



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

Welcome & Introductions

The meeting of the Sixpence Board of Trustees was called to order at 1:04 p.m. on November 15, 2017 at Nebraska Children and Families Foundation, 215 Centennial Mall South, 2nd floor Conference Room, Lincoln.

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

Also in attendance: Amy Bornemeier (Sixpence Administrator), Karen Pinkelman and Stephanni Renn (Sixpence Education Specialists), Cheryl Marks and Kevin Cloonan (Nebraska Children), Shane Rhian (NDE Finance Director), Becky Veak (First Five Nebraska), and Eva Lester via phone (Buffet Early Childhood Fund).

Approve Minutes from September 20, 2017

A motion was made to approve the minutes by Helen Raikes. Second by Nicole Vint. Voting yes: Sophie Kock, Helen Raikes Small, Nicole Vint, and Sophie Kock. No opposition, motion carried.

Review Financial Reports; discuss private endowment status, financial forecast and process for handling anticipated CCDF Funds

Shane Rhian reported that there's about \$400,000 outstanding reimbursement requests for the 2016-17 grant year. The endowment fund continues to do moderately okay on the public side. Projecting \$2.1M end of year balance for 2018-19 grants and \$100,000 for technical assistance and evaluation from the public endowment.

Kevin Cloonan discussed the financial forecast which reflects the CCDF funds which will be sub-awarded from DHHS to NCFE and then sub-awarded to the Childcare Partnership grantees. These funds will be tracked separately. The permanent endowment at NCFE currently has around \$28.1M, of which about \$21M is the corpus. The balance is the net earnings which is available for the NCFE private endowment to transfer into the cash fund. Shane stated that the projections show an increase in the distribution from the private endowment fund from \$550,000 up to \$700,000 annually. In addition, BECF provided \$1M to the permanent endowment to be used for the home visitation increased grant awards due to Save the Children funding being eliminated. The current obligation is \$135,000 so the \$1M should last 5-6 years. Kevin Cloonan is tracking these funds separately.

Discuss options for remaining CCDF Funds

Amy Bornemeier presented support materials and discussed how the current funding could be utilized to approve two additional Child Care Partnership Grants. There's currently \$169,400 in approved carryover

that will not be obligated after the end of this year. Additionally, there is also \$280,943 of CCDF monies in the sub-award budget from DHHS to NCCF. Nicole Vint advised that these funds have to be obligated by September 30, 2018 and that each grant year enters into three-year spending cycle. The total CCDF obligation as of today is \$1.2M of the available \$1.6M. The Board requested the top two scoring CCP grant applicants who weren't selected in the first round to submit a revised application and budget for award consideration at the next meeting; and requested TA staff to advise them.

Approve contract amendment request from UNMC-MMI for evaluation budget

Amy Bornemeier explained that UNMC-MMI is requesting an additional \$6,102 for their evaluation budget due to increased ERS consultant expenses. After submitting their 2017-18 budget, they were made aware that the ERS observers contracted through NDE are being offered an additional 2 hours to conduct the observation and create the summary report. This has led them to increase the number of hours that they need to pay the consultants to do the ERS observations.

A motion was made to approve the contract revision of \$6,102 by Helen Raikes. Second by Sophie Kock. Voting yes: Nicole Vint, Helen Raikes, Melody Hobson. No opposition, motion carried.

Review All Grantees Status Report

Amy Bornemeier, Karen Pinkelman and Stephanni Renn presented the updated report which notes any funds left unspent for 2016-2017 and the status of releasing funds which were approved at the previous meeting, pending the grantee met the enrollment criteria. TA is continuously provided to assist grantees in managing their expenses and revise their budgets if needed. Amy Bornemeier reported that one of the child care partners in Chadron had withdrawn from the CCP partnership and they are exploring an opportunity to partner with one of the Step Up to Quality required providers.

Discuss licensing status of Educare Lincoln

Amy Bornemeier shared the email that was received from LPS regarding the probationary licensing status at Educare Lincoln. Sara Hulac, legal counsel at NDE advised that no action is required at this point but that if their license isn't fully reinstated at the end of their probationary period, the Board would need to consider whether or not they can continue to support the program with grant funds. TA is being provided and LPS is monitoring.

Discuss and approve recommendation to include clarifying information for Home Visiting Specialist in Rule 11

Rule 11 includes very specific degrees that are listed as a qualifying degree for the Home Visiting Specialist. Some home visitors don't possess the specific degree, but rather in a related field, and have extensive experience. The Board discussed the various degrees that a successful home visitor may possess which aren't included in Rule 11. Amy Bornemeier advised that Rule 11 is open for revision at the moment and suggested that the Board make a recommendation to NDE to consider revising the language in Rule 11:

- Early Childhood Education, Early Childhood Special Education, or Child Development

- Nursing, Social Work, Social Sciences, or Education. This would include Sociology, Psychology, Criminal Justice and including at least 12 graduate or undergraduate hours in any combination of family-centered practices or child development.

A motion was made to make a recommendation requesting the language above be included in the Rule 11 revision by Sophie Kock. Second by Helen Raikes. Voting yes: Nicole Vint, Helen Raikes, Melody Hobson. No opposition, motion carried.

Review grantee staff salaries and benefits comparisons; discuss parity issues

Per the Board's request, Karen Pinkelman presented a spreadsheet which noted the pay discrepancy between program staff that are employed by a partner, such as a community action program vs. a school district. The Board discussed the nuances of local control in the different ways that employees are compensated and classified, which is often tied to pay, time off, and benefits. The Board would like to continue to discuss this issue and options to address pay parity at the next meeting.

Approve 2018 meeting date change from Wednesday November 21st to November 14th

A motion was made to move the 2018 Board meeting date from November 21st to November 14th by Helen Raikes. Seconded by Sophie Kock. Voting yes: Nicole Vint, Helen Raikes, Melody Hobson. No opposition, motion carried.

Review Trustees terms expiring

Amy Bornemeier shared that she has not received any notification from Kathleen Dolezal in the Governor's office regarding any appointments or applications. Jessie Rasmussen and Cara Small's terms will expire in December 2017 and Helen Raikes continues to serve even though her term expired in December 2016. All Trustees have received the link to re-apply for appointment.

Elect Board Chair and Vice-Chair

A motion was made to postpone voting for Board Chair and Vice-Chair until the January Board meeting by Melody Hobson. Second by Sophie Kock. Voting yes: Nicole Vint, Helen Raikes, Melody Hobson. No opposition, motion carried.

The meeting ended at 3:23pm with a *motion to adjourn* by Helen Raikes. Second by Sophie Kock. Voting yes: Nicole Vint, Helen Raikes, and Melody Hobson.

Next Meeting Date: January 17, 2018 1:00-4:00 p.m.