



**Nebraska Early Childhood Education Endowment
Board of Trustees
November 22, 2013
Minutes**

Welcome & Introductions

The meeting of the Sixpence Board of Trustees was called to order at 1:04 p.m. on November 22, 2013, at the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation (NCFF), 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 Cluver (representing the CEO of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services), Melody Hobson (representing the Commissioner of Education), and Helen Raikes.

Also in attendance: Amy Bornemeier (Sixpence Administrator) and Karen Pinkelman (Sixpence Technical Support)

Approve funding for 2nd round grant application

This special meeting was held due to a conflict of interest of one Trustee, which led to a lack of a quorum at the November 13, 2013 meeting, to vote on Grand Island's Family Engagement grant application.

Amy Bornemeier walked the Trustees through a summary of the application and referenced discussion notes from the November 13, 2013 meeting.

Grand Island Public Schools: Request of \$150,000 for operations for a Family Engagement program; \$25,000 start-up. Local match of \$150,000.

The Trustees had some questions about the budget, and want parent representation on the advisory board, as well as clarification on which partner is overseeing direct supervision. The Trustees had questions about the budget. Trustees also want to require them to serve 24 children (instead of 20). TA needs to help school district recognize and understand their role as the Sixpence grantee.

Motion by Helen Raikes to fund Grand Island Public School with the stipulation that TA be directed based on Trustee discussion and directions (including quality indicators and budget clarifications). If the district fails to follow through with adjustments, their grant may be rescinded. Second by Melody Hobson.

The meeting ended with a *motion to adjourn* by Melody Hobson. Second by Helen Raikes. Voting yes: Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy, Emily Cluver, and Helen Raikes. No opposition. Motion carried.

Amy Bornemeier informed the Trustees that even with this approved grantee, approximately \$169,584 remained, of the \$1.25M which Greg Prochazka advised at the November 13, 2013 meeting was available to grant out. This will be put on the next agenda for discussion, when more Trustees are able to attend.

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m. The next meeting will be **Wednesday, January 8, 2013, from 1:00-3:00**, at the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation.



**Nebraska Early Childhood Education Endowment
Board of Trustees
November 13, 2013
Minutes**

Welcome & Introductions

The meeting of the Sixpence Board of Trustees was called to order at 12:05p.m. on November 13, 2013, at the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation (NCFF), 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), and Beth Schuler.

Also in attendance: Amy Bornemeier, Karen Pinkleman (Sixpence Administrators) and Betty Medinger from NCFF; Becky Veak and Jen Goettemoeller (meeting recorder) from First Five Nebraska. Greg Prochazka from the Nebraska Department of Education attended for the financial portion of the meeting.

A motion was made by Beth Schuler *to approve the minutes from the September 11, 2013, meeting*. Second by Melody Hobson. Voting yes: Mel Clancy, Emily Kluver, Melody Hobson, Beth Schuler. No opposition. Motion carried.

Update on Endowment financials

Current Sixpence cash balances from:

- Endowment Cash Fund \$1,561,836.50
- From General Funds \$4,000,000
- Lottery funds \$906,759.55

That leaves \$1,257,823.00 available to fund any new programs voted on today.

Approve funding for 2nd round grant applications

Amy discussed themes noticed by reviewers:

- Indirect cost allocation varied from 5-25%, often exceeding districts' established rate (available on NDE website).
- Parent involvement in-kind match was very high in EHS models.
- Some caseloads don't meet Quality Indicators.
- Confusion over role of school district and role of other partners. How do you incentivize and ensure true, meaningful collaborations.

TA delivered needs to address the deficiencies in the themes mentioned above. For example, TA might need to help districts recognize and understand their role in the partnership, sometimes thinking "out of the ordinary K-12 box" when it comes to serving infants and toddlers.

Amy and Karen then walked the Trustees through a summary of each applicant.

Humboldt Table Rock Steinauer: Request of \$75,000 for operations for a Family Engagement program; \$16,840 start-up. Local match of \$75,000.

The Trustees had some questions about the budget, specifically the indirect/administration cost. Trustees expect them to serve 12 children (instead of 10).

Grand Island Public Schools: Request of \$150,000 for operations for a Family Engagement program; \$25,000 start-up. Local match of \$150,000.

The Trustees had some questions about the budget, and want parent representation on the advisory board, as well as clarification on which partner is overseeing direct supervision.

Aurora Public Schools: Request of \$150,000 for operations for a Family Engagement program; \$25,000 start-up. Local match of \$150,000.

The Trustees had questions about the budget. Trustees expect this applicant to serve 24 children (instead of 20). TA needs to support the school district as they step outside of their traditional role of K-12 to also serve infants and toddlers.

Ord Public Schools: Request of \$75,000 for operations for a Family Engagement program; \$22,867 start-up. Local match of \$75,000.

The Trustees had questions about the budget. Trustees expect them to serve 12 children (not 10). TA needs to support the school district as they step outside of their traditional role of K-12 to also serve infants and toddlers.

St. Paul Public Schools: Request of \$75,000 for operations for a Family Engagement program; \$20,752 start-up. Local match of \$75,000.

The Trustees had questions about the budget. Trustees expect them to serve 12 children (not 10).

Norfolk Public Schools: Request of \$110,999.58 for operations for a Family Engagement program; start-up of \$25,000. Local match of \$129,914.80.

Trustees want to give them some curriculum choices that may be more affordable. Discussion regarding applicant's use of Navigator to serve more families. This applicant may have strayed from the Sixpence model. Need clarification on who is doing home visits. Need to look at number of children served. They seem to focus more on teen parents, rather than their infants and toddlers. This applicant does not appear to have enough staff to do home visits according to Sixpence criteria.

Kearney Public Schools: Request for \$149,880 for operations for a Family Engagement program; start-up of \$24,800. Local match of \$171,214.

Trustees expect this applicant to serve 30 children (instead of 32) to meet Quality Indicators.

Falls City Public Schools: Request for \$150,000 for operations for a Family Engagement program; start-up of \$25,000. Local match of \$164,091.

Trustees expect this program to serve 24 children (instead of 23). Caseload numbers need to stay consistent (no increase above Quality Indicators in subsequent years).

Central City Public Schools: Request for \$75,000 for operations for a Family Engagement program; start-up of \$20,277. Local match of \$75,000.

Trustees would expect this program to serve 12 children (not 10).

Schuyler Community Schools: Request for \$77,367 for operations for a Family Engagement program. Local match of \$121,695.

The Schuyler application does meet all Sixpence criteria, but funds are requested for a home visitor that is currently being paid for with other funds. Given that there is not sufficient money to fund all programs, and this appears to be a case of supplanting funds, the Trustees did not include Schuyler in the list of schools to fund. They would like to have future discussion about the supplanting issue, as they did recognize the intent of the supplanting was to utilize the original funds to expand access to other children at-risk across the state, which is the intent of Sixpence.

Lincoln Public Schools: Request for \$127,000 for operations for a Family Engagement program; start-up of \$17,940. Local match of \$127,000.

Trustees had concerns about the additional 60 children proposed to be served whose intervention does not seem to meet the RFP and Quality Indicators. Trustees said if they wanted to submit a \$75,000 budget to serve 12 children through a Family Engagement program, that would meet the requirements, but their current application does not.

Garden County Schools: Request for \$150,000 for operations for a Family Engagement program; start-up of \$25,000. Local match of \$165,100.

Trustees discussed the expenses that would be expended to serve children across a very large geographic area, and expressed concerns that the application proposes to serve the same number of children proposed in other applications and current programs, yet requests twice the dollar amount. Trustees discussed this applicant would serve fewer children than many other grantees, but acknowledged that would be due to the fact that they must cover a large geographic area. Trustees also had questions/concerns about their \$40,000 contractual expense, and wanted to know if children were being assessed twice (one through Healthy Families America assessment, and a second time through Sixpence)?

Grand Island Public Schools: Request for \$150,000 for new center-based program; \$25,000 start-up. Local match of \$150,000.

This applicant proposes center-based care during the school year and home-based during the summer. Trustees had concerns about a part-day program (three days per week) and if that will meet the needs of the community. This application does not meet the Quality Indicators.

Santee Community School: Request for \$150,000 for center-based program; \$25,000 start-up. Local match of \$150,000.

This application would make a community child care into a Sixpence program. It would require a considerable amount of TA, as this application does not meet quality indicators. There were questions about why their 0-3 population is not in their school building, and now located in a trailer.

