



**Nebraska Early Childhood Education Endowment  
Board of Trustees  
Wednesday, November 18th, 2015  
Minutes**

**Welcome & Introductions**

The meeting of the Sixpence Board of Trustees was called to order at 1:02 p.m. on November 18, 2015, at Nebraska Children and Families Foundation, 215 Centennial Mall South, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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), Cara Small, Jessie Rasmussen, and Helen Raikes

**Also in attendance:** Amy Bornemeier (Sixpence Administrator), Karen Pinkelman, Stephanni Renn (Sixpence TA Specialist), Betty Medinger (Nebraska Children), Shane Rhian (NDE), Nicole Vint (DHHS),

**Approve Minutes from September 9, 2015**

A motion was made by Jessie Rasmussen to approve the minutes. Second by Helen Raikes. Voting yes: Jessie Rasmussen, Melody Hobson, Cara Small, and Mel Clancy. No opposition. Motion carried.

**Nominate and Vote New Chair-Person: Mel Clancy's term ending December 2015; not seeking reappointment**

A motion was made by Jessie Rasmussen to appoint Cara Small as the new Sixpence Chair-Person. Second by Emily Cluver. Voting yes: Jessie Rasmussen, Melody Hobson, Emily Cluver, and Mel Clancy. Abstaining Cara Small. No opposition. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Helen Raikes to appoint Melody Hobson as the new Sixpence Vice Chair-Person. Second by Emily Cluver. Voting yes: Jessie Rasmussen, Emily Cluver, Helen Raikes, and Mel Clancy. Abstaining Melody Hobson. No opposition. Motion carried.

## **T&A Grantee Status Report**

Amy Bornemeier presented the Grantee Status Report to the Board Members. Board Members questioned why Aurora Public School was only serving 54% of their total agreed upon caseload of 24. Sixpence TA explained that Aurora has experienced staff turnover and has had to limit their services. Board members questioned whether there were enough of a high risk population to support having two visitors in a few of Sixpences smaller communities.

Fremont Public School is currently still looking to hire a bilingual educator. They had tried to partner with Dodge County Head Start but the program was unable to find a qualified bi lingual visitor. Fremont Public School is now partnering with Lutheran Family Services. Lutheran Family Services currently works with many Spanish and bilingual families in the community.

### **Discuss and Approve Alliance's request to continue serving 16 toddlers half days, rather than 8 toddlers full days per 2015-2016 funding contingency which required grantee to develop a plan to serve children a minimum of 6 hours per day by the 2016-17 grant year**

Alliance Public School submitted a request to the Sixpence Board of Trustees asking them to consider allowing them to continue to serve toddlers for a half –day and only school calendar. When approving Alliance's Continuation Request, the Trustee's funded Alliance Public School on the contingency their Toddler Program would change to serve 8 toddlers, for a minimum of 6 hours a day, year around.

Rational was given regarding the request. It was discussed that serving 8 toddlers for six hours would mean 8 other toddlers would no longer receive services. The additional time served would mainly allow for a meal and a nap. It was also mentioned that currently the preschool and toddler programs align with each other, thus parents with children in each program would have to arrange for additional times to pick up their children. Several Board members discussed that the role of Sixpence was based on community need and doing what worked best for them.

Board Members discussed being open to compromise as an alternative in which Sixpence would ask that Alliance add two additional home visits in the summer. Additionally, the Board would require Alliance Public School to develop a monthly communication strategy to monitor development and progress of those children who transition to other child care programs one during the school year. In doing this, the dosage children receive would be strengthen when they are not at school.

The Board asked that Alliance start to try and figure out what they would need for staffing and financially to extend their program into the summer months.

A motion was made by Helen Raikes to approve Alliance Public School's request to continue services as usual with the agreement of adding two additional home visits in the summer and developing a monthly communication strategy to monitor development and progress of those children who transition to other child care programs. Second by Jessie Rasmussen . Voting yes: Jessie Rasmussen, Emily Cluver, Cara Small, and Mel Clancy. Voting no: Melody Hobson Motion carried.

### **Child Care Partnership RFP Status**

Amy Bornemeier updated the Board members on the Childcare Partnership Grant. Last month Sixpence hosted a question and answer webinar. The webinar had eighteen candidates. Interested parties were from both new sites and communities that already were receiving Sixpence funding. individuals Interest from new grantees.

North Platte, York, Falls City, Lincoln, ESU 13, Lincoln, Hall county area, Northeast NE area, Knowledge Learning Corporation (Kindercare) Hay Springs, Omaha West Side, Millard, Red Cloud, Norris, and Central City. The required Bidders Conference will be December 1<sup>st</sup> . Grant applications are due January 28<sup>th</sup>.

It was also reported that Sixpence had secured the release of information from Step Up to Quality. Sixpence staff will be able to have access to the participants and what their rating is.

### **Update on Trustees' Recommendation to Results Matter Task Force to Reduce GOLD Checkpoints to Fall and Spring Only for Family Engagement (home based) Programs**

The results matters task force agreed with the recommendation the Board had developed. Representatives from the Nebraska Board of Education are deciding if the change can be added immediately or if the new reduction will have wait until the summer when the TA document is revised.

### **Review financial reports and verify funds available**

Shane Rhian shared spreadsheets regarding financial projections and availability of current and future Sixpence funds.

- Sixpence currently uses \$6.15 million to support Grantees. With the addition of Omaha ELC commitments, the total number to support Sixpence Grants is 6,684,000 leaving approxamately \$1.2 million to grant out.

Board members wanted to note that other expenses may arise as they discuss pay equity and expanding several center based services to year round.

### **Discuss guidance memo from NDE's legal counsel on using grant funds for tuition of Bilingual Home Visitors at Postsecondary Institutions**

Amy Bornemeier reported to the Board the advice given from NDE's counsel on providing tuition reimbursement for bi lingual educators. Counsel could not find anything that would prevent the Sixpence Board from providing such assistance. It was advised that a policy be drawn up with many details about stipulations and expectations

**Discuss and approve Grant Funds Use for Bilingual Family Engagement (home based) Staff Tuition Policy**

Amy Bornemeier presented a draft policy for the Boards consideration. Many thoughts and caveats were discussed.

Board members were wondering if the tuition assistance could be used for all home visitors and not just bi-lingual visitors. Rational was given how it would only apply to bi-lingual home visitors per Quality Criteria for Family Engagement Programs- Attachment B, Staff Qualifications): “Programs may employ a Bilingual Home Visitor with an Associate degree, or the equivalency in credit hours, with a detailed education plan, created in conjunction with a higher education.

Board Members wondered if they could stipulate what degree the home visitor could receive. Discussion was held about being prescriptive with the coursework and regulations when making tuition assistance available. The caveat was that some degrees can be awarded without the beneficiary ever taking a class in Infant and Child Development or Family Centered Practices. Members thought it would be ideal to require 12 credit hours in such areas as 12 credit hours is the breaking point of quality. One thing to consider was that there are only a few higher education establishments have many hours that pertain only to infants and toddlers.

It was decided that the School District would be the one to reimburse the employee and then the District would ask Sixpence to reimburse them. One consideration would be to put a cap on the dollar amount.

The Board members decided to defer making any decisions. They were not comfortable with voting on the policy at this time.

Board members asked Sixpence TA to look into the BI Marcy Wysoc study, the BICC Teach Policy, the preliminary report from Susan Sarbor and Kris Martin. It was noted that research on what was required of a social work degree would be beneficial.

For the sake of consistency, it was requested Sixpence staff come up with several ideas and specific recommendations about all home visitors, not just bilingual. The Board hopes to see TA develop several recommendations for their consideration at the next meeting.

A motion was made by Helen Raikes to defer this vote to another meeting. Seconded by Jessie Rasmussen Voting yes: Jessie Rasmussen, Melody Hobson, Cara Small, Emily Kluver and Mel Clancy, and Helen Raikes. No opposition. Motion carried.

The meeting ended with a ***motion to adjourn*** by Jessie Rasmussen. Seconded by Cara Small. Voting yes: Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy, Cara Small, Emily Kluver, and Jessie Rasmussen. No opposition. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 2:27 p.m. **Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup> 1:00-4:00 p.m.**



**Nebraska Early Childhood Education Endowment  
Board of Trustees  
Wednesday, September 9th, 2015  
Minutes**

**Welcome & Introductions**

The meeting of the Sixpence Board of Trustees was called to order at 12:12 p.m. on September 9, 2015, at Nebraska Children and Families Foundation, 215 Centennial Mall South, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 arrived at 1:04), Melody Hobson (representing the Commissioner of Education), Cara Small, Jessie Rasmussen, and Helen Raikes (arrived at 12:20 p.m.)

