



**Nebraska Early Childhood Education Endowment
Board of Trustees
Wednesday, January 16, 2019
Minutes**

Welcome & Introductions

The meeting of the Sixpence Board of Trustees was called to order at 1:01 p.m. on January 16, 2019 at Nebraska Children and Families Foundation, 215 Centennial Mall South, 2nd floor Conference Room, Lincoln.

Trustees present: Sophie Kock, Melody Hobson (representing the Commissioner of the Nebraska Department of Education), Nicole Vint, Holly Hatton Bowers, and Helen Raikes (joined at 2:31 pm).

Also in attendance: Amy Bornemeier (Sixpence Administrator), Karen Pinkelman and Stephanni Renn (Sixpence Administrative Education Specialists), Cheryl Marks, Mary Jo Pankoke, and Kevin Cloonan (Nebraska Children), Joan Luebbers, Ben Baumfalk (First Five Nebraska), Michaela Hershman (DHHS), and Shane Rhian (NDE Finance Director).

Approve Minutes from November 14, 2018

A motion was made to approve the minutes by Melody Hobson. Second by Sophie Kock. Voting yes: Melody Hobson and Sophie Kock. Abstain: Nicole Vint and Holly Hatton Bowers. No opposition, motion carried.

Review Financial Reports

Shane Rhian presented the financial reports; currently there's \$3.2M in the Cash Fund and \$4.2M in State General Funds. Shane Rhian projects to have \$1.8M left in the Endowment Cash Fund at the end of the year for future activities. The projected deficit and funds available for Technical Assistance and Evaluation did decrease due a slightly larger than forecasted distribution from the public endowment for the 4th quarter of 2018. The governor submitted his budget proposal to the legislature and he did not make any adjustments to the aid programs distributed through NDE, which includes the \$4.8M appropriated for the Sixpence program. However, he did not restore the \$200,000 that was previously cut.

Kevin Cloonan presented the Financial Forecast for the Sixpence State and Private Funds and the CCDF Funds for the next five years. Currently there are no changes from the last board meeting. The deficit in the funds available for Technical Assistance and Evaluation are forecasted to be slightly overspent at the end of this fiscal year, which will only decline in the next few years. Amy Bornemeier stated that from the Technical Assistance contract perspective they are underspent as compared to the budget due to the TA team making expenditure cutbacks wherever possible. The Evaluation team is also making expenditure cutbacks wherever possible.

Nicole Vint provided an update and stated that the large bulk of the CCDF budget was previously agreed upon prior to the government shutdown. An additional \$12M in CCDF was received for federal fiscal year of 2018 which is projected to receive the same increase for this year. Nicole Vint and Michaela Hirshman advised that evaluation costs for the CCP grants can be included in future CCDF-funded Sixpence CCP budget as a grant activity, per clarification from the Office of Childcare and ACF. The Board will address continuation funding and grantee allocation at the next meeting in March.

Discuss cost-savings options for evaluation and TA contracts

Karen Pinkelman discussed and reviewed cost-savings options for evaluation and TA contracts. Karen and Stephanni did an overview on data goals and how to use that data to improve practice, work with families, and improve outcomes. Based on that information and taking in consideration of what Barb Jackson and Rosie Zweiback advised, they presented the Board with several cost-saving options related to evaluation. The Board will continue to discuss and make decisions in the future as necessary.

Review All Grantee Status Report

Amy Bornemeier, Karen Pinkelman and Stephanni Renn presented the updated report which notes enrollment and any funds left unspent for 2016-2017 and 2017-2018. This information will be taken into consideration for funding allocation decisions at the March meeting.

Approve revised Home Visiting Specialist Qualifications

A motion was made to postpone the discussion regarding revising the Home Visiting Specialist Qualifications, by Melody Hobson as it relates to Rule 11 and she would like to have additional time to review. Second by Nicole Vint. Second by Helen Raikes. Voting yes: Sophie Kock, Holly Hatton Bowers, Melody Hobson, and Nicole Vint. No opposition, motion carried.

Review and Approve Child Care Partnership Mini Grant Budgets from Falls City, Kearney, Auburn, and Hastings

Amy Bornemeier reviewed the CCP Mini Grant budgets from Falls City, Kearney, Auburn, and Hastings. Each proposed a plan to use a one-time award of \$37,000 to fund materials/equipment/activities which increase the quality of care being provided by existing child care partners.

A motion was made to approve the Child Care Partnership Mini Grant Budgets for Falls City, Kearney, Auburn, and Hastings by Sophie Kock. Second by Nicole Vint. Voting yes: Melody Hobson, Holly Hatton Bowers, Sophie Kock, and Nicole Vint. No opposition, motion carried.

