

March 17, 2011

Policy Council Meeting

Meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

Time Keeper: Kari Langeliers

Attendance: Maria Kessler, Kari Langeliers, Doug Zacher, Dale Repnow, Stephanie Scott, Melinda Belling, Angie Hobein, Sarah Rhodes, Christy Mertz,

Guest: Dakota Zacher (at the invitation of her dad)

Staff: JoAnn Brager, via phone for the lead screener information – Vicky Schantz

Quorum was met

Minutes: Motion made by Sarah Rhodes, 2nd by Stephanie Scott for approval of February minutes. During discussion, the following addition is to be made “In January, Hebron had a camp reading event and other art and nutrition activities for their Family Night.” That part was missed. Motion passed with that correction.

Treasurer’s Report: Policy Council checking account has \$12,115.28. Fiscal report was reviewed. Motion made by Melinda to approve the treasurer’s report, 2nd by Angie. Motion approved.

Family Night Reports:

None this month but Angie (New Salem) reported that they had a financial advisor visit and the training was excellent. The children did an art & craft project while the parents worked with the financial advisor.

Room Report:

Doug stated that there were rumors about the Carson Head Start center being closed in Grant County. The rumors are unfounded. There will be a community meeting on Mon., March 28 in Elgin at 6:30 p.m. MT in the Study Hall and again on Tues., March 29 in Carson at 6:30 p.m. MT in the Teacher’s Work Room to discuss a Grant County Preschool. WRHS would partner with Grant County Public Schools, Southwest Special Education and perhaps parent-for-pay to offer a high-quality (Head Start-like) preschool for all children in Grant County. A survey went out to parents of preschool aged children. Right now, it’s only a discussion as no one knows if parents are interested in it or not. All are invited to attend!

Old Business:

Personnel: JoAnn reported that because it’s so close to the end of the year, Julie & June’s positions won’t be filled. The positions will be advertised this spring as that’s when teachers are looking for jobs.

Lead Care Machine: Vicky Schantz, RN, was called to answer questions about the need for lead screening. She reported that there were 67 children that the screening tool recommended having blood work done but parents choose not to do so. 51 children had been tested for lead levels and were fine. 41 children were screened with no need for follow-up testing. 1 child was identified with a high level of lead. Lead screening information was reviewed from the WIKI site. Vicky reported that doctors as a whole don't test for lead because there are no outward signs or symptoms of lead screening that is seen. Custer Health does not have a lead screener. Discussion about the need to identify children at a very young age and how a child's body processed lead (like it's calcium) and if parents would be willing to allow their children to be screened. Several parent's stated that they took their child to the doctor for their annual physical and the lead screening wasn't even discussed. The cost of the lead screener is \$1,800 and a case of test kits is \$315 with 48 kits. If Vicky does the testing, WRHS can be reimbursed by insurance. WRHS would then use that reimbursement to purchase more test kits. If parents found out that one of their children had high lead levels, WRHS could test family members and charge the family members \$6.56 to cover the cost of the kit. PC members are to ask other parents if they would actually allow WRHS to do lead screening and then come back next month to continue the discussion about lead screening.

Week of the Young Child: Motion made by Sarah, 2nd by Angie to provide \$3.00 per child to sponsor a fun activity during April 10-16 - Week of the Young Child. New Salem is going with a western theme; Hebron might go to the dinosaur museum or going swimming in Dickinson. The cost would total \$480. Motion approved.

Share A Story: A letter of request for the Share-A-Story for \$1,500 was tabled until Blue Cross/Blue Shield makes a final decision if they will sponsor the event. We hope they will!

New Business:

Self-Assessment Report: The document is out on the WIKI site and it was reviewed. As a result of the Self-Assessment, there were policies and procedures that were updated. The biggest change is to the attendance procedure. Please take time and review all of the policies and procedures with the proposed changes. One correction will be that 75% of 18 days missed is 13.5 days – so should that be changed to 13 or 14 days? The Program Improvement Plan is a compilation of the recommendations that came out of the Self-Assessment. Both of these documents will be part of the 2011-2012 Continuation Grant.

Fiscal Meeting: Motion made by Sarah and 2nd by Melinda to accept the fiscal meeting minutes and the proposed Continuation Grant budget. We reviewed the plan for next year – Sept. 1, 2011 to Aug 31, 2012. We are looking at ways to trim the budget because of personnel cost increases. The cost of health insurance increased by \$13,000 on January 1, 2011 but WRHS has no additional income to offset that increase. The Mandan center will not have a floater next year. Transportation between Hebron and Glen Ullin will not be run. Funding for Policy Council members travel will be out.

Discussed more options such as not providing meals for parents during Policy Council and it was discussed that 7:00 p.m. CT is also 6:00 p.m. MT and many people travel long distances to get to Policy Council. Motion passed.

NHSA Scholarships and Awards: Hard copies of the two parent National Head Start Association Beating the Odds and Parent of the Year Awards were provided to all PC members present. Copies can be obtained from each Family Support Coordinator or Assistant Director. JoAnn encouraged all to apply by March 30, 2011.

Training:

Did an exercise on what all goes into the Continuation Grant and so far it will include the Self Assessment, Program Improvement Plan (PIP), and the budget. 3 of the 12 pieces were reviewed tonight.

Motion made by Christy and 2nd by Angie to adjourn the meeting at 8:49. Motion approved. Next meeting will be on Thursday, April 14 at the Mandan center at 7:00 p.m.. All are encouraged to attend. Note: the next meeting is the 2nd Thursday rather than the 3rd due to Easter week.