**Also in attendance:** Amy Bornemeier (Sixpence Administrator), Karen Pinkelman (Sixpence TA Specialist), Betty Medinger, Jack Round, Mary Jo Pankoke and Michael Blue- intern (Nebraska Children), Becky Veak, Jen Goettmoeller and Micheal Medwick (First Five Nebraska,) Shane Rhian (NDE), Nicole Vint (DHHS), Joan Luebbers (Head Start Collaboration Office), Diane Lewis and Lauri Cimino (Step Up to Quality), and Nicole Vint (DHHS).

**Approve Minutes from June 3, 2015**

A motion was made by Melody Hobson to approve the minutes with the amendments of: Melody Hobson voting only no for the Results Matter Task Force recommendation to reduce the number of GOLD checkpoints and Fremont's Head Start program model to be listed as Healthy Families America rather than Parents as Teachers. Second by Jessie Rasmussen. Voting yes: Jessie Rasmussen, Melody Hobson, Cara Small, and Mel Clancy. No opposition. Motion carried.

**Review financial reports and verify funds available. Discuss tracking of CCDBG/CCDF via LB547**

Jack Round and Shane Rhian shared spreadsheets regarding financial projections and availability of current and future Sixpence funds.

- Sixpence currently uses \$6.5 million to support Grantees
- Sixpence will be able to grant out a minimum of \$500,000 for childcare partnership grants from the Endowment fund

- CCCDBG funds projected to be \$900,000 become available in October 2016 for childcare partnership grants via LB547

#### **Discuss TA budget and authorize Board Chair to approve 2015-17 TA contract**

Amy Bornemeier shared the proposed budget for the 2015-17 TA contract renewal, which includes an additional TA Specialist to provide support to the current 31 grantees and new Child Care Partnership grants. Referencing current commitments and projections previously discussed, Jack Round reported that the new position would be sustainable into the future.

A motion was made by Jessie Rasmussen to authorize Mel Clancy to approve the 2015-2017 TA Contract. Second by Helen Raikes. Voting yes: Jessie Rasmussen, Melody Hobson, Cara Small, Emily Kluver and Mel Clancy, and Helen Raikes. No opposition. Motion carried.

#### **Discuss Sixpence Stakeholder Child Care Partnerships Grants Stakeholders Recommendations**

Amy Bornemeier shared that per the Board's direction at the June meeting, a group of stakeholders met on August 6, 2015 to discuss and provide feedback on the proposed Child Care Partnerships Grants RFP, Quality Indicators, and timeline. Specific feedback was also sought regarding budget considerations and award priorities. Approximately fifty participants from across the state attended representing schools, private child care, ELCs, NDE, DHHS, FFN, and other interested parties. Recommendations from the Stakeholders were presented to the Board and discussed. Prevalent themes from the stakeholders include award prioritization equally distributed between urban and rural areas focusing on increasing the quality of programs that many at-risk children are already attending rather than increasing accessibility for a few children to attend high quality programs, thus, reaching a greater number of at risk children. In addition, stakeholders recommended embedding Sixpence Quality Indicators into the Step Up to Quality Program Guide since that is a required component to these grants.

#### **Discuss and approve revised documents related to Sixpence Child Care Partnership Grants**

Amy Bornemeier shared documents that were revised or created in response to the Child Care Partnership Grants Stakeholder recommendations and Discussion regarding the documents included:

- a) Quality Criteria- Attachment C:
  - Staff Qualifications:
    - Knowing that some programs will need more coaching than others, especially as grant activities begin but may taper off, allow programs and grantees to mutually decide the frequency of coaching provided.
    - In instances where the school district wishes to contract out the Program Coordinator (directly or in-directly,) the position must be compensated commensurate to that of the local school district salary and benefits package to reduce staff turnover. As a year-round grant, the Program Coordinator must also be employed for the full calendar year.

- Consultation/Coaching: Considering other coaching models, change the required ratio of Program Coordinator-to-groups of infants/toddlers from 1:10 to a recommended range of 1:5-7.
  - Administration: the child care programs must meet the needs of working parents in the community
- b) RFP, including timeline:
- The RFP will have an October 1 release date and proposals received by the January 28, 2016 due date will be considered for two rounds of funding- March 2016, funded with Endowment funds, and a second round at a later date to be determined, funded with CCDF funds when those funds become available.
  - The timeframe should include several months from grant term inception to grant activities beginning to allow for time to hire Program Coordinators and work out the details of MOUs/partnership agreements.
  - Grant amounts are \$100,000 to \$225,000.
- c) Step Up to Quality Program Guide for Sixpence:
- Discussion included general approval of the document as presented.

Additional discussion was held regarding sustaining the funding beyond the initial three-year grant term. Understanding that school districts must establish contractual employment relationships with the teaching-certificated Program Coordinator, the Board expressed a desire to offer continuation funding beyond the three year grant term, to be discussed at future meetings.

A motion was made by Melody Hobson to approve moving forward with releasing the Child Care Partnerships RFP, Quality Criteria, and Step Up to Quality Program Guide, with the discussed modifications in the RFP and Quality Criteria. Second by Jessie Rasmussen. Voting yes: Jessie Rasmussen, Melody Hobson, Cara Small, Emily Kluver and Mel Clancy, and Helen Raikes. No opposition. Motion carried.

**Discuss the use of Sixpence funds for higher education expenses for bilingual Family Engagement program staff under the Staff Qualification Quality Indicator**

Amy Bornemeier led a discussion regarding the use of Sixpence funds to support the new quality indicator (per Quality Criteria for Family Engagement Programs- Attachment B, Staff Qualifications):

“Programs may employ a Bilingual Home Visitor with an Associate degree, or the equivalency in credit hours, with a detailed education plan, created in conjunction with a higher education institute, to meet the Home Visiting Specialist qualifications within four years of hire. The Bilingual Home Visitor must still be supervised by a Home Visiting Specialist.”

The Board discussed the advantages and disadvantages of paying for college tuition for bilingual Sixpence home visitors, and whether or not Sixpence funds could be used in this manner. The Board noted that the cost of higher education is often not affordable for the bilingual home-based staff, as many do not receive salaries to support the additional cost of tuition. The TEACH Scholarships were discussed and noted that they are currently funded through CCDF funds, so home-based staff are ineligible for them. NDE legal counsel is currently examining the legal limitations of Sixpence funds being

used to support staff in meeting this Quality Indicator and will make recommendations in the future. The Board would like to review those recommendations at a future meeting.

### **Approve 2016 meeting dates**

- Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup> 1:00-4:00
- Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> 1:00-4:00
- Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup> 1:00-4:00
- Wednesday, June 8<sup>th</sup> 1:00-4:00
- Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> 1:00-4:00
- Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup> 1:00-4:00

A motion was made by Jessie Rasmussen to approve the 2016 meeting dates. Seconded by Helen Raikes. Voting yes: Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy, Cara Small, Emily Kluver, and Jessie Rasmussen. No opposition. Motion carried.

### **Discuss 2014-15 Evaluation Report**

Barb Jackson and Rosie Zweiback from UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute distributed the Sixpence 2014-15 Evaluation Report and presented their findings. Highlights include:

- Sixpence served 871 children served (in 804 families) and 98 pregnant mothers from 2014-2015
- Top risk factors were:
  - Low income households (97%)
  - Single parents (52%)
  - No high school diploma (43%)
  - Teen parents (34%)
- 68% had 3 or more risk factors
- Trauma played a role in the lives of 46% of the children
- 79% of the children stayed through the end of the program year or until age 3
- All Sixpence classrooms met the overall goal for high quality
- 75% of home visitors consistently used best practices to support families
- 53% of children met language comprehension outcomes, fewer met vocabulary and production outcomes
- 72% of the children met the program goal for social-emotional competencies
- 94% of the children were gaining skills at the expected growth rate
- Nearly all of the children and pregnant mothers met every Sixpence health indicator
- 76% of parents met the program goal in building relationships with the child, and made significant improvements in promoting learning and in overall parent-child interactions

The Board discussed the implications of the data, including those that made a difference such as: risk factors, family language, time in Sixpence, and the type of program. The Board discussed Barb Jackson's recommendation to adjust the evaluation protocol, which includes using the MacArthur-Bates tool only for children beginning at aged 12 months to better capture developmentally appropriate language

production expectations. To better evaluate language comprehension, Barb Jackson recommended piloting the DAY-C, which is also available in Spanish. The Friends Protective Factors Survey yielded results which suggested that in the future, this tool should only be used with families who are in their first year of Sixpence. The Board also discussed the potential to use a universal screener for postpartum depression. The Board requested the following information from Barb Jackson:

- How many Sixpence Children are in the average range for MacArthur-Bates
- Reanalyze the data, removing all children under 12 months of age

Barb Jackson reported that she would send the results to the Board via email.