Review 2015-16 Biennial Report and Recommend Changes for 2017-18 Biennial Report

Amy Bornemeier presented the 2015-2016 Biennial Report to the legislature that First Five Nebraska had previously prepared. The report highlights overview of programming, outcomes, and impacts. For the 2017-18 Report, the Board recommended including the Impact section of the 2017-18 Evaluation Report and possibly reworking the Conclusions and Implications section, then linking the reader to the actual

report for more detailed information. Amy made a recommendation to include a CCP program highlight since this wasn't included in the last Biennial Report. The Board recommended several examples within program type be provided as success stories rather than feature a specific family or program. Sixpence TA staff are working with First Five Nebraska to have a draft of the report to be approved at the March meeting.

Review Board Appointment Terms

Sophie Kock's term expired December 2018. Helen Raikes' term expires December 2019. Holly Hatton Bowers, Cara Small, Nicole Vint, and Melody Hobson terms ends December 2020.

The meeting ended at 2:49 pm with a *motion to adjourn* by Sophie Kock. Second by Nicole Vint. Voting yes: Sophie Kock, Melody Hobson, Nicole Vint, Helen Raikes, and Holly Hatton Bowers.

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2019 1:00-4:00 p.m.



**Nebraska Early Childhood Education Endowment
Board of Trustees
Wednesday, March 27, 2019
Minutes**

Welcome & Introductions

The meeting of the Sixpence Board of Trustees was called to order at 1:04 p.m. on March 27, 2019, at Nebraska Children and Families Foundation, 215 Centennial Mall South, 2nd floor Conference Room, Lincoln.

Trustees present: Sophie Kock, Melody Hobson (representing the Commissioner of the Nebraska Department of Education), Nicole Vint, Holly Hatton Bowers, and Helen Raikes (joined at 2:17 pm).

Also in attendance: Amy Bornemeier (Sixpence Administrator), Karen Pinkelman and Stephanni Renn (Sixpence Administrative Education Specialists) Deb Reiman (Sixpence Administrative Education Specialist for CCP), Caitlin Goin and Mary Jo Pankoke, (Nebraska Children), Ben Baumfalk (First Five Nebraska), Michaela Hershman (DHHS), and Shane Rhian (NDE Finance Director).

Approve Minutes from January 16, 2019

A motion was made by Sophie Kock to approve the minutes. Second, by Nicole Vint. Voting yes: Melody Hobson and Sophie Kock, Nicole Vint and Holly Hatton Bowers. No opposition, motion carried.

Review Financial Reports, funding forecast and status of CCP grants

Shane Rhian presented the financial reports; currently, there's \$3.1M in the Cash Fund and \$2M in State General Funds. It is projected to have \$1.8M carryover at the end of the grant cycle for grant activities and carry over \$22,000 in TA funds. The General Fund appropriation from the Legislature for the 2018-19 term was \$4.8M which was \$200,000 less than the previous year.

Currently, the appropriations committee has written the restoration of \$200,000 into the budget. Concerns were raised with the economic forecasting for agriculture due to the recent flooding.

Kevin Cloonon shared the 5-year Forecast Report for the State and private funds and noted that there will be TA and evaluation funding constraints in 2021 under the current funding availability.

Nicole Vint provided an update and stated there is extra funding from 2018 for Infants and Toddlers. They are currently working on amending the 2018 subaward to NCFE to include \$26,767 for evaluation of the CCP grants March 1- June 30, 2019, reducing the contracted amount of the evaluation contract from NDE. Next year \$65,000 is projected for CCP evaluation costs, which can be covered entirely by CCDF subaward to NCFE via contract with UNMC.

Discuss and approve the use of grant funds for District-owned building occupancy costs

Amy Bornemeier requested clarification surrounding whether districts can use their Sixpence funds to pay for occupancy cost of their Sixpence programs and Sixpence staff members. Historically, this allocation of funds has not been requested, and districts were advised to use occupancy costs as a match.

A motion was made by Helen Raikes to deny the use of grant funds to pay for any occupancy cost for Sixpence funded employees and programs housed in buildings owned by the District. Seconded Nicole Vint. Voting yes: Melody Hobson, Nicole Vint, Holly Hatton Bowers, and Helen Raikes. No opposition, motion carried.

