

FMC Community Empowerment Board Minutes
Monday, January 11, 2010
Charles City Public Library, 6:30 p.m.

The FMC Community Empowerment board met in regular session, Monday, January 11 at 6:40 p.m.; the meeting was called to order by board chair Robert Marreel. The following members answered a roll call attendance: Virgil Pickar, Jr., Robert Marreel, Kathy Herrick, Bonnie Blake, Deb Freeman, Leo Staudt, and Mark Knudtson; Shannon Paulus joined the meeting shortly following roll call. Members absent included: Kay Winkelman, Lori Jost, Elayne Werges, Carol Strike and Kae Courtney. A quorum of seven is required; seven members were in attendance and quorum was determined.

The agenda was reviewed; motion to approve by Virgil Pickar, Jr., second by Bonnie Blake; approval by unanimous voice vote. The minutes of the November 9, 2009 meeting were reviewed; motion to approve by Virgil Pickar, Jr., second by Kathy Herrick; approval by unanimous voice vote.

Financial Reports/Review: Fiscal agent/Floyd County Auditor Gloria Carr presented the financial reports and reviewed with those present. Motion to approve the reports as presented made by Bonnie Blake; second by Carol Strike; approval by unanimous voice vote.

2010 Census: Carr discussed the upcoming census. There are a lot of events coming up; positions are still open for census workers. One concern noted is that the census states that an individual should fill out their information based on where they are residing on 4/1/2010...this is incorrect for SNOWBIRDS...in that instance their residence should be where they live for 6 months plus 1 day of the year. Hopefully this information can be gotten out and there will not be an adverse effect from the erroneous wording. Carr stated that she has figured that the average person counted in the 2000 census was "worth" \$12,000 in the past decade to Floyd County. Data estimates that there will be 2000 loss of individuals in Iowa from the 2000 Census data.

State Budget Reduction in School Ready and Early Childhood: Carr/Kristiansen passed out proposed amendment to budgets that will need to be made, since it is occurring in the 3rd and 4th quarter payments; overall the reduction will be 6.9% cut for Early Childhood. CCR&R was the largest part of the Early Childhood budget, so they were hit the hardest. Training will be the main areas affected, but they are seeking other sources to help fund these. Motion by Knudtson to amend the Early Childhood Budget as presented. Second by Blake. Roll call vote, all those board members in attendance voted aye, no nays. Motion carried unanimously.

School Ready budget has already been paid out for September, October, and November preschool scholarships. Projected through May 2010 will be \$27,000 short in funds for scholarships. Much discussion was made in the best way to make the reductions; determined to pay out until gone and then no more funding. The reduction was pro-rated for February through May.

Motion by Knudtson to pay scholarships submitted through January 2010 and then a directive to Carr/Kristiansen (coordinator) to determine the percentage line item and that percentage applied

Page 2

Minutes: January 11 2010

to all current scholarships. Preschools will then be notified of the “revised scholarship amounts” effective for February-May, 2010. Second by Paulus; roll call vote; all those present voted aye; no nays; motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Pickar to freeze the preschool scholarship slots (no waiting lists) and no new scholarships to be awarded (even if someone leaves the area or drops out of a preschool). Motion second by Blake; roll call vote; all those present voted aye; no nays; motion carried unanimously.

Review of the State’s 2009 Annual Report/Financial Report: Kristiansen handed out the report comments and reviewed the phone conference meeting that was held on December 17, 2009 in the Floyd County Board of Supervisor’s office. Overall the meeting went much better than expected, only changes that were pointed out as necessary was an addition error. Many areas of strength were noted.

There was question in regards to Education taking over the State Empowerment program, and that was not addressed during this phone conference, but Kristiansen and Pickar did note that on Friday, January 8th, it was announced from the Governor’s office that State Empowerment will be going from the Department of Management to the Department of Education to provide more trackability.

Lean Design: Kristiansen reported that State Empowerment continues to discuss the Lean Design option (downsizing Empowerment areas). FMC needs to send a letter of intent to State Empowerment. Motion by Staudt to authorize Kristiansen to write a letter stating that “FMC Empowerment does not plan to change and will remain the same.” Second by Blake; roll call vote; all those present voted aye, no nays. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment: CCR&R reported that they have provided statewide services since 1992 with Exceptional Persons Inc., being the sole contractor. It was just announced that this is not allowed and an RFP has been put out. They are fearful that they will lose approximately one half the counties that they serve. They plan on applying for more empowerment areas in response to the RFP.

FMC RFP timelines and publishing: This will be tabled until the next meeting, until then will do “business as usual.”

Next meeting: March 8, 2010; Charles City Public Library.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Herrick, second by Staudt; unanimous vote aye to adjourn at 8 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Shannon Paulus, Secretary