



**Nebraska Early Childhood Education Endowment  
Board of Trustees  
September 12, 2012  
Minutes**

**Welcome & Introductions**

The meeting of the Sixpence Board of Trustees was called to order at 1:15 p.m. on September 12, 2012, at the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation (NCFF), 215 Centennial Mall South, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Conference Room, Lincoln.

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

*Members present:* Mel Clancy, Chris Hanus (representing the CEO of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services), Eleanor Kirkland (representing the Commissioner of Education), Helen Raikes, and Beth Schuler.

*Also in attendance:* Ammie McAlevy (guest of Beth Schuler's) from Head Start in Hastings; Barb Jackson and Rosie Zweiback from Munroe Meyer Institute; Joe Jurich from the Nebraska Investment Council; Kathleen Feller and Mike Timmins from NCFF; Becky Veak and Jen Hernandez (meeting recorder) from First Five Nebraska.

A motion was made by Eleanor Kirkland *to approve the minutes from the June 13, 2012, meeting*. Second by Beth Schuler. Voting yes: Eleanor Kirkland, Mel Clancy, Helen Raikes, Beth Schuler. No opposition. Motion carried.

**Update on Financials and Public & Private Investments Update**

Kathleen reminded the Board that, without intervention, there will be cash flow issues (inability to sustain current grantees) by 2014.

Mike Timmins reported that the Investment Advisor Group met and decided they will contribute a minimum of \$250,000 per year, with the first payment going out by the end of September 2012 (in addition to \$88,000 already committed). If private earnings are more, those earnings will be committed also. That will help, but will not completely solve the cash flow problems. Mike also told that Board that \$750,000 in private investments will be coming in and invested each year over the next 5 years. The private investors may consider dipping into the corpus (as the

corpus itself is expected to grow), or may increase the fixed income portion of portfolio to provide increased distributions to the cash fund.

On the public investment side, Joe Jurich reported that the Nebraska Investment Council (NIC) looked at various portfolio changes to enhance yield by utilizing active management. The NIC voted to make two changes.

1. Change index in U.S. equity (90% of investment).
2. Change index in fixed income change.

Joe reported that this is actually a more conservative approach (in terms of the Board giving up a little future return for greater “here and now” return), but the result will be a new allocation yield of 2.86% (up from a 2.10% policy yield and 2.40% actual yield). This will increase public distributions by an estimated \$200,000 per year.

Changes will be made by September 30, 2012, and Joe suggested that the Board should see an adjustment in distributions beginning in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2013.

#### **Approve appointment of Vice Chair for remainder of 2012**

Motion by Helen Raikes *to approve Beth Schuler as Vice Chair for remainder of 2012*. Second by Eleanor Kirkland. Voting yes: Mel Clancy, Helen Raikes, Beth Schuler, Eleanor Kirkland. No opposition. Motion carried.

#### **Approve Lincoln Public Schools Request for decrease in number of children served from 74-60**

This item carried over from the June meeting. In June, the Board was favorably inclined to approve this request, but needed a formal vote in September.

Motion by Helen Raikes *to (1) approve the LPS request to decrease the number of children served from 74-60, and (2) direct Kathleen to draft and a formal letter outlining the Board’s decision on their entire 3-part request*. Second by Beth Schuler. Voting yes: Beth Schuler, Eleanor Kirkland, Mel Clancy, and Helen Raikes. No opposition. Motion carried.

#### **2011-2012 Evaluation Report**

The report is now formatted differently to make the evaluation easier to understand and use.

Barb Jackson and Rosie Zweiback walked the Board of Trustees through the 2011-2012 evaluation, including:

- Child and family demographics
- Evaluation findings

## Key Findings:

### Program Outcomes

- Overall, the center-based classroom environments are of high quality with the majority of classrooms meeting the standards for quality.
  - In 2008-2009, 22% of classrooms met quality standards on every subscale.
  - In 2011-2012, 67% of classrooms met quality standards on every subscale.
- Family engagement services are of high quality and result in engaged parents and children.
  - 13% increase in the quality of home visit instruction from 2008-2009 to 2011-2012.
  - 21% increase in parent/child engagement from 2008-2009 to 2011-2012.

