

MINUTES
ASSET Administrative Team
December 5, 2018, 12:15 p.m.
United Way of Story County, 315 Clark Avenue

The Analysis of Social Services Evaluation Team (ASSET) Administrative Team met at 12:15 p.m. at United Way of Story County, 315 Clark Avenue with the following members present: Michelle Fullerton, Jean Kresse, Lisa McCoy, Brian Phillips, Deb Schildroth, Matt Soderstrum, and Karla Webb.

An item was added to the agenda under Old Business.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 7, 2018 MINUTES

Moved by Kresse and seconded by Schildroth to approve the November 7, 2018 minutes. Motion approved unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Fullerton reported a balance of \$4,333.16.

NEW BUSINESS

Lectio Training – Recommendation of Agencies for training – Ms. Kresse reminded the group that Story County Reads Director Malai Amfahr and ACPC Director Elizabeth Miner joined the meeting last month to discuss the review of services using the Lectio process. The value added to agencies by reviewing services is the improved focus on services. Discussion ensued regarding services that could benefit from the Lectio process.

Ms. Schildroth said part of the discussion after the presentation was the benefit to agencies as continued education and self-preservation by collaboration and training. She asked if six agencies are needed. Ms. Kresse concurred. Ms. Kresse said United Way of Story County has received a grant through Iowa Council of Foundations to provide this training. Ms. Webb asked when the money should be used. Ms. Kresse said by June and the training will be in the spring.

Childcare and afterschool programs including mentoring were discussed as options. Ms. Schildroth asked if the process could be replicated if it is successful. Ms. Kresse concurred and said the more agencies can be assisted to strengthen program measures within services the better it will be for funders. The group concurred. Invitations will be sent to the appropriate agencies.

CICS Funding Discussion – Ms. Webb said in February 2018 it was discussed she would enter figures on the spreadsheet for fee for service services during the next funding year. This was discussed to assist volunteers in recommending allocations. She said individuals have to meet eligibility criteria to qualify for funds. She said CICS may fund less or more than what is requested for those services. She said she will check with the CICS administrative team on 2019/20 anticipated increases. Ms. Webb said she will add those numbers to the spreadsheet.

Ms. Schildroth asked if there would be a discussion with volunteers. It was decided that a spreadsheet demonstration will be part of the December ASSET meeting.

Draft ASSET Agenda – The group made changes to the draft agenda.

OLD BUSINESS

Human Services Council – Ms. Schildroth told the group that Story County Human Services Council (HSC) requested she and Ms. Kresse attend a HSC meeting to discuss new services, funder priorities, ASSET requests, and the Clear Impact Scorecard. She said they will attend the December 6 meeting. Ms. Kresse said she prepared historical figures showing dollars each funder committed to the ASSET process for the last seven years and figures for funding requested for those years. Ms. Kresse told the group that for 2019/20 the requests total \$899,824 more than what is currently funded.

Discussion ensued on the limited capacity in the community to fund all new and expanded services and the difficulty staff members and volunteers have during the funding process. The group discussed funder priorities. Mr. Phillips said funders have traditionally provided small increases to services but not transformational change since that would mean cutting funds for something. He also said the growth in Local Option sales tax will limit increases by the City of Ames in the future.

Discussion ensued on how to fund new or expanded services while continuing to fund current services. Ms. Webb said CICS is looking at value-based purchasing. Outcomes were discussed. Ms. Fullerton said the changes being discussed are hard to implement. Ms. Schildroth said Scorecard encourages her that ASSET is moving in the right direction but it takes time. Ms. Kresse said at some point ASSET may need to take a fresh look at what services are necessary. Ms. Fullerton said agencies are diversifying programs and growing faster than their funding. She said ASSET should expect agencies to be self-sufficient, and agencies should know what would happen if certain funding went away.

Ms. Schildroth said new service requests may need to be in existence to be considered. Ms. Kresse said agencies have to be two years old before eligible to become an ASSET agency, and maybe that should be a requirement for services. Discussion ensued regarding how ASSET should be funding of last resort and the reliance of agencies on ASSET funds. Ms. Kresse said the documented need for new/ expanded services is not pressed enough. Ms. Kresse said each funder needs to look at priorities and determine what services need purchased to meet those priorities. It was noted that ASSET is supposed to be a funder driven process, and in many cases agencies are deciding what services are needed.

Mr. Phillips said this larger discussion with funders could happen during a summit-type of meeting. He said in other sets of services someone would be hired to determine what the issues are and what needs done to address the issues. Ideally funders would not rely on service providers to determine what is needed and the appropriate solutions.

Mr. Soderstrum said some services are nice, but maybe not necessary. Mr. Phillips said it would be a good use of money to help Story County solve the child care crisis and identify real solutions. Ms. Webb said at the workforce solutions meeting she attended there were employers present. She said the support from employers is necessary. Ms. Fullerton said core questions could be developed and put them on social media toward Story County residents and see what concerns are. Ms. Webb the community needs assessment will produce data to identify where there appears to be needs, and then bringing together a focus group to find out for sure would be helpful.

Mr. Soderstrum asked how ASSET can do better now. Ms. Kresse said at the ASSET meeting it can be stressed that priorities need reviewed as the volunteers look through the requests. Ms. McCoy said the mentality in the past has been level funding, and then shuffling the new money to make changes. Mr. Phillips said ISU was level funded last year, so volunteers took funds from lesser priorities and moved them toward the services that better fit its priorities instead of funding exactly the same amounts as the prior year.

Mr. Phillips suggested discussing a spreadsheet without prior year funding with funders after this next process and during the spring when all funders can give a couple hours. Mr. Phillips said before the meeting the administrative team could do an analysis of the whole process including weaknesses and threats. Priorities were discussed.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS/ CONCERNS

Ms. Schildroth said the Board of Supervisors moved to change some services from Juvenile Court to the ASSET process.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS

- A. Next ASSET Meeting – December 13, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. (City Church)
- B. Agency Hearings –January 9 and 10, 2019 at 4:30 p.m. (City Church)
- C. Budget Work Sessions – Education (January 14), Income (January 16), and Health (January 17)

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 1:47 p.m.