Motion by Melody Hobson to fund the following slate of school districts with the stipulation that TA be directed based on Trustee discussion and directions (including quality indicators and budget clarifications). If any district fails to follow through with adjustments, their grant may be rescinded. Second by Beth Schuler.

- Humboldt Table Rock Steinauer Schools
- Aurora Public Schools
- Ord Public Schools
- St. Paul Public Schools
- Kearney Public Schools
- Falls City Public Schools
- Central City Public Schools

Voting yes: Melody Hobson, Beth Schuler, Mel Clancy, Emily Kluver. No opposition. Motion carried.

The Trustees decided to table a vote on the Grand Island (home based model) application due to a quorum not being present (since Beth preferred to sustain from voting). Tentative meeting November 22 or November 25 to vote on the Grand Island application.

Update on TA plan

Amy reported that she and Karen would provide 2 technical assistance visits to each program per year, with a 3rd visit to all new programs. The Board thought this was a good idea.

Approve TA contract with NCFF

Amy presented the Trustees with a detailed technical assistance budget. There was brief discussion on a few of the line items (i.e., program grants and website maintenance) to ensure the TA contract was not going over the allowable TA limits. Betty assured the Board the TA contract would stay within the TA limit. Motion by Beth Schuler *to approve TA contract with NCFF*. Second by Emily Cluver. Voting yes: Beth Schuler, Mel Clancy, Emily Kluver, Melody Hobson. No opposition. Motion carried.

Approve Evaluation contract with MMI

The proposed evaluation contract brings Barb's contract up to date to serve cohort 2 grantees (awarded in July). It will need to be amended later to take cohort 3 into account. She intends to come to January meeting with that amendment.

Motion by Mel Clancy *to approve evaluation contract with Munroe Meyer Institutue*. Second by Beth Schuler. Voting yes: Mel Clancy, Emily Kluver, Melody Hobson, Beth Schuler. No opposition. Motion carried.

Consider approving Lexington's exception request

Request for current staff (already hired) to have time to get Bachelor's degree this spring (2014). She will then meet the Quality Indicators. The written request from Lexington outlined her graduation plan, and included a note from the Superintendent highlighting her bilingual abilities, which will be critical in serving the families most at risk.

Motion by Emily Cluver *to approve Lexington's exception request*. Second Melody Hobson. Voting yes: Emily Kluver, Melody Hobson, Beth Schuler, Mel Clancy. No opposition. Motion carried.

Consider approving Winnebago's revision request

Winnebago submitted a request to delay the start of their program until they can find the qualified staff. The Board discussed a previous vote taken in June 2013 to fund the Winnebago program. That vote already gave them until January 2014 to start their program, so the Board felt an additional vote was unnecessary.

Board Succession Planning

Helen Raikes, whose term was ending December 31, 2013, has been re-appointed by the Governor.

Proposed 2014 meeting dates

January 8

March 12

May 14

July 9 – change this meeting to June 11 to approve any continuation grants

September 10

November 12

The meeting ended with a *motion to adjourn* by Beth Schuler. Second by Melody Hobson. Voting yes: Beth Schuler, Mel Clancy, Emily Kluver, Melody Hobson. No opposition. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00p.m. The next meeting will be **Wednesday, January 8, 2013, from 1:00-3:00**, at the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation.



**Nebraska Early Childhood Education Endowment
Board of Trustees
September 11, 2013
Minutes**

Welcome & Introductions

The meeting of the Sixpence Board of Trustees was called to order at 1:00 p.m. on September 11, 2013, at the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation (NCFF), 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 Cluver (representing the CEO of Health and Human Services), Melody Hobson (representing the Commissioner of Education), Helen Raikes, Jessie Rasmussen, and Beth Schuler.

Also in attendance: Amy Bornemeier and Kathleen Feller (Sixpence Administrators), Betty Medinger, and Lynne Brehm from NCFF; Judie Jerald and Lisa Richardson from Save the Children; Greg Prochazka from the Nebraska Department of Education; and Becky Veak and Jen Goettemoeller (meeting recorder) from First Five Nebraska.

A motion was made by Jessie Rasmussen *to approve the minutes from the June 10, 2013, meeting*. Second by Melody Hobson. Voting yes: Mel Clancy, Jessie Rasmussen, Beth Schuler, Melody Hobson. No opposition. Motion carried.

Update on Endowment Financials

Greg Prochazka reported on 3 different funding sources that the Board is now utilizing: original funds from public/private investment (cash fund), state general funds, and lottery funds.

Greg put the financials together based on the assumption that the Board will use lottery funds and state general funds first since interest isn't generated from those funds, and would spend the Endowment Cash Funds last. He walked the Board through a current update of funding streams and financials, including grant amounts for 6 expansion grants and 7 new Sixpence programs (awarded July 1, 2013).

Consider Approval of Nebraska Head Start Association Request

The Nebraska Head Start Association submitted a formal letter of recommendation to the Sixpence Board asking for a different approach to the definition of partnership and specifically requesting that the *Board not award Sixpence funds* if a Sixpence applicant does not enter into a formal partnership with Early Head Start (EHS), including (1) actively involving EHS in the completion of the application process; (2) ensuring competition for slots does not happen.

This letter was prompted by the following situation:

Early Head Start felt Columbus Public Schools made it clear they were not going to partner with them, but asked EHS to write a letter of support for the Sixpence application. EHS wrote a letter for Columbus' Sixpence application explaining that they were not included as a partner, but that they were willing and wanted to partner. The Board of Trustees funded the Columbus application, even though Early Head Start had not been actively involved in the design of the program and in the application process.

The Board discussed and confirmed their intent (established from the inception of Sixpence) that Sixpence programs be built from a partnership that includes EHS, where possible. The Board recognized that intent is already outlined in the RFP, and they referenced section VI of the RFP (Expectation for Community Partnerships) that states, "Schools interested in this funding opportunity are required to partner with programs that exist within the community, including but not limited to, Early Head Start/Head Start and early childhood care and education programs. Community-based partners are also encouraged to approach their local school districts to propose options for working together. Applications will not be accepted from applicants that do not include partnerships."

The Board held much discussion of not causing Head Start/Early Head Start harm, particularly in light of sequestration last March, but also articulated that there was never the intent to send Sixpence funds to Head Start programs.

Kathleen provided additional background information, which revolved around the definition of partnership and financial impact. She explained that the same issue arose in Schuyler, but a solution was found. Jessie also reminded the Board that a similar situation presented (lack of authentic partnership with EHS) was found in previous Sixpence applications. To remedy the situation in previous experiences, the Board has directed significant TA be provided to establish and foster a genuine partnership with Early Head Start. Although the intent of the Board is to fund applicants where those relationships are already secure, they do see the need to be part of the solution in building those relationships where they don't exist in order to continue expanding high quality and impactful early childhood opportunities for at-risk infants and toddlers across the state.

When the Columbus grant was approved, the Board did outline that TA be provided to build the relationship between the school district and the Head Start/Early Head Start program.

The Board directed Amy and Kathleen to work with Mel Clancy, Chair, to draft a response to the letter, include clarification that it is the position of the Board to promote positive partnerships, including with Head Start/Early Head Start. The Board asked that the letter include an explanation of the time constraints with funding awards, resulting in the grant to Columbus being awarded even though the TA had not been delivered up front. The response letter should also include examples of how the partnership looks in different school districts. The Board also directed that a reminder of how important partnerships are be sent to everyone who has attended the Bidder's Conference and/or submitted a Letter of Intent.

A motion was made by Jessie Rasmussen *to send the letter discussed above with the aforementioned points in response, instead of approving the full Head Start Association request outlined in their letter to the Board.* Second by Melody Hobson. Voting yes: Emily Cluver, Helen Raikes, Jessie Rasmussen, Beth Schuler, Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy. No opposition. Motion carried.

The Board reiterated their commitment to utilize TA to help develop and establish partnerships (especially with Head Start/Early Head Start), and also asked that more TA be directed to the recruitment selection process for grantees.

Save the Children Early Steps to School Success Presentation

Four of the newly awarded Sixpence grantees utilize Save the Children "Early Steps to School Success" model, so at the last Board meeting, the Trustees requested more information on Early Steps. Lisa Richardson and Judie Jerald were present at the meeting and gave a presentation to the Board.

Judie gave background on Save the Children's international work. More recently, Save the Children has begun work nationally on (1) early childhood (utilizing Early Steps to School Success model); (2) literacy in school tutoring; (3) after-school program; (4) children in emergencies and crisis.