### Child Outcomes

- The majority of the infants and toddlers met age expectations related to their language production and comprehension skills (although there was no significant improvement across the year).
- Toddlers demonstrated significant gains in vocabulary skills with the majority meeting age-level expectations.
- The majority of children met age expectations across social-emotional dimensions.
- Participation in Sixpence resulted in significant improvements in self-regulation and decreases in behavior concerns.
- Sixpence families met or exceeded the state health indicators.
  - Car seat use up from 78% in 2008-2009 to 94% in 2011-2012.
  - Medical home up from 72% in 2008-2009 to 95% in 2011-2012.
- Pregnant mothers enrolled in Sixpence met or exceeded the state health indicators for prenatal care.
  - Abstained from smoking up from 60% in 2008-09 to 87% in 2011-12.
  - Abstained from alcohol up from 83% in 2008-09 to 96% in 2011-12.
  - Abstained from drugs up from 77% in 2008-09 to 96% in 2011-12.
  - Breastfeeding initiated up from 70% in 2008-09 to 83% in 2011-12.
  - Prenatal care from 87% in 2008-09 up to 100% in 2011-12.

### Impact on Home Environment

- Sixpence helped families close the gap in their ability to support their children's cognitive and emotional development.
  - Evaluation showed that good home environments are directly linked to and support children's language outcomes.
- Although parents demonstrated improved parent-child interactions over time, these changes were not significant.
  - Board would like to explore what they can do to encourage family engagement providers in supporting parents in enhancing their children's learning skills, and build parent's confidence in their interactional skills.

### **Technology Position Statement Update and Timeline**

Kathleen is working with a graduate student from UNL, Jan Esteraich. They have articulated principles to guide a Sixpence technology and media use position statement, as well as outlined a process and timeline.

Kathleen gathered feedback from the Board on principles, the process, and the timeline, and will continue to move forward developing the statement. Kathleen is also working on a use of technology training for Sixpence staff. After the position statement is completed, the training will be offered and iPads (from Broken Bow) will be distributed to grantees at that time (rather than allowing the iPads to be distributed before the training occurs).

The Board came to consensus that the statement should be written for 0-3 (and not 0-5 or 0-8).

### **End of Year Report for Sixpence 2011-2012 Mini-Grants**

All programs that received mini-grants did complete what they said they would do, and all grantees receiving mini-grants have already been paid.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 14, 2012, 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 Eleanor Kirkland. Voting yes: Eleanor Kirkland, Mel Clancy, Chris Hanus, Helen Raikes, and Beth Schuler. No opposition. Motion carries.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00.



**Nebraska Early Childhood Education Endowment  
Board of Trustees  
June 13, 2012  
Minutes**

**Welcome & Introductions**

The meeting of the Sixpence Board of Trustees was called to order at 1:00 p.m. on June 13, 2012, at the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation (NCFF), 215 Centennial Mall South, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Conference Room, Lincoln.

Helen Raikes, chair, noted that the Open Meetings Act Information has been posted.

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

*Also in attendance:* Joe Jurich from the Nebraska Investment Council; Joan Lubbers from the Early Development Network and Eleanor Kirkland from the Head Start State Collaboration Office, both with the Nebraska Department of Education; Kathleen Feller from NCFF, and Becky Veak and Jen Hernandez (meeting recorder) from First Five Nebraska.

A motion was made by Mel Clancy *to approve the minutes from the May 15, 2012, meeting.* Second by Jessie Rasmussen. Voting yes: Mel Clancy, Helen Raikes, Jessie Rasmussen, Beth Schuler, and Melody Hobson. No opposition. Motion carried.

**Update on Financials and discussion of Public & Private Investment Strategies**

There is a current decline in the cash fund. Right now, the public dollars are producing \$1.2 million. The Board currently grants \$1.7 million. At this continued rate, not taking into account the private side, the Board will run into cash flow problems within 2-3 years.

Mike Timmins with NCFF has consulted with the private investors, who estimate the private investments can contribute approximately \$600,000 annually if the portfolio is adjusted from equity to fixed income and dividends.

Mike further reported that with the current estimate of \$600,000 private contributions after the adjusted portfolio, the Board will have sufficient resources to maintain all current grants, but may not have any additional funds to award new grants. A few of the private pledges will not be cash in the bank until 2014. At least one private pledge goes out to 2016.

On the public side, General Endowment Funds are designed to (1) provide funds for the current year operations, and (2) grow assets to maintain purchasing power for future needs. Administrators at the Nebraska Investment Council have a “long-term goal of distributing \$3 million for birth-to-3 years programs throughout the state.” Joe Jurich reported that over the last 3 years, the fixed income portfolio from the Permanent School Fund has earned 9.3%. Over the last 5 years, it has earned 7.36%. Over the last 10 years, it has earned 6.34%. The fixed income piece has outperformed other parts of the portfolio.

The Board wondered why the public side has never deposited more than 3% to the cash fund if the fixed income piece of the portfolio has earned 9.3% over the last 3 years. Joe did not have details with him to answer that.

