**Nebraska Child Abuse Prevention Fund Board Meeting**

**Friday, July 21st, 2023**

Board Members Present:David Hansen, Georgie Scurfield, Camas Holder, Sara Morgan, Claire Bazata, Jillian Chance (by Zoom).

Absent: Deacon Don Blackbird.

Guests: DHHS--Chris Seifken, Nebraska Children--Sara Riffel for Statewide Plan, Brenda Weyers for Campaign Report, Lea Ann Johnson-Kappes for Fremont Family Coalition and Community Cafés, Mikayla Wicks for Prenatal Plans of Safe Care.

Dave called the meeting to order at 9:39 AM.

**Board Openings**

DHHS has sent a recommendation for the appointment of Jamalia Jones to the Governor’s office. Other candidates have been interviewed. Camas said the Governor’s office is reviewing processes for commissions and committees.

**Meeting Minutes.** Georgie and Camas motionedto approve the minutes. The motion was unanimously approved.

**Budget Report**

Camas said the spreadsheet reflects the status of invoices received and what is remaining as of early this week. Several more invoices have been received but are not reviewed or approved yet. There was a brief discussion of follow up with grantees that have under-expenditures.

**Program Report**

Board members received a document with grantee program updates. Discussion occurred on the following topics.

Circle of Security Parenting (COSP) is not listed as “well-supported” by the Family First IV-E Prevention Clearinghouse, but DHHS is interested in having it evaluated again. There is a federal NOFA for states to evaluate programs not on the site. DHHS, a member of Nebraska Children’s evaluation team, and others have been working with Chapin Hall to assist. Chapin Hall says we need a data collection system to show how COSP is preventing families from entering the child welfare system. We might be able to look back at participants and pull data although a process is not in place. Grantees will be notified in about one month.

Kathy noted the many needs being met by the Community Response expansion grant in the Norfolk area. Many families with challenges in meeting basic needs due to language barriers, health, and other crises, are being assisted with rent, utilities, and applying for other assistance. Claire spoke about her experience with a young mom who had two children at home and was working to bring the others back. The oldest child is a product of a rape. Her car and economic assistance with coaching are important, however, her car was impounded because she did not pay child support. Claire said there is a need to work with judges and county attorneys to help them understand how to promote accountability without adding to existing challenges.

Board members briefly discussed the participant survey for the most recent Mental Health Provider Interpreter Collaboration training.

**State Initiatives**

Sara Riffel, Nebraska Children Senior Vice President, provided an overview of the Statewide Plan for Community Well Being. Ongoing work includes focus groups and surveys with the collaborations, systems partners, and others. Information has been gathered on what is most needed and developed into plan in 2022 (see handout). The plan is continuously developing with a large amount of input and has an online portal that allows community and state partners to enter information. Communities can learn from each other and interact with state partners to share responsibility and accountability and see correlations in and across goals. The highest priorities for this year were developed through meetings in April and June. Results areas or indicators of thriving are on the last page of the handout. Specific measures to feed into the indicators are developing.

LB 1173 overlaps with the statewide plan as it has the same themes. Prevention is mentioned as a side in statute, but the Stephens group has heard over and over that not having kids enter the system is the best approach and this has led to more focus on prevention. Innovations are occurring in Douglas County (proof of concept) to begin testing. The Dodge County proposal the NCAPF Board is considering is another part of this innovation. Building a functioning warmline is another possibility. NE has some of this through 211, the Nebraska Family Helpline, and other resources, but it does not have a closed loop referral system—and no follow through after referrals as some other states have. Collaboratives are connecting families to resources but the warmline would be a 24-7 resource with follow in a uniform process. There has been much conversation around what capacity is needed through CR to work with a warmline. Another high priority is the engagement of lived experience partners.

The board discussed how future RFAs might ask grantees how their work relates to statewide plan.