**Discuss and approve evaluation recommendations, authorizing Board Chair to approve the 2015-2016 Evaluation Contract Amendment with MMI**

The Board discussed two budget options prepared by Barb Jackson to amend the evaluation contract to include cohort 4 grantees. One option was to continue using the current evaluation protocol for an additional \$150,590 amendment. The second option was to use the HoVRS every third year, rather than annually, once a benchmark of quality has been established for two consecutive years (6 or higher in Home Visiting Practices) and that the newest cohort of grantees would do the HoVRS quality measure and the DECA in the spring for an additional \$137,235 amendment, which represents a cost savings without compromising data comparison between grantee cohorts.

A motion was made by Helen Raikes to authorize the Board Chair to approve the 2015-16 evaluation contract amendment with MMI with the protocol set forth in the \$137,235 budget. Second by Jessie Rasmussen. Voting yes: Helen Raikes, Melody Hobson, Cara Small, Emily Kluver, Jessie Rasmussen and Mel Clancy. No opposition. Motion carried.

**Approve request by Barb Jackson to write an article on the impact of home visiting in Sixpence children on child and family outcomes**

The Board discussed Barb Jackson's request to write an article on the impact of home visiting in Sixpence children, and on child and family outcomes. The Board noted that since the data was publicly published, Barb Jackson wasn't required to seek their approval, but asked for the article to be shared with Board members prior to submitting for publication.

A motion was made by Melody Hobson to grant permission for Barb Jackson to write the article with the requirement to share the article prior to submitting for publication. Second by Cara Small. Voting yes: Melody Hobson, Cara Small, Emily Kluver and Mel Clancy. Abstaining Helen Raikes. No opposition. Motion carried.

The meeting ended with a ***motion to adjourn*** by Jessie Rasmussen. Seconded by Melody Hobson. Voting yes: Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy, Cara Small, Emily Kluver, and Jessie Rasmussen. No opposition. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m. **Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup> 1:00-4:00 p.m.**



**Nebraska Early Childhood Education Endowment  
Board of Trustees  
Wednesday, June 3, 2015  
Minutes**

**Welcome & Introductions**

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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), Cara Small, and Helen Raikes, (arrived at 12:20.)

**Also in attendance:** Amy Bornemeier (Sixpence Administrator), Karen Pinkelman (Sixpence TA Specialist), Betty Medinger, Jack Round, and Mary Jo Pankoke (Nebraska Children), Michael Medwick, Becky Veak and Jen Goettemoeller (First Five Nebraska,) Shane Rhian (NDE), Nicole Vint (DHHS), and Eva Lester (Buffet Early Childhood Fund).

**Approve Minutes from May 20, 2015**

A motion was made by Melody Hobson to approve the minutes with the correction that funds to be available from LB547 should be just under one million dollars not \$1.2 million. Second by Cara Small. Voting yes: Melody Hobson, Cara Small, Emily Kluver and Mel Clancy. No opposition. Motion carried.

**Update on Endowment Financials/Projections**

Jack Round shared a spreadsheet covering the financial history of the Sixpence Funds by year, starting in 2006, based on information provided by Shane Rhian. Shane Rhian shared that Sixpence has approximately \$6.9 million available to support current and future grant activities. The Board previously approved \$4,331,281 in continuation funding to current grantees for 2015-16 grant year, leaving approximately \$2.6 million for the Board's consideration to award grants out to (and sustain) the 19 applications responding to the 2015 RFP.

## **Discuss and Approve Cohort 4 (2015-16 New/Expansion Grants):**

Amy Bornemeier and Karen Pinkelman provided the Board with an overview of each applicant which included: funds requested, personnel, per-child cost, number of children to be served, major partners, and reviewer's scores and comments, as well as recommendations from TA. The Board discussed each grant request:

### **Auburn**

Auburn Public Schools requested \$75,000 in operating funds and \$25,000 in startup funds to start serving 15 at-risk infants and toddlers through a Family Engagement home-based program, using the Parents as Teachers curriculum. The Board discussed funding the application contingent upon revising their model and budget to support a full time home visitor and either have a school district employee oversee the program, and providing a budget detail for the contracted program supervisor.

### **Columbus**

Columbus Public Schools requested \$52,155 in operating funds and \$25,000 in startup funds to expand their current Family Engagement home-based program to serve an additional 8 at-risk infants and toddlers. The Board discussed this current grantee's challenges including staff turnover, enrollment, and their decision in their continuation funding request to implement a new curriculum. The Board discussed their current need for TA as they have undergone many changes and questioned if this was an appropriate time for them to expand.

### **Crete**

Crete Public Schools requested \$75,000 in operating funds and \$25,000 in startup funds to expand their current Family Engagement home-based program to serve an additional 12 at-risk infants and toddlers.

### **Falls City**

Falls City Public Schools requested \$85,000 in operating funds and \$6,500 in startup funds to expand their current Family Engagement home-based program to serve an additional 15 at-risk infants and toddlers.

### **Fremont**

Fremont Public Schools requested \$150,000 in operating funds and \$13,600 in startup funds to expand their current Family Engagement home-based program to serve an additional 15 at-risk infants and toddlers; and to start a new partnership with Dodge County Head Start to serve an additional 12 at-risk infants and toddlers using the Healthy Families America curriculum. The Board discussed funding the application contingent upon the program hiring at least one bilingual home visitor to support the needs of the community.

### **Garden County**

Garden County Public Schools requested \$75,000 in operating funds and \$25,000 in startup funds to start serving 12-15 at-risk infants and toddlers through a Family Engagement home-based program, in partnership with Volunteers of America, using the Parents as Teachers curriculum. The Board discussed funding their application contingent upon the program submitting a more detailed budget, including justification for all expenses over \$1,000.

### **Hastings**

Hastings Public Schools is requesting \$75,000 in operating funds and \$25,000 in startup funds to start serving 12 at-risk infants and toddlers through a Family Engagement home-based program, using the Parents as

Teachers curriculum. The Board discussed the partnership with the local Head Start provider, and how that would need to be further developed. The Board discussed some questions with their budget, including the use of funds to attend a training that is offered at no cost throughout the state, and funds to support a certified teacher for the home visitor position when such a qualification is not required. The Board discussed funding their application contingent upon the program submitting a revised budget, re-allocating funds for professional development, and a Partnership Agreement with their ELC Coordinator.

### **Kearney**

Kearney Public Schools requested \$118,171 in operating funds and \$25,000 in startup funds to expand their current Center-Based program to open a second toddler classroom to serve an additional 8 at-risk infants and toddlers.

### **Lexington**

Lexington Public Schools requested \$75,000 in operating funds and \$6,700 in startup funds to expand their current Family Engagement home-based program to serve an additional 12-15 at-risk infants and toddlers.

### **Lincoln**

Lincoln Public Schools requested \$150,000 in operating funds and \$25,000 in startup funds to expand their current Family Engagement home-based program to enhance services to 18 at-risk infants and toddlers currently being served in their Student Child Learning Center. The Board discussed this current grantee's challenges of maintaining 85% enrollment in both their center and home-based programs while their partner maintains a high caseload with a waiting list. The Board questioned the utilization of funds to enhance services to children already being served when so many other families are not receiving services. The Board questioned LPS' understanding of their role as the grantee and would like to see increased cohesion between the district-offered and partner-offered programs. The Board discussed that the needs of the community would be better served by this grantee expanding services through their current or new partners.

### **Millard**

Millard Public Schools requested \$74,650 in operating funds and \$13,910 in startup funds to start serving 12-15 at-risk infants and toddlers through a Family Engagement home-based program, using Save the Children's Early Steps to School Success curriculum. Services would be provided for both Cody and Sandoz Schools which currently are not receiving full implementation services through the Superintendents' Early Childhood Plan. The program would partner closely with the Buffet Early Childhood Institute. The Board discussed funding this application contingent upon the program re-submitting their operating budget to meet the \$75,000 minimum award, and re-evaluating their startup budget, to be approved by TA staff, up to \$25,000.