Helen asked for clarification and validation on the value of the Early Childhood Education Fund. Joe confirmed the value of the Early Childhood Education Fund has grown to \$42.2 million as of April 30, 2012. The total value of the Permanent School Fund as of May 31, 2012, was \$488.4 million. Joe estimated that the land is probably valued around \$600 million.

The Board wondered if the Council has full authority to decide how and where to invest, or are there things in statute that dictate what they can and cannot do? Joe explained that they do have the authority to decide investments, and also that the “Prudent Person Rule” governs and guides the council members.

Joe was asked what kinds of risks there are to the portfolio, and he suggested that growth since 1980 has been, in large part, fueled by leverage. The world market and how Europe undoes their leverage issue will have a large impact on investments (and is a real risk to this portfolio). Other risks include inflation and bond issues.

Historically, the 50/50 portfolios (the type of portfolio invested in for the Early Childhood Education Endowment Fund) have produced about 3.5%, including dividends.

The Nebraska Investment Council meets 3 times each year. One of the topics at their upcoming meeting is the income-producing (equity) portfolio. Joe will return with the Council's thoughts on the portfolio.

Helen thanked Joe for the timeliness of the distributions. Joe remarked that the Council is trying to make distributions one month after the auditable numbers come through, and have been pretty successful at that recently.

#### **Approve appointment of Vice Chair to Chair position for remainder of 2012**

The Board will need a new Chairperson upon Helen's departure (sabbatical) in a few weeks. There was a motion by Jessie Rasmussen *to approve the appointment of the Vice Chair (Mel Clancy) to the Chair position for the remainder of the term.* Second by Beth Schuler. Voting yes: Chris Hanus, Helen Raikes, Jessie Rasmussen, Beth Schuler, Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy. No opposition. Motion carries.

The Board will vote on a new Vice Chairperson at the next meeting.

Helen then turned the chairmanship of the meeting over to the new Chair.

#### **Approve York Public Schools Request for Carryover of funds**

Motion by Jessie Rasmussen *to approve the York Public Schools request for carryover of funds.* Second by Helen Raikes. Voting yes: Helen Raikes, Jessie Rasmussen, Beth Schuler, Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy, Chris Hanus. No opposition. Motion carries.

#### **Review Lincoln Public Schools Request for Input**

Lincoln Public Schools made a formal request of three parts in writing. The Board moved forward with a discussion of the three areas.

1. Part 1 – The grantee struggles with hiring certified teachers and being able to pay them. The grantee would like the Board to consider (or reconsider) the term "teacher." They would like to hire outside of the NDE rule. Melody reminded the Board it is not only an NDE rule, but in state statute. Board response will be that it is beyond their purview and beyond NDE purview. This is a matter of state statute.
2. Part 2 – Group size and quality indicators. Current Sixpence expectations are that group size does not exceed 8, with a ratio of 1:3. The grantee would like an increase in group size from 8 to 9. HHS licensing states that the maximum group size for infants is 8. Rule 11 was based on HHS licensing rule. NDE would like to keep the group size in Rule 11 consistent with HHS licensing. The Board also discussed the need of the grantee to consider the utilization of child care subsidy

funds as part of the braiding. The use of those funds would dictate not exceeding the maximum group size of 8.

Board response will be that they will keep alignment as much as possible with existing standards. Given HHS licensing expectations and Rule 11, group size is beyond the purview of the Board. Rule 11 requires them to have a maximum group size of 8, and using subsidy dollars in the braiding of the funds requires them to have a maximum group size of 8.

3. Part 3 – Request to decrease children and families served from 74 to 60. The grantee would be serving 28 children which is 14 children fewer through home-based services. Currently the average children served in Sixpence family-engagement program is 17 children with a max of 28 children and a minimum of 10 children. Board response will be that an official vote of the Board on this issue will come in September. In the meantime, the Board is favorably inclined to allow this change, and the Trustees directed TA (Kathleen) to communicate with the grantee as they begin this shift. The Board will formally respond in writing to this third issue after the vote is taken in September.

### **Zero To Three Home Visitation State Policy Action**

Nebraska received a planning grant to work with Zero to Three on Integrating Quality Home Visiting in State Early Childhood Systems. State Team members were Lynne Brehm, Amy Bunnell, Eleanor Kirkland, Barb Jackson, and Kathleen Feller. Their priority areas are (1) Integrating Home Visitation within the Early Childhood framework, (2) Continuum of services, (3) Outcomes and Data Systems, (4) Referral and Home visitation and Child care linkage. Nebraska will receive technical assistance from Zero to Three.

