**NCAPF Board Meeting Minutes November 8, 2024**

**Board Members Present**

In Person: Georgie Scurfield, Dr. David Hansen, Sara Morgan, Camas Holder

Zoom: Deacon Don Blackbird, Claire Bazata, Jillian Chance

NCFF Guests: Dr. Stuart White for Evaluation Report, and Brenda Weyers for Public Awareness

**Call to Order and Meeting Minutes**

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

Sara motioned to approve the April meeting minutes and Dave seconded. The meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

**Budget Report**

Camas presented the final Grant Tracking spreadsheet for 2023-2024.

Camas also presented a current draft of the Grant Tracking spreadsheet for 2024-2025. Corrections will be made to update the heading, delete NICWC and Project Harmony, correct the start date for The Bridge, and to update the amount for Abante Marketing ($30,000 not $45,000).

Camas said all contracts have been completed except for the two public awareness proposals the Board will vote on at this meeting, Learfield and Moxie16.

The Board reviewed grantees that had not spent the full amount of their grants and discussion followed on how to improve spending. Overall, grantees used more of their grant budgets and were less underspent than in the previous year.

**Program Report**

2023-2024 Quarterly Progress Reports from Program Grantees

Board members reviewed the first quarter progress reports from grantees with a July 1st start date.

Camas noted the Legislative report for the previous year and next must be submitted by December 1st this year.

Camas also noted that Fremont is collecting good data, and that Hastings had a mom participating in Plans of Safe Care speak at an October event. She described how the program helped her keep her second child.

2023-2024 Evaluation Report for Community Collaboratives

Stu White provided an overview of this report with a focus on the Board’s investments.

He is working with program staff on a more formal qualitative evaluation for Plans of Safe Care to explore what’s working and what’s not. This will help inform expansion to other communities.

One focus of the work with community collaboratives is to get Findhelp up and to upgrade the quality of evaluation overall. This means having enough consistency to see the work as connected and its impact on children and families across 23 community collaboratives and 3 tribal organizations. Last year, over14,000 families were served (p.26), and half were ethnic non-majorities. Most concrete support funds were used for housing, followed by utilities and transportation. His PowerPoint noted the importance of NCAPF funds for Nebraska’s prevention system, for example, these funds make a major and unique contribution to public awareness.

Stu referenced the complicated roll out of Findhelp. One goal is to standardize data collection across all collaboratives, e.g., intake means the same. We know we are undercounting contacts/services now. Related goals are to increase data quality and reduce administrative burdens. Findhelp staff are working with communities; and our staff is also supporting.

Sara asked about the data that will be collected in the new system, and Stu said it will be similar to the current data in the beginning and will develop over time. Nebraska Children is working with a change management consultant to assist. Georgie noted the collaboratives need to feel ownership. Nebraska Children has been hosting many open office hours on Findhelp for the collaboratives, and one Coordinator, Brady, recently helped others by saying, “It’s not that difficult -just get in and do it.” Office hours are assisting with peer learning on Findhelp and other topics. Overall, the process is going well. While it won’t change next year’s data significantly, it will change in the following year.

Data by program:

COSP – 494 families with 1,200 children. Stu is working with Chapin Hall to use state administrative data to understand COSP, e.g., were they involved in CW and what happened through the DHHS/ACF grant to inform what IV-E can approve. We should have data on actual impact in NE by this summer. Camas added there were 7 grants, each for other programs. If the Family First Prevention Services Act can add COSP then NCAPF won’t need to fund it in the future. It will probably be around one year for the peer-reviewed publication, and ACF review will likely take 6-9 months. Then the new administration will respond and it will take a few years.

Community Cafés are in the process of a qualitative analysis. So far, the analysis implies there is consistent implementation (which is one main function of the Coaching Team).

Central Navigation. Dave asked about the other funds supporting this work. Stu said funding is also needed for staffing, training, coaching, and related work of Collective Impact and CN. A really good data product will help with funding. NE is one of few states doing anything like this and working in urban and rural areas.

