

Board of Trustees Minutes

Wednesday, January 20, 2021

Welcome & Introductions

Kristy Feden called the Sixpence Board of Trustees meeting to order at 1:08 p.m. on January 20, 2021, via Zoom

<u>Trustees attended via Zoom</u>: Melody Hobson (representing the Commissioner of the Nebraska Department of Education), John Levy, Nicole Vint (representing the CEO of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services), Kristy Feden, Cara Small, and Holly Hatton Bowers.

Others attended via zoom: Deb Reiman, Aiesha Rahn, Karen Pinkelman (Sixpence Administrative Education Specialists), Stephanni Renn (Sixpence Administrator), Dan Harshman (NDE Finance), Amy Bornemeier, Elizabeth Everett (First Five Nebraska), Betty Medinger, Kevin Cloonan (Nebraska Children), Joan Luebbers (NDE Head Start Collaboration), Beckie Cromer (DHHS) Joe Jurich and Michael Walden-Newman (Nebraska Investment Council).

Approve Minutes from November 18, 2020

A motion was made by Melody Hobson to approve the November 18th minutes with the revision of adding Kristy Feden and Cara Small as voting yes to approve the release of remaining funds for Omaha Educare Inc. home and Millard Public School. Second by Kristy Feden. Voting yes: Kristy Feden, Nicole Vint, Cara Small, John Levy, Melody Hobson, abstaining: Holly Hatton Bowers. No opposition, motion carried.

Review Financial Reports, funding forecasts, and potential responses to funding shortfall.

Joe Jurich and Michael Walden-Newman (Nebraska Investment Council) provided information surrounding the current reduction of distributions into the Sixpence cash fund compared to previous years. Michael explained that Sixpence is funded through dollars derived from dividends and interest from stocks and bonds that make up the Sixpence endowment. Any capital gains are to be reinvested to stay ahead of inflation. Michael informed the Board that capital gains were distributed in the cash fund along with the dividends and interest over the last few years. Because of this mistake, \$473,000 was distributed in error and will need to be

put back into the trust. To do so, the Investment Council is withholding funds for five quarters. In December, \$293,000 was withheld. Throughout the next three quarters, withholdings will be approximately \$56,546, \$61,725, and \$61,725. Once the mistake is rectified, the distributions will be around 1.3 million, which is \$220,000 less than the 2018-19 fiscal year. The Board asked the Nebraska Investment Council to provide the explanation and the payback plan in writing. The Board asked Michael for his advisement surrounding proposing legislation to enable capital gains to be invested in the cash fund along with interest and dividends. Michael advised the Board to keep reinvesting the capital gains in the trust, enabling it to build upon the original \$40 million corpus. The growth would be slower but allow for more predictable numbers in the future. By enabling the trust to grow, more interest earnings help sustainability to the programs currently funded. The current inflation is between two and three percent, and if withdraws outpace the ability of the trust to replenish itself over time, the trust will become worthless.

The Board reviewed the financial reports, including expenditures from the Child Care Partnership programs. Dan Harshman presented the NDE Financial Reports. Dan informed the Board on the distribution of income of the public endowment went from \$343,000 a quarter to \$197,000. The Board can expect a lower rate of return for the foreseeable future. For consideration of future long-term funding streams, the Investment Counsel Representatives now believe the Board should use a 2% yield to predict cash deposits from the endowment fund.

Kevin Cloonan informed the Board of the need to revise the five-year forecast to reflect the investment councils' new predicted funding forecast of cash deposits going down from 1.4 to 1.1 million.

Kevin Cloonan reported that since inception, the State had distributed 47% of its earnings to the Sixpence Cash Fund, while the private endowment had distributed 43% of its earnings. The private endowment, therefore, distributed an additional \$500,000 to match the State's distribution percentage. The new influx of funds will ensure the TA and Evaluation account is not overdrawn.

Discuss and approve updated funding strategies to address Endowment shortfall.

Members revisited the previously approved options with strategies developed by the Sixpence administration to cut costs and potentially raise revenue.

Stephanni Renn asked the Board to consider updating their November vote for Option A Strategy 2, securing other funding sources, such as Preschool Development Grant, for the existing costs to support Ready Rosie removing Circle of Security and Mental Health Activities.

