**Nebraska Child Abuse Prevention Fund Board**

**Friday, February 24th, 2023, 9:30 a.m. –** **12:00 noon**

2nd Floor Conference Room, Nebraska Children & Families Foundation

**Board Members Present**

Dave Hansen, Camas Holder, Sara Morgan. Deacon Don Blackbird, Claire Bazata, and Jillian Chance. Georgie Scurfield via Zoom (until 10:30).

**Staff and Guests Present**

DHHS: Dana Peterson; Andrew Keck

Nebraska Children: Kathy Stokes; Emily Arent for fiscal report; Brenda Weyers for Marketing Report; Lincoln Arneal for policy report; and Jennifer Skala for Statewide Plan

Dave called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

**Minutes**

Minutes from the July meeting were reviewed and approved. Jillian abstained.

**Budget Report**

Emily provided a brief overview of the grant tracking spreadsheet. Discussion of typical spending by mid-year followed, noting that expenditures are frequently largest in the second half of each year. The NICWC contract was declined and the redevelopment process for the Lincoln Community Foundation contract will result in lower expenditures for this year.

Andrew Keck reported annual revenue is approximately $225,000. He shared a spreadsheet with information on annual revenues and several options for annual expenditures. He explored past discrepancies in the total balance and found this was due to omission of annual interest income (now included).

The board recognized differences between amounts allocated and spent each year. There was general agreement that the board can spend at a high level for a few years before the balance is significantly reduced. Annual expenditures could be up to $500,00 for the next two years. Then the annual allocation would be lower in following years.

**Grantee Progress Reports**

Board members liked the new format of this quarterly written report with cumulative information and more details. The board briefly discussed several grantee’s progress to help inform potential investments for next year.

-Nebraska Indian Child Welfare Coalition for Youth and Families Thrive Training. The initial contract was declined; the application might be revised for a new contract.

-Plans of Safe Care. Hastings (United Way of South Central Nebraska) had a soft launch last fall and a full launch in January. They are working to make connections with moms using or misusing substances. One goal is to provide wraparound support for safe care of the mom and newborn. North Platte (through

Families 1st) has worked to develop the program and launch around April. They’ve done some

community engagement with parent partners and medical and substance abuse providers. DHHS Children and Family Services and Public Health are working on state support. A contract is in the works to fund a position to work on the medical track and will be housed at Nebraska Children.

-Circle of Security Parenting (through NEAEYC) may have some additional support through Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) by this fall. Claire participated in a class recently. She said all in-home providers should participate as they could provide follow up coaching that would benefit families.

**Public Awareness**

Brenda Weyers provided an overview of the 2023 prevention campaign.

* Paid radio ads will air Monday through Friday from 8AM through 5PM, April 3rd through June 16th. There will be 280 ads on 52 stations including two Spanish stations. The estimated reach will be 412,000 with a frequency of 3.5. Gross impressions are estimated at 1,500,000.
* Paid digital ads will run on Facebook, Google, and Instagram at same time. All ads link back to website and the community collaborations. Gross impressions are estimated at 1,900,000. Learfield can adjust on the fly if/as needed.
* So far, twenty community collaboratives placed orders for products in the Prevention Store (available through the NCAPF Board’s contract with Abante).
* We are working with the collaborations to update contact information on the website.
* The campaign toolkit is being updated.
* On behalf of the NCAPF Board, Nebraska Children and DHHS are working on a statewide press release for child abuse prevention month (to be issued through DHHS). We have also contacted the Governor’s office to request a proclamation and pinwheel planting at the Governor’s residence.
* Nebraska’s Wear Blue Day is Wednesday, April 5th.
* Firespring has developed Bring Up Nebraska print materials for collaboratives with the option insert their logo and contact information.
* Nebraska Children participates on Prevent Child Abuse America’s communications committee and tailors elements of the national toolkit to Nebraska.

Sara commented that the new state administration has an early childhood focus. Camas said attention to social determinants of health is a good perspective. Home visiting created videos with the message that all families need help sometimes. Jill added that a lens that is broader than just economic works best.

**Board Openings**

The board has three current openings. When Dave’s term ends this July, there will be a fourth opening. Board members provided corrections to the current board roster. Camas, Dave, Georgie, and Kathy have contacted potential candidates about applying. All board members are welcome to make suggestions.

**Policy**

Lincoln Arneal provided overviews of two legislative bills.

