**NCAPF Board Meeting Minutes February 16th, 2024**

**Board Members Present**

In Person: Georgie Scurfield, David Hansen

Zoom: Camas Holder, Deacon Don Blackbird, Jillian Chance

Excused: Sara Morgan, Claire Bazata

Guests: DHHS—Chris Siefken and David Klein, Nebraska Children—Emily Arent for Budget Report, Shane Potter for Family Resource Centers, Joe DiCostanzo for Full-Service Community Schools, Brenda Weyers for Marketing

Georgie called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

**Meeting Minutes**

David motioned to approve the November meeting minutes and Jillian seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Appointments for Open Seats**

Georgie reached out to Board candidates to provide an update. Camas said no appointments will be made to fill vacant seats until more is known about LB 1417. This bill includes around eighty boards and committees, and it could be revised. It is scheduled for hearing on February 29th. Comments on the value of the NCAPF Board and its continuation can be made online.

**Budget Reports**

Emily provided an overview of the 2022-2023 allocations and expenditures. The final version is in process and will show a final unspent balance of around $100,000. Amber provided an overview of the 2023-2024 allocations and expenditures. Most invoices have been received. The NICWC invoice is still expected and she is working with GIPS on additional documentation. Some grants began in October and several grantees are expected to spend more in Quarters 3 and 4.

10-year financial scenario. Camas reported on information from Andrew Keck. The Board can allocate $500,000 annually for the next several years (2029) and longer if annual spending is lower. Jillian said birth rates were low in 2020 and births are trending downward (versus the increase some expected) but are holding steady (with many more home births) and birth certificate revenue is expected to be about the same. The Board asked how the legislature viewed this pattern.

Camas talked about meeting known needs. She noted that contract amendments that could make additional funds available take about two months, so early in the year works best. Dave commented on grantees that are doing the intended work but not needing funds as anticipated and other reasons all funds allocated aren’t spent. Annual allocations have included a mix of direct services and pilot projects, and the grantees are carefully monitored. Brief discussion followed around data on needs and capacity to meet these needs with NCAPF funds. Nebraska Children teams have detailed information. The Board may also consider the value of allocations that meet concrete needs immediately and those that also include coaching or other services to help youth and families improve their financial stability and reach other related goals.

**Selected Legislative Bills**

Camas provided an overview of bills with some relevance to the NCAPF Board. These included the Safe Haven and Prenatal Plans of Safe Care. The purpose of LB 945 is to make needed documents available to youth leaving foster care, e.g., addresses where they’ve lived and names in the households. Discussion is occurring on the appropriate ages to provide the documents to youth and DHHS is providing testimony. Dave asked about board members reaching out to legislators if LB1417. It is scheduled for hearing on February 29th at 1:30 PM. The Board discussed talking points, e.g., what this Board does and why it is valuable. Georgie will draft some talking points and share with Board members to make individual contact with senators.

**Program Reports**

Kathy referred to the 2022-2023 Community Well-Being Executive Summary.

Program Updates sent before this meeting were also referenced.

**Board Development**

Family Resource Centers. Shane Potter provided information on the development of a Family Resource Center (FRC) network. He shared handouts on definitions and positive impacts. Some groups already exist in NE, e.g., family success centers and community collaboratives. Connecting and building on these could be beneficial e.g., training and building capacity for individual centers. He also shared information on measurements and a Quality Standards handout. Our Quality Standards will include Youth and Families Thrive as a baseline and will build other quality standards on this. Discussion followed on differences between crisis centers and FRCs and how to know the difference between proactive and reactive work. He will send handouts. There was some consideration of the differences between virtual FRCs and brick and mortar sites, but both are okay as the aim can be the same. Kentucky has one the largest FRC networks through schools and Full-Service Community Schools. Shane is working on building and providing training. This includes terminology, i.e., who is really working as a FRC and who just has the name, baselines, increasing quality, being intentional. Funding is to be determined. Certification training can be virtual and costs $7,00-$14,00.