Option A: Alternative Revenue Sources for existing costs: Strategy 1: Transfer a reasonable portion of personnel costs from the Sixpence TA budget to the Childcare Partnerships budget (CCDF funds.) In the upcoming CCDF-funded CCP budget for 2021-22 , increase VP Early Childhood from 20% to 35% and increase two Sixpence TA staff by 15% each to better support coaches involved with CCP programs. Savings to the Sixpence TA budget: \$51,374 **Strategy 2:** Secure other funding sources, such as Preschool Development Grant and Rooted in Relationships, for existing costs that are supported in part through Sixpence TA and grantee program budgets.

Savings to the TA budget: \$34,000 in Facilitating Attuned Interactions (FAN) train the trainer costs. Savings to program budgets: \$73,452 for Ready Rosie \$22,060, Circle of Security \$20,020 and Mental Health activities \$31,372 Total savings: \$107,452 \$56,060

A motion was made by Kristy Feden to modify Option A Strategy 2. Second, by Jon Levy. Voting yes: Kristy Feden, Nicole Vint, Cara Small, John Levy, Melody Hobson, and Holly Hatton Bowers. No opposition, motion carried.

Discuss new Legislative Bill LB342

Elizabeth Everett from First Five Nebraska apprised the Board of Senator Stinner's introduction of new legislation in the Unicameral in support of the Sixpence Early Learning Fund. LB342 would appropriate \$5 million to Sixpence over two years to bolster public-private efforts to advance quality early learning experiences.

Review all Grantee Status Report

Karen Pinkelman, Aiesha Rahn, and Deb Reiman provided highlights and updates from each District's programs, including the status of funds expended, Step Up to Quality ratings, and enrollment. A discussion surrounding the implications of COVID-19 for inperson contacts for home visiting, childcare partnership programs, and attendance for centerbased programs.

Elect Chair and Vice-Chair

A motion was made by Holly Hatten-Bowers to extend the terms of Board Chair Kristy Feden and Vice-Chair Holly Hatten-Bowers to the June Board meeting. Second, by Melody Hobson. Voting yes: Kristy Feden, Nicole Vint, Cara Small, John Levy, Melody Hobson, and Holly Hatton Bowers. No opposition, motion carried.

Review Trustee Appointments

Stephanni Renn informed the Board of the reappointment of Holly Hatton Bowers and Cara Small. Their terms will end in December of 2023.

The meeting ended at 2:57 p.m. with a *motion to adjourn* by Kristy Feden. Second by Cara Small, Voting yes: Kristy Feden, Melody Hobson, John Levy, Nicole Vint, Holly Hatton Bowers, No opposition, motion carried.

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, March 17, 2021



Board of Trustees Minutes

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

Welcome & Introductions

Holly Hatton Bowers called the Sixpence Board of Trustees meeting to order at 1:11 p.m. on March 17, 2021, via Zoom

<u>Trustees attended via Zoom</u>: Melody Hobson (representing the Commissioner of the Nebraska Department of Education), John Levy, Nicole Vint (representing the CEO of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services), Kristy Feden, Cara Small, and Holly Hatton Bowers.

<u>Others attended via zoom</u>: Deb Reiman, Aiesha Rahn, Karen Pinkelman (Sixpence Administrative Education Specialists), Stephanni Renn (Sixpence Administrator), Dan Harshman (NDE Finance), Amy Bornemeier, Elizabeth Everett (First Five Nebraska), Betty Medinger, Mary Jo Pankoke, Kevin Cloonan (Nebraska Children), Joan Luebbers (NDE Head Start Collaboration), Beckie Cromer (DHHS) Peggy Tvrdy

Approve Minutes from January 20, 2021

A motion was made by John Levy to approve the January 20th minutes Second by Nicole Vint. Voting yes: Kristy Feden, Nicole Vint, Cara Small, John Levy, Melody Hobson, Holly Hatton Bowers. No opposition, motion carried.