"Early Steps to School Success" is a comprehensive model that targets language development and pre-literacy skills in young children. It provides services through home visiting and parent groups (largely because the model is delivered in rural communities). Early Steps works with children and families from pregnancy until the child enters kindergarten. It is connected to the schools and other community partners, and is designed to be culturally relevant to the community it is serving. Early Steps always hires locally. Criteria for being served is decided locally by identifying the youngest and the neediest children.

Book Bag Exchange

- Age and culturally appropriate books
- Training for parents in dialogic reading
- "Books are about relationships, not just learning how to read"

2012 “Early Steps to School Success” data show:

- At 3 years of age, 83% of children scored average or above average for language development (PPVT) – this measure includes English language learners
- At 5 years of age, 90% of children scored average or above average for language development (PPVT) – this measure includes English language learners
- As in an IQ test, the standard average for all children on the PPVT is 100. The average standard score for ESSS children is 96.8 (n=630).
- Results for 2013 are just as strong (maybe a bit stronger, with more children included)
- Nebraska specific sites
 - (Across 4 sites): 76 infants and toddlers; 171 preschoolers
 - 71% enrolled before age 1. 25% enrolled prenatally
 - Average number of risk factors is 7.4. (4 risk factors is considered very high and difficult to get an impact with.)
- The evaluation of “Early Steps to School Success” is being conducted by the University of Nebraska, the University of Maryland, and George Mason University. In addition to child outcomes, they are measuring change in the community at large (i.e., is quality early childhood having a difference on the rural community?)

2012-2013 Evaluation Report

Barb Jackson and Rosie Zweiback from Munroe-Meyer distributed an annual report and presented their findings from 2012-2013.

342 children served (in 311 families) and 22 pregnant mothers.

Key Findings:

- Overall, the center-based classroom environments were of high quality with the majority of classrooms meeting the standards for quality.
 - In 2011-2012, 67% of classrooms met quality standards on EVERY subscale
 - In 2012-2013, 86% of classrooms met quality standards on EVERY subscale
- Sixpence teachers have improved in the use of instructional support strategies that promote learning.
- 15% increase in instructional support over time...and research has linked instructional support directly to child outcomes.
- Family engagement services are of high quality and result in engaged parents and children.
- The majority of the children met or exceeded the widely held expectations by spring, with strengths in the areas of cognitive, fine motor, and social emotional development.
- The majority of children met or exceeded the expected growth rate for their age.
- The majority of the infants and toddlers demonstrated typical language production and comprehensive skills across the year.
- Toddlers demonstrated significant gains in vocabulary skills with the majority meeting age-level expectations.

- Child risk factors and home language were linked to vocabulary outcomes.
- For every 1 additional risk factor, there was a 4 point drop in vocabulary scores.
- The majority of children met expectations across social-emotional dimensions.
- Participation in Sixpence resulted in significant improvements in social-emotional protective factors.
- Sixpence families met or exceeded the state health indicators.
- Pregnant mothers enrolled in Sixpence met or exceeded the majority of state health indicators for prenatal care with the exception of a slightly lower rate of abstinence from smoking.
- Sixpence helped families close the gap in creating a positive home environment to support their children's cognitive and emotional development.
- Sixpence families demonstrated adequate parent-child interaction skills.
- Families demonstrated higher quality interactions with their children the longer they were in Sixpence.

Update of Revisions to Rule 11

The Department of Education is working on cleaning up the draft revisions to Rule 11, including possibly formatting the draft so that changes will be highlighted. The cleaner draft will then be shared with the Sixpence Board. NDE will be getting input from school districts on the revisions this fall.

2nd Round RFP release update

10 out of 13 districts who intend to apply are new to Sixpence. (New applicants are marked with an * below.) Letters of Intent have been received from the following:

- Aurora Public Schools*
- Falls City Public Schools*
- Garden County Schools*
- Grand Island Public Schools*
- Humboldt Table Rock Steinauer Public Schools*
- Kearney Public Schools*
- Kimball Public Schools*
- Millard Public Schools*
- Norfolk Public Schools*
- Ord Public Schools*
- Santee Community Schools
- Schuyler Public Schools
- St. Paul Public Schools*

Before the meeting ended, the Board of Trustees wanted to note their appreciation for the excellent work Kathleen Feller has done. The technical assistance she provided to the grantees has been critical to Sixpence programs meeting high standards, which clearly have had a profound impact on Nebraska's youngest, at-risk children.

The meeting ended with a *motion to adjourn* by Helen Raikes. Second by Melody Hobson. Voting yes: Helen Raikes, Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy. No opposition. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m. The next meeting will be **Wednesday, November 13, 2013, from 1:00-3:00**, at the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation.



**Nebraska Early Childhood Education Endowment
Board of Trustees
June 10, 2013
Minutes**

Welcome & Introductions

The meeting of the Sixpence Board of Trustees was called to order at 9:05 a.m. on June 10, 2013, at the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation (NCFF), 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 Cluver (representing the CEO of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services), Melody Hobson (representing the Commissioner of Education), and Jessie Rasmussen.

Also in attendance: Kathleen Feller (Sixpence Administrator), Betty Medinger, and Mary Jo Pankoke from NCFF; Becky Veak and Jen Goettemoeller (meeting recorder) from First Five Nebraska.

A motion was made by Jessie Rasmussen *to approve the minutes from the May 15, 2013, meeting*. Second by Melody Hobson. Voting yes: Mel Clancy, Emily Cluver, Jessie Rasmussen, Melody Hobson. No opposition. Motion carried.

Update on Endowment Financials

Kathleen Feller reported that there has been minimal change in public disbursements since the last time the Board met last month, May 2013. Effective July 1, 2013, an additional \$5 million will be available in the Sixpence Cash Fund through LBs 190 and 495.

Mary Jo Pankoke reported that the private endowment is making an additional disbursement of \$450,000 to the Cash Fund this month.

Approve Request for Carryover of Funds for Plattsmouth

The Plattsmouth program has had some staff changes and, in order to accommodate for training new staff, they strategically did not spend approximately \$6,000 in current funds so as

to carry them over and use them to train their new staff. In the past, the Board of Trustees has approved carryover funds for other grantees (without conditions). The Board remarked that they appreciated Plattsmouth thinking ahead and setting aside money to deal with their staff changes proactively and with current funds.

A motion was made by Mel Clancy *to approve the Plattsmouth request to carryover funds for staff training*. Second by Jessie Rasmussen. Voting yes: Emily Cluver, Jessie Rasmussen, Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy. No opposition. Motion carried.

Approve Funding for 2013 Sixpence Applications

A total of 13 applications were received by the deadline. Several school districts expressed their interest in applying, but were not able to make the short deadline. They conveyed their intent to apply for grant funding when the RFP was released again. The 13 applications received proposed to serve an additional 283 children, doubling the current reach and impact of Sixpence. Total funds requested were \$1,980,648.00 (including \$192,693 in start up funds).

Winnebago

This application proposes to serve 16 infant and toddlers in 2 classrooms through a center-based program in partnership with Educare Winnebago. Services will be provided full-day, year-round (6 hours a day, 225 days per year). The Educare Winnebago facility will not be open until January 2014. Proposed services will be provided at the Little Hill Child Development Center from September 1, 2013, until December 31, 2013, at which time the program will move into the new Educare center. The applicant is working towards meeting the staff qualifications indicator in Attachment A of the RFP. The reason they have not already met the indicator is because they are attempting to be culturally sensitive and competent. The applicant would like to have native staff working with the children and families. The applicant will meet the ratio and group size indicators when the program moves to Educare in January.

The Trustees discussed whether they should fund this program without the qualified staff indicator met, although they do appreciate and acknowledge the applicant's efforts to hire native staff. The grantee wants to not only meet the quality indicators, but also ensure the staff represents the community.

NDE stance is that if the grantee meets (no later than January 2014) the staff qualification indicator with someone who is able to teach (who meets the qualifications in the classroom), that would be an acceptable timeframe and should be a condition of receiving the funds. Melody suggested the Board could approve grant, but shouldn't receive funds until they have a certified teacher.

