

FMC Empowerment Annual Report Review

Monday, November 21, 2005

The FMC Empowerment Board met with Deb Scrowther, Iowa Empowerment Technical Assistance Liaison, for a review of our 2005 Annual Report. FMC Board members present: Bonnie Blake, Shannon Paulus, Anne Windolf, Cheryl Jahnel, Elayne Werges, and Virgil Pickar, Jr.

Deb Scrowther commended our group on several areas:

1. County representation—actually have a member from each county serving; not just someone who works in that county.
2. Required board representation—all our required board member slots are filled special comment on the faith representation.
3. E-bulletin—excellent communication tool!

Review of narrative included discussion on potential conflict of interest for childcare provider on board and preschool teachers; conflict of interest statements to be signed by all board members, yearly; review of steps taken by our board to comply with open meetings laws; process to allow for public input at our meetings; funding process, what steps taken; review of contract process; and overall positive comments on our organization structure and function.

Deb also informed FMC Board that we will be up for redesignation in 2007. To prepare for this process we should begin a review of the community plan by fall, 2006. There will be ICN meetings to present technical assistance for redesignation preparation.

Review continued with focus on the areas of the Annual Report. Our indicators appear to be in line with State indicators, however, indicators should be reflective of the entire FMC Empowerment area. Success is to be measured on the output, not the overall program. Collaboration is excellent but not fully reflected in the measurements. When reporting outputs for a specific indicator, data should be combined from programs which share same indicator, e.g.—parenting issues are addressed by public health, Head Start, as well as Families Together. Impact from all three programs should be included in the measurement of success for Parenting Skills.

Budget was reviewed and found in fine shape. Especially liked the additional funding located to help with EAGLE project of cataloging book bags. One area of concern was the ending fund balance. Legislature directed that Empowerment areas must not carry forward more than 30% ending fund balance.

Deb Scrowther stated that overall FMC Empowerment is doing an excellent job and there were minor corrections needed.

Submitted by Cheryl A. Jahnel, FMC Empowerment Board Secretary