### **Norfolk**

Norfolk Public School requested \$150,000 in operating funds and \$25,000 in startup funds to start serving 12-20 at-risk infants and toddlers through a Family Engagement home-based program, using the Parents as Teachers curriculum. The Board noted that Norfolk is within a county with a high density of at-risk children and currently receives no Sixpence funding. The Board discussed funding their application contingent upon the program resubmitting their budget, eliminating unnecessary costs to enable them to hire an additional full time home visitor, allowing them to serve a minimum of 24 families.

### **Omaha (Center-Based)**

Omaha Public Schools requested \$267,021 (half year) and \$534,041 (full year) in operating funds, and \$112,626 in startup funds to open two Omaha Early Learning Centers (OELCs); at Skinner and Gateway Schools using Creative Curriculum. The Sixpence grant would work in tandem with the Nebraska Early Learning Collaborative's Early Head Start Child Care Partnership Grant to fund five infant/toddler classrooms

(40 at-risk children) not funded by that grant. The Board requested Omaha Public Schools Center Based be voted as an individual action item.

### **Omaha (Home Based)**

Omaha Public Schools requested \$75,000 in operating funds and \$9,713 in startup funds to expand their current privately funded Family Engagement home-based program to serve an additional 15 at-risk infants and toddlers using Save the Children's (STC) Early Steps for School Success (ESSS) curriculum. This would be a new Sixpence-funded model for OPS, but an expansion of their current privately-funded ESSS program which is housed in Educare at Kellom. The Board discussed funding their application contingent upon the program resubmitting their budget reflecting GOLD subscriptions and STC affiliate fees, as well as requiring at least one of their home visitors to be bilingual and additional Partnership Agreements to be developed.

### **Papillion-LaVista**

Papillion-LaVista Public Schools requested \$77,899 in operating funds and \$18,280 in startup funds to start serving 12-15 at-risk infants and toddlers through a Family Engagement home-based program, using Save the Children's Early Steps for School Success curriculum. This district is part of the Superintendents' Early Childhood Plan, but is not receiving full-implementation services and would partner closely with the Buffet Early Childhood Institute. The Board discussed funding their application contingent upon the program resubmitting a budget reflecting the STC affiliate fee and Partnership Agreements to be developed, and re-evaluating their startup budget, to be approved by TA staff, up to \$25,000.

### **Schuyler**

Schuyler Community School requested \$150,000 in operating funds and \$25,000 in startup funds to fund their currently private-funded STC ESSS, and expand their current Family Engagement home-based program to serve an additional 12 at-risk infants and toddlers through their partnership with Central Nebraska Community Action. The Board discussed funding the application contingent upon the new home visitor being bilingual and a plan to increase the cohesion between the district-offered and partner-offered programs.

### **Scottsbluff**

Scottsbluff Public Schools requested \$150,000 in operating funds and \$25,000 in startup funds to expand their current Family Engagement home-based program to serve an additional 18 at-risk infants and toddlers through their family engagement home visitation program. The Board discussed funding their application contingent upon TA staff reviewing their start up budget to ensure dollars are based on need, and match is secured in their operating budget.

### **Seward/Centennial/Milford**

Seward Public Schools is requesting \$150,000 in operating funds and \$25,000 in startup funds to start serving 24 at-risk infants and toddlers through a Family Engagement home-based program, in partnership with Blue Valley Community Action, serving all three districts, using the Parents as Teachers curriculum throughout all three Districts. The Board noted the cost savings that this consortium model provides and discussed funding their application contingent upon more detail to their matching funds, supervision plan and selection process.

### **Umo<sup>n</sup>Ho<sup>n</sup> Nation**

Umo<sup>n</sup>Ho<sup>n</sup> Nation Public School requested \$100,000 in operating funds (no startup funds) to expand their current Center-Based program to serve an additional 6 at-risk infants and toddlers. The Board had concerns regarding possible supplanting as they already have staff to support these additional children, even though their current Sixpence grant doesn't fund those positions. The Board requested Umo<sup>n</sup>Ho<sup>n</sup> Nation Public Schools request be voted on as an individual action item.

A motion was made by Melody Hobson to fund the following school districts: Fremont, Garden County, Hastings, Kearney, Lexington, Millard, Norfolk, Omaha (Home-Based), Paillion-LaVisita, Schuyler, and Scottsbluff, Auburn, Falls City, Crete, and Seward with the stipulation that TA be directed based on Trustee discussion and contingencies surrounding, but not limited to quality indicators, budget clarifications, partnerships, and recommendations. Noting if any district fails to follow through with adjustments, their grant may be rescinded.

Melody Hobson requested to amend the motion removing Auburn, Falls City, Crete and Seward. The amended motion was restated to fund the following school districts: Fremont, Garden County, Hastings, Kearney, Lexington, Millard, Norfolk, Omaha (Home-Based), Paillion-LaVisita, Schuyler, and Scottsbluff, with the stipulation that TA be directed based on Trustee discussion and contingencies surrounding, but not limited to quality indicators, budget clarifications, partnerships, and recommendations. Noting if any district fails to follow through with adjustments, their grant may be rescinded. Second by Cara Small. Voting yes: Helen Raikes, Melody Hobson, Emily Kluver, Mel Clancy and Cara Small. No opposition. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Helen Raikes to fund Auburn, Falls City, Crete, and Seward with the stipulation that TA be directed based on Trustee discussion and contingencies surrounding, but not limited to, quality indicators, budget clarifications, partnerships, and recommendations. Noting if any district fails to follow through with adjustments, their grant may be rescinded. Second by Emily Cluver. Voting yes: Helen Raikes, Melody Hobson, Emily Kluver and Mel Clancy. Abstaining. Cara Small. No opposition. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Helen Raikes to not approve Columbus Public School's application. Second by Emily Cluver. Voting yes: Helen Raikes, Melody Hobson, Cara Small, Emily Kluver and Mel Clancy. No opposition. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Melody Hobson to not approve Lincoln Public School's application. Second by Helen Raikes. Voting yes: Helen Raikes, Melody Hobson, Emily Kluver and Mel Clancy. Abstaining. Cara Small. No opposition. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Melody Hobson to approve Omaha's Center-Based application if they resubmit their budgets for up to three grants with the maximum of \$150,000 each, and one grant with a maximum \$75,000, with startup budgets for each grant not exceeding \$25,000 each. Second by Helen Raikes. Voting yes: Helen Raikes, Melody Hobson, Emily Kluver, Cara Small and Mel Clancy. No opposition. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mel Clancy to not fund Umo "Ho" Nation Public School's request and to continue to support the program. Second by Emily Cluver. Voting yes: Helen Raikes, Melody Hobson, Emily Kluver, Cara Small and Mel Clancy. No opposition. Motion carried.

### **Discuss and Approve Revised Quality Criteria for Family Engagement Programs**

Amy Bornemeier provided the Board with a revised Quality Criteria for Family Engagement Programs (Attachment B) to be effective July 1, 2015, and the Board discussed the following changes:

- a. Change 14 hours of Early Learning Guidelines training to 42, as 2 hour modules are no longer offered;
- b. include First Connections training (42 hours online) as alternative to 14 42 hours of Early Learning Guidelines;
- c. include option to hire "Bilingual Home Visitor" with education plan to obtain "Home Visiting Specialist" qualifications (per Rule 11) within 4 years
- d. change case load from 12-20 to 12-15

A motion was made by Helen Raikes to approve the proposed changes to the Quality Indicators. Second by Cara Small. Voting yes: Helen Raikes, Melody Hobson, Cara Small, Emily Kluver and Mel Clancy. No opposition. Motion carried.

### **Authorize Board Chair to Approve the 2015-16 Evaluation Contract with MMI for Current Grantees**

A motion was made by Helen Raikes to authorize the Board Chair to approve the 2015-16 contract with MMI. Second by Melody Hobson. Voting yes: Helen Raikes, Melody Hobson, Cara Small, Emily Kluver and Mel Clancy. No opposition. Motion carried.

### **Discuss Potential Evaluation Protocol Changes**

Barb Jackson presented some cost-savings changes to the current evaluation protocol and requested the Board's feedback. The rationale for the changes is that the funds available for Evaluation and TA haven't increased at the same rate that the expansion over the last two years has, which has more than doubled the number of children being served. Without an increase in availability for these funds, cost savings measures must be explored. The Board expressed a desire to maintain Program Quality Measures, i.e., HoVRS and ITERS/CLASS on all of the new grantees the first year, but would consider an alternative for ongoing program quality measures once a benchmark is met. Karen Pinkelman and Amy Bornemeier provided their recommendations regarding Family Engagement programs. The Board discussed Child Outcomes and Barb Jackson proposed an option of randomly sampling 50-75% of all Sixpence children. Barb Jackson also suggested changing the frequency for administering some of the tools. The Board was in consensus that cohort 4 grantees would have the Program Quality Measures, FRIENDS, and the Family Survey and that Barb Jackson would present options and budget implications for assessments on all children vs. randomization at the next Board of Trustees meeting for their approval.