Review Financial Reports, funding forecasts

Dan Harshman provided an update surrounding the current reduction of distributions into the Sixpence cash fund compared to previous years. The Investment Council distributed capital gains in the cash fund along with the dividends and interest over the last few years. Because of this mistake, \$473,000 was distributed in error and will need to be put back into the trust. To do so, the Investment Council is and has been withholding funds for five quarters. In December 2020, \$161,000 was withheld. The last withholding of \$61,000 will be in the first quarter of 2021, rectifying the Investment Council's mistake will then be rectified. The Board can anticipate quarterly payments estimated at \$250,000 moving forward. The Board reviewed the financial reports, including expenditures from the Child Care Partnership programs and traditional Sixpence programs. Dan Harshman presented the

NDE Financial Reports. Kevin Cloonan provided the Board a five-year forecast, including the sources and uses of funds.

Review and Approve 2021-2022 Funding Allocations

TA staff made recommendations on allocations for the 2021-2022 program year.

Grantee School District	Program Model	Recommended 2021-22 Allocation
Alliance	Center	\$95,250
Auburn	Home	\$84,392
Auburn	ССР	\$225,000 (CCDF funded)
Aurora	Home	\$86,250
Broken Bow	Home	\$183,500
Central City	Home	\$86,250
Chadron	ССР	\$202,057 (CCDF funded)
Columbus	Home	\$160,000
Crete	Home	\$304,666
Falls City	Home	\$273,958
Falls City	ССР	\$227,588 (CCDF funded)
Fremont	Home	\$283,573
Garden County	Home	\$86,000
Gering	ССР	\$238,376 (CCDF funded)
Grand Island	Home	\$159,870
Grand Island	ССР	\$250,000(CCDF Funded)
Hastings	Home	\$85,000
Hastings	ССР	\$244,238 (CCDF funded)
HTRS	Home	\$86,000
Kearney	Home	\$230,000
Kearney	Center	\$134,712
Kearney	Center	\$150,000 (CCDF funded)
Kearney	ССР	\$332,525 (CCDF funded)

Lexington	Home	\$244,450
Lincoln	Center- Educare	\$379,900
Lincoln	Home	\$205,200
Lincoln	Center- SCLCs	\$394,275
Loup City	Home	\$161,250
Millard	Home	\$87,276
Norfolk	Home	\$160,000
Omaha	Center- Educare	\$581,250
Omaha	Home – OELC	\$159,710
Omaha	Center- OELC	\$534,040
Ord	Home	\$90,250
Papillion-LaVista	Home	\$86,000
Plattsmouth	Home	\$75,000
Santee	Center	\$88,750
Schuyler	Home	\$314,930
Scottsbluff	Home	\$306,850
Seward Consortium	Home	\$167,000
Sidney	ССР	\$178,823 (CCDF funded)
St. Paul	Home	\$86,250
Umo ⁿ ho ⁿ Nation	Center	\$121,050
Winnebago	Center- Educare	\$217,000
York	Home	\$303,886
York	ССР	\$219,000 (CCDF funded)
Total Allocations	Home & Center	\$7,103,738
Total Allocations	ССР	\$2,267,607 (CCDF funded)
Grand Total Allocations		\$9,371,345

A motion was made by Kristy Feden to approve the recommended Traditional Sixpence funding allocations as presented, including York's request to add \$10,000 to their suggested allocation.

Seconded John Levy. Voting yes: Melody Hobson, Nicole Vint, Holly Hatton Bowers, and John Levy. No opposition, motion carried.

A motion was made by Holly Hatton Bowers to approve the recommended Sixpence Childcare Partnership funding allocations as presented. Seconded Melody Hobson. Voting yes: Melody Hobson, Nicole Vint, Holly Hatton Bowers, and John Levy. No opposition, motion carried.

Review and Approve Revised Quality Criteria/Indicators for All Sixpence Grant Models

Stephanni Renn presented recommended revisions to Sixpence Quality Criteria Evaluation Indicator C for the Childcare Partnership Programs. Additions to the Indicator Consultation/Coaching surrounding entries into the Nebraska Early Childhood Professional Record System, collaboration with other coaching incentives, and the inclusion of quality action plans for childcare providers' progress towards higher quality. Under the Professional Development Indicator, a recommendation surrounding coaches participating in the Toddler Class introduction training. If approved, the changes would go into effect on July 1, 2021.

