

## **FMC Community Empowerment Board Minutes, November 21, 2005 Board Meeting**

The FMC Empowerment Board met on November 21, 2005 in the Zastrow meeting room, Charles City Public Library at 5 p.m. Members present included: Virgil Pickar, Jr., Bonnie Blake, Shannon Paulus, Anne Windolf, Elayne Werges, Larry Hicok, Frank Rottinghaus, Jennifer Bauer, Kathy Herrick, and Cheryl A. Jahnel. Debra Scrowther, Iowa Empowerment Board Technical Assistant Liaison, along with several others were guests.

Motion by Frank Rottinghaus, seconded by Jon Cook to approve the Agenda. Vote taken, all ayes. Minutes of the last meeting were reviewed by the board. Correction to minutes should reflect that Sue Paulus was not in attendance and therefore wherever Sue Paulus is mentioned, it should reflect Shannon Paulus. Motion to approve minutes with this correction was made by Shannon Paulus, second by Bonnie Blake. Vote taken, all ayes.

First item on the agenda was discussion on recent Executive Board action to realign officers and review of State Empowerment criteria. Due to state restrictions on the office of chair (only elected officials or citizen may serve in this capacity), the Executive Board took action to move Virgil Pickar, Jr. from the vice chair to chair, with a corresponding move by Larry Hicok from chair to vice chair. After much discussion, motion by Jennifer Bauer, seconded by Frank Rottinghaus to approve this change in officers. Vote taken; all ayes. Question raised during discussion was whether Larry can serve as chair pro tem in absence of Virgil. Deb Scrowther will research this question and let us know.

Deb Scrowther then presented an update on Empowerment from the State level. Discussed issue of budget restrictions placed by the last legislative session; increase of funding along with strict directives on how to use the money; definition/clarification on family visitation and legislative intent that EAC "strive for" 60 percent expenditure of funds on this area. There are to be new resources posted to the State Empowerment website as guidance for local empowerment areas to decipher these issues. Carry forward Funds have been limited to a three-year spend limit along with a maximum of 30% school ready carry forward balance. The 211 web site has been reorganized and our area is encouraged to help populate this site (211.org.)

Next items were old business:

Jill Orthel presented a draft proposal which was in essence a replacement for the former Even Start program in Charles City. This request was for \$30,000 to provide full childcare scholarships for high school parents. Several questions were asked by board

members. After much discussion, chair will designate a committee to review the proposal further and item will be placed on January agenda.

Next item, Rosemary Geiken reported on a series of workshop trainings she is working on jointly with Cori Doubek, CCR&R. The workshops are offered in partnership with the Regent's Center for Early Developmental Education at UNI and CCR&R. The constructionist workshops focus on physical science activities for young children. The workshops are held in all three counties, running January through May, 2006.

Anne Windolf provided the Board with an update on her Raggedy Anne literacy activity she recently presented to preschool, first grade and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classes at the Nashua-Plainfield Elementary School, Nashua. Board member Jon Cook also attended one of the sessions, in support of the activity and representing the Empowerment board.

Next meeting is set for January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2006. Motion by Bonnie Blake, seconded by Shannon Paulus, to adjourn. Vote taken, all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Jahnel  
Secretary