The team will crosswalk standards of the various home visitation efforts (public and private), and will work towards at least one shared common measure.

Chris reported that the public home visitation efforts (in both child welfare and lifespan health) will, beginning July 1, 2012, be administered by Lifespan Health. That may make it a little easier to align standards and find a common measure for evaluation.

Jessie mentioned the home visits done as part of the Zero To Three Babies From the Bench work should potentially be included.

Kathleen noted that there is a Home Visitation partners meeting on August 2, 2012.



### **Nebraska Home Visitation Training Update**

Online training is currently available year-round. Moving forward, there is a new requirement that Sixpence grantees will do this training as a cohort, beginning in the fall (October) 2012.

In terms of turnover, new home visitors hired in the middle of the year would start the training at the next cohort initiation. Completion will be required within 2 years.

Kathleen is pulling together a group to look at tailoring the training for the purposes of Sixpence grantees.

### **Approve revision to Quality Indicator for Home Visitation Training**

Recommendation: “***Complete Home Visitation Core Practice and Principle On-line Training including; completion of all 7 on-line modules, activities workbook, and participation in the Sixpence study group after each module within the first year.***”

Motion by Chris Hanus to approve changes to Home Visitation Training Quality Indicator with the following changes. “***Complete Home Visitation Core Practice and Principle On-line Training including; completion of all 7 on-line modules, activities workbook, and participation in the Sixpence study group after each module within two years of employment.***” Second by Melody Hobson. Voting yes: Jessie Rasmussen, Beth Schuler, Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy, Chris Hanus, and Helen Raikes. No opposition. Motion carries.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 12, 2012, 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 Jessie Rasmussen. Voting yes: Beth Schuler, Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy, Chris Hanus, Helen Raikes, Jessie Rasmussen. No opposition. Motion carries. The meeting adjourned at 3:00.

**Nebraska Early Childhood Education Endowment  
Board of Trustees  
May 15, 2012  
Minutes**

**Welcome & Introductions**

In the brief absence of the Chair, Helen Raikes, the meeting of the Sixpence Board of Trustees was called to order by Mel Clancy, Vice Chair, at 12:00 p.m. on May 15, 2012, at the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation (NCFF), 215 Centennial Mall South, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Conference Room, Lincoln. The Open Meetings Act information is posted in the room.

*Members present:* Helen Raikes, Mel Clancy, Beth Schuler, Jessie Rasmussen, Roger Breed, and Chris Hanus representing Kerry Winterer; Chief Executive Officer of Health and Human Services.

*Also in attendance:* Martha Nash and Melody Hobson from the Department of Education, Matt Eash from the Governor's Budget Office, Kathleen Feller from NCFF, Becky Veak and Jen Hernandez (meeting recorder) from First Five Nebraska.

A motion was made by Jessie Rasmussen to approve the minutes from the March 14, 2012 meeting, seconded by Beth Schuler. Jessie had a question under "Update on Endowment Financials" about accurate capturing of Mike Timmins' remark that at \$20 million private dollars, the way the funds are invested, the annual private distribution will most likely never be above \$100,000-\$150,000 per year. Kathleen will clarify. Also correct 2011 to read 2012. Clarify the remark about expansion in Lincoln Public Schools to read "expand the number of sites to include..." Voting yes: Mel Clancy, Chris Hanus, Jessie Rasmussen, Beth Schuler, Roger Breed. No opposition. Motion carried.

**Update on Endowment Financials**

Kathleen reported that there is not much change. Next disbursement isn't until May/June.

The Chairperson, Helen Raikes, arrived and assumed the lead for the rest of the meeting.

**Authorize the Chairperson of the Endowment Board of Trustees to contract with Barb Jackson to conduct an evaluation of the Nebraska Early Childhood Education Grant Program for children birth to three (Sixpence)**

Increase in contract of \$7663 over last year's contract.

Barb responded to the Board's request to look into the possibility of direct assessing of children with piloting a PLS (Preschool Language) on a small sample group. Barb will do it locally, will train Kathleen, and Kathleen will complete the sample in Western Nebraska.

Motion by Jessie Rasmussen to *authorize the Chairperson of the Endowment Board of Trustees to contract with Barb Jackson to conduct an evaluation of the Nebraska Early Childhood Education Grant Program for children birth to three (Sixpence)*. Second by Chris Hanus. Voting yes: Mel Clancy, Chris Hanus, Helen Raikes, Jessie Rasmussen, Beth Schuler, Roger Breed. No opposition. Motion carries.