A motion was made by Kristy Feden to approve the revised quality indicators. Second by Melody Hobson. Voting yes: Kristy Feden, Holly Hatton Bowers, Melody Hobson, and John Levy, Nicole Vint. No opposition, motion carried.

Legislative Bill LB342 Update

Elizabeth Everett from First Five Nebraska apprised the Board of Senator Stinner's new legislation in the Unicameral in support of the Sixpence Early Learning Fund. LB 342 would appropriate \$5 million to Sixpence over two years to bolster public-private efforts to advance quality early learning experiences. LB342 made it out of committee and will be presented to the Legislative body on March 23.

Review all Grantee Status Report

Karen Pinkelman, Aiesha Rahn, and Deb Reiman provided highlights and updates from each District's programs, including the status of funds expended, Step Up to Quality ratings, and enrollment. A discussion surrounding the implications of COVID-19 for inperson contacts for home visiting, childcare partnership programs, and attendance for centerbased programs. The meeting ended at 2:45 p.m. with a *motion to adjourn* by Kristy Feden. Second by John Levy, Voting yes: Kristy Feden, Melody Hobson, John Levy, Nicole Vint, Holly Hatton Bowers, No opposition, motion carried.

Next Meeting Date: June 9, 2021 approval of continuation funding allocations and evaluations budgets



Board of Trustees Minutes

June 9, 2021

Welcome & Introductions

Kristy Feden called the Sixpence Board of Trustees meeting to order at 1:08 p.m. on June 9, 2021, via Zoom

<u>Trustees attended via Zoom</u>: Melody Hobson (representing the Commissioner of the Nebraska Department of Education), John Levy, Kristy Feden.

Others attended via zoom: Deb Reiman, Aiesha Rahn, Dan Harshman (NDE Finance), Amy Bornemeier, Elizabeth Everett (First Five Nebraska), Josh Cramer (NCFF), Beckie Cromer (DHHS)

<u>Trustees and others attending at NCFF</u>: Cara Small, Board member, Karen Pinkelman (Sixpence Administrative Education Specialists), Stephanni Renn (Sixpence Administrator), Kevin Cloonan (Nebraska Children) Absent: Nicole Vint, Holly Hatton Bowers

Approve Minutes from March 17, 2021

A motion was made by Cara Small to approve the March 17 minutes, noting the edit needed to change the date of the program year. Second by Melody Hobson. Voting yes: Kristy Feden, Cara Small, John Levy, Melody Hobson, Absent: Nicole Vint, Holly Hatton Bowers No opposition, motion carried.

Review Financial Reports, funding forecasts

Dan Harshman provided an update on the 20-21 grant status. Currently, 2.7 million has been paid out to Districts. Kevin Cloonan provided the Board a five-year forecast, including the sources and uses of funds.

Review and Approve 2020-2021 Continuation Request

TA staff provided a synopsis of each Sixpence program. Sites faced a broad range of obstacles over the last year. Because of this, the CQI process was more flexible to meet the circumstances of the programs. The recommendation was to continue funding for all Sixpence programs for

the 21-22 program year. The Board discussed the twenty-eight programs that listed needing additional funding under unmet need in their continuation report. Multiple factors were discussed, including consideration of the long-term traditional funding financial forecast. Board members requested TA reach out to programs and suggest using the new ESSER3 funds to provide additional support to their Sixpence programs. Grantees in red received additional funding for unmet need.

