**NCAPF Board Meeting Minutes July 19, 2024 DRAFT 10-21-24**

**Board Members Present**

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

Zoom: Claire Bazata

Absent: Jillian Chance

Guests: DHHS—Chris Siefken, NCFF—Emily Arent for Budget Report, Brenda Weyers for Marketing, and Zach Nelson for Board Development

**Call to Order, Update on New members, and Meeting Minutes**

Georgie called the meeting to order at 9:33 AM. No updates on the appointment of new members have been available from the Governor’s offices. A suggestion was made to contact the candidates again.

David motioned to approve the April meeting minutes and Don seconded. The meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

**Budget Report**

Emily shared the most recent Grant Tracking spreadsheet that includes Quarter 3 and a few Quarter 4 invoices that have been sent to DHHS for review. The deadline for Quarter 4 invoices is July 31st.

Camas said all contracts with a July 1st start date have been signed or are out for signature now except for Fremont.

**Program Report**

Board members reviewed the Program Report highlighting grantees that have submitted 4th Quarter reports ahead of the July 31 deadline. Board members asked about the meaning of the acronyms in the Fremont Family Coalition report (DHHS not OHS and FPD is Fremont Police Department) and were interested in the idea of a friendly place for kids to go when children are removed from their families and before placement. Camas and other board members noted these places exist in larger communities but not in Greater Nebraska.

**Public Awareness and Education Report**

Brenda provided a summary of the report and focused on paid campaign. Google click-through rates yielded the best results (more than Facebook and Instagram). Website traffic increased 737% in the three months that ads ran, and page views of the community collaboratives had a 999% increase over the previous three months.

The ads promoted awareness and taking action, e.g., going to the local collaboratives.

Kathy said transitions by national partners like Prevent Child Abuse America and priorities expressed by community collaborative coordinators are informing new directions for public awareness and education. She said 2024-2025 could be a transition year that would include more information gathering to develop more effective communications.

Brenda and Board members discussed focusing on sharing the successes of families that have asked for help. Other ideas include podcasts and working with a consultant that has expertise in this area. Camas said it is important to think about prevention from a family and community perspective, and that the word prevention itself is a problem. We may need a clean break from pinwheels and other typical April Child Abuse Prevention Month approaches. Sara said Public Health has completed good ads for home visiting and she likes the idea of some transition time to understand new approaches with information from the collaboratives, national partners, and other stakeholders.

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

Learfield – The proposal includes two options. The first option is similar to this past year. The second option 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.

Abante Marketing– Sara favors shifting funds away from the current/past approach and moving toward a more effective approach, with existing funds and more time to explore. Brenda noted this could be social norms kind of work.

A motion was made to allocate $30,000 for Abante instead of $45,000 (to potentially reserve $15,00 for something new). Camas seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Dave motioned to delay an allocation to Learfield until November. Sara seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Camas noted the Legislative report for the previous year and next must be submitted by Dec. 1 so the Board will need to decide in November.

Norfolk Family Coalition. Sara motioned to approve this Community Response application for $25,000. Dave seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Dawson County Family Partners. Board members commented on the great logo and name. Don motioned and Camas seconded to approve this Community Response application for $25,000. Claire abstained. The motion was unanimously approved.

Valentine Children and Families Coalition. Board members noted this is a new collaborative with one staff person. Camas said CFS will pay for the Central Navigator. NCAPF funds are for the Coordinator Jill to supervise and for direct services. Sara motioned to accept this application for $20,000. Camas seconded.

Growing Community Connections. Board members noted the very thorough POSC application. However, they do want to know the specific area/counties to be served as NCAPF funds should focus on Nebraska and the Siouxland Investment Partnership covers a tri-state area. Dave motioned to approve this application for $20,000 and Don seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

NICWC and Project Harmony were invited to submit applications but declined at this time.

**Board Development**

Public Health. Sara said the Division of Public Health (MIECHV admin.) is working to expand the existing Healthy Families America sites across the state, and to conduct community planning for the addition of 4 or 5 new programs in underserved areas.  An additional $3 million from TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) funds in 2024-2025 has allowed the expansion of this important program.

Sara also announced that Jackie Moline, Public Health’s Maternal Infant Health Program Specialist nurse that has worked with Mikayla Wicks on Plans of Safe Care, has retired recently. Public Health will fill this vacancy. Home Visiting has been in a phase of continued growth. The Legislature approved $900,000 for evidence-based home visiting and re-appropriated the usual $1.1 million in State General Funds to support Federal HRSA and TANF funds. The total for Healthy Families America is approximately $8 million. Additional General Fund appropriations will act as match dollars, allowing DHHS to pull more from HRSA.  Other legislation includes $500,000 for a pilot for nurse-based home visiting programs. Nurse Family Partnership is one option and Lancaster County recently began Family Connects.  New moms enroll prenatally and continue for 3 years (intensive). Other home visiting is available for all new moms for around three visits for up to one year after birth.  This option is less about child development and family and more geared to maternal health. Public Health is working on research for which models to implement and where. Universal home visiting could help expand the reach to more new moms. Healthy Families America is more geared to child abuse prevention.

Findhelp. Zach Nelson Operations summarized the search for a way to use technology that would better support work across the state and fade into the background so those helping do not need to think about the process. The search included looking for a common date platform and gathered feedback from community collaboratives and other partners. There is lots of variance across the state and we needed a system that works for all. Findhelp, previously known as Aunt Bertha, can exchange data with around three hundred other platforms. It protects the privacy of help seekers as data does not become the property of the system; help seekers are in control of what is shared. It provides a common data system for research and evaluation as it will be able to pull information from many programs and link all supported initiatives to provide data to learn from and to measure impact and outcomes. The Nebraska health network is already on this platform. Eight other clients are also using it. Findhelp is also a system of record, a way to keep track of contacts with people seeking help and help providers with referrals to-and-from organizations. It is a very robust platform and fairly simple to navigate. It is also a closed loop system and any participating community system participating can use it. We will be doing engagement meetings with communities. Community partners will be encouraged to at least get the free version. There were over 3,000 clients on the platform about 8 months ago; and about seven hundred agencies. Sara asked about its categories, e.g., food, housing, etc. and Zach talked about the standard taxonomy. All twenty-three collaboratives will use Findhelp as a database and DHHS will be able to export data. One hope is to show that families do not enter the child welfare system when the collaboratives provide help. Reoccurrences will be tracked along with trends and gaps. Zach and the NCFF Research and Evaluation Team will be able to combine Findhelp information with other data for aggregated data. We will have data in near real time which is much quicker than in the past. NCAPF Board members were invited to go to the free Find Help to preview. Zach will send documents to share.

**Next Meeting.** The next meeting will be on Friday, **November 8th**, from 9:30-12:30 am. Georgie adjourned the meeting at 11:57 a.m.