### **Approve letter of agreement for Barb Jackson and Helen Raikes in the application for the HHS-2015-ACF-OPRE-YE-1009 Secondary Analysis of Data on Early Care and Education funding opportunity, enabling MMI to share de-identified Sixpence GOLD and program quality data.**

Helen Raikes shared information on a funding opportunity from the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. The University of Nebraska and Monroe Meyer Institute are responding to an RFP to do a secondary analysis of what quality is needed to improve the threshold of children's development. These analyses would explore the differences between urban vs rural, economic status, and other child characteristics. Preschool NSSRS data at the state level would be used to examine whether there is a relationship between ECERS and CLASS scores and child improvement. Barb Jackson requested a letter of agreement from the Board to also include de-identified Sixpence data in the study.

A motion was made by Melody Hobson to participate in the study and authorize the Board Chair to sign the letter of agreement. Second by Cara Small. Voting yes: Melody Hobson, Cara Small, Emily Kluver and Mel Clancy. Abstaining Helen Raikes. No opposition. Motion carried.

## **Approve Recommendation to Results Matter Task Force to Reduce GOLD Checkpoints from 4 to 2 Annually for Family Engagement Programs**

Amy Bornemeier asked the Board to consider recommending to the Results Matters Task Force that the number of GOLD checkpoints be reduced from 4 to 2 annually for home-based programs only. Amy Bornemeier noted it was challenging for home-based staff to be able to gather enough observational data to do checkpoints four times a year while maintaining all of the requirements of their curriculum and screening/assessments in the short time that they are meeting with families. Karen Pinkelman questioned the fidelity of the data inputted into the GOLD database based on the small windows of time that home-based staff are observing children. Reducing the time required to finalize the checkpoints would allow home-based staff to have better quality data, and time to use the GOLD results and resources to share with families.

A motion was made by Cara Small for the Board to write a letter to the Results Matter Task Force requesting the requirement of four GOLD checkpoints be changed to just the Fall and Spring. Second by Emily Cluver. Voting yes: Helen Raikes, Cara Small, Emily Kluver and Mel Clancy. Voting no: Melody Hobson. Motion carried.

The meeting ended with a ***motion to adjourn*** by Melody Hobson. Seconded by Helen Raikes. Voting yes: Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy, Cara Small, Emily Kluver, and Helen Raikes. No opposition. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 3:48 p.m.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 9, 1:00-4:00pm**



**Nebraska Early Childhood Education Endowment  
Board of Trustees  
Wednesday, May 20, 2015  
Minutes**

**Welcome & Introductions**

The meeting of the Sixpence Board of Trustees was called to order at 1:05 p.m. on May 20, 2015, at Nebraska Children and Families Foundation, 215 Centennial Mall South, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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) Cara Small, Jessie Rasmussen, (arrived at 1:07)

Also in attendance: Amy Bornemeier (Sixpence Administrator), Karen Pinkelman (Sixpence TA Specialist), Betty Medinger, Jack Round, and Mary Jo Pankoke (Nebraska Children), Becky Veak and Jen Goettemoeller (First Five Nebraska,) Shane Rhian and Joan Luebbers (NDE), and Nicole Vint (DHHS).

**Approve Minutes from March 11, 2015**

A motion was made by Melody Hobson to approve the minutes from the March 11, 2015 meeting. Second by Emily Kluver. Voting yes: Jessie Rasmussen, Melody Hobson, Cara Small, Emily Kluver and Mel Clancy. No opposition. Motion carried.

**Update on Endowment Financials/Projections**

Shane Rhian shared current financial reports, including a new tracking spreadsheet for TA and Evaluation expenses to determine how much is available to support expansion due to 2015 RFP. The Board discussed the \$1M lottery funds that will be lost, and the \$1M general funds that will be gained in upcoming biennium, allowing an additional \$50,000 available for TA and evaluation. The Board discussed that if current commitments are sustained, projected estimates to support 2015-16 grants include \$3.2M from cash funds, and \$468k from general funds. The Board expressed a desire to continue to cautiously award Continuation, and Access Expansion grants to programs who are meeting the Quality Indicators and to consider increased funding for evaluation and TA contracts, within the established funding limits, to support the expansion.

## **Grantee Status Report**

Amy Bornemeier presented the Grantee Status Report and the Board discussed enrollment status/history of several grantees. The Board expressed appreciation for TA staff tracking and supporting grantees in meeting the 85% enrollment Quality Indicator.

## **Save the Children's (STC) Early Steps to School Success (ESSS) Changes/Grantee's Plans and Expectations**

Amy Bornemeier provided the Board with an update that some of grantees have expressed concern with their current contract with Save the Children, and some have expressed a desire to terminate or not renew their contract. Jessie Rasmussen had been consulted and STC has revised their fee structure to reduce the burden on school districts who have fully implemented ESSS and have a less intense need for support. In addition, Amy and Jessie shared that regardless of funding source, all STC-Sixpence home visitors will adhere to the same Sixpence grant expectations to streamline practices and help grantees insure that all home visiting staff are following Rule 11. It was questioned if Sixpence could require non-Sixpence funded visitors to do the same assessments as their counterparts, but as long as the private funder (BECF) has the same expectation, it doesn't overstep the intention of the grant. This expectation will not be applicable to other partners outside of STC-Sixpence.

## **Discuss and Approve 2015-16 Continuation Grants**

Amy Bornemeier and Karen Pinkelman provided the Board with a document for each grantee which included: personnel, administrative and per-child costs, enrollment data, program evaluation data, program- reported highlights and challenges, results from the TA Continuous Quality Improvement visits (including Quality Indicators which were not being met and TA recommendations/plans), and the grantee's Supplemental Quality Improvement Mini Grant update. The Board discussed each continuation request and approved:

**Alliance:** Continuation funding of \$86,250 granted, contingent upon continued progress towards compliance with the full-day, year-round Administration Quality Indicator. Specifically, grantee will need to develop a plan to serve children a minimum of six hours per day by the 2016-17 grant year.

**Aurora:** Continuation funding of \$150,000 granted, contingent upon continued progress towards compliance with the 85% Enrollment Quality Indicator.

**Broken Bow:** Continuation funding of \$172,500 granted.

**Central City:** Continuation funding of \$75,000, contingent upon continued progress towards compliance with the 85% Enrollment Quality Indicator.

**Columbus:** Program is not renewing their contract with STC ESSS and will implement Parents as Teachers. Continuation funding of \$140,500 granted, contingent upon continued progress towards compliance with the 85% Enrollment Quality Indicator.

**Crete:** Continuation funding of \$247,500 granted, contingent upon continued progress towards compliance with education plan to meet the Staff Qualification Quality Indicator.

**Falls City:** Continuation funding of \$150,000 granted.

**Fremont:** Continuation funding of \$88,000 granted.

**Grand Island:** Continuation funding of \$150,000 granted, contingent upon grantee developing a plan to serve ELL families.

**Humboldt Table Rock Steinauer:** Continuation funding of \$75,000 granted.

**Kearney (Center):** Continuation funding of \$125,000 granted, contingent upon continued progress towards compliance with the full-day, year-round Administration Quality Indicator, and Step Up to Quality Indicator.

**Kearney (Home):** Continuation funding of \$150,000 granted, contingent upon continued progress towards compliance with the 85% Enrollment Quality Indicator.

**Lexington:** Continuation funding of \$150,000 granted.

**Lincoln (Home):** Grantee is exploring options to serve families other than non-student-parents. Cedars has changed model from Healthy Families America- Partners for a Healthy Baby to Parents as Teachers. Continuation funding of \$165,801 (Cedars budget is \$50,000, and LPS Student Parent Advocates budget is \$115,801) granted, contingent upon LPS SPA progress towards compliance with 85% Enrollment Quality Indicator, and grantee developing a plan to increase the cohesiveness of the programming between grantee-provided and partner-provided services.

**Lincoln (Educare):** Continuation funding of \$137,898 granted, contingent upon continued progress towards compliance with all Quality Indicators, specifically the Step Up to Quality, Teacher Qualification, Ratio, and Screening Children Quality Indicators, and grantee developing a plan to increase the cohesiveness of the programming between grantee-provided and partner-provided services.

**Lincoln (Student Child Learning Centers):** Continuation funding of \$341,301 granted, contingent upon continued progress towards compliance with the Quality Indicators, specifically, Step Up to Quality, and 85% Enrollment Quality Indicators.