Grantee School District	Program Model	Continued Funding	
Alliance	Center	\$95,250	Continued Funding
Auburn	Home	\$84,392	Continued Funding
Auburn	CCP (CCDF funded)	\$225,000	Continued Funding
Aurora	Home	\$86,250	Continued Funding
Broken Bow	Home	\$183,500	Continued Funding
Central City	Home	\$86,250	Continued Funding
Chadron	CCP (CCDF funded)	\$202,057	Continued Funding
Columbus	Home	\$160,000	Continued Funding
Crete	Home	\$304,666	Continued Funding
Falls City	Home	\$285,607	Continued Funding
Falls City	CCP (CCDF funded)	\$227,588	Continued Funding
Fremont	Home	\$295,573	Continued Funding
Garden County	Home	\$86,000	Continued Funding
Gering	CCP (CCDF funded)	\$238,376	Continued Funding
Grand Island	Home	\$159,870	Continued Funding
Grand Island	CCP (CCDF Funded)	\$250,000	Continued Funding
Hastings	Home	\$85,000	Continued Funding
Hastings	CCP (CCDF funded)	\$244,238	Continued Funding
HTRS	Home	\$86,000	Continued Funding
Kearney	Home	\$230,000	Continued Funding
Kearney	Center	\$150,212	Continued Funding
Kearney	Center (CCDF funded)	\$150,000	Continued Funding
Kearney	CCP (CCDF funded)	\$332,525	Continued Funding

Lexington	Home	\$244,450	Continued Funding
Lincoln	Center- Educare	\$379,900	Continued Funding
Lincoln	Home	\$205,200	Continued Funding
Lincoln	Center- SCLCs	\$429,375	Continued Funding
Loup City	Home	\$161,250	Continued Funding
Millard	Home	\$87,276	Continued Funding
Norfolk	Home	\$230,000	Continued Funding
Omaha	Center- Educare	\$581,250	Continued Funding
Omaha	Home – OELC	\$159,710	Continued Funding
Omaha	Center- OELC	\$534,040	Continued Funding
Ord	Home	\$90,250	Continued Funding
Papillion-LaVista	Home	\$86,000	Continued Funding
Plattsmouth	Home	\$87,000	Continued Funding
Santee	Center	\$88,750	Continued Funding
Schuyler	Home	\$326,930	Continued Funding
Scottsbluff	Home	\$306,850	Continued Funding
Seward Consortium	Home	\$167,000	Continued Funding
Sidney	CCP (CCDF funded)	\$178,823	Continued Funding
St. Paul	Home	\$86,250	Continued Funding
Umo ⁿ ho ⁿ Nation	Center	\$121,050	Continued Funding
Winnebago	Center- Educare	\$217,000	Continued Funding
York	Home	\$303,886	Continued Funding
York	CCP (CCDF funded)	\$219,000	Continued Funding
Total Allocations	Home & Center	\$7,254,987	
Total Allocations	<u>CCP</u>	<u>\$2,267,607 (C</u>	CDF funded)
Grand Total Allocations		\$9,522,594	

Additional Funds granted

Total Additional Allocations	<u>\$168,149</u>
Lincoln Public School (SLC)	\$35,000
Kearney Public School (center)	\$15,500
Schuyler Community Schools	\$12,000
Plattsmouth Public School	\$12,000
Fremont Public School	\$12,000
Falls City Public School	\$11,649
Norfolk Public Schools	\$70,000

Discuss and approve the release of RFP (Request For Proposal)

Stephanni Renn presented the timeline for the release, review, approval, and start-up for the new and expansion grants.

A motion was made by Cara Small to release the RFP. Second by Melody Hobson. Voting yes: Kristy Feden, Cara Small, John Levy, Melody Hobson, Absent: Nicole Vint, Holly Hatton Bowers No opposition, motion carried.

Approve additional Board meeting to vote on expansion applications

Stephanni Renn asked the Board to conduct an additional board meeting to vote on expansion and new grantee applications. Doing so would allow for funding to begin on September 1. A doodle poll will be sent to the trustees to determine availability.

A motion was made by Cara Small to schedule an additional board meeting before September. Second by Kristy Feden, Voting yes: Kristy Feden, Cara Small, John Levy, Melody Hobson, Absent: Nicole Vint, Holly Hatton Bowers No opposition, motion carried.

Discuss and approve UNMC evaluation budgets and scopes of work.

Stephanni Renn presented the proposed evaluation budget and scope of work plan from UNMC Monroe Meyer Institute. She noted the Childcare Partnership budget went down slightly. The proposed traditional budget includes the upcoming expansion and new programs that will be awarded in September.

