

Boost4Families Board Meeting-September 25th, 2007
First Christian Church, Red Oak

Board members in attendance were: Tamra Ruff (Montgomery County Parent), John Baker (Villisca Community School District), Sheri Bowen (Mills County Public Health), Mary Perkins (Montgomery County Public Health), Julie Williamson (Anita School District), Jacquie Morrival (Mills County child care), Kimberlee Spillers (Cass County Parent), Frank Spillers (Cass County child care), Margo Magill (Atlantic School District), Ron Kohn (Mills County Supervisor), Duane McFadden (Cass County Supervisor), Tom Bouska (DHS), Cherie Miner (Griswold School District), Nikki Williams (Montgomery County child care), Kim Freund (Cass County Public Health), and Russ Finken (Nishna Valley School District). Others in attendance were: Amy Chastain (Boost4Families Coordinator).

Absent members: Sherry Ford, Ray Buell, Rev. Eric Kutzli, Pat Simmons, Lynn Kilpatrick, Carol Robertson, Dawn Witt, Nancy Krogstad, Karen Jones, Elizabeth Dilley, Stephanie Ticknor, Sheila Mainquist, Glen Benskin, Sonja Cambridge, and Laurine Price.

Board packets were sent out prior to the board meeting. Dinner was served during the meeting.

Kimberlee Spillers called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Welcome/Announcements

Kimberlee welcomed everyone, and asked that everyone go around and introduce themselves.

Amy handed out information on upcoming conferences.

Amy announced that Nishna Valley received the 4 year old preschool funding, after the second go around.

Approval of Agenda/Minutes

Kimberlee Spillers said she would entertain a motion to approve the agenda. Sheri Bowen said she wanted to add Nishna Valley as an action item under the preschool update section of the agenda. John Baker made a motion to approve the agenda with the additional items included. Frank Spillers seconded the motion. All approved.

Amy told the board that she included the minutes from the last Executive Board meeting, in their packets. She will e-mail the minutes from every Executive Board meeting to all Big Board members from now on. This e-mail will state where the next meeting is, and when it will be held.

Tamra Ruff made a motion to approve the minutes from the last Big Board meeting as presented. John Baker seconded the motion. All approved.

Review of Board Rules and Responsibilities

Amy reviewed the current by-laws. Amy told the board that in the by-laws it states that 13 will be counted as quorum. According to the Iowa Code, it has to be 51% of members present to count as quorum. The board had a long discussion about revising the by-laws, and how to meet the 51% representation (which would be 17) every meeting.

It was recommended that the Executive Board take a look at the current by-laws, and revise them, and then send/or discuss with Big Board at/or before next meeting.

A board member recommended that each board member have an alternate that fills the same requirements as themselves, to represent them if they can't attend.

Another suggestion was that Amy list all board members that were absent, when doing the minutes. This way we can keep track of who isn't attending, and talk to them. Maybe if they are missing more than two a year, it is time to replace them. Amy stated she will list the absent members, so we can keep track.

Amy briefly discussed the governing structure and funding streams for Boost4Families. This was a review, just to keep it fresh in everyone's mind.

Amy discussed the conflict of interest information from Empowerment. At this time anyone affiliated with a program that is being discussed abstains from the discussion. Frank Spillers suggested that each member sign a formal statement. It was decided that the Executive Board will come up with a conflict of interest agreement, and bring it to the next Big Board meeting to be discussed.

Overview of FY08 funded programs

Amy briefly discussed the programs that the Big Board decided to fund, at the June meeting.

Tom Bouska stated that Boost4Families will be receiving a letter from DHS regarding the amount of the transfer dollars. Some of these dollars have been requested to go back to the Council Bluffs service area, the rest will up to the Boost4Families Board to allocate. These dollars need to be spent by June 30th, 2008.

Amy reminded the board that in June, the board decided that when the transfer dollars came in, the Executive Board would go back and visit proposals that were not funded or fully funded back in June.

Amy presented the funding policy for times when an RFP isn't being accepted. Tom Bouska asked that Amy add –dispensed as per the discretionary of DHS.

Preschool update/Transportation

Amy handed out the Empowerment Showcase (Brief view of Empowerment Annual report). Amy told the board she e-mailed them all a copy of the full report.

Amy stated that transportation is going on in all 10 school districts, and it appears to be going well at this time.

A discussion regarding Nishna Valley receiving the four year old preschool funding was held. The board was very excited for Nishna Valley. Originally Boost4Families allocated \$79,000 to Nishna Valley for preschool funding. Now Boost4Families can't pay the full amount, because the four year olds will be covered by state funding.

Sheri Bowen made a motion to reallocate \$30,000 (of the original \$79,000) to tuition grants, due to still a need for more grants. This would allow 200 grants as opposed to the original 150. John Baker seconded the motion. All approved. Tamra Ruff and Russ Finken abstained from the vote.

CPPC

Amy presented the neighborhood network mini-grant RFP. Amy told everyone to give them to community members they feel may be able to use this, for projects that protect children from abuse.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is set for December 11th at 6:30 PM. The meeting will be held at the First Christian Church in Red Oak. This meeting will be the meeting where board members bring holiday treats to share during the meeting.

The next meeting's agenda will consist of: by-laws, Redesignation, transfer dollars, neighborhood network grants, and possible addendums to contracts.

Nikki Williams made a motion to adjourn the meeting. John Baker seconded the motion. All approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted
Amy Chastain
Boost4Families Coordinator