**York Public Schools Request for 2011-2012 budget line item change**

Total cost is \$13,000 for the purchase of technology.

Discussion about how grantees would use the iPads. AAP suggest no screen time for children under 2.

Crete purchased iPads with Sixpence funds first, and Kathleen originally had concerns, but her opinion now is that Crete has used the technology very appropriately. Grantees can model to families "appropriate use of technology." Dr. Breed commented that he has seen young children very engaged in learning using technology appropriately.

Beth reminded the Board that other grantees have purchased iPads with Sixpence funds, and the question before the Board is a budget line item change.

Motion by Chris Hanus to *approve the budget line item change request from York Public Schools*. Second by Beth Schuler. Amendment by Mel Clancy to have the Board draft and provide to all grantees a statement incorporating best practices on technology and screen time with young children. Voting yes: Chris Hanus, Helen Raikes, Jessie Rasmussen, Beth Schuler, Roger Breed, Mel Clancy. No opposition. Motion carries.

### **Discussion of continuation grant funding**

Kathleen answered procedural questions and reminded the Board that as they vote on continuation funding, their voting options are (1) approve continuation funding; (2) approve funding with contingency; (3) do not approve continuation funding.

The financial reports suggest that there are sufficient funds to maintain all investments approved by the Board for the coming year.

Kathleen also reported that all programs are facing challenges of serving families with more risk factors and increasingly intense risk factors.

### **Approve continuation grant to Alliance**

Alliance currently serves eight 2 year olds in the morning and eight 2 year olds in the afternoon.

Martha and Kathleen have always had concerns about the part-day, center-based program model. If able to expand, would like to go full day, but are unable to do so at this point without cutting kids. Incredibly high quality. Wonderful inclusion practices.

In response to a Board-imposed contingency from last year, they have implemented a needs assessment system to determine they are serving the children most at risk.

Motion by Jessie Rasmussen to *approve continuation funding to Alliance*. Second by Mel Clancy. Amendment offered by Chris Hanus to *strongly recommend the grantee demonstrates they are serving the children most at risk, particularly in conjunction with Head Start*. Voting yes: Helen Raikes, Jessie Rasmussen, Beth Schuler, Roger Breed, Mel Clancy, Chris Hanus. No opposition. Motion carries.

### **Approve continuation grant to Broken Bow**

Family engagement, year round, 23 families served. This is a program that models partnerships. They provide very high quality services, and also have a central intake among all partners.

Keys to Interactive Parenting (KIPS) shows increase in families more involved.

Broken Bow received PIRC funding to purchase iPads for home visitors, as well as additional iPads for the other Sixpence grantees.

In response to on-going learning over half of their client files did not meet the 180 minutes of service requirement, Broken Bow is re-evaluating their tracking and documentation system to address the deficiencies in home visitation intensity and duration.

Motion by Chris Hanus to *approve continuation grant to Broken Bow*. Second by Beth Schuler. Voting yes: Jessie Rasmussen, Beth Schuler, Roger Breed, Mel Clancy, Chris Hanus, Helen Raikes. No opposition. Motion carries.

### **Approve continuation grant to Crete**

Board would like successes (improving attendance, use of iPads, serving the most at risk) to be shared with other grantees. Kathleen is looking into expanding the annual networking event to a monthly or every-other-month optional webinar networking/learning experience offered to all grantees.

K-12 partners reported that the 10 Sixpence children entering kindergarten were much better prepared to begin kindergarten than most of their peers.

Discussion about Sixpence funds being used to supplement subsidized child care, particularly child care that doesn't meet Sixpence standards. Crete is spending over 10% of their budget (\$20,000) on subsidized child care (used by teen parents) that doesn't meet Sixpence standards or Rule 11. What attempts are being made to show that child care being provided meets Rule 11 and/or Sixpence standards?

Motion by Mel Clancy to *approve continuation funding to Crete with the requirement that no Sixpence funds are to be used for child care that does not mean Sixpence standards*. Second by Roger Breed. Voting yes: Beth Schuler, Roger Breed, Mel Clancy, Chris Hanus, Helen Raikes, Jessie Rasmussen. No opposition. Motion carries.

### **Approve continuation grant to Lincoln**

This grantee provides center-based services for 32 children during the school year, and family engagement services year round for 42 families. Lincoln has not created a system to reschedule missed home visits, and many of their home visits are under 30 minutes. Board had concerns that the family engagement home visit efforts are focused solely on keeping the moms in school, not on the interaction between the parent and the child and the development of the child.

