



**Nebraska Early Childhood Education Endowment
Board of Trustees
Wednesday, January 17, 2018
Minutes**

Welcome & Introductions

The meeting of the Sixpence Board of Trustees was called to order at 1:04 p.m. on January 17, 2018 at Nebraska Children and Families Foundation, 215 Centennial Mall South, 2nd floor Conference Room, Lincoln.

Trustees present: Nicole Vint (representing the CEO of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services), Melody Hobson (representing the Commissioner of the Nebraska Department of Education), Cara Small, and Jessie Rasmussen, Absent: Sophie Kock.

Also in attendance: Amy Bornemeier (Sixpence Administrator), Karen Pinkelman and Stephanni Renn (Sixpence Administrative Education Specialists), Betty Medinger, Cheryl Marks, and Kevin Cloonan (Nebraska Children), Shane Rhian (NDE Finance Director), Ben Baumfalk (First Five Nebraska), and Joan Luebbers.

Approve Minutes from November 15, 2017

A motion was made to approve the minutes by Jessie Rasmussen. Second by Melody Hobson. Voting yes: Cara Small, Nicole Vint. No opposition, motion carried.

Review Financial Reports including status of CCDF funds sub-award:

Shane Rhian reported that as of December 31, 2017 there is \$2.9M in the endowment cash fund, and \$4.4M in state general funds for aid; \$263,000 in the cash fund and \$61,000 in state general funds for technical assistance/evaluation & administration. Shane projects at the end of the year there will be \$2.1M in the endowment cash fund for aid and \$95,000 in the endowment cash fund for technical assistance and evaluation. That is subject to LB944, which was introduced by the Governor, that would reduce appropriations for general funds for the Sixpence program by \$100,000 in the current year and \$200,000 in the next fiscal year, 2018-2019. Those balances reflect a distribution from the private endowment of \$850,000 expected during the month of April.

Kevin Cloonan discussed the financial forecast of the CCDF, state, and private funds and mentioned that at some point in the next year with the CCDF funds there will be a shortfall for technical assistance. This will need to be addressed either as an Indirect Expense from NCCFF that will have to be used to cover the shortfall or there will need to be a discussion as to what the Board gives to the school districts to cover that shortfall, for an example, by reducing the awards to the school districts. Amy Bornemeier reminded the Board that the current obligation for CCP grants includes carryover of \$157,000 that will not be obligated after the current grant year.

Review All Grantees Status Report:

Amy Bornemeier, Karen Pinkelman and Stephanni Renn presented highlights of the Grantee Status report regarding enrollment and technical assistance provided to the former STC programs. A few programs have new homevisitors and many continue to have a need for bilingual staff. Amy highlighted the status of the CCP programs in Step Up to Quality Rating, noting that many have achieved a Step 3 and are planning to implement GOLD training and other quality enhancements.

Review and approve remaining Child Care Partnership Grants, awarding remaining CCDF funds available for 2017-18 grant term:

Per the Board's request, Amy Bornemeier worked with the top two applicants to revise their applications and budgets based on 2 years of learning from the current cohort of CCP grantees and provided a summary of those revisions from Auburn and Hastings.

Auburn is requesting \$200,000 to serve 85 infants/toddlers, 35% of them would qualify for the "at risk" indicators with a combination of 2 family childcare homes and 3 centers not currently enrolled in Step-Up to Quality. Their model includes coaching on the Pyramid and a shared supervisor between the CCP and Homevisiting Sixpence program. The Board discussed a pro-rated grant award based on the remaining months of the current grant year and funding to be contingent upon developing an accountability system for the incentives to improving quality for infants/toddlers which is specifically required for the CCDF funds.

Hastings is requesting \$225,000 to serve 150 infants/toddlers, 48% of them would qualify for the "at risk" indicators with 3 centers not currently enrolled in Step-Up to Quality. Their partners have many infant/toddler classrooms and they propose to work with only some of the classrooms during the first few years, then move on to additional classrooms within the centers. The Board discussed the potential concerns with this implementation plan that not allowing all classrooms having access to Sixpence provided coaching, ERS observations, and the funding to purchase materials/supplies/equipment. Since Step Up to Quality observes a sampling of classrooms and the entire program is rated, this could negatively impact their ability to achieve a Step 3 by the end of the 3 year grant term. The Board discussed a pro-rated grant award based on the remaining months of the current grant year and funding to be contingent upon developing an accountability system for the incentives to improving quality for infants/toddlers which is specifically required for the CCDF funds.

A motion was made to approve the Child Care Partnership grants by Melody Hobson. Second by Sophie Jessie Rasmussen. Voting yes: Cara Small, Nicole Vint. No opposition, motion carried.

Update on Rule 11: status of recommendation to include clarifying information for Home Visiting Specialist:

The Board discussed revisions proposed to Rule 11, which now include the Early Learning Guidelines. Melody Hobson advised that as the ELGs are being revised, the Rule will be opening again in the near future and the hearing will take place on January 25, 2018.

Amy Bornemeier reminded the Board that at the last meeting they proposed language to recommend a more incumbent list of qualifying degrees, such as Human Services, for the Home Visiting Specialist and Home Visitor positions.

Review grantee staff salaries and benefits comparisons; discuss parity issues and increased grantee costs:

Per the Board's request, Amy Bornemeier referenced a spreadsheet that contained the salary averages and past five-year salary and benefits costs from NSEA. The Board discussed the differences between a staff paid under the district salary, schedule, and benefits versus one of the partner employed positions such as a community action program, which doesn't have the capacity to pay the same scale as the public schools. The average over the last 5 years has been a 10% increase in salary and 25% increase in insurance cost. If the board would decide to consider an increase, just to capture 10% of personnel cost which are around 70% of the award would be about \$461,000 as opposed to 10% base award increase which would be \$659,000. The Board will consider these costs in the future.

Review Trustees terms expiring and Elect Chair and Vice Chair:

Amy Bornemeier shared that she has not received any notification from Kathleen Dolezal at the Governor's office regarding appointments. Helen Raikes continues to serve even though her term expired in December 2016.

A motion was made to elect Board Chair and Vice-Chair by Jessie Rasmussen. Second by Nicole Vint. Voting yes: Melody Hobson, Cara Small. No opposition, motion carried.

The meeting ended at 3:33pm with a *motion to adjourn* by Jessie Rasmussen. Second by Melody Hobson. Voting yes: Cara Small, Nicole Vint.

Next Meeting Date: March 21, 2018 1:00-4:00 p.m.