**Annual Allocations Plan – Remaining Applications for 2024-2025**

Learfield – Brenda guided the Board’s review of the $40,000 proposal. Option 1 is similar to the past year. Option 2 reduces Facebook/Instagram to add streaming podcasts that could run on Spotify and other podcast locations. This could help with the coverage gap in the Panhandle and northeast Nebraska. Pandora and Spotify don’t have commercials but many other streaming platforms do. Nebraska Children would work with them to identify the best platforms for Nebraska.

Moxie16 – Brenda and Kathy provided an overview of this $15,000 proposal for a consultant to develop a public awareness plan for Bring Up Nebraska. Brenda said Nebraska Children has been working with Moxie16 on another project for a few months so they have some initial background. The work in this proposal would include research on what audience and plan for engagement would “move the needle” for primary prevention.

Georgie motioned to approve Option 2 in the amount of $40,000 for Learfield and Camas seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Sara motioned to approve the Moxie 16 proposal in the amount of $15,000 and Camas seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

**Preparation for 2025-2026 Allocation Plan** (Georgie)

The Board considered which current grants might be considered continued funding and which might be funded at lesser amounts or notified that the final year of funds would be in the following year. The Board also considered new ideas for future funding. Sara asked if universal home visiting might be considered. The includes three post-partum visits which some sites are doing now. Camas said the Family Connects home visiting model has some research from Duke showing it reduces the rate of maltreatment of 0–5-year-olds in families in poverty.

**Board Development**

Updates on State Initiatives. Camas said CFS has contracts with all 23 collaboratives that includes more specific data and if families entered the child welfare system. If families enter child welfare, this data helps validate it was needed

Public Health. Sara said the legislature approved funding for nurse-based, Evidence Based Universal Home Visiting for Evidence-Based programs. The team has been analyzing models and hasn’t decided yet, but is leaning toward Family Connects. This model begins after birth in the hospital and families can elect to join. Then they receive up to 3 visits in the first year after birth. The legislative funds will support just one site, Douglas County and probably one hospital. Another challenge is the excess profit cash fund that is part of Medicaid. This is intended to go back into the community but only for Medicaid eligible families. To be universal, we will need to make up the cost difference for families that are not Medicaid eligible. Public Health is working with VNA in Omaha and around 4 nurses would be required by year 3. Braided funds may be available through traditional home visiting, some TANF and other sources. Programs with HVs wouldn’t begin before mid-2025 at the soonest. (Lancaster County is already implementing Family Connects right now. In Omaha, I Be Black Girl is working through Doulas, and the Malone Center is also doing some Doula work in Omaha. The Title V MCH Block grant is in a needs assessment process right now. Public Health will try to narrow the scope to 10 priorities for this grant for the next 5 years. They are working closely with Camas’s team.

Children and Family Services. Camas said DHHS is in the process of developing a new plan for the Family First Preservation Services Act, IV-E Prevention, as the current plan expires this year. Advisory groups and internal staff have reviewed the draft plan which includes who the candidates are for the Family First Prevention Services Act and a framework for a community pathway for families that haven’t already entered or touched the CW system. One access point is a potential warm line so families can reach out to get help without calling CPS. A RFP will be issued for a statewide warm line structure to be built, maybe in 2026. The Nebraska Family Helpline, 211, and others have expressed interest and have existing infrastructure. The connection to CFS won’t be visible but warmline data must be provided to CFS to be able to claim IV-E and evaluations. Many vendors already use Findhelp. CFS has also applied for the Kinship Navigator Program for IV-E funds for families that aren’t involved in the system which have been IV-B funds for a while now too.

**Next Meeting.** The next meeting will be on Friday, **February 7th**, from 9:30-12:30 am, pending the availability of Claire and Deacon Don. Georgie adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.