

Program/ Financial Committee Meeting

February 19, 2009

Members Present: Kathryn Spencer, Marj Wonderlich, Caye Chelesvig, Doug Koons, Doug Bailey, Janet Adams, Jeannie Running

Others Present: Amy Muller, Amy Shannon, Tiffany Larson, Michelle Olson

The committee discussed some strengths and gaps in our Empowerment area. Some of the strengths mentioned were how much the board is dedicated and involved in early childhood and programs. The committees also agreed the staff at Building Families is dedicated and quality. Some of the gaps mentioned were the lack of marketing for the services provided, transportation for children and families who live rural areas, and interpreters for the Hispanic families. Kathryn Spencer suggested a Marketing Team that would come up with ideas to try to market publicly every month within the empowerment area. The committee would like to see a Marketing Team created to address the marketing gap.

The committees discussed the community plan and also reviewed some of Building Families' priorities. These priorities are focused on early childhood and what we are doing with parents, child care providers, and preschools in the area. While the committee reviewed the community plan, some were confused by the baseline data and the source of that information. Janet Adams and the committee agreed it would be helpful for the staff Building Families using funds to give a brief report about what they are doing and who they are serving at the Board Meetings.

The committee discussed potential early childhood funders and agencies and community entities that already fund early childhood. This information is needed for the community plan and redesignation.

The committee also discussed some potential new board members. The committee agreed the potential board members were all from Hamilton County and this would make the board very weighed toward Hamilton County representation. The committee agreed new board members are important to have, but felt the board also need equal representation from all three counties.

Marj discussed some of the budget cuts and her experience this year at the Day on the Hill. The committee reviewed the report provided by Shanell from State Empowerment. The committee agreed in order for the board to make an educated decision about future cuts they needed to know what is being funded now, which cut out the money comes from and how well the program is doing. The committee also agreed the board needed to have a planning process to help them make the appropriate cuts. Since rumors are circling at State Empowerment the board needs to be prepared for a cut of 6%, 10%, and 12%.

Respectfully Submitted By Amy Muller