

Minutes  
FMC Community Empowerment Board  
January 8, 2008

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Virgil Pickar, Jr. at 6:30 p.m. with the following board members present: Virgil Pickar, Jr., Kathy Herrick, Bonnie Blake, Mary Augustin, Bob Marreel, Leo Staudt, Anne Windolf, Kae Courtney and Lori Jost (after item #4) Board members absent: Amy Sauke, Shannon Paulus and Mark Knudtson.

The agenda was presented and reviewed. One item, a review of fiscal reports by Gloria Carr, Fiscal Agent was added. It was moved by Anne Windolf and seconded by Bonnie Blake that the agenda as amended be approved. Vote taken: all ayes.

The minutes from the November 19, 2007 meeting were presented and reviewed. It was moved by Bob Marreel and seconded by Kae Courtney that the minutes as presented be approved. Vote taken: all ayes.

Gloria Carr, Fiscal Agent, presented the latest financial reports. She stated that everything looked good but reminded the board that pending the results of the RFP review the budget will need to be amended at the next meeting.

The board then reviewed the following RFPs submitted for unbudgeted funds in the FY 2008 budget for School Ready Grant:

- EAGLE (ISU Extension/Chickasaw County) Dianne Day presented the RFP in the amount of \$9,667.30 for funds in the Other Category. EAGLE will use these funds to repair and replace items in the existing literacy book bags, create an additional 100 book bags and five bilingual (Spanish) book bags, and add a music and movement tote to each of the existing rotating daycare literacy crates. Funds will also be used for a part time assistant to assist the coordinator. Interest in EAGLE has been growing. There are more requests for EAGLE presentations along with increased attendance at each program.
- Discussion was held concerning the funds available in the Other Category. EAGLE's RFP is the only request in this category. If the \$9,667.30 is awarded to EAGLE, there will be a balance of \$4,106.39. It was suggested that these funds could be used for the bilingual needs of various programs. Partners present were quizzed about this need in their programs. It was determined there is a need, particularly in Chickasaw County.
- Mitchell County Public Health – RFP in the amount of \$1, 549.00 in the Family Support and Parent Ed, 0-5 category. These funds will assist in financing computer forensic training for law enforcement. This project address the safety of children, specifically related to child pornography, sexual offenders and drug related issues of parents of young children. FMC Coordinator Laurie Kristiansen reported this would be an applicable use of funds in that category as per the state
- Families Together (LSI) – RFP for \$9,899.00 in the Family Support and Parent Ed, 0-5 Category. Nancy Beenblossom from LSI gave the Board background on a successful parent support program, Our Kids Count. Twice monthly programs focus on parenting skills and parent and child interaction. Free meals and childcare are provided for those attending. Parents have been encouraged to attend by many area agencies, schools and community members. Our Kids Count was organized last fall and has been running for a year on a \$1,500.00 grant, donations, volunteers and assistance from collaborating partners such as EAGLE, LSI, Early Head Start, and other community organizations and businesses. This program has never received funding from FMC Empowerment. Lutheran Services in Iowa is requesting the funds to hire a coordinator for this program.

A coordinator is needed to organize the volunteers, the grant funding/cash donations and the in-kind donations. The goal is to enhance and possibly expand the program into Chickasaw and eventually Mitchell County.

- Central Preschool – RFP in the amount of \$1,505.00 in the Family Support and Parent Ed, 0-5 Category. Rachel Connerly informed the Board of her proposal to have a preschool sponsored educational family fun night. This would include a family meal, a speaker (occupational therapist), gross motor games, a family game time and a game (Hullaboo) for each family to take home. Parents will have an opportunity to interact with kids and will be educated about skills children can learn from games.
- FMC Area Preschools – Letter of interest for funds (\$19,339.37) in the Preschool Low Income Support Category. These funds are returned funds from Head Start. Since there is no need for additional funds in the preschool scholarship program, it has been proposed that these funds be distributed to individual preschools as mini-grants to be used for parent involvement activities/events. This would be an educational opportunity for each preschool and the preschools can be creative with programming. The state has approved the use of these funds for this purpose. 13 preschools have expressed interest in the min-grants which could equal \$1,487.64 each. Lori Jost, preschool representative on the Board, shared that she has been working on a parent family night for her preschool involving parental education regarding discipline. Plans include having a meal, an EAGLE program, speaker, and resources to take home. The goal would be to help parents learn to set perimeters which would lower family stress levels and help prepare the children for kindergarten.

Discussion was held on all the RFPs presented. There is a remaining balance of \$1,160.96 in the Family Support and Parent Ed., 0-5 Category after RFP requests. It was proposed to divide this balance by percentage between LSI, Mitchell County Public Health and Central Preschool. There were no RFPs received for the \$1,738.58 in the Parent Support – Family Ed. 0-3 Category. It was proposed to budget these funds for Families Together (LSI) since they already provide these services. The balance in the Other Category of \$4,106.39 is proposed to be used for bilingual services for all Empowerment programs.

It was moved by Leo Staudt and seconded by Bonnie Blake that all RFPs and proposals for the use of the remaining fund balances be approved. Vote taken: all ayes.

The Board was informed that a letter of support has been submitted supporting the Charles City School District's application for the State Four Year Old Preschool Grant.

There was no public commentary.

The next meeting will be Monday, March 10, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.

There being no further business, it was moved by Anne Windolf and seconded by Bonnie Blakethat the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Herrick  
Secretary