LB 42: Senator Ben Hansen to define child neglect. Some groups testified in support of more parent determination while county attorneys were uncomfortable with the potential to make it more difficult to prove neglect. Some language may be changed, e.g., from “no” reasonable person to “a” reasonable person. Examples of sufficient maturity are provided in the bill. Criminal statutes and juvenile codes would be cross-referenced.

LB 271. This bill changes state requirements from all adults as mandatory reporters to select classes with a list on pp.3-4 of the bill (e.g., school educators, law enforcement, others with expertise). It includes training and support for some. Anyone would still be able to report but those not designated as mandatory reporters wouldn’t face legal repercussions. The bill attempts to address the volume of calls to the hotline with a very small percentage of substantiations. Much testimony was neutral while there was some pushback and discussion about the possibility of opting out. County attorneys testified against this bill because list of those included isn’t inclusive enough, e.g., no youth sports coaches. Senator McKinney is willing to expand the list of mandatory reporters. There is also concern around the disproportionate number of children-of-color reported. Nebraska Children believes that addressing families’ needs through Community Response is often a better option than reporting. Oftentimes, poverty is interpreted as neglect, and supporting instead of reporting can result in better outcomes. However, there is value in defining what’s being reported and by whom.

Both bills have been through committee hearings, negotiations are occurring, and amendments may be made. We’ll know by next week if these bills will go to floor. NCAPF Board members may want to contact their senators.

**Statewide Plan for Community Well Being**

Camas referred to the printed copy of the Statewide Plan that has been in development for over two years. The plan includes four main goals to achieve by 2025: 1. Co-creation w/communities and lived experience. 2. Growing the community collaboratives for equity. 3. Increasing Promotive and Protective Factors for more/improved access to services. 4. Increasing Workforce quality and quantity. LB 1173 provides for reform of the child welfare system and requires the three branches of state government, legislative, executive, and judicial, to develop a practice and finance model to transform child and family well-being in Nebraska. The Stephen Group began serving as the selected consultant this January and will report back to legislature by this December. They are meeting with state leaders and community collaboratives. Updates can be seen at [Reimagine Well-being](https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/LB-1173-Child-and-Family-Well-Being-Working-Group.aspx). This is a huge task in short time to move DHHS and Children and Family Services away from response model to prevention model. Nebraska Children has contracted with Dr. Jerry Milner and David Kelly with the Family Justice Group. Jennifer Skala outlined next steps which include Dr. Milner returning to Nebraska the week of March 12th to meet with state partners, including CEO Smith and the Stephen group. Dr. Milner and his team’s role is to help ensure movement toward prevention and well-being and to help all understand their roles as many sectors need to work together. Camas noted this is not about how to do what we’re already doing better but to be innovative.

**Pre-Allocations for 2023-2024**

* Circle of Security Parenting (COSP). Camas noted that FFPSA will identify evidence-based strategies and providers in the future. Sara recommended communicating to COSP facilitators when FFPSA funds are available to support future sustainability. Motion was made for the NCAPF Board to request an application from NEAECY for up to $60,000 to continue to offer COSP across the state at no cost to participants. Motion was unanimously approved.
* Community Response Expansion (CR). The Board briefly discussed Community Response with the future possibility of offering support to another collaborative or two. Motion was made for the NCAPF Board to request an application from the two current grantees to continue support for up to $25,000 each in the coming year. Motion was unanimously approved.
* Plans of Safe Care (POSC). After brief discussion on the purpose of this initiative, including the hope that more community collaboratives will participate, motion was made for the NCAPF Board to request and application from the current two grantees for continued development and support for up to $30,000 each. Motion was unanimously approved.
* Youth and Families Thrive. Brief discussion was held on the current contract which was declined by the grantee. Motion was made to request an application for up to $25,000 for next year. Motion was unanimously approved.
* Mental Health Interpreter partnership training. Dave said this is a needed training. Motion was made for the NCAPF Board to request an application for up to $5,000 for the current grantee to offer more trainings in the coming year. Motion was unanimously approved.
* Community Cafés. After brief discussion, motion was made for the NCAPF Board to request applications from the current four grantees. Based on factors specific to each grantee, the applications may be up to the current amount for the Lincoln grantee and up to $14,000 for the other grantees. The motion was unanimously approved.

The board also discussed a potential requests for a second set of applications in July. These may include, but aren’t limited to, additional Community Response site(s), the Omaha Community Cafés, and new support for public awareness based on the developing Statewide Plan for community Well Being.

**Next Meeting**

Friday, **April 21st**, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.