A motion was made by Melody Hobson *to approve funding for Winnebago Public Schools for \$19,141 in start-up funds, with the stipulation that the operating grant of \$150,000 be contingent upon having appropriately qualified staff in the classroom prior to serving children and no later than January 2014*. The Board directed Kathleen to provide TA to Winnebago Public Schools,

working closely with NDE, to explore all options for appropriate certification. Second by Jessie Rasmussen. Voting yes: Jessie Rasmussen, Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy, Emily Cluver. No opposition. Motion carried.

Crete

This application proposes to expand the currently funded Sixpence family engagement program by an additional 8-10 infants and toddlers, with a focus on reaching the Spanish speaking population in Crete. The program will be delivered in Spanish. Grant reviewers raised concerns that the applicant does not yet meet the staff qualification indicator in Attachment B of the RFP, but they did include a very detailed plan to meet the indicator within 2 years. The reviewers did feel this was a strong application.

The Board discussed concerns about the applicant not meeting the staff qualification indicator upfront. NDE remarked that because the state definition of home visitation has not yet been changed, the applicant is not violating any state rules/regulations.

Motion by Jessie Rasmussen *to approve Crete Public Schools for \$24,780 start up and an operating grant of \$75,000.* The Board directed Kathleen to provide technical assistance alerting the grantee that the State definition of home visitation will likely change, and that in the future (and at whatever point the definition of home visitation does change), they will need to be prepared to meet all NDE regulations. Second by Mel Clancy. Voting yes: Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy, Emily Cluver, Jessie Rasmussen. No opposition. Motion carried.

Loup City

This application proposes to expand the currently funded Sixpence family engagement program by an additional 8-10 children ages prenatal to age 3. The target population will be rural Sherman County. The applicant meets all of the quality indicators in Attachment B of the RFP. Grant reviewers noted the applicant utilized partnerships to build their expertise in serving children prenatal to age 3, though they would like to see a wider variety of partners in the future.

Motion by Jessie Rasmussen *to approve start up funding of \$6,260 and operating grant of \$75,000 for Loup City.* The Trustees directed Kathleen to follow up with technical assistance to clarify budget questions, including more detail on the parent in-kind figure of \$45,000 and indirect costs of \$10,625. Second by Melody Hobson. Voting yes: Mel Clancy, Emily Cluver, Jessie Rasmussen, Melody Hobson. No opposition. Motion carried.

Lincoln Public Schools – Educare

This application proposes to expand one center-based classroom for 8 infants and enhance 6 Early Head Start infant and toddler classrooms to meet the Sixpence guidelines (for a total number served of 56). The proposal is made up of a request for \$75,000 for the new classroom, and a second \$75,000 to enhance the 6 EHS classrooms to Sixpence standards (i.e., hiring a teacher aide, a family engagement specialist, and professional development). The applicant meets all quality indicators in Attachment A of the RFP. Grant reviewers commented

that the integration of the partnership between LPS current Sixpence program and Educare is unclear.

Motion by Emily Cluver *to approve Lincoln Public Schools – Educare start up funding of \$25,000 and an operating grant of \$150,000.* The Trustees directed Kathleen to provide technical assistance to the applicant in the areas of budget (clarify, show match, more detail about how money is to be spent) and partnerships. Second by Jessie. Voting yes: Mel Clancy, Emily Cluver, Jessie Rasmussen, Melody Hobson. No opposition. Motion carried.

Lincoln Public Schools – Cedars

This application proposes to expand the current center-based services at Lincoln High to include an additional toddler classroom serving 8 children. This would be full day, but just offered during the school year. The application also proposes to expand family engagement services for 20 additional infants and toddlers through a partnership with CEDARS using Healthy Families America curriculum. Priority will be given to teen parents who have graduated or have dropped out of school. The applicant meets all indicators in Attachment A of the RFP, but not meet the “duration of services” indicator in Attachment B.

The Trustees discussed their previous concerns with enrollment issues for this grantee. In the past, Trustees approved a decrease in their enrollment numbers due to funding issues. Since that time, their enrollment numbers and family engagement curriculum have met the Trustees expectations.

Motion by Jessie *to approve Lincoln Public School – Cedars for \$25,000 start up grant and operations grant of \$150,000, contingent upon meeting all Sixpence indicators (with attention on the duration of services) in Attachment B.* The Trustees had a few questions regarding the delivery of an early childhood system within LPS (school-based, Educare services, and Cedars services), and directed Kathleen to provide TA accordingly. Second by Mel Clancy. Voting yes: Emily Cluver, Jessie Rasmussen, Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy. No opposition. Motion carried.

Schuyler

This application proposes to serve 15 children through a family engagement strategy using Save the Children, Early Steps to School Success model and an additional 10 children through CNCS Early Head Start. The applicant will function as two separate programs with separate models, goals, timelines, and budgets. Applicant meets all quality indicators in Attachment B.

Motion by Jessie Rasmussen *to approve funding for Schuyler Public Schools for \$25,000 start up funds and an operations grant of \$150,000, contingent on a plan to build the partnership (alignment between Save and Early Head Start) and build cultural sensitivity.* The Board directed Kathleen to provide the applicant technical assistance around cultural sensitivity and competency, as well as partnerships. The Trustees asked Kathleen to clarify the parent in-kind piece of the budget, as well as what Sixpence is paying for across Early Steps to School Success programs in other sites. The Board requested clarification on partnerships and

administrative costs. Second by Emily Cluver. Voting yes: Jessie Rasmussen, Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy, Emily Cluver. No Opposition. Motion carried.

York

This application proposes to expand the currently funded Sixpence family engagement program by serving an additional 15 children. The expansion would target the Hispanic population, and the need for such focus was clearly identified and articulated in the application. The applicant meets all quality indicators in Attachment B of the RFP.

Motion by Melody Hobson *to approve funding for York Public Schools for \$25,000 start up and \$150,000 operating.* The Trustees directed Kathleen to provide TA to the applicant, clarifying details in the budget and the logic behind choosing a non-Spanish speaking home visitor utilizing a translator. Second by Mel Clancy. Voting yes: Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy, Emily Cluver, Jessie Rasmussen. No opposition. Motion carried.

Columbus

This application proposes to serve 30 children (within the city limits) through a family engagement strategy using Save the Children, Early Steps to School Success. The proposal will cover a currently funded position (allowing Early Steps funds to expand to an additional site elsewhere in Nebraska that is currently not served) and add an additional home visitor. The applicant meets all quality indicators for Attachment B to the RFP.

Motion by Jessie Rasmussen *to approve funding for Columbus Public Schools for a \$25,000 start up grant and an operations grant for \$140,500, contingent on developing a plan to build the partnership.* The Trustees discussed technical assistance needs for this applicant, and directed Kathleen to provide TA to clarify budget questions and support the development of rich partnerships. TA was also requested to work with Save the Children on streamlining requirements so as not to overburden the program with multiple requests. Second by Emily Cluver. Voting yes: Mel Clancy, Emily Cluver, Jessie Rasmussen, Melody Hobson. No opposition. Motion carried.

Fremont

This application proposes to serve 15 children through a family engagement strategy using Save the Children, Early Steps to School Success. Fremont Public Schools is requesting funds to double their current program. The applicant meets all quality indicators in Attachment B to the RFP.

Motion by Melody Hobson *to approve funding for Fremont Public Schools for a start up grant of \$10,200 and an operating grant of \$81,470 (\$88,410 in 2nd year).* The Trustees directed Kathleen to provide technical assistance to clarify budget and programming questions (i.e., ensure several Sixpence grants each funding a piece of Save the Children staff adds up appropriately), as well as streamlining requirements so as not to overburden the program with multiple requests. Second by Jessie Rasmussen. Voting yes: Emily Cluver, Jessie Rasmussen, Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy. No opposition. Motion carried.

Lexington

This application proposes to serve 30 children through a family engagement strategy using Save the Children, Early Steps to School Success. The proposal will cover a currently funded position (allowing Early Steps funds to expand to an additional site elsewhere in Nebraska that is currently not served) and add an additional home visitor. The applicant meets all quality indicators for Attachment B to the RFP. There are several items in the budget needing additional clarification.

Motion by Emily Cluver *to approve funding for Lexington Public Schools for a start up grant of \$17,000 and an operating grant of \$149,451.* The Trustees directed Kathleen to provide TA to clarify budget questions and support the development of authentic partnerships. TA was also requested to work with Save the Children on streamlining requirements so as not to overburden the program with multiple requests. Second by Melody Hobson. Voting yes: Jessie Rasmussen, Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy, Emily Cluver. No opposition. Motion carried.

