

The UDMO Zone 4 Advisory Board met Thursday, 4/10/08 at the Webster County Outreach Center in Fort Dodge.

**PRESENT:**

Doug Bailey	Hamilton
Carrie Hisler	Hamilton
Reverend Peg Jackson	Webster
Kim Motl	Webster
Caye Chelesvig	Wright
Reverend Mary Green	Wright

**ABSENT:**

Denise Fortune	Hamilton
Dave Scott	Webster
Dick Sadler	Wright

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Ron Ludwig, Gina Lowman Hall, Travis Edwards, Justin Jones, Nicole Jones, Mike Simcho

Chairperson Chelesvig called the meeting to order and introductions were made.

**Additions/Changes to Agenda**

*Motion:* Motl moved to approve the agenda

*Second:* Bailey

*Discussion:* No further discussion

*Action:* Motion carried

**Approval of Minutes from 3/13/08 Zone 4 Advisory Board Meeting**

*Motion:* Green moved to approve the 3/13/08 Zone 4 meeting minutes

*Second:* Jackson

*Discussion:* No further discussion

*Action:* Motion carried

**Fiscal Report – Travis Edwards**

The financial report included in the packets was through 2/28/08. Edwards distributed and reviewed the financial report through 3/31/08. Additional information was given regarding programs that are over or under budget year to date.

**FEMA Update – Travis Edwards**

We have not received paperwork on these yet but amounts for zone 4 counties are as follows:

Webster – \$3,750 (administered through United Way)

Hamilton – \$3,046

Wright - \$2,721

**HSOG Report-Travis Edwards**

The program year runs from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008. Award amounts and balances are itemized by county on the report. Funds are used to assist clients with rent and utility costs.

**Head Start Report – Connie Siebenbruner**

Siebenbruner gave an overview of the home visitor component of the Head Start program. Seven home visitors serve the eight-county service area providing support to two or three classrooms each. The purpose is to assist families with setting and achieving goals. There are four primary areas of focus for working with families: 1) child care/parenting, 2) health/mental health, 3) basic needs (food, clothing, housing), and 4) education. The home visitors serve as the family's link between home and school.

Recruiting – Staff are actively recruiting for the 08-09 school year. Head Start is funded for 328 slots in eight counties. This year there are 335 Head Start children but more than 600 children are

served through various partnerships. Head Start can now accept children up to 130% of the federal poverty guidelines, still allowing for 10% over guidelines.

Training – On 4/18/08 Head Start and several community partners will be participating in an outdoor learning in-service at Iowa Lakeside Laboratory.

PBS – Siebenbruner explained the concept of Positive Behavioral Support and how it works for Head Start classrooms. The program has significantly reduced behavioral concerns in all Head Start classrooms.

#### **FaDSS Report – Nicole Jones**

Information was included in the board packets and N. Jones gave a verbal update regarding the program.

#### **Outreach Reports – Justin Jones**

The LIHEAP season is coming to an end. The major utility companies have agreed to extend the moratorium from April 1<sup>st</sup> to April 15<sup>th</sup>. Local dollars become increasingly important to assist families with utility payments beyond the regular LIHEAP payments. Webster County Outreach received additional funds from United Way this year to assist with utility payments.

Hamilton – There is a scholarship program in place to provide assistance for youth enrichment activities during the summer season. Partners are Fuller Hall and the City of Webster City.

Power Up YOUth – Kathy Getting will be the new Power Up YOUth coordinator effective April 21<sup>st</sup>. Town hall meetings will be held in Hamilton County over the next few weeks.

Webster – Approximately 1,700 households are served with LIHEAP assistance each year. Staff members are seeing a lot of families with utility needs.

Wheels to Work – In partnership with Fort Dodge Ford the program recently provided two vehicles to assist families with transportation needs for work and/or school attendance. The program also provides for vehicle repairs in conjunction with Fort Dodge Ford and Graham Auto.

The Life Skills program, coordinated by Heather Prather, provides opportunities and education for Webster County youth sentenced to community service.

Safe Harbor – Brandi Dunn coordinates the Safe Harbor program which offers a men's homeless shelter in Fort Dodge.

CARES – CARES is currently available in Hamilton and Humboldt Counties. CARES recently received funding from Prevent Child Abuse Iowa and community foundations. The purpose of CARES is to create a support system in the community for families in need.

#### **Lifetime Dads – Mike Simcho**

Simcho gave an update on Lifetime Dads activities in the area. Staff will begin doing the 24/7 Dads curriculum in an area halfway house. The program will offer participants 2 sessions per week for 6 weeks.

Program staff continues to conduct domestic violence classes with Children and Families of Iowa.

An additional staff person is needed to serve the Storm Lake area.

**Agency Update – Ron Ludwig**

Ludwig gave an update on current happenings within the agency.

*Central Office Building* – We are hoping to do minor excavation to determine the stability of the building this spring.

*Strategic Planning* – Staff, board and Policy Council members have been participating in strategic planning activities.

*Name Change* – Ludwig reviewed name change submissions.

*Annual Meeting* – The UDMO annual meeting and volunteer recognition ceremony will be held Tuesday, May 6, 2008 at Iowa Lakes Community College in Emmetsburg.

**Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting will be held Thursday, 8/14/08, 12:30 p.m. at Webster County Outreach Center in Fort Dodge.

**Adjournment**

*Motion:* Motl

*Second:* Hisler

*Discussion:* No further discussion

*Action:* Motion carried

*Gina Lowman Hall*

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Gina Lowman Hall, Recorder