**Loup City:** The Board expressed concern over the high administration costs of the program, specifically those of their partner, and encourage the grantee to reduce administrative costs in future continuation funding requests. Continuation funding of \$161,250 granted.

**Omaha (Educares):** Continuation funding of \$581,250 granted, contingent upon continued progress towards compliance with the Screening Children Quality Indicator, and Step Up to Quality Indicator at Kellom.

**Ord:** Continuation funding of \$75,000 granted, contingent upon continued progress towards compliance with the 85% Enrollment Quality Indicator.

**Plattsmouth:** Continuation funding of \$90,200 granted.

**Santee:** The Board discussed their community eligibility for free/reduced lunch and how this affects their enrollment of most-at-risk children. The Board clarified their expectation that the poverty risk factor was based on a family's income qualifying them for the food program, and would like to discuss this in the future after NDE Rule 11 proposed revisions may be changing the definition of "at-risk due to poverty." The Board also expressed concern that the turnover in district leadership has made it difficult for the program to adhere to all Quality Indicators and requested intensive TA to be provided to future district leaders to insure they understand the grant requirements. Continuation

funding of \$86,250 granted, contingent upon continued progress towards compliance with the Evaluation (Step Up to Quality and ITERS,) and Supervision Quality Indicators.

**Schuyler:** Continuation funding of \$150,000 granted, contingent upon grantee developing a plan to increase the cohesiveness of the programming between grantee-provided and partner-provided services.

**Scottsbluff:** Continuation funding of \$150,000 granted, contingent upon continued progress towards compliance with education plan to meet the Staff Qualification Quality Indicator.

**St. Paul:** Continuation funding of \$75,000 granted, contingent upon continued progress towards compliance with the 85% Enrollment Quality Indicator.

**Umo'Ho' Nation:** Continuation funding of \$86,250 granted, contingent upon continued progress towards compliance with the Step Up to Quality Indicator, and submission of budget with match listed.

**Winnebago (Educare):** Continuation funding of \$86,250 granted, contingent upon continued progress towards compliance with the Evaluation (Step Up to Quality and ITERS,) Quality Indicators.

**York:** The Board approved grantee's request to reduce children served from 45 to 40 to allow program's supervisor/home visitor to maintain a lower caseload. Continuation funding of \$322,000 granted, contingent upon continued progress towards compliance with the 85% Enrollment, and Intensity & Duration Quality Indicators. Specifically, grantee will need to develop a plan to insure that all families are receiving the contacts required by the grant.

A motion was made by Jessie Rasmussen to accept all 27 continuation grants with the contingencies noted, and for TA to provide support as needed. Second by Cara Small. Voting yes: Jessie Rasmussen, Melody Hobson, Cara Small, Emily Kluver, and Mel Clancy. No opposition. Motion carried.

### **Discuss Proposed Rule 11 Revisions and Approve Recommendations for Public Hearing**

Amy Bornemeier provided the Board with recommendations for the proposed Rule 11 revisions to be presented at the Public Hearing on June 2, 2015. These recommendations were created in collaboration with multiple partners who had also proposed recommendations to NDE State Board on Rule 21. The Board discussed the following recommendations:

- The definition of *poverty* for the purpose of identifying *at-risk* in Section 002.01 include "185% of the Federal Poverty Level, as adjusted annually."
- The use of the term *partnership* in Section 002.26 be closely examined due to the potential difficulties around its legal definition.
- NDE to continue to evaluate pathways towards securing a qualified early childhood workforce, particularly in the area of bilingual home visitors and educators. Under Section 006.05C, a home visitor can be hired at any level (e.g., high school diploma) and obtain 12 semester hours or the equivalent in training or experience over two years. In addition, Section 006.05B does not require any post-secondary degrees. The qualifications allowed by Section 006.05B and 006.05C may fall short of sufficiently preparing home visitors for their responsibilities in providing 180 minimum contact hours per month (as required in Section

006.01) and delivering services that are based on family needs and interests and that focus on the child's development and positive family outcomes (as required in Section 006.02) using curricula that are research-based and designed to work with families that facilitate the optimal growth and development of children, and that are culturally appropriate for all families, and include a well-defined language development and early literacy emphasis, including the involvement of families in literacy activities (as required in Section 006.03).

The Board discussed possible educational qualifications to be adopted within the Sixpence Quality Indicators that would allow for pathways towards securing a qualified early childhood workforce, particularly in the area of bilingual home visitors, to be discussed further at a future meeting.

A motion was made by Mel Clancy to approve the drafting and sending of a letter of recommendations from the Board of Trustees to NDE regarding the discussed recommendations to the proposed Rule 11 revisions for the Public Hearing. Seconded by Jessie Rasmussen. Voting yes: Jessie Rasmussen, Cara Small, Emily Kluver, and Mel Clancy. Abstaining: Melody Hobson, No opposition. Motion carried.

**Discuss and approve recommendations to revise Staff Qualification Quality Indicator for Family Engagement Programs (Attachment B)**

This agenda item was moved to the next meeting due to time constraints.

**Update on LB489 & LB547**

Jen Goettemoeller discussed with the Board the current status of LB547. LB489 was amended into LB547 and passed the first two rounds of debate, awaiting final reading. The child care partnership grants that would be allowed under LB547 would allow Sixpence funds to be granted to school districts who would employ a certified teacher to work with community child care partners to improve quality. Participation in Step up To Quality and a rating of 3 would be expected at the end of three years. LB547 will allow Sixpence to reach many more at risk children through the use of just under one million dollars from CCDBF/CCDF which will become available October 2016.

Amy Bornemeier noted the proposed Quality Indicators for Sixpence Child Care Partnership grants (referred to as Attachment C) and drafted RFP/timeline would benefit from the feedback of potential grantees and child care partners and suggested that a group of stakeholders meet this summer to review the drafted Quality Indicators, develop possible budget considerations, and advise the Board of Trustees prior to the release of an RFP and timeline. Other stakeholders would include representatives from current Sixpence grantees, DHHS child care subsidy and licensing, Step Up to Quality, NDE Office of Early Childhood, and recipients of the Head Start Child Care Partnership grants. Recommendations would be shared at the September Board meeting.

The meeting ended with a ***motion to adjourn*** by Jessie Rasmussen. Seconded by Melody Hobson. Voting yes: Melody Hobson, Mel Clancy, Cara Small, Emily Kluver, and Jessie Rasmussen. No opposition. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

The next meeting will be **Wednesday, June 3, 2015 from 12:00 - 4:00**, at the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation, lunch provided.



**Nebraska Early Childhood Education Endowment  
Board of Trustees  
Wednesday, March 11, 2015  
Minutes**

**Welcome & Introductions**

The meeting of the Sixpence Board of Trustees was called to order by Melody Hobson at 1:25 p.m. on March 11, 2015, at Nebraska Children and Families Foundation, 215 Centennial Mall South, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room, Lincoln.

Melody Hobson noted that the Open Meetings Act information had been posted and welcomed Cara Small to her first Sixpence meeting as a recently appointed Board of Trustees member, replacing Beth Schuler, representing rural Nebraska.

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

Also in attendance: Amy Bornemeier (Sixpence Administrator), Karen Pinkelman (Sixpence TA Specialist), Becky Veak, and Jen Goettemoeller (First Five Nebraska), Joan Luebbers (Head Start State Collaboration Office), Stephanni Renn, Fabiola Dimas, and Nancy Tellez from Crete Public Schools.

**Celebration of Crete's evaluation data**

Crete Public Schools Sixpence team was invited to celebrate and honor the first ever Sixpence HoVRS perfect score received by Nancy Telez, a bilingual homevisitor whom the Board had previously approved to be hired with an education plan to obtain her bachelor's degree within two years. Nancy shared her personal story, which included being a previous participant in Crete's Sixpence program. The staff expressed gratitude for the mini grant funds which enabled them to establish a new facility in collaboration with other area EC programs. Discussion was held around the components that make their program unique.

**Approve January 14, 2014 minutes**

A motion was made by Helen Raikes to approve the minutes from the January 14, 2015 meeting. Second by Emily Cluver. Voting yes: Melody Hobson, Emily Kluver and Helen Raikes. Abstaining: Cara Small. No opposition. Motion carried.

## **Update on Endowment Financials**

The Board requested Shane Rhian's attendance at the May meeting to verify inquired how much funding was available to award to new/expansion grants responding to current RFP. Sixpence TA staff reported they are proactively conversing with school districts regarding the status of their grant funds and expenditures to minimize the amount of funds requested to be carried over or that go unutilized.