Kearney

This application proposes to serve 8 toddlers in a center-based classroom located in the Kearney Early Childhood Center. The program will be offered full day, year round (225 days). The applicant meets all of the quality indicators in Attachment A of the RFP, and included evidence of strong partnerships in the proposal. Grant reviewers, however, felt that the goal of Sixpence (starting early with infants) and the identified target in the application (toddlers) seemed to conflict a bit.

The Trustees raised questions about this funding request given the fact that they will only be utilizing funds for 1 classroom (as opposed to 2 classrooms, which is what other applicants are providing for a similar amount of funding). The Trustees did acknowledge that the applicant will be serving children all throughout the year (as opposed to 9 months, as other applicants proposed).

Motion by Mel Clancy *to approve funding for Kearney Public Schools for a start up grant of \$25,000 and an operating grant of \$125,000 (not full request of \$149,906), contingent on submission of a new budget.* Trustees directed Kathleen to provide technical assistance to assist the program in understanding quality programming for infants and toddlers. Second by Melody Hobson. Voting yes: Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy, Emily Cluver, Jessie Rasmussen. No opposition. Motion carried.

Scottsbluff

This application proposes to serve 30 children through a family engagement strategy. Infants and toddlers residing within the Scottsbluff School District will be eligible for services. The applicant meets all quality indicators for Attachment B, and demonstrated a strong understanding of the value of working directly with parents.

Motion by Melody Hobson *to approve funding for Scottsbluff Public Schools for a start up grant of \$25,000 and an operating grant of \$150,000.* The Trustees directed Kathleen to provide technical assistance in developing partnerships, ensuring appropriate recruitment efforts are in place, and all clarifying budget questions are answered. Second by Emily Cluver. Voting yes: Mel Clancy, Emily Cluver, Jessie Rasmussen, Melody Hobson. No opposition. Motion carried.

Omaha Public Schools

This application proposes to expand the currently funded Sixpence center-based program at Educare of Omaha by 16 children. The program is offered full-day, year round. The applicant continues to meet all of the quality indicators in Attachment A.

Motion by Emily Cluver to approve funding for Omaha Public Schools for an operations grant of \$150,000. The Trustees directed Kathleen to provide technical assistance regarding grant questions to ensure clarity of programming. Second by Melody Hobson. Voting yes: Emily Cluver, Jessie Rasmussen, Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy. No opposition. Motion carried.

Approve Addendum to Technical Assistance Contract

Mary Jo presented the Board with an addendum through October 2013 to offer technical assistance to the new grantees. In response, NDE reported that General Funds from Program No. 158 (where the additional \$4 million investment to Sixpence is coming from) does not allow technical assistance to be purchased, although LB 195 does make clear the Legislature's intent to fund technical assistance and evaluation. NDE also reported their understanding that the Governor's office is supportive of the endowment provider (NCFF) requesting a "Budget Issue" in October 2013 to utilize a portion of these funds to provide technical assistance to the new grantees.

Melody suggested contacting Russ Inbody or Shane Rhiann (spelling?) to clarify details of Program No. 158. Mary Jo will follow up with appropriate staff at NDE for further details.

A motion was made by Jessie Rasmussen *to approve the addendum to TA contract, contingent on availability of either public or private funding.* Second by Mel Clancy. Voting yes: Jessie Rasmussen, Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy, Emily Cluver. No opposition. Motion carried.

Approve Release of Sixpence RFP – Round 2

Based on feedback from school districts who would have liked to have applied for Sixpence funding, the Trustees discussed re-releasing the RFP so more districts (especially smaller and more rural districts) have sufficient opportunity. A second round could give districts a little more planning time, with grant awards beginning January 1, 2014.

Kathleen proposed the following timeline for a second round of RFP release.

August 1, 2013 – Request for Proposal released

August 15, 2013 – Bidder's Conference (participation mandatory)

August 30, 2013 – Letters of Intent Due
October 9, 2013 – Applications Due
October 14 through 25 – Review Process
November 13, 2013 – Selection of Grantees (Board of Trustee meeting)
December 1, 2013 – Notify Grantees
January 1, 2014 – Grant Term Begins
March 1, 2014 – Deadline for new grants to become operational

The Trustees recommended that Kathleen explore options with NDE regarding meeting staff qualifications (i.e., allowing grantees a period of time to meet staff qualifications while still receiving grant). The Board also directed Kathleen to share these findings and recommendations as part of the Bidder's Conference.

A motion was made by Jessie Rasmussen *to accept the proposed timeline and release the RFP according to that timeline*. Second by Emily Cluver. Voting yes: Jessie Rasmussen, Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy, Emily Cluver. No opposition. Motion carried.

The meeting ended with a *motion to adjourn* by Melody Hobson. Second by Emily Cluver. Voting yes: Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy, Emily Cluver, and Jessie Rasmussen. No opposition. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m. The next meeting will be **Wednesday, September 11, 2013, from 1:00-3:00**, at the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation.



**Nebraska Early Childhood Education Endowment
Board of Trustees
May 15, 2013
Minutes**

Welcome & Introductions

The meeting of the Sixpence Board of Trustees was called to order at 12:00 p.m. on May 15, 2013, at the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation (NCFF), 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 Cluver (representing the CEO of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services), Melody Hobson (representing the Commissioner of Education), Helen Raikes, Jessie Rasmussen, and Beth Schuler.

Also in attendance: Kathleen Feller (Sixpence Administrator) and Mary Jo Pankoke and Betty Medinger from NCFF; Eleanor Kirkland (Head Start State Collaboration Office) and Joan Luebbers (Early Development Network) at NDE; Becky Veak and Jen Goettemoeller (meeting recorder) from First Five Nebraska.

A motion was made by Jessie Rasmussen *to approve the minutes from the March 26, 2013, meeting*. Second by Beth Schuler. Corrections to the March 26, 2013, minutes: On page 2 in the 4th paragraph, the minutes should read, "...trustees (not grantees) decided to keep grant amounts the same." Voting yes: Mel Clancy, Emily Cluver, Jessie Rasmussen, Beth Schuler, Melody Hobson. No opposition. Motion carried.

Update of Endowment Financials

Kathleen reported that the deposit received in March/April was lower than anticipated. The State Investment Council was adjusting investments in the hopes the earnings would increase. Changes were not implemented until November 2012, so may not see changes in distribution until May/June and possibly not fully until the distribution after that.

Mary Jo Pankoke (NCFF) distributed a Private Endowment Fund investment summary. She reported that the markets are doing well, and the private endowment fund is getting good earnings, resulting in a bit of a cushion. Considering the public side may be increasing their investments in Sixpence, NCFF is recommending that the private side include an additional

disbursement this fiscal year. Mary Jo also assured the Board that the outstanding pledges are coming in on time and without any concerns.

Update on Release of RFP

Kathleen reported that all applications are due today at 5:00pm. The Board received 17 letters of intent to apply. 4 are current Sixpence grantees. 3 are Early Steps to School Success programs. 5 applications have already been received as of the beginning of this Board meeting. Omaha and Lincoln will likely both be applying for more than one grant.

Kathleen has 30 reviewers in place. Reviewer calls have already taken place. Reviewer panel calls are scheduled for May 29, 30, and 31. Their thoughts and recommendations will be synthesized and presented to the Board during the June meeting.

The Board asked if Kathleen had been given any indication about schools not applying. Kathleen reported that she has heard that some school districts are not able to apply, primarily due to the rapid turnaround time. She also heard discussions about not being able to apply for Access Expansion grant because of challenges with sufficient staff qualified to meet the indicators. Many school districts would like the opportunity to apply for a Quality Enhancement grant, allowing them to bring their staff qualifications up while they offer an intervention for infants and toddlers at-risk in their local areas.

Melody gave a brief update on the status of early childhood endorsements. Specializations will either be "Age 3 through Grade 3" OR "Birth through Kindergarten" (attached to elementary certificate or special education certificate). This may help schools across the state access more qualified staff to meet the requirements set forth in the Quality Indicators. There will also be a graduate-level certificate offered. On the Special Education side, NDE is working on offering another endorsement to include a component on early childhood education.

Authorize the Chairperson to contract for evaluation

Barb Jackson (Monroe Meyer) has done the evaluation for Sixpence since the inception of the grants. The current evaluation contract ends June 30, 2012. In order to continue with the evaluation of the current 11 programs, Barb has sent a proposed budget for Board approval. It includes a \$2,700 increase from last evaluation budget (due to salary and benefits).