**Public Awareness**

Brenda acknowledged the great participation of Camas, Jeff Powell, and the Governor’s office in the April campaign, including the Child Abuse Prevention Month proclamation. Several communities sponsored their own proclamation ceremonies and there was good participation in Wear Blue Day. The communities used the toolkit for their proclamations and other activities with over 150 downloads of resources from the toolkit. Nebraska Children updates the toolkit each year in response to use and requests as well as to include information from developing evidence-informed practices for prevention messaging. We assisted the communities with consistent messaging. The radio campaign in English and Spanish reached almost 400,000 people an average of 3-4 times each. Learfield also manages digital ads in English and Spanish. \The click through rate was a little lower this year, but the bounce rate was lower too, indicating people were finding what they were looking for. There are a variety of digital ads to include a broad audience. Website visits increased dramatically during the campaign, with the community collaboration page being the most visited. There is some national and consultant discussion on moving away from pinwheels but nothing clear on what might be more effective. The Board’s public awareness investments should complement the Statewide Plan and help shift hearts and minds to prevention.

**Annual Plan & Grant Applications**

**Abante.** Georgie and Sara motioned to approve the application. The Board unanimously approved this application for $42,000.

**Learfield.** The proposal is the same amount as last year for radio and digital ads.The Board noted the research included. Brenda will ask Learfield if they can buy/include podcasts, Spotify, or other platforms. Georgie and Claire motioned to approve the application. The Board unanimously approved this this application for $40,000.

**Project Harmony.** This proposal addresses the lack of bilingual therapists and the challenges in therapists and interpreters working together. This training is designed to increase comfort and competency of both team members. Sara noted a budget discrepancy. Sara and Camas motioned to approve the application with the budget clarification.The Board unanimously approved this application for $4,338.50.

**Fremont Family Coalition.** Camas met with the coalition Coordinator, Michelle, and the DHHS Service Area Administrator, Lara. The proposal addresses elements in the Statewide Plan. The amount proposed is not necessarily the full amount needed, including a significant time commitment from the coordinator. Camas recognized the time and relationship building needed among all partners to work differently in this pilot, including coaching for the new position. Discussed alternative sustainability funding after our funding ends. The hope is for a future co-responder model between the collaborative and DHHS. This will be a pilot in the first year. DHHS will track calls to the hotline to see if there is an impact. Lea Ann said the current leadership for this work is strong. The board discussed approval for the first year with an expectation of additional funds. The first grant will be for 9 months. Board questions included what data and outcomes to expect as well as how this pilot might be sustainable and at what annual amount. Possibilities for future funds may include the direction of 1173 and/or TANF by June of next year. Georgie and Claire motioned to approve the application for $60,000 for this fiscal year. A 3-month continuation may be considered. The Board unanimously approved this application for $60,000.

**Community Cafés**

Omaha – Following brief review and discussion of the application, Georgie and Claire motioned to pre- approve up this application for up to $24,000 with a two-week deadline to submit the budget. The Board unanimously approved this application for up to $24,000.

Lincoln – The Board briefly reviewed the course of work over the past year. The Board recommended that the grantee request termination of the current contract. This would result in a mutual agreement for termination. The Board would be open to proposals for other work from this grantee in the future.

**Prevention Initiatives**

Prenatal Plans of Safe Care (POSC). Mikayla introduced herself as a new NC staff member with ten years previous experience at DHHS. She referenced CAPTA legislation requirements and provided an overview of the work that has begun in the two NCAPF grantee communities, including technical assistance and a binder model from Houston. POSC helps moms know how to work with substance abuse providers and keep everyone in the loop. The Hastings launch occurred on September 22nd with a second event this April. Currently there is one pregnant mom participating that has lost custody of two kids in the past. North Platte launched on June 12th. They have developed a parent panel with moms that have experienced the child welfare system through substance abuse. They are looking at peer support after the baby’s birth and how to use the binders.

Full-Service Community Schools. Board members received a handout from Nebraska Children’s staff leader on this approach.

**Next meeting date:** Friday, Nov 3rd.