Motion by Mel Clancy *to approve continuation funding to Lincoln, with the contingency of a corrective action plan (submitted to Board within 90 days) that documents fidelity of PAT curriculum and demonstrates compliance with the Sixpence standard for intensity of services.* Second by Jessie Rasmussen. Voting yes: Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy, Chris Hanus, Helen Raikes, Jessie Rasmussen, Beth Schuler. No opposition. Motion carries.

The Board will also watch this grantee's attendance very closely.

The Board engaged in a brief discussion of Lincoln's request to appear on the June agenda. The precedence has already been set for grantee's to first submit a written document outlining their concerns before appearing to the Board.

#### **Approve continuation grant to Loup City**

This is a high quality program with a strong partnership with EHS for a central intake. Strong support from Superintendent. Program has extensive travel for home visits. The Board might need to think about remote parent engagement services.

Motion by Chris Hanus *to approve continuation funding to Loup City.* Second by Beth Schuler. Voting yes: Mel Clancy, Chris Hanus, Helen Raikes, Jessie Rasmussen, Beth Schuler, Melody Hobson. No opposition. Motion carries.

#### **Approve continuation grant to Plattsmouth**

Kathleen reported that this is another strong program. They have increased their attendance and are doing a great job of recruiting families. Have a strong advisory board.

The evaluation report showed that none of the children in the program met the state benchmark for the GOLD assessment. The grantee may have had problems documenting and/or reporting on the Gold assessment as it is a new instrument.

Motion by Mel Clancy *to approve continuation funding in Plattsmouth to serve 12 children.* Second by Beth Schuler. Voting yes: Chris Hanus, Helen Raikes, Jessie Rasmussen, Beth Schuler, Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy. No opposition. Motion carries.

#### **Approve continuation grant to Omaha**

Very thorough plan in place to ensure teacher certification.

Motion by Chris Hanus *to approve continued funding in Omaha*. Second by Mel Clancy. Voting yes: Helen Raikes, Beth Schuler, Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy, Chris Hanus. Jessie Rasmussen abstained from voting to ensure there was no perception of conflict. No opposition. Motion carries.

**Approve continuation grant to Walthill**

Significant gains, enrollment and attendance increased. Served greater numbers of children most at risk.

Motion by Jessie Rasmussen to approve continued funding for Walthill. Second by Beth Schuler. Voting yes: Jessie Rasmussen, Beth Schuler, Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy, Chris Hanus, Helen Raikes. No opposition. Motion carries.

**Approve continuation grant to Santee**

8 children are being served in this center-based program, and this program currently has a waiting list. They did increase attendance, and maintained full enrollment. This program has made tremendous progress over time. It still had a number of deficiencies in meeting quality indicators, but action plans are in place.

Kathleen recommends 6 months follow up to check in on their progress meeting the quality indicators, with intensive TA .

Motion by Jessie Rasmussen *to approve continued funding for Santee*. Second by Beth Schuler. Voting yes: Beth Schuler, Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy, Chris Hanus, Helen Raikes, Jessie Rasmussen. No opposition. Motion carries.

**Approve continuation grant to York**

This grant funds year round family engagement services. The Superintendent attended Kathleen's monitoring visit and believes strongly in their infant toddler program. The grantee is thinking systemically to collectively solve problems by having the district pick up facility costs to allow more funds to be used in providing services.

Motion by Beth Schuler *to approve continued funding to York*. Second by Mel Clancy. Voting yes: Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy, Helen Raikes, Jessie Rasmussen, Beth Schuler. No opposition. Motion carries.

### **Approve continuation grant to Umo hon Nation**

This grant funds 8 children in center-based services during the school year. This community faces a lot of mobility and staff turnover. This program has made tremendous progress in meeting quality indicators. The program will have a new lead teacher, new elementary principal, and new superintendant.

School board is looking at feasibility of early childhood program, and Kathleen will continue to provide intensive TA.

Motion by Jessie Rasmussen *to continue funding to Umo hon Nation*. Second by Mel Clancy. Voting yes: Mel Clancy, Helen Raikes, Jessie Rasmussen, Beth Schuler, Melody Hobson. No opposition. Motion carries.

Collective comments the Board would like to share with all grantees:

1. Good trends with enrollment and attendance.
2. Collect info on increased costs. Center-based programs seem to be struggling.
3. Create family engagement documentation system should be shared with others.
4. Broken Bow, Loup City, and York doing single intake point should be applauded and shared with others.
5. Use of KIPS data to inform program practices.
6. Themes, lessons learned to share about attendance and enrollment increases.
7. The difference in the prison environment in York is tremendous. It is a great program!
8. District picking up facility costs is a good practice. They are thinking systemically to collectively solve problems.
9. Training piece related to mental illness, drug problems for grantees.
10. May need COLA adjustments for future grants.