Discuss letter received from Tim Heckenlively (Falls City) and approve response letter

Amy Bornemeier shared a letter discussing reimbursement concerns from Falls City's Superintendent, Tim Heckenlively. As of Feb 22nd, Fall City Public Schools did not have reimbursement for their expenditures that they've been incurring since July 1, 2018 for their CCP program. Amy explained that the delay was due to the delay in funding allocation from the feds to DHHS and then the subsequent delay of subaward to NCFE. Amy shared that no communication from Falls City regarding hardships had been shared with her. Falls City has since received its reimbursement for \$89,819. There has not been another claim submitted at this time. Concerns regarding the fact that this was the second year in a row there was a lag time for funds being released to grantees. DHHS is already working on the 2019-20 subaward for the known CCDF Infant/Toddler funds of \$413,194 to NCFE to avoid the lag time in the future. The additional allocation from the feds can be amended when that amount is known.

A motion was made to approve the response letter by Sophie Kock. Second, by Melody Hobson. Voting yes: Melody Hobson, Sophie Kock, Nicole Vint, and Holly Hatton Bowers. No opposition, motion carried.

Review All Grantee Status Report

Amy Bornemeier, Karen Pinkelman , and Stephanni Renn presented the grantee status report, including program updates and allocation recommendations.

A discussion was held about Hastings, Lincoln, and Kearney as they will be losing supervisors and administrators at the end of the program year. Updates were given regarding communities that were affected by the recent flood. The Board requested keeping the external circumstances in mind in looking at attendance rates and the timing of evaluations for those programs in communities effected by the flooding.

Seward: Superintendents of Milford, Seward, and Centennial Schools have decided to move away from the current level of partnership with Blue Valley Community Action. They've decided to partner with ESU6 for the 2019-20 year. ESU6 will take over the supervisory role of the program and employ the Sixpence staff members. Blue Valley employs current home visitors. The home visitors will be given the option to stay with Sixpence and become employees of ESU6.

Kearney: The Board was informed of the upcoming retirement of the Administrator that oversees the Sixpence programs. Staff turnover and supervision have been, and currently, are concerns. Sixpence staff conducted a CQI visit and reviewed files in August and interviewed KPS staff. Due to lack of follow through with grant requirements, KPS was provided an action plan in September. As a result of the August action plan, a file review was conducted again in February. The same quality indicators were still not being met during this subsequent review. Funding allocation options were discussed. Karen Pinkelman asked the Board to give Kearney time to restructure and recommended partial funding with the ability to receive additional funding mid-term if action items were satisfactorily addressed. Intensive TA will be provided.

The Board discussed a recurring concern for Sixpence is the high turnover rate for home visitors. Helen Raikes asked for more information from Sixpence staff on why the turnover rate is high and different solutions to explore with a focus on pay equity.

Amy Bornemeier provided updates on Child Care Partnerships. The allocation of federal funds is projected to be the same if not slightly higher. As the first cohort of five districts are ending their first year three-year grant terms, programs are seeking new partnerships, as well as supporting the initial partners with training and coaching with reduced monthly visits. Nicole Vint expressed concern on the number of dollars that were left unspent and the ramifications for DHHS. The Board discussed considering the amount of unused funds for the CCP grants as they vote on 2019-20 allocations.

Review and approve 2019-20 funds allocations

Grantee School District Program Model Recommended 2019-20 Allocation

Alliance Center \$95,250
Auburn Home \$84,392
CCP \$200,000 (CCDF funded)
Aurora Home \$75,000
Broken Bow Home \$183,500
Central City Home \$75,000
Chadron CCP \$191,134 (CCDF funded)
Columbus Home \$150,000
Crete Home \$327,500
Falls City Home \$273,958
CCP \$225,000 (CCDF funded)
Fremont Home \$322,000
Garden County Home \$86,000
Gering CCP \$228,124 (CCDF funded)
Grand Island Home \$159,870
CCP \$225,000
Hastings Home \$75,000
CCP \$225,000
Humboldt Table Rock Home \$80,000
Steinauer
Kearney Home \$230,000
Center \$284,712
CCP \$186,625 (CCDF funded)
Lexington Home \$229,450
Lincoln Center- Educare \$379,900
Home \$181,200
Center- SCLCs \$406,300
Loup City Home \$161,250
Millard Home \$75,025
Norfolk Home \$150,000
Omaha Center- Educare \$581,250
Home- Educare \$159,710
Center- OELCs \$534,040
Ord Home \$79,000
Papillion-La Vista Home \$81,000
Plattsmouth Home \$75,000
Santee Center \$88,750
Schuyler Home \$305,000

ScottsbluffHome\$305,000
Seward ConsortiumHome\$160,000
SidneyCCP\$235,719 (CCDF funded)
St. PaulHome\$75,000
Umo^oho^o NationCenter\$121,050
Winnebago Center- Educare\$250,000
YorkHome\$321,610
CCP\$225,000 (CCDF funded)

Total AllocationsHome & Center\$7,221,717
Total AllocationsCCP\$1,941,602 (CCDF funded)
Grand Total Allocations\$9,163,319

The Board discussed the opportunity for current grantees to request additional funding to address their unmet needs in their Year-End Report and 2018-19 Continuation Request.