The Board held a brief discussion that the evaluation contract could be amended later in the year to add new grantees based on the outcome of increases in public and private funding.

Approximately 263 children at any given time are included in the evaluation.

Motion by Jessie Rasmussen *to authorize the chairperson to contract for evaluation*. Second by Emily Cluver. Voting yes: Emily Cluver, Jessie Rasmussen, Beth Schuler, Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy. No opposition. Motion carried.

Approve Recommended Options for Evaluation Expansion

Barb Jackson attended this portion of the meeting to explain three options for expanding evaluation and containing costs.

Option 1 – Keep evaluation exactly as is. Collects same data in same fashion and at same timeframes (pre-post; fall-spring).

Option 2 – For those existing programs utilizing CLASS, utilize video and Skype (rather than in-person visits). This decreases travel time and cost. In addition, half of the data debrief sessions will be conducted in person; the other half would be done via Skype to cut down on costs. This option would also use PPVT as an outcome measure only once (at the end of each year) rather than twice per year.

Option 3 – This option utilizes CLASS videotaping (same as Option 2), but ALL data debriefs would be done via Skype (none in person). This option also totally drops PPVT and utilizes the MacArthur (a paper and pencil assessment measuring expressive vocabulary up to 18 months and receptive vocabulary up to 30 months) and DECA.

Question: What does the PPVT tell you that others don't? Answer: PPVT provides a **standard** score that isn't parent reported. It also allows some comparison with other programs/models that also utilize PPVT. Collecting PPVT at least once still allows measurement of where children should be and where they actually are. However, collecting the PPVT only once (at the end of each year) would NOT tell us if the Sixpence program actually played a role in helping children arrive where they are in terms of their scores. In order to attribute success (or not) directly to Sixpence, the Board would need to collect the PPVT twice per year.

Question: Would we want to eliminate the MacArthur rather than PPVT? Answer: Not recommended because there is no other tool to collect language information on children under 18 months.

The Board engaged in further discussion regarding continuing (or not) collecting the PPVT data twice per year. From a policy perspective, we may want to know how children are doing (PPVT) pre- and post, particularly because this measurement attributes the gains to the intervention itself. Only measuring once does still allow comparison to where the children SHOULD BE, but isn't able to show if it is actually Sixpence making the difference, or if the gains are attributable to something else.

From a practice perspective, grantees are also using the data in the classroom and with families, so having PPVT twice a year is very helpful.

The Board discussed making sure we get the right kind of data we need, but not duplicating.

Question: Have you done the data debriefing via Skype option before, and has it been effective (or effective enough)? Answer: It has not been tried in Sixpence programs. If this is pursued, we will ensure that Sixpence TA personnel is physically with the grantee during this Skype session so grantees have the support and understanding they need to receive this data and

information. However, it may be a challenge for a few grantees that have internet difficulties in rural parts of the state.

Another option: Variation of Options 1 and 2. The Board may opt to keep the pre- and post- data collection points utilizing the PPVT, but still do some data debriefs via Skype to be able to cut costs.

Motion by Melody Hobson *to work with Barb to create a 4th option with the following criteria:*

1. *Preserve before and after use of PPVT.*
2. *Includes more distance debriefing.*

Second by Beth Schuler. Voting yes: Jessie Rasmussen, Beth Schuler, Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy, Emily Cluver. No opposition. Motion carried.

Discussion of Continuation Grants

Kathleen prefaced the discussion of continuation grants with remarks about how strategic action plans are developed for each grantee around their evaluation data. Kathleen worked with each grantee to develop a plan for any and all areas of concern. A networking event was held to help grantees focus on and share information about partnerships: reevaluating, restructuring, etc. Grantees responded by restructuring and increasing many of their partnerships.

In 2012, 7 programs were not meeting 24 quality indicators. Now, these programs are meeting many more of the quality indicators, with deficiencies in 13 areas. The number “not met” is decreasing. This is all being done at a time when grantees are facing the challenges of staff turnover.

State standard for ITERS is 5, and all Sixpence classrooms were at least a 6.

Kathleen walked the Trustees through the layout and definition formatting for each program grant. The Trustees commented that they very much appreciated receiving the highlights of each program in the format Kathleen provided, and asked to add (1) # of children served; (2) comparison of program data to state standard; and (3) average Sixpence score.

Of areas that come up in monitoring visits, Kathleen will bring (in September?) grantee concerns to the Board and have the Board officially respond to those concerns.

For greater detail regarding each program, please see the “2013 Grantee Continuation Funding Recommendations” handout submitted by Kathleen Feller.

Approve Continuation Grant to York

Currently serving 24 children in their Family Engagement program. Program met ALL quality indicators.

York is seeing a lot of addiction and violence. Although there are identified risk factors, there are many other risk factors that contribute to a child’s trajectory. This Board has identified 7 risk factors. Barb and Kathleen will be pursuing collection of data on other risk factors. Trustees

discussed that it was not as important to know WHICH risk factors a family faces, but HOW MANY they face, as the science shows that 3-4 risk factors translate into serious challenges for child development.

York will be applying for expansion funding for the 2013-2014 grant year.

Motion by Jessie Rasmussen *to continue funding for the York Sixpence program*. Second by Melody Hobson. Voting yes: Beth Schuler, Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy, Emily Cluver, Jessie Rasmussen. No opposition. Motion carried.

Approve Continuation Grant to Umo Hon Nation

Umo Hon Nation currently serves 8 children with Sixpence funds. 2 years ago, they met minimal quality indicators. Now there are only 3 minor contingencies to address. (See attached 2013 Grantee Continuation Funding Recommendations submitted by Kathleen Feller.)

In addition to improvements in quality standards, there have been huge increases in partnerships. The relationship with the Superintendent has been strengthened significantly. Additionally, they are now not only allowing but also *paying for* their teachers to attend an infant-toddler staff training.

Motion by Melody Hobson *to continue funding for the Umo Hon Nation Sixpence program*. Second by Beth Schuler. Voting yes: Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy, Emily Cluver, Jessie Rasmussen, Beth Schuler. No opposition. Motion carried.

Approve Continuation Grant to Walthill

Walthill has very high ITERS scores (6 and 7). Program met majority of the Quality Indicators and since the monitoring visit, has met all the quality indicators.

Motion by Jessie Rasmussen *to continue funding for the Walthill Sixpence program*. Second by Emily Cluver. Voting yes: Mel Clancy, Emily Cluver, Jessie Rasmussen, Beth Schuler, Melody Hobson. No opposition. Motion carried.

Approve Continuation Grant to Santee

This grantee had many contingencies last year. They went from 7 quality indicators “not met” down to 2. They have made significant improvements. The partnership between the school district and Head Start has been strengthened considerably and they are exploring sharing data to serve children more effectively. The school district and Head Start has started to do parent events and staff training events together.

Motion by Beth Schuler *to continue funding for the Santee Sixpence program*. Second by Jessie Rasmussen. Voting yes: Emily Cluver, Jessie Rasmussen, Beth Schuler, Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy. No opposition. Motion carried.

Approve Continuation Grant to Lincoln

This family engagement program had several contingencies last year. This year, they met every quality indicator and at a very high level. They were originally focused on the family crisis at hand, with less focus on child development. This time around, it is clear they are seeing the child as the main client and are addressing family issues as part of the context of the child's experience.

There were a few quality indicators not met (now have contingency plan in place and have already been resolved) in the center-based component.

The program match continues to grow (by over 175%).

Motion by Jessie Rasmussen *to continue funding for the Lincoln Sixpence program*. Second by Melody Hobson. Voting yes: Jessie Rasmussen, Beth Schuler, Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy, Emily Cluver.

Approve Continuation Grant to Omaha

The Omaha program serves 74 children with Sixpence funding. They are seeing good child outcomes from meeting quality standards. The Brazelton training has helped staff see parents in a different light. It has changed how they respond to families, and changed environments in the program. The program met the majority of the quality indicators.

Motion by Helen Raikes *to continue funding for the Omaha Sixpence program*. Second by Melody Hobson. Voting yes: Beth Schuler, Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy, Emily Cluver, Helen Raikes, Jessie Rasmussen. No opposition. Motion carried.

Approve Continuation Grant to Plattsmouth

Plattsmouth is currently serving 13 children with Sixpence funds. Staff turnover was a challenge this year. They have minor contingencies in place to meet quality indicators. They also have strong child outcomes. In the past, Trustees had questions about retention practices, but the grantee adjusted some things and families seem to be staying.