### **Mini-grant End of Year Reports**

Discussion tabled for September meeting.

### **Helen Raikes Sabbatical**

Need a new chair for fall 2012. Mel Clancy, Vice Chair, is comfortable assuming the lead for the remainder of the year. Vote to be taken next meeting in June.



### **Nebraska Home Visitation Training Online**

NDE Early Childhood Training Center will no longer offer the home visitation training face to face. Through a project with Part C, the training has been put online at the Answers 4 Families website: [www.answers4families.org/classroom/](http://www.answers4families.org/classroom/).

There are 7 modules. It is recommended that they be taken over 6 months. There is a Guidebook, a Home Visiting Activity Workbook, and a Check Sheet to track progress. Based on the information on the Check Sheet, the modules take around 5 hours total to complete online, in addition to activities.

Recommendation: Form a small committee from Sixpence programs to go through the modules and provide input on ways to ensure the training promotes the quality supported by the Sixpence quality indicators. It would complement the training well to form a Home Visitation Support Network. This could be comprised of those going through the modules and more experienced home visitors. They could have a “study” group after each module to discuss the application of the content. This could be done via Skype, conference call, or some other form of communication.

Input will be provided to the Board at the June meeting.

### **Next Meeting**

The next trustee meeting will be June 13, 2012, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation.

A motion was made by Beth Schuler and seconded by Mel Clancy to adjourn the meeting. Voting yes: Helen Raikes, Jessie Rasmussen, Beth Schuler, Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy. No opposition. Motion carries. The meeting adjourned at 3:26 p.m.



**Nebraska Early Childhood Education Endowment  
Board of Trustees  
January 11, 2012  
Minutes**

**Welcome & Introductions**

The meeting of the Sixpence BOT was called to order at 1:00 p.m. on January 11, 2012, at the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation (NCFF), 215 Centennial Mall South, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Conference Room, Lincoln.

*Members present:* Helen Raikes, Mel Clancy, Beth Schuler, Jessie Rasmussen, Roger Breed, and Chris Hanus.

*Also in attendance:* Meldoy Hobson and Martha Nash from the Nebraska Department of Education, Matt Eash from the Governor's Budget Office, Cheryl Wolfe from the Governor's Policy Research Office, Kathleen Feller and Mary Jo Pankoke from NCFF, and Becky Veak from First Five Nebraska (meeting recorder).

A motion was made by Mel Clancy to approve the minutes from the November 9, 2011 meeting, seconded by Beth Schuler. Voting yes: Jessie Rasmussen, Beth Schuler, Helen Raikes, Roger Breed, Mel Clancy, and Beth Schuler. No opposition. Motion carried.

**Update on Endowment Financials**

As president of the organization responsible for raising the private dollars, Mary Jo Pankoke reported that NCFF has in the bank and/or pledges of \$19.3 million. Several "asks" are out that would cover the remaining \$700,000. In addition, they have a donor who has agreed to make up the remaining amount if they do not meet the amount required.

A distribution was received for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter from the public funds and was higher than projected. In addition, a distribution of \$88,000 for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2011 will be made from the private investment and should be in the Cash Fund by the end of January. If distributions continue at the same rate, the Cash Fund will experience a cash flow issue over the next year with the current commitments. The trustees asked if staff could follow up with the Nebraska Investment Council to see if they have made any changes to their investment portfolio as they had indicated earlier. In addition, the private

partners agreed they will ask their Investment Committee to project an estimate of future earnings based on historical review.

In planning for the future, the trustees discussed options for increasing the amount, both public and private, of dollars invested allowing for greater earnings into the Cash Fund. NCFE indicated they will develop a plan to continue fundraising efforts from the private sector. Additional legislation would be necessary to increase the public investment; trustees agreed to have an action item placed on their next agenda to pursue the best options to increase public funds taking into consideration the economic climate and other education needs of Nebraska.

### **Transition Policy for 3-year olds**

The trustees reviewed a draft policy developed by Kathleen regarding transitioning out of a Sixpence program for children who have turned three years of age. This policy was in response to questions from programs who were asking for clarification on whether they were only to serve children until they turned three years old or to continue serving them through the age of three. The way the language is written, upon turning three, children could remain in a Sixpence program until other services are available, but a transition plan should be in place. The trustees agreed that the overall intent is for children who are three years of age to be in a preschool program, but they want to maintain continuity of care if there are no services to transition into. This policy only affects children who are already enrolled in Sixpence programs and turn the age of three. It is not intended to allow enrollment of children into Sixpence programs who are three years of age.

