

**FMC Community Empowerment
Board Meeting Minutes, November 9, 2009
Charles City Public Library, Charles City, IA**

Call to Order

Members of the FMC Community Empowerment Board met in regular session on Monday, November 9th, 2009 at the Charles City Public Library Meeting room. Board chair Robert Marreel called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. with a roll call attendance— Answering the roll call were:

- Robert Marreel
- Virgil Pickar, Jr.
- Kathy Herrick
- Carol Strike
- Leo Staudt
- Deb Freeman
- Lori Jost

Absent board members included: Shannon Paulus, Bonnie Blake, Mark Knudtson, Kay Winkelman, Elayne Werges, Kae Courtney. Seven board members are needed for quorum. It was determined quorum was met. A roundtable introduction was held and guests also introduced themselves. Attending guests and partners included: Gloria Carr, Sara Noehl, Dianne Halvorson, Dianne Casto, Diane Day, MariLynn Pierce, Margie Jensen, and Laurie Kristiansen, FMC Empowerment Coordinator.

Agenda/Minutes

Marreel asked for a review of the agenda and any changes or additions. Coordinator Laurie Kristiansen indicated one correction on the agenda...an item of discussion about the Annual Report should read FY 09 rather than FY 2010. Pickar moved to accept the agenda with the correction; Strike second. All votes “aye” to accept the agenda with the correction.

Marreel asked for a review of the minutes of the September 14, 2009 meeting. Freeman moved to accept the minutes as presented; Herrick second; all votes “aye” to accept the September 14, 2009 minutes as presented.

Status Report Re: Governor’s Across the Board 10% Cuts

Coordinator Kristiansen reviewed handouts from the State Empowerment team showing the 10% cuts in the FMC Empowerment School Ready budget. At this time the 10% cut is across the board and will be reflected in each of the appropriated funding categories within this funding stream. The reduction will come in the 3rd and 4th quarter payments. In addition, a 7% reduction is expected in the Early Childhood funds, also to come in the 3rd and 4th quarter payments of the FY 2010 year.

Page two

Minutes: 11/9/09

Kristiansen indicated the state will be sending out revised contracts for the SR and EC grants. It is not known when the contracts will arrive.

Kristiansen told the board that the FMC Executive team had reviewed the SR budget and made preliminary recommendations for the 10% reduction to come from each line item/program. However, between the time of their review on October 23 and the time of this meeting, the state had sent out new information indicating that the SR funds would be subject to the 10% reduction, except for \$2 million that was a transfer from the First Years First funding (not subject to the reduction). That information changed the line items that were originally reviewed by the FMC team. Kristiansen recommended that the board wait until the actual amended contract was received by FMC and the final figures indicated there, before any further recommendations were made regarding budget revisions. She also informed the board that first quarter payments to partners had been made and preschool scholarship claims for September and October had been satisfied. As soon as the 2nd quarter SR payment arrived, then claims could be made for 2nd quarter. Early Childhood 2nd quarter payment had arrived.

Preschool Report

Kristiansen shared a spread sheet with the board which showed the preschool scholarship information as of Nov 9th. At the time of the board meeting, FMC had paid out \$27,934 in scholarships for the months of September and October. There were 75 three-year olds, 131 4-year olds, and 31 5-year olds attending 13 preschools in the FMC area, for a total of 237 students. The 10% reduction will affect the scholarships, but at this time, Kristiansen indicated that claims could be honored for November and December, but after that, preschools should likely expect changes, which will be determined. Any new students will be placed on a waiting list.

FY 2009 Annual Report

Kristiansen reported the FY 2009 Annual Report, financial reports, and Executive report had all been turned into the state in a timely manner, meeting the September 15th deadline. FMC is waiting to hear from the state reviewer, Debra Scrowther, as to when she will plan to go over the report with the board. The review may be in person or via telephone because of reduced travel spending at the state level. The board will be notified as to when that review will be scheduled. Board members and partners will be encouraged to take part, if possible.

Lean Design Report

In the board member packets information was included referencing the “Lean Design” project, which is a down-sizing and consolidation of existing Empowerment areas in the state of IA. The Lean Design team is recommending the number of areas

be reduced to no more than 38 by July 1 of 2012. Areas may not be more than four counties and single county areas must have a child population greater than 5,000. Unless another area wishes to contact FMC to begin discussion about changes in boundaries, the FMC Empowerment board may decide to inform the state that they expect no changes. Kristiansen was directed by board chair Marreel to draft a letter to that effect and have it ready for the January 11, 2010 meeting, for initial board review.

By April 23, 2010, each current empowerment area board will submit a letter of intent to the Office of Empowerment as to conversations about any changes in the existing Empowerment area. A document (**Tool U (1)**) will be posted on the State Empowerment website detailing the entire Lean Design process.

Partner Reports/Community Input

Program updates were heard from Diane Day, (EAGLE) and MariLynn Pierce, CCR&R, and Dianne Casto, Head Start/Early Head Start, Dianne Halvorson, Head Start, and Deb Freeman, Mitchell County Public Health.

EAGLE: Fall programs are underway with good success. Included “Silly Sally” with special music assistance from the FMC Empowerment coordinator and “A House for Hermit Crab”, that includes a Diane Day wearing a crab costume. The new office manager for Chickasaw County Extension is also in place and helpful to Diane.

CCR&R: There was concern that the QRS (Quality Rating System) program would be frozen, but is back into place. CCR&R training was eliminated for FY 09, and the funds moved into provider training. Pierce noted there appears to be a lack of alignment between the QPPS curriculum and assessment tools for school districts. Of 54 districts applying for the 4-year preschool funds, only 22 passed. She also noted that she had applied for a TARGET grant and received \$2000 which will go toward supporting the Every Child Reads training for providers in the FMC area...the funds will help purchase books. Board member Kathy Herrick said it was the best training she had ever attended.

Mitchell County Public Health: Nurse Freeman relayed news about H1N1 and said they were taking appointments for the inoculation for pregnant women and others “at risk”. She also said all the schools in Mitchell County were on the list for clinics and thermometers had been purchased for all the schools.

Head Start/Early Head Start (Floyd/Mitchell): Dianne Casto said they were running with one staff person as an EHS home visitor. Budget cuts had come into play in not being able to staff with 2 persons, as originally intended. The worker in place has a caseload of 12 children, and services are being provided as best can be with reduced funds.

Head Start/Chickasaw: Dianne Halvorson said that Chickasaw County was offering many wrap-around services, from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Closing

The next regular meeting of the FMC Community Empowerment board is scheduled for Monday, January 11th, 2010 at the Charles City Public Library meeting room, at 6:30 p.m. A special meeting may need to be called to deal with the budget issues/contracts/board approvals relating to the 10% cut in School Ready funds and the 7% cut in Early Childhood funds. The coordinator will keep all informed.

Chairman Marreel asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting...Staudt made the motion; second by Herrick; all "ayes"...the meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Laurie Kristiansen, Coordinator
11/19/09; 2:30 p.m.