

FAIM Council Minutes
July 7, 2010

Present: *Dan DuHamel, Angie Miller, Cathy Solheim, Patrick Shepard, Steve Nagle, Ann McGegeor, Pam Johnson, John Woodwick and Joe Pederson (via phone)*

1) Joe Pederson called the meeting to order and introductions were made at 10 AM

2) **Minutes** will be distributed at the next meeting

3) **Reports:**

a) **Coordinators:** Ann reported the following:

- Successful training sessions on Visions and VistaShare were held with Coordinators this past week, and Kate provided a brief case management training session.
- Coordinators request another meeting to discuss future needed training topics. One training request was on the topic of the legislative process and public testimony. Pam has offered to provide a training in the late fall (possibly November).
- Coordinators discussed the ongoing need for financial fitness class funding support. Most use CSBG but expanded funding is needed. Confusion about pre-post test timing was addressed. There was discussion about the need for ongoing good fiscal documentation. Working together as a statewide network for grant application was also addressed.

b) **State/OEO:** Dan reported the following:

- Dan reported that he had successful monitoring visits with West Central MN Communities Action, Duluth, ACCAP, and CAPSH.
- Dan and Kate met with tribal staff at Leech Lake to discuss IDA's.
- Planning for the 2011 Financial Fitness conference is underway. There will be a track on financial fitness also at the 2011 Annual MinnCAP conference in Duluth.

c) **United Way:** Steve reported the following:

- Steve reported a decision by GTCUW to end FAIM program funding 6 months ago has been reversed, pointing to a letter in Council meeting packets that confirms projected \$73,000 in program support for FAIM for twelve months beginning September 2010. Cathy reported positive dialogue about FAIM, during her participation in a recent GTCUW Basic Needs meeting.
- Steve noted positive communication with Jessica Boyer, new Alexandria United Way Executive Director, who is strong FAIM supporter.

d) **WCMCA:** Steve reported the following:

- Financial Report:
 1. All grant funding is in good shape at this point. Steve reviewed a Grant Progress Explanation, which provides an overview of the financial status of each of three open program grants.
 2. Some account transfers need to be made to meet spend-down deadlines. At least 55 metro accounts need to be transferred out of grant #0423 grant to #0291 and #0373.

Agencies need to be assured that these shifts are not made to “penalize” agencies, but instead to successfully spend down statewide grants on time.

3. Dan Weber (via phone) noted that West Central could request a federal grant extension for #0423 very soon, allowing program participants to save nearly the full two years. There was discussion about approaching Coordinators to determine who can take more or give some up to accommodate approaching deadlines.
4. Patrick moved and Ann seconded the action to file an extension on grant #0423. **Approved.**
5. There was discussion about the client enrollment process, with the consensus that agencies should enroll the 80 accounts, setting aside 20 for new partnerships with the Leech Lake tribe, Minneapolis CA, and another potential Minneapolis-based nonprofit. Patrick moved and Ann seconded a motion to request that West Central MN CA allows agencies to enroll up to 10 more individuals by August 31 in contracts that end June 2011. West Central would reserve the right to end the enrollment process if goals are met. **Approved.** Eleven month contracts will be made, with the potential for an additional year of saving if the federal extension for grant #0423 is approved. Steve will draft language to get out to Coordinators and Board agencies, and we will revisit this issue in September.
6. There was discussion about a positive trend of reduced program drop-outs occurring in a number of agencies. FAIM participants purchasing Habitat homes tend to be a good fit for the program too, with low drop-outs.

- **FAIM presentations:** Kate and Steve presented at the Community Action Conference in Boston. Pam, Joelle and Kate provided a presentation on asset development, financial education, and free tax preparation within the Community Action network at the June 2 MinnCAP Board meeting. There is an opportunity to send five people also to the national CFED conference—including three West Central MN CA staff, one FAIM Council member and an OEO representative.

e) **U of MN:** Dr Cathy Solhiem reported the following:

- Cathy reported collecting data on research examining post FAIM Pilot home ownership account holders and will provide preliminary results at the next FAIM Council meeting. Several graduate students are assisting in the data review process, and FAIM Council members will have the opportunity to review the data as well.
- A first meeting was held this past week to explore financial coaching certification, an initiative that is funded by the Greater Twin Cities United Way. Attendees included the U of MN department Chairperson responsible for teacher certification, in order to include students seeking social work degrees. Community based staff would be eligible to participate in a certification program, which would include ethics and coaching modules. Cathy will develop a survey for distribution to human service agencies, seeking their input on interest level and appropriate funding levels. Cathy noted that on-line instruction opportunities are increasing for students, and that this plan coincides well with that shift. The group will reconvene in August to continue with the planning.
- Dan and Cathy are co-writing an article to review the evaluation model being used in the FAIM program. Participants are currently evaluated at enrollment (or pre-class if classes are provided before enrollment), after completion of financial literacy classes, and again

at asset acquisition. Cathy will communicate with Kate about the fact that some agencies collect this data at different times, so that Visions can accommodate these variations.

4) New Business:

- Angie announced that Duluth staff are exploring a LISC financial opportunity center grant, which would include financial coaching.
- Patrick noted that St. Cloud is partnering with the St. Cloud United Way on a \$10,000 initiative to train up to provide financial education train-the-trainer sessions to 70 community members (HR directors, bankers, social services). Darryl Dahlheimer will provide the training in September. Participants will be required to pass this training on to at least 20 individuals, resulting in an overall benefit of 1500 trained community members.
- Joe noted that Clay County Social Services has renewed a contract with Lakes and Prairies CAP to provide financial literacy coaching to financial assistance program participants, at a cost of \$35/person. Participants receiving Emergency Assistance are required to complete the classes prior to receiving financial support. The County is following up with participants to determine the benefits of this training. Lakes and Prairies is also providing Four Cornerstones classes this fall through Community Education programs in Breckinridge and Moorhead at a charge of \$35 per person.
- Cathy talked about the process of establishing a continuum of financial education and coaching for participants.
- Pam reported another successful Four Cornerstones train-the-trainer session at St. John's this past week. A second Four Directions of Financial Security training session will be held September 13-14.

5) Old Business: None

6) Next meeting Date: Monday October 4 at 1 PM at TriCAP.

Ann moved/Angie seconded that the meeting be adjourned at noon. Approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Johnson
Minnesota Community Action Partnership