A motion was made by Helen Raikes and seconded by Roger Breed to amend the policy to read "The Board of Trustees believes that children birth through three who are at risk of failing in school should have continuity of service provision to respect and protect the child's emerging sense of trust and to ensure there is not a gap in service provision from birth to three programs to Kindergarten age. Voting yes: Beth Schuler, Helen Raikes, Roger Breed, Mel Clancy, Jessie Rasmussen, and Chris Hanus. No opposition. Motion carried. A motion was made by Mel Clancy and seconded by Jessie Rasmussen to accept the policy as amended. Voting yes: Mel Clancy, Roger Breed, Chris Hanus, Jessie Rasmussen, Helen Raikes, and Beth Schuler. No opposition. Motion carried.

The trustees then reviewed draft statutory language which would change the statute from birth to through age three. NDE will have their legal division review this language and if there are no concerns, build it into their technical clean-up bill.

A motion was made by Roger Breed and seconded by Jessie Rasmussen to have NDE review changing the statutory language from birth to through age three. Voting yes:

Roger Breed, Mel Clancy, Beth Schuler, Helen Raikes, Jessie Rasmussen and Chris Hanus. No opposition. Motion carried.

### **Eligibility Risk Factors**

The trustees discussed changing the risk factor that pertained to teen parents by raising the age from eighteen to twenty so the language would carry them through their teen years. Currently the risk factor reads “Children (birth to age three) whose parents are younger than eighteen or who have not completed high school.” By changing the language it would allow teens with children under three who have graduated high school to still receive services until the age of twenty, thus allowing them to get through the transition after high school.

A motion was made by Jessie Rasmussen and seconded by Beth Schuler to change the risk factor to read “Children (birth to age three) whose parents are younger than ~~eighteen~~ twenty at time of enrollment or who have not completed high school.” Voting yes: Beth Schuler, Helen Raikes, Mel Clancy, Roger Breed, Jessie Rasmussen, and Chris Hanus. No opposition. Motion carried.

### **Sixpence Annual Report**

The trustees discussed generating a report that is broader than the annual Evaluation Report and that documents the background and history of Sixpence, shares some of the personal stories, describes programmatic features and demographics like the York Prison for Women, the tribal programs, the diversity of small towns vs. large cities, and center-based vs. home based. The trustees had several comments regarding the proposed outline: move the impact stories closer to the evaluation section, build on the overall themes of diversity, partnerships, leveraging local resources as a match, and the fact that the programs are scattered across the state.

Sixpence is required to submit a report to the Legislature every two years; the trustees decided it would be a good use of resources to call the report a Legislative Report and have it serve that purpose. To reduce expenses, the report will be distributed electronically to avoid the high cost of printing, but some hard copies will be made available for alternate audiences.

Trustees reviewed a legal memo provided by Margaret Worth, NDE Legal, regarding whether dollars could be used from the Cash Fund to produce the report. All attempts will be made to produce the report as inexpensively as possible.

A motion was made by Mel Clancy and seconded by Jessie Rasmussen to prepare a Legislative Report every two years for submission to the Legislature. Voting yes: Helen Raikes, Chris Hanus, Beth Schuler, Jessie Rasmussen, Mel Clancy and Roger Breed. No opposition. Motion carried.

### **Request from Lincoln Public Schools to Expand Enrollment**

Kathleen reported that Lincoln Public Schools has requested to expand their enrollment to include teen parents at Lincoln High and Northeast High School in addition to the current Northstar and Bryan Alternative School Sixpence programs. They have teens in those locations that meet eligibility for Sixpence and indicated they have the capacity to fund and meet the quality standards to expand four more classrooms. No additional funds are being requested. The trustees asked if Kathleen felt she could take on the additional workload of four classrooms by providing both technical assistance and monitoring. Kathleen indicated she thought she could. This issue will be added onto the March 2012 agenda as an ACTION item.

### **Update on Macy Public Schools**

To be in compliance with the quality indicators, Macy needs to acquire a certified teacher for their Sixpence program. At this point, there is not a plan in place to meet this requirement, and the program indicates they need approval by the Superintendent to move forward. Attempts have been made to meet with the Superintendent, but no meetings have occurred at this time. Roger Breed indicated he will make attempts from NDE's viewpoint to ensure collaboration from Macy. Kathleen will keep Melody Hobson apprised of this situation and NDE will begin to have more frequent discussions with Macy. The trustees also asked to keep apprised of this issue.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 14, 2012, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation. The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m. by unanimous vote.