Nebraska Child Abuse Prevention Fund Board  
April 22, 2021, 9:30 a.m.– 12:00 p.m.  

Members Present: Shelly McQuillan, Emily Kluver, David Hansen, Jillian Chance, Paul Nelson  
Excused: Sara Morgan  

Staff and Guests Present:  
Nebraska Children—Kathy Stokes. Nathan Busch, Crystal Aldmeyer, and Mary Pinker for discussion specific to PCIT, Reaching Teens, and Community Response, respectively.  

Budget Report  
Emily presented a spreadsheet with information on allocations and spending for 2020-2021. The program grants had an unspent balance of $58,749.91, or 29%, partly due to COVID. The Community Cafes had an unspent balance of $13,374.2, or 24%, also due to COVID. The overall unspent balance was $71,659, or 18%.  

Emily also presented a spreadsheet with information on allocations and spending for the current 2021-2022 fiscal year.  

Michaela Hirshman presented several scenarios for spending based on the current balance and annual revenues. An estimated spending plan of $450,000-$550,000 in 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 was included. The annual revenue is approximately $282,000. Revenue from divorce decrees is slightly more than twice the revenue from birth certificates. Jill said there has been about 1,000 less births this year, a significant drop from last year, though births have been slowly and steadily dropping slowly in past years. The last count of 24,460 births through newborn screening is likely related to COVID and economic stress or uncertainty. A goal is to always maintain funds for one year’s allocation. An annual review of revenues (including accrued interest) and expenditures was recommended.  

Minutes  
The minutes for the February 4 meeting were reviewed and approved unanimously.  

New Members  
New members haven’t been appointed yet. This is a challenge for quorum. Board members asked Emily to contact the candidates that have been recommended as it has been some time since they applied and were interviewed. David noted the legislative approval required after the Governor appoints the recommended candidates.  

Board Development  
Bring Up Nebraska. Emily provided a brief overview of the 22 community collaboratives now involved in this initiative, including the Winnebago tribe.  

Thriving Families, Safer Children: A National Commitment to Well-Being. This is a 5-year initiative that is about 6-months underway. Emily shared a diagram with the partners, including the NCAPF Board. The emphasis is on prevention through community-based collaboratives. Two of the focus areas are youth and family voice and race equity. Current work includes many meetings and workgroups with local, state, and national partners. The initiative is looking at child welfare “front door” indicators and is identifying barriers to share with federal partners.
Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA). Nebraska’s plan has been approved and is on the DHHS website. Jamie Kramer will share information with this board in the future. Funds are being used for Healthy Families America home visiting and Family Centered Treatment.

Marketing and Communications

Brenda Weyers provided a summary of the child abuse prevention awareness efforts that are underway. These include a proclamation by Governor Ricketts, pinwheel planting at the Governor’s mansion with the First Lady, DHHS CEO Danette Smith, NCFF President Mary Jo Pankoke, Emily Kluver, and several other staff and children. NBC covered this event. The new website funded by NCAPF has been launched and will continue to be developed. A Facebook Live event was held with the DHHS Director of Children and Family Services, Stephanie Beasley and NCFF’s Mary Jo Pankoke. Kathy summarized the active participation of 18 community collaboratives, including pinwheel plantings, use of the Prevention Store, and many community activities. Emily noted the participation of the DHHS Service Area offices in pinwheel plantings.

Program Report

PCIT, COSP, Community Cafés

Board members received a written program report before the meeting. Nathan Busch responded to questions about the status of PCIT in York and their goal to train one new therapist. He also noted new fiscal agents for the Adams and Lincoln-Lancaster grantees due to retirements.

Reaching Teens

Crystal Aldmeyer reminded board members of the webinar on May 4. She is in the process of talking with communities about utilizing Reaching Teens and has heard some good ideas about working with schools. Sites that receive one of the 10 sites licenses funded through NCAPF may also use Reaching Teens for professional development. She will ask for their help in identifying and supporting community champions to promote and make good use of the large amount of information (over 600 pages and 400 videos). She let board members know that communities can share the site licenses with as many partners as they choose.

Six Month Reports

Board members received copies of the six-month reports to review before the meeting. Members noted grantee creativity in is implementation and adapting the programs to COVID.

Allocations for 2021-2022

Continuation Awards

PCIT. Board members discussed the four PCIT applications and training options through Iowa and Oklahoma. It was moved and seconded to approve the applications as submitted. The motion was unanimously approved.

COSP. Board members requested more information on the scope of work and were referred to the budget justification. Kathy noted the excellent performance of NeAEYC, their support of classes in areas of need across the state, and their plan to support more classes next year for the same amount as this year. It was moved and seconded to approve the applications as submitted. The motion was unanimously approved.
Community Cafés. Board members reviewed the two applications. Emily requested more information on the item for “proposals” in the Lincoln application; Kathy provided two examples. DHHS will provide contract language/guidance for this item. It was moved and seconded to approve the applications as submitted. The motion was unanimously approved.

NCAPF Technical Assistance Support. Nebraska Children staff recused themselves from the discussion. The board noted that this funding must be within 20% of total amount of NCAPF obligations. It was moved and seconded to approve the application as submitted. The motion was approved.

Other Strategies for Further Exploration
Workforce Development for Mental Health and/or Bilingual Services. David provided an update on two meeting with staff from the Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska (BHECN), UNMC, DHHS, and staff and consultants from Nebraska Children. Ideas include sponsoring a training in Kearney for interpreters and mental health providers together through Project Harmony. The cost for a three-hour training for each mental health and interpreter pair is $650. He would like to see a virtual option. Other ideas have included scholarships or loans for bi-lingual persons to attain degrees or credentials, and approaches to make mental health careers and mental health services acceptable to non-English speaking people. Paul mentioned the interpretation needs of the Sudanese community in Omaha.

Community Response. Mary Pinker provided an update on this prevention system. She has visited with the Community Coordinators for the Platte-Colfax and Hall collaboratives, as discussed at the last NCAPF meeting. They have drafted preliminary scope of work and budgets to support expansion of Community Response to additional rural communities. This would include part-time central navigators, support services, and coaching. Mary shared the example of mental health vouchers Platte-Colfax would like to make available to K-12 students and their families through the schools and mental health providers in two additional counties. Hall would like to expand to three more counties and include marketing. Part-time “satellite navigators” might be included to respond to needs in rural communities, i.e., to provide a safety net that is closer than 70 miles away. Mary asked if proposals should be combined or needed to be for the same scope of work and budget items. The board agreed it will be acceptable to submit separate proposals with the core elements for Community Response and tailored to fit each community’s needs.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:17 p.m.

Next Meeting: July 22