Full-Service Community Schools. Joe introduced himself as a former principal and teacher with some work at the national level. He summarized current and future work on Full-Service Community Schools (FSCS) through the four pillars handout. FSCS incorporates these pillars in the schools, for example, providing access to food, housing, eyeglasses. The work also integrates student supports which may be non-academic but important to school success. Expanded enriched learning time may be before or after school and during the summer as these times can include critical benefits for academics and life. Active family and community engagement can also be included, e.g., involving families in a school improvement plan. FSCS promotes collaborative leadership and practices, adults working together with shared responsibility on a school-based leadership team with parent and family leaders, students, and community voice. All should occur through a site coordinator to oversee and tailor the work to local contexts. (Reference evaluation handout to come.) Joe described four pilot sites in 2021-2022, including Grand Island, Schuyler Elementary, Fremont Middle School, and Dakota Elementary, plus others. The SE Nebraska Collaborative and Holt/Boyd Community Connections are also working to support the four pillars in schools in their areas. There was a hearing on LB1437 last Tues to provide $1 mill to NDE to provide support for FSCS. As education in NE is very locally controlled (244 superintendents) he hopes they will make good use of this. Public and private schools are involved.

**Marketing & Communications**

Brenda provided an overview of the many new items in the prevention store. The Bring Up Nebraska website is being updated to reflect current information on the community collaboratives, new information on the Protective and Promotive Factors, and more. The April campaign launch will include paid radio ads (in English and Spanish) and digital ads (Google, Facebook, and Instagram) that are targeted to NE families and young adults with lower incomes and drive traffic to the website. The online toolkit is also being updated for use in April and year-round. There has been a good rate of downloads and use in the past. DHHS will request a Governor’s proclamation and press conference. Wear Blue Day will be on April 5th and we encourage participants to take photos and share on social media.

**2024-2025 Allocations Plan**

Prenatal Plans of Safe Care (POSC). Nebraska Children was asked to reach out to the two current grantees to check on anticipated expenditures for this year and next. These two sites might not need more than $10,00. The third site developing in the Dakota County area may be ready by this summer/fall. They may benefit from work done in SD and IA.

Project Harmony. The Board will have more information to inform a possible allocation at the next meeting.

Nebraska Indian Child Welfare Coalition (Youth and Families Thrive). The Board doesn’t have enough information to inform a possible allocation for next year yet.

Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children (Circle of Security Parenting). The Board would like to continue funding at the same amount of $60,000.

Community Response Expansion Sites. The three current grantees are the community collaboratives based in Fremon Fremont, Columbus, and Norfolk. The Borad would like to continue support for these sites.

Lancaster Connected (based in Lincoln) met with Camas and submitted a draft proposal for @ $40,000. Discussion followed about needs across the state and how to prioritize allocations considering more than twenty collaboratives. Georgie said we need to know more about needs across the state and to look at information to be equitable. Capacity is another consideration as this varies across sites. For example, some sites have more capacity for coaching to help stabilize families after crises and to prevent recurring crises.

Key staff from Nebraska Children will assemble information on CR needs and capacity across the state to share with the Board. The Board will discuss recommendations on additional allocations and next, and then can respond to the Lancaster request. The Board will also consider the existing locations of NCAPF investments across the state. Camas, Georgie, and Kathy will invite all interested members to review and discuss before the next regular meeting. Any additional applications can be determined at the next meeting (July). Applications received and approved at the July meeting would begin on October 1st.

Georgie motioned to approve the pre-allocations (to issue requests for applications) as summarized above and here: Continue funds at an appropriate level for POSC with the possibility of reducing funds from the current amount for the two current grantees and adding a third grantee this summer or fall. Continue COSP at the current level of funding. Continue the four Community Café grants. Funds for the Community Café Coaching Team will be included in the Nebraska Children grant. Continue funds for the three current CR sites and get more information on potential additional sites. Applications received and approved at the May meeting will have a July 1st start date. Project Harmony and NICWC will be decided later when more information is available.

Dave motioned to adjourn the meeting and Jillian seconded. Georgie ended the meeting at 12:00 noon.

**Next Meeting.** The next meeting will be on Friday, May 3, pending the availability of members not present today.