## **Grantee Status Report**

Amy Bornemeier presented the Grantee Status Report. Discussion was held around how districts were doing with maintaining the requirement of meeting the Quality Indicator of 85% enrollment. Districts that have struggled to meet 85% have done much better over the last months. TA staff reported they have worked with struggling programs to help them realize the importance of meeting this indicator and also working towards speeding up some of their application processing procedures.

## **Discuss and approve Grant Funding Reduction/Termination Policy**

Per the Board's request at the January meeting, Amy Bornemeier presented a revised Grant Reduction/Termination Policy which was created and approved by Margaret Worth (NDE legal counsel.) Discussion was held surrounding the time frames for Grantees to respond to the Termination/Reduction of funds. Board Members suggested language be included that states that grantees will receive 30 day notice of reduction/termination of funds and allowance to address the Board at the following meeting. In addition, and additional 30 day notice would be given for programs to continue to operate under Sixpence funding once the Board has voted to terminate funding.

A motion was made by Helen Raikes to amend the policy by adding in language stating that the termination/reduction notice will be sent via certified mail. Programs will be given thirty days' notice and will be granted the option to attend the following Board meeting to address the Board. If said funding is terminated/reduced, such programs would be required to conclude activities within thirty days. This policy shall be approved by Margret Worth (NDE legal counsel.) Seconded by Emily Cluver. Voting yes: Melody Hobson, Emily Kluver, Helen Raikes, and Cara Small. No opposition. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Helen Raikes to approve the Amended Grant Reduction /Termination Policy. Seconded by Emily Cluver. Voting yes: Melody Hobson, Emily Kluver, Helen Raikes, and Cara Small. No opposition. Motion carried.

## **Discuss Walthill's letter of intent to not request continuation funding and approve response letter**

Amy Bornemeier shared Walthill Public School's letter of intent to not request continuation funding. Walthill has had strong enrollment in the past, but has seen a reduction in numbers since the opening of Educare Winnebago. Walthill's Superintendent Ed Stansberry thanked the Board for their many years of funding and support. Amy Bornemeier presented the Board with a drafted response letter to Walthill's request.

A motion was made by Emily Kluver to approve the response letter for Walthill Public School, making edits to update the Sixpence Letterhead. Second by Melody Hobson. Voting yes: Melody Hobson, Emily Kluver, Helen Raikes, and Cara Small. No opposition. Motion carried.

### **Approve May 2015 meeting change from May 13 to May 20**

A motion was made by Helen Raikes to approve moving the May Board Meeting date from May 13 to May 20. Second by Emily Cluver. Voting yes: Melody Hobson, Emily Kluver, Helen Raikes, and Cara Small. No opposition. Motion carried.

### **Update on LB489 & LB547**

Jen Goettemoeller discussed with the Board the current status of LB489 and LB547.

LB547 was introduced to the Health and Human Services Committee by Senator Cambell on February 26, 2015. LB547 approves the usage of federal funds from the Child Care Development Block Grant to enable financial support to LB489. Several interested parties testified for the bill, including Amy Bornemeier, the Business Roundtable, and representatives from Nebraska Childcare Directors Association and Kindercare.

LB489 was introduced to the Education Committee by Senator Sullivan on March 9, 2015. This bill introduces changes to state statute to authorize school districts to partner with licensed childcare providers in their community to provide Sixpence center based services. The school district would provide a certified teacher to be the school district representative, working with the child care provider. This process gives the legislature, private funders, and the Governor assurances of high quality standards and environments. The expectation is that the providers would be required to be enrolled in Step up To Quality and be at Step Three after three years. These bills will enable Sixpence to reach many more at risk children than they do now.

The two bills work in tandem with each other and have good bipartisan support on all levels. At both hearings representatives from UNMC spoke about Sixpence and what the Legislature is getting for their investments. Legislators seemed to be impressed that Sixpence is impacting child outcomes in the state. Senators have expressed appreciation that both NDE and DHHS serve on the Board of Trustees.

### **Quality Enhancement Grants RFP & Quality Criteria**

Amy Bornemeier shared the drafted *Sixpence Quality Criteria and Indicators (Attachment C)* related to the Quality Enhancement Grants RFP that could be released with the passage of LB489 & LB547. Discussion was held around the criteria related to coordination of coaching efforts between Sixpence teachers and Step Up to Quality Coaches, staff qualifications, the Early Learning Guidelines training requirement, a minimum of number of at risk children programs would need to serve, and Results Matter. The Board acknowledged that the RFP and Quality Criteria for the Quality Enhancement Grants needs continued discussion and would like to review at future meetings as the proposed legislation evolves/advances.

**Discuss and approve increased continuation funding amounts for cohort 1 grantees based on increased staffing costs**

Per the Board's request at the January meeting, Amy Bornemeier presented options and financial impact of increasing cohort 1 grant awards by either 10% or 15% to support increased costs incurred by original grantees over the years.

A motion was made by Helen Raikes to approve a 15% increase to the base awards of the Cohort 1 grants. Second by Melody Hobson. Voting yes: Melody Hobson, Emily Kluver, Helen Raikes, and Cara Small. No opposition. Motion carried.

**Discuss and approve requirement for current grantees' participation in Step Up to Quality as a condition of continued funding for 2015-16 grant cycle**

Considering that all new/expansion center-based grants will be required to enter into Step Up to Quality, TA staff recommend that currently funded center-based Sixpence programs also are required to enroll into Step Up to Quality as a condition of continuation funding.

A motion was made by Helen Raikes to approve that all Sixpence Programs need to be enrolled in Step Up to Quality as a condition for continued funding. Second by Emily Cluver. Voting yes: Melody Hobson, Emily Kluver, Helen Raikes, and Cara Small. No opposition. Motion carried.

The meeting ended with a ***motion to adjourn*** by Melody Hobson, second by Emily Cluver. Voting yes: Cara Small, Melody Hobson, Emily Kluver and Helen Raikes. No opposition. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 3:47 p.m.

The next meeting will be **May 20, 2015 from 1:00-4:00**, at Nebraska Children and Families Foundation.



**Nebraska Early Childhood Education Endowment  
Board of Trustees  
Wednesday, January 14, 2015  
Minutes**

**Welcome & Introductions**

The meeting of the Sixpence Board of Trustees was called to order by Melody Hobson at 1:13 p.m. on January 14, 2015, at Nebraska Children and Families Foundation, 215 Centennial Mall South, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room, Lincoln.

Melody Hobson noted that the Open Meetings Act information had been posted.

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

Also in attendance: Amy Bornemeier (Sixpence Administrator), Karen Pinkelman (Sixpence TA Specialist), Betty Mediger and Jack Round (Nebraska Children), Becky Veak, Ben Anderson, and Jen Goettemoeller (First Five Nebraska), Joan Luebbers (Head Start State Collaboration Office), Kim Texel, Eleanor Kirkland, and Shane Rhian (Nebraska Department of Education).

**Approve November 12, 2014 minutes**

A motion was made by Jessie Rasmussen, to approve the minutes from the November 12, 2014 meeting. Second by Helen Raikes. Voting yes: Jessie Rasmussen, Melody Hobson, Emily Kluver and Helen Raikes. No opposition. Motion carried.

**Update on Endowment Financials**

Shane Rhian shared current financials with the Board of Trustees. Board Members inquired about how much funding was available to grant out to new programs. Shane Rhian stated that if Sixpence were to receive leveled funding, it would be projected to have three million dollars remaining to fund new programs.

**Grantee Status Report**

Amy Bornemeier presented the Grantee Status Report. Discussion was held around the lower number of children that some home-based Family Engagement programs and one center were currently serving. The board discussed requiring programs to maintain a waitlist to ensure

consistency in enrollment. It was suggested that school districts in close proximity who are not maintaining 85% enrollment could share home visitors/teachers. The Board requested TA staff to suggest this as an option for grantees, especially those partnering with the same agency across school districts, to explore.

### **Discuss process for changing grant amounts related to Quality Indicators (enrollment), or model changes**

The Board discussed options for discontinuing or reducing funding of programs that continue to have low enrollment numbers. Amy Bornemeier shared that Margaret Worth (legal counsel with Nebraska Department of Education) had advised that language be added to Rule 11 regarding funding regulations specific to birth to three programs, or create a new rule/policy, and provided Rule 26 to model the language. The Board requested Sixpence TA work with Nebraska Department of Education to draft a policy for discontinuing or reducing funding of Sixpence programs mid-grant cycle.

