



**Nebraska Early Childhood Education Endowment
Board of Trustees
Wednesday, March 15, 2017
Minutes**

Welcome & Introductions

The meeting of the Sixpence Board of Trustees was called to order at 1:00 p.m. on March 15, 2017 at Nebraska Children and Families Foundation, 215 Centennial Mall South, 2nd floor Conference Room, Lincoln.

Members 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 (Board Chair), and Jessie Rasmussen.

Also in attendance: Amy Bornemeier (Sixpence Administrator), Karen Pinkelman and Stephanni Renn (Sixpence TA Specialists), Kevin Cloonan and Betty Medinger (Nebraska Children), Shane Rhian (NDE Finance Director), Joan Luebbers (Head Start State Collaboration), Mike Medwick (First Five Nebraska), and Stacy Frank (DHHS).

Approve Minutes from March 15, 2017

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

Review Financial Reports; anticipated CCDBG funds and budget cuts

Shane Rhian discussed the Sixpence financial reports and the impact of LB22 which was signed by the Governor. This reduced the general fund appropriation for the Sixpence program from \$5 million to \$4.8 million but an additional \$500,000.00 in spending authority was appropriated to the Early Childhood Endowment cash fund. Therefore, the balance is good for funding for the current year but lost \$200,000 in general funds which will be deducted from the Endowment Cash Fund balance that was previously projected. Based on activity, we project \$1.77 million in cash fund available at the end of the year for subsequent activities and \$118,000 for technical assistance, evaluation, and administration available for next year. That would include the projected \$1.1 million payout from the Private Endowment Cash Fund in April.

The Board discussed the potential impacts of LB327 which will be the main line budget bill for the next 2 years. The Governor initially proposed, essentially flat funding \$4.8 million in general funds for the next two years but preliminary appropriations committee recommendation was to restore that back to \$5 million. Neither the Governor nor the appropriations committee included the additional \$500,000.00 in cash fund appropriation but Shane has had discussions with Sandy Sostad in the legislative fiscal office.

The Board discussed the testimony to the appropriations committee, provided by NDE's Commissioner, at which Shane was not present. Shane has spoken to Sandy Sostad about the current and projected Early

Childhood Endowment Cash Fund balance and provided clarification regarding Step Up to Quality and Sixpence.

The current standings for the receipts paid out to the Grantees remains to be a continual effort to get those submitted and processed in a timely manner. Shane stated there was roughly around \$300,000-\$400,000.00 that was paid out in the 1st week in March, not reflected in the report.

Nicole Vint had nothing new to report on the status of CCDF; still waiting on federal guidance.

Review Grantee Status Report

Amy Bornemeier, Karen Pinkelman, and Stephanni Renn presented the Grantee Status Report. The Board discussed the enrollment challenges experienced by some of the Family Engagement (Home Based) grantees. Considering the intense level of TA being provided, the Board discussed the option of reducing staff and funding to be more reflective of what these communities could support. The Board will take enrollment, attendance and financial history into consideration when approving future continuation grants.

Review and approve continuation funding recommendations

Amy Bornemeier presented the recommendations for continuation funding allocations which is required to open the continuation funding application process in GMS. Recommendations included reducing funding for Aurora, to allow for one home visitor as a result of enrollment requirements not being met in the entire three years of funding and an increase for Grand Island whose funding was reduced last year due to funds left unspent the previous two years.

Amy reported that North Platte who was awarded a Child Care Partnership grant, had indicated that after a requested deferment, they will be declining the award and would be submitting a letter prior to the next Board meeting.

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

Discuss continuation application/GMS process and summary report template for next meeting

Amy Bornemeier provided information on the GMS process related to continuation funding applications and requested feedback on the information to be provided at the next board meeting. The Board advised that the same summary template which was used last year summary is preferred, highlighting any funds left unspent and any requests above the grantee's allocation.

Approve revised Sixpence Quality Criteria effective July, 1 2017

Amy Bornemeier presented the revised quality criteria indicating any clarifications/changes that have previously been discussed or approved in red.

A motion was made to accept the recommended changes to the quality indicator for all 3 above by Jessie Rasmussen. Second by Cara Small. Voting yes: Nicole Vint, Cara Small, Jessie Rasmussen, and Melody Hobson. No opposition, motion carried.

Approve revised Sixpence Technology Use Statement

Amy Bornemeier presented the revised Sixpence Technology Use statement, reflective of the recently release recommendations by the American Association of Pediatrics. The Board made minor revision recommendations.

A motion was made to approve the Technology Use Statement with requested revisions by Jessie Rasmussen. Second by Melody Hobson. Voting yes: Cara Small, Nicole Vint, Melody Hobson, and Jessie Rasmussen. No opposition, motion carried.

The meeting ended at 2:58pm with a *motion to adjourn* by Melody Hobson. Second by Jessie Rasmussen. Voting yes: Cara Small, Nicole Vint, Jessie Rasmussen, and Melody Hobson. **Next Meeting Date: May 31st, 1:00-4:00 p.m.**