Motion by Jessie Rasmussen *to continue funding for the Plattsmouth Sixpence program*. Second by Beth Schuler. Voting yes: Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy, Emily Cluver, Helen Raikes, Jessie Rasmussen, Beth Schuler. No opposition. Motion carried.

Approve Continuation Grant to Loup City

Loup City is currently serving 22 children with Sixpence funds. This is the second year in a row to have met quality indicators, and they do so at a very high level. This past year, Loup City spent a lot of time targeting data and evaluation to improve their quality and interventions for children. They want to look at GOLD data and compare to evaluation data.

Question: Do the children in this program have different risk factors (than other Sixpence programs) and do these children start out lower than other children? Other risk factors in play

are substance abuse (meth use) and activity in the foster care system. Sixpence evaluation is not currently capturing incidents of family instability, but Barb and Kathleen will do some thinking regarding risk factors, and this grantee may be a good example of how other risk factors contribute to the challenges facing children and facing Sixpence programs in their interventions serving at-risk infants and toddlers.

Motion by Beth Schuler *to continue funding for the Loup City Sixpence program*. Second by Melody Hobson. Voting yes: Mel Clancy, Emily Cluver, Helen Raikes, Jessie Rasmussen, Beth Schuler, Melody Hobson. No opposition. Motion carried.

Approve Continuation Grant to Broken Bow

The Broken Bow Sixpence program is moving into a new space that will allow all members of the partnership to be in the same location. They are also exploring the option of streamlining the budget to report as one program, rather than 3 separate entities that form the partnership. This program's family engagement services have improved over time. They currently have their highest scores in the last 4 years. Parent-child engagement was above the Sixpence average.

Motion by Jessie Rasmussen *to continue funding for the Broken Bow Sixpence program*. Second by Helen Raikes. Voting yes: Emily Cluver, Helen Raikes, Jessie Rasmussen, Beth Schuler, Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy. No opposition. Motion carried.

Approve Continuation Grant to Crete

Currently serving 15 children with Sixpence funding, and will be increasing to 20 (with same amount of money). Early childhood has become a common piece of their community. All Sixpence families are now showing consistently strong parent-child interaction skills in the area of building relationships. 92% of families met or exceeded the national average in providing support to their children in their home. The program met the majority of the quality indicators

Motion by Beth Schuler *to continue funding for the Crete Sixpence program*. Second by Helen Raikes. Voting yes: Helen Raikes, Jessie Rasmussen, Beth Schuler, Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy, Emily Cluver. No opposition. Motion carried.

Approve Continuation Grant to Alliance

16 children are currently being served in the Alliance Sixpence program. 8 children are served in the morning, and 8 in the afternoon. The program met ALL quality indicators. The program continues to have strong child outcomes.

Motion by Jessie Rasmussen *to continue funding for the Alliance Sixpence program*. Second by Melody Hobson. Voting yes: Jessie Rasmussen, Beth Schuler, Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy, Emily Cluver, Helen Raikes. No opposition. Motion carried.

The Board of Trustees thanked Kathleen for her work with each of the grantees (and the grantee-specific program highlights and information prepared by Kathleen), acknowledging that Kathleen's monitoring and technical assistance is directly related to the success of the grantees.

The meeting ended with a *motion to adjourn* by Helen Raikes. Second by Melody Hobson.

Voting yes: Beth Schuler, Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy, Emily Cluver, Helen Raikes, and Jessie Rasmussen. No opposition. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45pm. The next meeting will be **Monday, June 10, from 9:00-11:00**, at the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation. Kathleen will explore alternatives for Helen Raikes to join the meeting from Turkey via Skype.



**Nebraska Early Childhood Education Endowment
Board of Trustees
March 20, 2013
Minutes**

Welcome & Introductions

The meeting of the Sixpence Board of Trustees was called to order at 1:05 p.m. on March 20, 2013, at the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation (NCFF), 215 Centennial Mall South, 2nd floor Conference Room, Lincoln.

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

Members present: Emily Kluver (representing the CEO of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services), Melody Hobson (representing the Commissioner of Education), Jessie Rasmussen, Beth Schuler, and Helen Raikes.

Also in attendance: Eleanor Kirkland from the Head Start State Collaboration Office at NDE; Kathleen Feller and Mary Jo Pankoke from NCFF; Becky Veak and Jen Goettemoeller (meeting recorder) from First Five Nebraska.

A motion was made by Jessie Rasmussen *to approve the minutes from the January 9, 2013 meeting*. Second by Melody Hobson. Voting yes: Mel Clancy, Emily Kluver, Jessie Rasmussen, Beth Schuler, and Melody Hobson. No opposition. Motion carried.

Appointment of Chair and Co-Chair for 2013

Motion by Jessie Rasmussen *to nominate Mel Clancy to be Chair of the Sixpence Board of Trustees for 2013*. Second by Beth Schuler. Voting yes: Emily Kluver, Jessie Rasmussen, Beth Schuler, Melody Hobson, and Mel Clancy. No opposition. Motion carried.

Motion by Melody Hobson *to nominate Beth Schuler to be Co-chair of the Sixpence Board of Trustees for 2013*. Second by Jessie Rasmussen. Voting yes: Jessie Rasmussen, Beth Schuler, Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy, and Emily Kluver. No opposition. Motion carried.

Update on Endowment Financials

Kathleen reported on her follow-up meeting with Greg Prochazka. First distribution in 2013 should show the additional quarterly distribution of \$50,000, though the first distribution may be a little less than the full \$50,000. After that, the remaining distributions should catch up.

Referring to financials handout, Kathleen noted that the blue highlight is estimated, not yet received. Figures with no highlight are actual. 4th quarter distributions have not yet been received.

Private Investment Projections

Kathleen reported that Mike Timmins (representing the private investors) has indicated that \$250,000 will be coming in private distributions each year for 2013, 2014, and 2015 (around September/October each year).

Approve Quality Indicator Change to Early Learning Guidelines

Kathleen distributed a handout reflecting the proposed training qualifications (discussed at the January meeting) on Attachment A for center-based care.

Motion by Jessie Rasmussen to *approve the quality indicator change to the Early Learning Guidelines*. Second by Melody Hobson. Voting yes: Beth Schuler, Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy, Emily Kluver, Jessie Rasmussen. No opposition. Motion carried.

Implications of LB 190

Becky Veak and Jen Goettemoeller continue early childhood discussions with legislators, educating them on the science of brain development, etc. As a result of those discussions, Senator Harms introduced LB 190, based on results/evaluation of Sixpence and his desire to have NDHHS and NDE work together on this issue, as well as partnering with the private community. Hearing for LB 190 was held March 4 and proponents included superintendents, pediatricians, retired military, police chiefs, the business community (including State Chamber of Commerce), and others in the early childhood field.

Additionally, Senator Sullivan introduced LB 495 which provides lottery funds (Education Innovation Funds) for early childhood programs, both the NDE grant program (serving 3 and 4 year olds) and Sixpence. An additional \$1 million would be allocated to the Sixpence Cash Fund.

There is very real interest on the part of the Legislature to make some investments in infants and toddlers at risk of failing in school. Although the amount of that investment will not be certain until passage of the budget and gubernatorial signing, the Trustees did not want to jeopardize the possibility of granting additional funds to reach more children. They discussed moving forward with an April 1 release of the RFP, **CONTINGENT ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS**.

The Trustees also questioned equity of the current funding at \$75,000 grant level. Do we need to increase current amount to current grantees, adjusting for cost of living, for example? Any new base for new applicants may need to be applied to existing grantees.

Do we want to spend one million less than is approved in the state budget so as to be able to sustain all grantees? It may also be possible to not spend any growth that comes in above projections and tuck that away to cover the difference in sustaining current grantees.

Eleanor brought to the Board's attention the 5% cut to HS and EHS (\$2.4 million in Nebraska) through sequester. She reported that there is an emphasis from the federal level for re-tooling slots for infants and toddlers. The need for serving infants and toddlers is becoming increasingly clear.

The Board felt strongly that any new Sixpence funds NOT supplant Early Head Start funds. If Sixpence funds replace slots lost in the EHS sequester and the feds later restore the funds for EHS, this Board would expect that Sixpence grantee to expand (and not supplant).

Does existing statute around administrative cost allow us to hire sufficient TA? The Trustees discussed being able to use up to 10% of any new monies for technical assistance and evaluation.

Minimal changes to the RFP have already been made by Kathleen as the Trustees have made slight tweaks over the years.