### **Discuss and approve “Full Day/Full Year” definition**

Discussion was held around defining “full day, year-round” programming, due to some cohort 2 and 3 center-based programs who responded to the 2013 RFP which stated, “Services must be provided year round. If an application includes center-based programs they must be full-day services or that applicant must demonstrate why full-day services are not necessary in the geographic area that is being served.” It was noted that Sixpence programs need to be responsive to the needs of their highest risk families in their communities when considering the care and continuity of their young children. Some programs have expressed difficulty in providing center-based services in a cost effective manner, meeting the Sixpence Quality Indicators at all times, and have requested a definition of “full-day” and “year round.” The number of hours per day and days per year varies greatly between grantees. The Board discussed different entities’ definitions, including Early Head Start, but felt there were too many variances to apply one definition. Amy Bornemeier advised that having clarification on this expectation would help current grantees plan and make adjustments to their continuation request and budget, and would also be helpful as communities develop new programs and budgets in response to the current RFP. Using the Year End Report and Continuation Request template, current grantees will be asked to report the number of hours and days that programming was offered, as well as any programmatic/budgetary changes to what the Board has approved. Noting the lack of clear options, the Board did not approve a definition, and requested that this issue continue to be explored.

### **Approve Lincoln Public Schools’ request to reduce number of children served at Educare**

Discussion was held around Lincoln Public Schools’ request to reduce number of children they serve at Educare from 56 to 40. Educare has struggled to find and retain certified teachers for all of their classrooms. The Board requested TA staff meet with Lincoln Public Schools and Educare to recommend solutions for the staff qualification issue, and to review their current partnership agreement to insure that it is in line with the intent of the grant application, which was to fully fund one classroom of 8 and increase the quality in the remaining 6 classrooms. The Board questioned the amount of funding that this grantee receives and wondered if a reduction in their grant award should be made, noting the need for the afore mentioned funding reduction/defunding policy to be

developed. Amy Bornemeier noted that even with the fewer number of children to be served, this grant would still serve more children than others with similar funding.

A motion was made by Helen Raikes, to approve Educare's request to change their service agreement to 40 children. Second by Jessie Rasmussen. Voting yes: Jessie Rasmussen, Melody Hobson, Emily Kluver and Helen Raikes. No opposition. Motion carried.

### **Approve Scottsbluff Public Schools' request to reduce number of children served**

Discussion was held around to Scottsbluff Public Schools' request to reduce number of children served from 36 to 24. As previously discussed, their initial application was based on an incorrect Quality Indicators, Attachment B, which listed the Quality Enhancement option, allowing applicants' home-based staff to obtain their Bachelor's degree within 3 years of grant start date. The Board previously approved an education plan for their 3 homevisiting staff to do that. However, the program's budget was based on a lower education pay scale and is now more expensive to administer, with higher staffing costs. Furthermore, the program has lost one homevisiting staff due to their lack of ability to meet the education plan requirement. Scottsbluff Public Schools requested the approval to reduce their model from 3 to 2 staff, and therefore reduce the number of children expected to serve. Karen Pinkelman noted that the grant amount would be in line with other grantees serving similar numbers of children.

A motion was made by Helen Raikes, to approve Scottsbluff Public School's request. Second by Emily Kluver. Voting yes: Jessie Rasmussen, Melody Hobson, Emily Kluver and Helen Raikes. No opposition. Motion carried.

### **Approve process for increasing grant amounts based on COLA**

Discussion was held around options to increase the grant amount for cohort 1 grantees to support increased costs, especially staffing, since they have never received an increase in the six years of programming. Amy Bornemeier and Karen Pinkelman shared recommendations and the financial impact of increasing each amount by 10% or 15%, which is in line with state averages. It was decided that the board would take some time to consider the proposal and decide how best to increase program funding. The Board advised TA staff to encourage programs to come up with the actual cost of running their current programs.

### **Approve June 2015 meeting change from June 10 to June 3**

A motion was made by Jessie Rasmussen to approve changing the Board Meeting date from June 10<sup>th</sup> to June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Second by Helen Raikes. Voting yes: Jessie Rasmussen, Melody Hobson, Emily Kluver and Helen Raikes. No opposition. Motion carried.

### **Nebraska Step Up to Quality Presentation & Consider recommendation to require current and future grantees' participation in Step Up to Quality**

Eleanor Shirley attended, but the Board's discussion didn't allow time for her presentation. Eleanor shared printed materials with the Board for their reference. Amy Bornemeier advised that TA staff are recommending that center-based Sixpence programs enroll into Step Up to Quality as a best practice, noting that all school-operated programs are eligible to enter at Step 3. The Board tabled

the action item related to the recommendation to require current grantees' participation in Step Up to Quality, as it is related to continuation funding which will be approved at the May meeting. The 2013 proposed RFP includes a Quality Indicator related to new grantees' enrollment into Step Up to Quality.

### **Quality Enhancement Grants & Quality Criteria (discussion)**

Discussion was held around releasing a RFP for Quality Enhancement grants. Staff from First Five Nebraska spoke about the benefits of the proposed Quality Enhancement grants. Currently Nebraska is only serving 7% of "at risk" infants and toddlers in quality programs, and legislation has been introduced this session that would allow Sixpence funds to be used to address the current gap in quality services. This legislation will help make funding available to every school district and community that desires it, help with current workforce issues, and provide Sixpence partnerships a pathway to meet the quality indicators. An overview of the legislation was provided to the Board which stated:

#### **LB489 (Senator Sullivan)**

- Transforms the already successful early childhood public-private partnership known as Sixpence and addresses local workforce shortages by engaging the licensed child care community in partnerships with school districts.
- Strengthens efforts proven to build parents' abilities as caregivers and educators of their infants and toddlers, helping them foster the emerging cognitive and character traits children need for success in school and life.
- Fiscal impact: \$0

#### **LB547 (Senator Campbell)**

- Allocates federal child care funds to support Sixpence partnerships between school districts and private child care providers.
- Strengthens efforts proven to build parents' abilities as caregivers and educators of their infants and toddlers, helping them foster the emerging cognitive and character traits children need for success in school and life.
- Fiscal impact: \$0 state dollars; utilizes roughly \$2 million in existing federal CCDBG funds.

The Board members reviewed the related proposed Quality Criteria and Amy Bornemeier noted that the edits were made using the Quality Enhancement Quality Criteria from the Sixpence RFP in 2008. The proposed Quality Enhancement grants would be different from the Access Expansion grants, and would encourage school districts to partner with local private child care centers and/or family child care homes in their community. Sixpence funds would still be granted to the school districts, and any child care provider would have to enroll in Step Up to Quality and achieve a Step 3 within the initial 3-year period. Under this proposal childcare providers would not have to become certified teachers, but by improving their level of quality, they would be addressing the current workforce shortage throughout the state. The children served through these Sixpence funds would still be required to be assigned a NSSRS number, and be part of Results Matter. Under this proposal the certified teacher would serve as a consultant/coach with the child care provider and, depending on the needs and number of partners, could also have a classroom of their own. If Sixpence funded, this classroom would be a separate grant. This proposal would allow schools and private child care providers to work together to increase the quality of services while meeting the needs of working families. It was noted that these Quality Enhancement grants may require a longer planning period with more intensive technical assistance. First Five Nebraska reported that they've met with the Nebraska Department of Education leaders, and there was an expressed commitment to create a pathway to certification which would support these new Quality Enhancement grants. The Board will

further discuss and potentially vote on the Quality Enhancement grants RFP and Quality Criteria at the March Board meeting.

### **Approve RFP**

Discussion was held around releasing the proposed RFP for Access Expansion grants, to allow new and expand current Sixpence programs. The proposed RFP, and Quality Criteria had a few minor changes from the last RFP released in 2013, including the requirement for center-based programs to participate in Step Up to Quality (and coaching), and to include Planning Region Teams in the suggested partners. Amy Bornemeier and Karen Pinkelman referenced the current and potential new communities who have expressed interest in responding to this RFP.

A motion was made by Jessie Rasmussen to release the RFP for Access Expansion grants, including the requirement for programs to participate in Step Up to Quality, second by Helen Raikes. Voting yes: Jessie Rasmussen, Melody Hobson, Emily Kluver and Helen Raikes. No opposition. Motion carried.

The meeting ended with a ***motion to adjourn*** by Jessie Rasmussen, second by Helen Raikes. Voting yes: Jessie Rasmussen, Melody Hobson, Emily Kluver and Helen Raikes. No opposition. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 3:06 p.m.

The next meeting will be **Wednesday, March 11th, 2015 from 1:00-4:00**, at the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation.