

FMC EMPOWERMENT BOARD
MAY 22, 2006 MEETING MINUTES
CHARLES CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY
(draft minutes)

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Virgil Pickar at 7 pm. at the Charles City Public Library meeting room.

Roll call was answered by the following members: Virgil Pickar Jr., Larry Hicok, Frank Rottinghaus, Kathy Babcock, Shannon Paulus, Anne Windolf, Jennifer Bauer, Elayne Werges, Jon Cook, and Sue Paulus. Members absent: Mark Knutson, Cheryl Jahnel, Bonnie Blake, and Kathy Herrick.

There was an introduction of board members and guests.

The meeting agenda was approved with a motion by Frank Rottinghaus, seconded by Jon Cook. Motion carried.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved with a motion by Jon Cook, seconded by Jennifer Bauer. Motion carried.

The chair informed everyone that minutes of the March meeting or any previous meeting are posted on the FMC website.

Gloria Carr, the Floyd County auditor, and fiscal agent for FMC Community Empowerment, reported concerning the financial review. She stated that she and Laurie had a phone conference with three members of the state empowerment team on Friday, May 12th. Gloria said that the fund balance is fine, and the state recommends that an adjustment be made for the fiscal year, not to go back any farther. She emphasized that the state does not think there has been any fraudulent activities, that the situation is only a case of carryovers not being reported.

A comment from Frank Rottinghaus was that the state did not ask for carryover reports before. Frank also suggested a copy of the financial report be given to each board member for their information.

Gloria Carr said she would return at our next meeting in two months and have a complete report. She will assist in the year-end reports. She will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

Laurie reported that the state has new reporting forms and the fiscal agents sign off from now on. There was a question/answer time following Gloria's presentation.

Laurie reported on a meeting that she attended in Des Moines with the State team. She shared about the latest updates with budgeting. School Ready: an increase of 36 percent for a total grant of \$586,023. The Early Childhood grant will see a **decrease** of a little

over \$1,000, for a total of \$66,701. Kristiansen emphasized that these were preliminary figures and that the governor had yet to sign the legislation. Discussion followed that included information from the state about funds to be used for family support services. Laurie read directly from the information shared recently with Empowerment Coordinators on May 10th at a meeting held in Johnston at the AEA. That information reads as follows:

“\$5 million to be used by empowerment area boards for family support services and parent education programs targeted to families expecting a child or with newborn and infant children through age three. Senate Amendment 5275 further clarified that programs funded have a home visitation component.”

“\$5.5 million is to be added to the funds utilized to assist low-income parents with preschool tuition expenses. Funds are to be used for children ages four and five who are not attending kindergarten; they are also to be used to serve families to not more than 200 percent of the federal poverty level. In addition, if funding is available after addressing the needs of those who meet the basic income eligibility requirement, a community empowerment area board may provide for eligibility for those with a family income in excess of the basic income eligibility requirement through use of a sliding scale or other co-payment provision.”

Frank Rottinghaus reported on a meeting he attended for Head Start with Dianne Casto from Mason City. People attending the meeting discussed how to make best use of funding for target groups. Dianne suggested the forming of a committee to decide what the need is and address the need according to directives given by the state. There is another meeting May 30 at the Charles City library at 9 am and Frank asked for a board member to attend. Anne Windolf offered to attend. Discussion followed.

Next item on the agenda was the RFP process and review. For the first time this year the FMC Community Empowerment opted to begin a Request for Funding procedure (RFP) While not required by the state, it is recommended. The documents were due May 5 and it has been requested that Board members volunteer to review these forms. The volunteers for this committee are as follows: Shannon Paulus, Elayne Werges, Kathy Babcock, Anne Windolf and Virgil Pickar, Jr. A motion to accept these volunteers for a committee was made by Larry Hicok, seconded by Sue Paulus, motion carried.

It was announced by Laurie that the final community meeting will be May 25, in New Hampton, Community Services building at 6:30 p m. These meetings are being held in order to update their community plan. It is part of the process of redesignation, which is due in the fall of 2007.

Also Laurie mentioned that the on-line surveys were still available at:

fmcm empowerment.com and it only requires about 5 minutes to fill out and submit.

A motion was made by Frank Rottinghaus, seconded by Sue Paulus for the FMC empowerment annual meeting to be Monday, July 17th at 6:30 pm at the C.C. public library.

Volunteers for the nomination committee are: Cheryl Jahnel, Bonnie Blake and Kathy Herrick. A motion to accept these volunteers was made by Jennifer Bauer, seconded by Kathy Babcock, motion carried. The following positions are needed: Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary, Floyd County Elected official (to replace Frank Rottinghaus), Floyd County Citizen (Jennifer Bauer's term expires), Education representative (to replace Larry Hicok ~ Mark Knudtson, from Osage is the replacement in place), Public Health ~ regular rotation (Kathy Babcock leaving) Deb Freeman from Mitchell County will come on.

Misty Gray gave a brief summary of her 5:30 program for the 3-5 year olds that was held this evening prior to the board meeting. She read to them from the Hungry Caterpillar storybook and used many visuals. She had ten children and parents in attendance. There was a lot of interaction with the children.

At approximately 8:10 pm a motion to adjourn was made by Larry Hicok, seconded by Jennifer Bauer, motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Windolf, secretary pro-tem