the quality of child care*, as published in the Federal Register. The Board discussed the funding implications of LB547, noting that approximately \$1M will become

available through CCDF in 2017. Nicole Vint will keep the Board apprised as guidance is shared from the federal offices.

Grantee Status Report & TA Updates

Amy Bornemeier presented the current grantee status report. The Board discussed issues regarding enrollment rates for various districts. Additional TA is being provided to those grantees to assist with recruitment and filling staff vacancies. The Board discussed some communities who have struggled to retain staff and recruit families. The Board will take enrollment history into consideration when approving future continuation grants.

Amy Bornemeier reported that each of the current grantees have been assigned to a primary TA Specialist- Karen or Stephanni, and Amy will be the primary TA provider for the new CCP grantees. Karen and Stephanni are conducting the annual CQI visits in preparation for the continuation funding approval at the March Board meeting.

Discuss and Approve Recommendations and Approve Allocations for Continuation Grants

In response to the need to approve allocations for districts to apply for continuation funding via GMS, Amy Bornemeier presented the Board with the Continuation Grants Allocation Recommendations. These recommendations included additional funds to support the addition of two home visits for centers who do not operate year-round, mental health supports for families and staff, and Circle of Security, and/or a decrease in funding due to start-up funds expiring and/or a history of funds being left unspent in prior grant cycles.

A motion was made by Sophie Kock to approve the new allocations for the continuation grants. Second by Helen Raikes. Voting yes: Helen Raikes, Cara Small, Sophie Kock and Nicole Vint. No opposition. Motion carried.

Discuss and approve Child Care Partnership Grant Applications

Amy Bornemeier presented the Board with the Child Care Partnerships Grant Application Review Summary and Recommendations for each of the 11 applicants and referenced the map depicting where the applicants are located in correlation with the highest need counties.

Karen Pinkelman presented the Board with a budget comparison spreadsheet, noting funds designated to the grantee and funds to directly support the Child Care Partner in enhancing their quality. The Board noted that some applicants had perhaps not budgeted adequately to support the work required to support child care providers in attaining a Step 3 in Step Up To Quality.

The Board discussed each applicant and requested TA staff work with each approved grantee to ensure the programs have planned and appropriately budgeted for the work to be successful. General recommendations include:

- Reconfigure their budgets to show true cost needed to support child care partners in attaining a Step 3 in Step Up to Quality by the end of the 3 year grant period

- Reconsider the number of child care partners included- some seem to have misunderstood the recommended ratio
- Support the continuity of key staff by offering salary packages that compensatory
- If grant funds are used to support child care scholarships:
 - those child care providers must have an agreement with Child Care Subsidy, and
 - have a system to provide oversight and accountability, and
 - support continuity once the child ages out of Sixpence, and
 - utilize an application system which describes the selection criteria and attempts to utilize child care subsidy before scholarship funds will be disbursed.

Chadron, Gering & Sidney Collaborative-

Chadron's application includes an operating budget of \$127,600 with a Start Up budget of \$25,000 and 6 child care partners. Gering's application includes an operating budget of \$208,452 with a Start Up budget of \$25,000 and 5 child care partners. Sidney's application includes an operating budget of \$214,777 with a Start Up budget of \$25,000 and 5 child care partners. Their collaborative model includes one Program Coordinator and 3 coaches. A motion was made by Helen Raikes to award Chadron, Sydney, and Gering Public Schools the Child Care Partnership Grants with the contingency that districts work with TA staff to incorporate the aforementioned recommendations, and that their total award be increased by \$49,171 to support those recommendations. Second by Joan Lubbers. Voting yes: Helen Raikes, Cara Small, Sophie Kock and Nicole Vint. No opposition. Motion carried.

North Platte-

North Platte's application includes an operating budget of \$156,000 with a Start Up budget of \$25,000 and 2 child care partners. A motion was made by Helen Raikes to award North Platte Public Schools the Child Care Partnership Grant with the contingency that the district work with TA staff to incorporate the aforementioned recommendations, as applicable. Second by Nicole Vint. Voting yes: Helen Raikes, Cara Small, Sophie Kock and Nicole Vint. No opposition. Motion carried.

Falls City -

Falls City's application includes an operating budget of \$225,000 with a Start Up budget of \$25,000 and 7 child care partners. A motion was made by Sophie Kock to award Falls City Public Schools the Child Care Partnership Grant with the contingency that the district work with TA staff to incorporate the aforementioned recommendations, as applicable. Second by Helen Raikes. Voting yes: Helen Raikes, Cara Small, Sophie Kock and Nicole Vint. No opposition. Motion carried.

Kearney -

Kearney's application includes an operating budget of \$146,322 with a Start Up budget of \$25,000 and 5 child care partners. A motion was made by Helen Raikes to award Kearney Public Schools the Child Care Partnership Grant with the contingency that the district work with TA staff to incorporate the aforementioned recommendations, as applicable. Second by Nicole Vint. Voting yes: Helen Raikes, Cara Small, Sophie Kock and Nicole Vint. No opposition. Motion carried.

The Board noted that revised Child Care Partnership Grant budgets would be voted on at the next meeting.

Auburn, Hastings, York, Red Cloud, and Grand Island -

A motion was made by Helen Raikes to not award the remaining applicants of Auburn, Hastings, York, Red Cloud, and Grand Island at this time, due to availability of funds, but that they be considered for a

second round of awards in 2017 when CCDF becomes available. Second by Sophie Kock. Voting yes: Helen Raikes, Sophie Kock and Nicole Vint. Abstaining Cara Small. No opposition. Motion carried.

Discuss and Approve Child Care Partnership Grant Applications for Round Two Selection

A motion was made by Sophie Kock to table the discussion and round two selection until the next Board Meeting. Second by Helen Raikes. Voting yes: Helen Raikes, Cara Small, Sophie Kock and Nicole Vint. Abstaining, Cara Small. No opposition. Motion carried.

Discuss and Approve Revised Grant Funds Use for Bilingual Family Engagement

Per the Board's discussion at the last meeting, Amy Bornemeier presented the Board with the newly revised policy, noting the edits which were discussed at the last meeting.

A motion was made by Sophie Kock to approve the Nebraska Early Education Bilingual Education Policy with the adjustment of replacing "course hours" with "credit hours." Second by Joan Lubbers. Voting yes: Helen Raikes, Cara Small, Sophie Kock and Nicole Vint. No opposition. Motion carried.

Presentation of Data Analysis Examining the Extent that Home Visitors Support Language

Kerry Miller from UNMC presented her research study results analyzing the correlation between the home visitors' HoVRS scores with the Sixpence children's language scores. The study examined how much language content is being provided during a home visit, and how well home visitors practiced coaching and facilitated parents' responsive interactions with their children. The key language strategies looked at were appropriate modeling, repeating/extending, turn taking, following the child's lead, and linguistic mapping. Kerry intends to hold a poster session using this de-identified data at the upcoming UNL CYFS Research Symposium.

The meeting ended with a ***motion to adjourn*** by Helen Raikes. Seconded by Sophie Kock. Voting yes: Helen Raikes, Sophie Kock, Cara Small, and Nicole Vint. No opposition. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 3:52 p.m. **Next Meeting: Wednesday, May11th 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

Note: The Board has cancelled the May meeting and will meet next on Wednesday, June 8, 2016.