After reviewing the recommended allocations and considering the discussion, a motion was made by Helen Raikes to approve the 2019-2020 funding allocations for the previously awarded amounts except for Kearney Public Schools home-based program and Childcare Partnership Grants. Seconded Nicole Vint. Voting yes: Melody Hobson, Nicole Vint, Holly Hatton Bowers, and Helen Raikes. No opposition, motion carried.

A motion was made by Helen Raikes to approve funding for Kearney Public Schools at a half rate of \$115,000 with the opportunity to release the remaining funding after six months if contingencies are met. Seconded Melody Hobson. Voting yes: Melody Hobson, Nicole Vint, Holly Hatton Bowers, and Helen Raikes. No opposition, motion carried.

A motion was made by Nicole Vint to approve the Childcare Partnership Grant 2019-2020 funding allocations for the previous amounts except for Chadron, Sidney, and Gehring Public Schools, whose allocations shall reflect a deduction amount consisting of half of the unspent funds from 2018-19. Seconded Melody Hobson. Voting yes: Melody Hobson, Nicole Vint, Holly Hatton Bowers, and Helen Raikes. No opposition, motion carried.

Discuss the strategy of utilizing all publicly available funding sources

The Board discussed whether Sixpence center-based programs should be required to have the families they serve to apply for the DHHS childcare subsidy and utilize the CACFP. It was advised that all publicly available sources of funding should be utilized, if possible, by school districts. It was suggested that districts may want to explore the possibility of an incentive program for parents of the enrolled children to fill out the necessary paperwork for child care subsidy. The Board requested that Districts keep documentation regarding the efforts they have made towards receiving child care subsidy.

Discuss CCP partnership challenges related to LB 547

Amy Bornemeier communicated to the Board challenges districts were having surrounding the language in LB547, which created the funding for CCP grants. The language of the law states that the childcare provider must be enrolled in Step Up to Quality before the grant term beginning. The language excludes Districts from partnering with any providers who were not previously enrolled. Obtaining a Step three by the end of the initial three-year grant term has also been a challenge for those providers that started their partnership after the initial grant start date.

Approve revised Quality Criteria/Indicators for all Sixpence grant models

Amy Bornemeier presented requested changes to Sixpence Quality Indicators/Criteria for all program models. Changes were made to:

- Staff Qualifications (Home and CCP) and related Policy on using grant funds for home-based staff tuition reimbursement, allowing all home-based staff, not just bilingual staff, to follow that policy;
- Evaluation (CCP) to provide additional evaluation options for CCPs who have achieved a Step 5 to continue partnering beyond the initial 3 year grant term;
- Intensity and Duration of Services (Home) to include documentation of parent-child interactions at home visits;
- Supervision (Home and CCP) to include documentation review for grant compliance and CCP Coach Supervision aligned with the home and center grants;
- Administration (all models) to include use of the Technology Position Statement.

A motion was made by Helen Raikes to approve all the revised quality indicators except for the requirement that the CCP providers follow the Technology Position Statement. Seconded Nicole Vint. Voting yes: Melody Hobson, Nicole Vint, Holly Hatton Bowers, and Helen Raikes. No opposition, motion carried.

Review and approve the 2017-18 Biennial Report

The Board reviewed the report and complimented First Five Nebraska on the quality.

A motion was made to approve the Biennial report (pending the “s” typo on page 2) by Holly Hatton-Bowers. Seconded by Melody Hobson. Voting yes: Melody Hobson, Nicole Vint, Helen Raikes, and Holly Hatton Bowers. No opposition, motion carried.

Review Board Appointment Terms

Amy Bornemeier thanked Sophie Kock for her attendance at the meeting. The Governor's office has yet to name a replacement for her position.

The meeting ended at 3:55 pm with a ***motion to adjourn*** by Nicole Vint. Second by Helen Raikes. Voting yes: Melody Hobson, Nicole Vint, Helen Raikes, and Holly Hatton Bowers. No opposition, motion carried.

Next Meeting Date: June 12, 2019; approval of continuation funding and evaluation budgets