A motion was made by Kristy Feden to approve the UNMC budgets as presented. Second by John Levy. Voting yes: Kristy Feden, Cara Small, John Levy, Melody Hobson, Absent: Nicole Vint, Holly Hatton Bowers No opposition, motion carried. The meeting ended at 3:42 p.m. with a *motion to adjourn* by Cara Small. Second by Kristy Feden, Voting yes: Kristy Feden, Cara Small, John Levy, Melody Hobson, Absent: Nicole Vint, Holly Hatton Bowers No opposition, motion carried.

Next Meeting Date: TBA voting on expansion and new grantee applications. Next scheduled board meeting, September 15, 1:00-4:00 evaluation report



Board of Trustees Minutes

August 4, 2021

Welcome & Introductions

Stephanni Renn called the Sixpence Board of Trustees meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. on August 4, 2021, via Zoom

<u>Trustees attended via Zoom</u>: Melody Hobson (representing the Commissioner of the Nebraska Department of Education), John Levy, Nicole Vint, Cara Small, Holly Hatten Bowers Representing the CFO of Health and Human Services Absent: Kristy Feden.

<u>Others attended via zoom</u>: Deb Reiman (Sixpence Administrative Education Specialists), Josh Cramer (NCFF)

<u>Attendees at NCFF</u>: Aiesha Rahn, Karen Pinkelman (Sixpence Administrative Education Specialists), Stephanni Renn (Sixpence Administrator), Kevin Cloonan (Nebraska Children)

Review Financial Reports, funding forecasts

Kevin Cloonan provided the Board with an overview of the new funding available, including the sources and uses of funds.

Discuss and approve 2021-2022 RFP applications and 2020-2022 additional funding requests of current grantees

TA staff provided a synopsis of each potential grantee, including the grant reviewers' comments. The Board discussed the Traditional Sixpence Programs that listed unmet needs in their continuation report

John Levy motioned to award eleven new expansion grants and provide additional unmet need funding for fourteen traditional Sixpence programs. Second by Cara Small. Voting yes: Cara Small, John Levy, Melody Hobson, Nicole Vint, Holly Hatton Bowers Absent: Kristy Feden. No opposition, motion carried.

Additional Funds Granted

Grantee School District	Funding
Alliance Public School	\$54,750
Aurora Public Schools	\$3,000
Auburn Public School	\$26,000
Central City Public School	\$3,000
Columbus Public School	\$4,500
Crete Public Schools	\$10,000
Falls City Public School	\$6,300
Garden County School	\$15,000 (one time funding)
Grand Island Public School	\$4,000
Lexington Public School	\$7,000
Lincoln Educare	\$54,221
Loup City Public School	\$5,000
Ord Public School	\$3,500
Papillion Public School	\$6,000
Santee Community Schools	\$73,750
Seward Public School	\$7,000
Umo ho Nation Community Schools	\$28,950
York Public School	\$25,000
Total Additional Allocations	<u>\$336,971</u>

Sixpence Expansion Grants Awarded

Grantee School District	Program Model	Funding
Bancroft – Rosalie Com. Schools	1 Center-Based Classroom	\$175,000
Bancroft – Rosalie Com. Schools	1 Home Visitor	\$110,000
Beatrice Public Schools	1 Home Visitor	\$110,000
Blair Community School	1 Home Visitor	\$110,000
Kearney Public School	1 Center-Based Classroom	\$175,000
North Platte Public School	2 Home Visitors	\$205,000

Total Allocations	Home & Center	<u>\$2,220,000</u>
Conestoga Public School	1 Center-Based Classroom	\$175,000
Weeping Water Public School	2 Center-Based Classroom	\$350,000
Walthill Public School	1 Center-Based Classroom	\$175,000
South Sioux City Com Schools	1 Home Visitor	\$110,000
Red Cloud Community School	1 Center-Based Classroom	\$175,000
O'Neill Public School	2 Center-Based Classrooms	\$350,000

The meeting ended at 1:50 p.m. with a *motion to adjourn* by John Levy. Second by Cara Small, Voting yes: Cara Small, John Levy, Melody Hobson, Nicole Vint, Holly Hatton Bowers Absent: Kristy Feden No opposition, motion carried.

Next Meeting Date: Next scheduled board meeting, September 15, 1:00-4:00 Evaluation Report