To decide at next meeting – 9:00am Tuesday, March 26.

1. Approval and release of RFP?
2. Stay with same RFP?
3. Keep with one track of grants already awarded?
4. Stay with same grant range (\$75,000 - \$150,000) or adjust for COLA?

The Board asked for Kathleen to calculate totals for current grantees getting a small COLA adjustment

5. Include start-up costs (as originally written in RFP)?

At the request of the Trustees, Kathleen will put together her thoughts regarding the questions above so the Board can include those in their deliberations.

The next meeting will be **Tuesday, March 26, 2013, at 9:00am** at the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation.

The meeting ended with a *motion to adjourn* by Helen Raikes. Second by Emily Kluver. Voting yes: Beth Schuler, Melody Hobson, Chris Hanus, Helen Raikes, Jessie Rasmussen. No opposition. Motion carries.

The meeting adjourned at 2:25.



**Nebraska Early Childhood Education Endowment
Board of Trustees
January 9, 2013
Minutes**

Welcome & Introductions

The meeting of the Sixpence Board of Trustees was called to order at 1:18 p.m. on January 9, 2013, at the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation (NCFF), 215 Centennial Mall South, 2nd floor Conference Room, Lincoln.

Beth Schuler noted that the Open Meetings Act Information has been posted.

Members present: Chris Hanus (representing the CEO of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services), Melody Hobson (representing the Commissioner of Education), Helen Raikes, Jessie Rasmussen, and Beth Schuler.

Also in attendance: Jan Estraich; Kathleen Feller and Mary Jo Pankoke from NCFF; Becky Veak and Jen Goettemoeller (meeting recorder) from First Five Nebraska.

A motion was made by Chris Hanus *to approve the minutes from the September 12, 2012, meeting*. Second by Jessie Rasmussen. Voting yes: Chris Hanus, Helen Raikes, Jessie Rasmussen, Beth Schuler, Melody Hobson. No opposition. Motion carried.

Update on Endowment Financials

Kathleen reported that the financials have not seen much change. That includes a missing \$50,000 quarterly increase from the public sector, as previously reported by the Investment Council. Kathleen is trying to connect with Joe Jurich, and will follow up with a status update for the Trustees via email. Previous minutes reflect that the first adjustment showing the additional \$50,000 would come in the first quarter of 2013.

Two years from now, the Trustees may run into a cash flow problem without some sort of investment change, dipping into the corpus, etc. Pledge total continues to stand at \$20,000,000. Pledged balance remaining is \$3.450 million. Private side investment returns are now above double digits, and the private investment council is considering an additional disbursement (pulling back slightly on the strategy to grow the corpus). There is also a concerted effort to raise some additional funds (beyond the \$20 million) in Lincoln.

The Trustees requested the private investment council project disbursements for 2013, 2014, and 2015. Before the end of this grant year, the Trustees may need to have a discussion regarding sustainability of current programs.

Enrollment Update

261 current enrollment. Several programs are serving more children than they projected. Most programs currently have a waiting list.

Update on Endowment Terms of Office -

Helen's term is up next year. Terms for Beth and Jessie end in 2014.

March agenda will take a vote on chair and co-chair for year 2013.

Approve Sixpence Biennial Report to the Legislature

Becky presented the draft report. It includes history of the Endowment, explanation of permanent funding mechanism, private piece, standards and accountability, evaluation and impact.

Trustees requested the following edits to the draft report:

- In the "Raising Private Dollars" section, change the word "realized" to more clearly reflect that not only was \$20 million committed, but investors have released \$16+ million to date.
- Add nursery rhyme as symbolic because it is an early learning activity in discussion of branding.
- In the "Demographics" section, edit the language about communities designing their approaches to reflect what best fits community needs.
- Remove the underline from the "Impact" section.
- Add more detail to the statement about closing the achievement gap in the "Impact" section. (i.e., greater than expected gains)

A motion was made by Helen Raikes *to approve the Sixpence Biennial Report to the Legislature with the aforementioned changes*. Second by Melody Hobson. Voting yes: Helen Raikes, Jessie Rasmussen, Beth Schuler, Melody Hobson, Chris Hanus. No opposition. Motion carried.

Approve Sixpence Technology Position Statement

Jan Esteraich has background in educational technology for early emergent literacy for Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, and 1st grade. She worked very closely with Kathleen to craft a position statement for the Board's consideration.

The proposed Sixpence Technology Position Statement includes ten recommendations, and was built on the foundation of the NAEYC position statement in 2012, but also included thought from the American Academy of Pediatrics, Common Sense Media, Erikson Institute, and several others. It also includes key principles.

Kathleen solicited input from all the Sixpence grantees. The grantees that do use technology discussed using technology with the families (not using it for infants and toddlers), and would like training. Grantees also expressed an interest in sharing the Sixpence position statement with parents in their programs to help parents understand developmentally appropriate use of technology for young children.

The Trustees asked for slight edits regarding consistency in formatting, as well as a documentation of references used so that grantees can reference back to those resources. They also requested Kathleen document ways the grantees are using technology for a period of 1-2 years.

The issue was also raised about a position on video-recording (its uses, permissions required, how long it can be kept), which Educare of Lincoln will be addressing, so Kathleen will check in with them about their statement and possibly utilizing...

Motion by Helen Raikes to *approve the Sixpence Technology Position Statement with the aforementioned edits*. Second by Chris Hanus. Voting yes: Jessie Rasmussen, Beth Schuler, Melody Hobson, Chris Hanus, Helen Raikes. No opposition. Motion carried.

Discussion around Nebraska Early Learning Guideline Training for certified teachers

Issue: Center-based grantees must be trained in Early Learning Guidelines. Lead teachers with a degree and endorsement in early childhood don't need training in ELG. The assistant teacher would be better trained by First Connections, as current ELG trainings are very focused on preschool (3 and 4 year olds), but perhaps does not sufficiently include training on infants and toddlers.

NDE currently has "First Connections" training that includes substantial information on infants and toddlers. It is being updated. Trustees discussed having grantees be trained using "First Connections" rather than, or in addition to, training on Early Learning Guidelines.

Trustees still want teachers to have a copy of the 0-3 ELG, but an action item will be placed on the March agenda to remove the requirement to take the ELG training for any teacher with a degree in early childhood. Kathleen will share the discussion with the grantees, and inform them that action is forthcoming.

The Trustees will address in future months the issue of more appropriate infant and toddler training (perhaps First Connections) for those who do not have the degree.

Grantee concern over lack of services to transition three year olds

Main concern is that curriculum is no longer be appropriate for preschoolers, as well as evaluation that needs to be adjusted.

Based on enrollment data, there were many kids over three years of age; there were 37 children across eight of the Sixpence programs who were three years of age. York, Crete, and Walthill are the ones who do not have this issue (they have transition programs in place). The kindergarten entrance age has caused this issue. Curriculum and assessments are based on infants and toddlers, so programs will need to think about adjusting their programming. A lot of the waiting list are babies.

The growth in the NDE preschool programs are three year olds, and state aid is becoming more relevant every year. Three year olds who are currently in Sixpence programs are going to wind down after this year because of the school entrance age (giving it a chance to work).

The Trustees considered a few different options as a short-term solution:

- Serve three year olds in some type of a supplementary program between Sixpence and a preschool program that offers support. Would need formal agreements between Sixpence programs, Head Start, and schools.
- Serve 3 year olds on a less-intense, perhaps monthly basis, but the grantees don't have funding to do this.
- Give them guidance on connecting with a quality program in their area.
- Suggest those school districts put more Title I funds into serving 3 year olds.

The Trustees believe it would be ideal to have seamless services from Sixpence to preschool and then to kindergarten, with no breaks in services.

Direction for Kathleen from the Trustees: Kathleen to work with Barb to adjust evaluation. Kathleen will also work with grantees to adjust their curriculum. Trustees also asked Kathleen to work with the grantees on connecting with others in their community to serve the 3 year olds.

Proposed 2013 meeting date

January 9, 2013

March 13, 2013

May 15, 2013

June 12, 2013

September 11, 2013

November 13, 2013

The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 13, from 1:00-3:00, at the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation.

The meeting ended with a *motion to adjourn* by Helen Raikes. Second by Chris Hanus. Voting yes: Beth Schuler, Melody Hobson, Chris Hanus, Helen Raikes, Jessie Rasmussen. No opposition. Motion carries.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15.