

Region 6 IEC Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 28, 2024, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Fiscal Year 2024 Co-chairs: McLeod and Meeker Counties: Amy Stock, Sue Thomes, Heather Sage,
Kelly Lhotka/Krista Looft, Laurie Terning

Present: Kari Dorry, Jody Ammerman, Billy Lindeman, Connie Fragodt, Krista Swenson, Jodi Wambeke, Sue Thomes, Katie Slagter, Darla Swedzinski, Hillary Spray, Cindy Kvaal, Julie Schroeder, Jenny Trager, Tina Saue, Stephanny Ramos, Linda Mathiasen

Guests: Tristin Altmann at Milestones; Kelly Konechne, IEC Region 8 Facilitator; SWSU-Marshall EC Students: Tasha Dahle and Grace Jennings

- I. Meeting began with introductions and agency updates. Immediate early learning scholarships are available. Kid's First Conference, a two-day early care and education training event, sold out at 350 participants within six hours. With ECSE/Help Me Grow/Preschool Screening referrals steady, many expressed continued staffing challenges to respond to the number of children being referred. Public Health is also seeing an increase in WIC participants and requests for high-risk family visits, including seeking additional support for Spanish interpreters.
- II. February 28's agenda was motion for approval by Sue Thomes, seconded by Jodi Wambeke. Motion passed. The Minutes from December 6, 2023, were motioned for approval by Jodi Wambeke, seconded by Kari Dorry. Motion carried.
- III. Membership Roster changes include adding Candance Schultz, Ortonville SPED for prekindergarten to second grade, in Big Stone County and Jamie Sorgatz, mental health professional for United Community Action Partnership, in Renville County. A motion was made by Katie Slagter and seconded by Jenny Trager to remove Joshua Enderle from Yellow Medicine County due to lack of attendance per Operating Procedures. Motion carried.
- IV. Financial Update was review of the FY2024 Budget of \$32,966.12 with \$8,483.94 carryover from FY2023; Video Short and (3) Movie Theater Advertising \$6,118. Unallocated Funds: \$6,046.79.
 - a. Old business from December 6, 2023 Minutes was to revisit the Time Request per Linda Mathiasen's contract, 12 hours is allowed to attend a MDE Retreat in Minneapolis. There is no retreat scheduled for this fiscal year. Instead, there was a Children's Mental Health conference that was held Nov. 5-7. A motion by Jody Wambeke, seconded by Tina Saue for up to 12 hours to be re-allocated for attending this training that was Develop approved and applies to ongoing CEUs needed and provided valuable insight that is applicable to her IEC outreach and training. Linda Mathiasen shared verification from Cat Tamminga at MDE and SWWC for second review. A motion by Jodi Wambeke was made to approve the 12 hours compensation to Linda Mathiasen for attending MN Association for Children's Mental Health Conference on November 6 and 7 and adding the conference name to the FY2024 Work Plan. Sue Thomes, seconded. Motion carried.
 - b. MDE Updates included an Equity Audit that MDE is working on for IECs to survey their region. Expectation is for the drafts of the survey to be available this fiscal year with its inclusion to implement in next fiscal year's work plan. As Region 6, the IEC can edit/delete questions prior to its distribution. The transfer of administrative oversight of MN's Part C to new Dept of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF). MN's federal application for Part C will be available for Public Comment Period to be announced and begin March 27 and April 12. FAQ & Key Components & Federal Requirements were shared. MDE is working on early childhood special education referral materials that could be available as soon as May. To learn about the six screens available visit <https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/childreneyouth/ctc/devscreen/programs.html>. A Child & Adolescent Mental Health Conference: April 28 - 30, 2024, Duluth, MN – Scholarships available. Registration Link: [Minnesota Association for Children's Mental Health \(macmh.org\)](https://www.mnactearly.org/). MN Act Early Series: The MN Act Early - University of Minnesota in collaboration with MDH Follow Along Program and a grant from CDC. The goal of this series is to support early developmental monitoring, developmental screening, early signs of ASD, connections to resources, and identification of developmental disabilities in young children (birth – age 5). Sessions will begin in March and typically take place on the first Monday of each month from 2:00 – 3:00 pm. We plan to cover the following topics:
 - i. March 4 – Intro session - Developmental Monitoring and ASD Intro
 - ii. April 1 – Importance of screening
 - iii. May 6 – Help Me Grow-Early Intervention and Help Me Connect
 - iv. June 3 – Mental health supports
 - v. July 8 – Overcoming common barriers and waitlists

vi. August 5 – EIDBI and healthcare coverage

Subscribe to Dept of Children, Youth & Families: <https://mn.gov/mmb/dcyf-implementation/> and learn about Child Care Great Start Payment Process: <https://www.childcareawaremn.org/providers/grants-and-scholarships/great-start-compensation-support-payments/>

- V. Tristin Altmann at Milestones joined the meeting to share professional development opportunities for 22 counties in Minnesota, which includes all 18 counties in SWWC and the nine counties of the IEIC. Milestone is available to help with marketing IEIC-sponsored trainings and can help identify trainers and programs of interest. Super Saturdays has been an interest of IEIC Region 6. Tristin shared these are hit and miss at being successful. Learn more <https://www.milestonesmn.org>.
- VI. Kelly Konechne, IEIC Region 8 Facilitator, presented the Region 8 referral tracking tool that was implemented a few years ago. All 30 school districts are participating this year. A subcommittee of Billy Lindemann, Julie Schroeder and Linda Mathiasen was formed to review the tracking tool sample and bring a proposal to the April 24, 2024 meeting. This may be considered for FY2025 Work Plan. Kelly is co-hosting the Help Me Grow vendor booth at the Kids First Conference with Linda Mathiasen. Region 8 is hosting ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences) training in Marshall and Worthington this spring.
- VII. The Work Plan for FY2024 was reviewed. See list below.
- Advertising:**
- a. Region 6 Videos: Posted to YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/@swwcsc>
 - i. YouTube links: Local school districts, EC partners, and Region 11
 - ii. Exploring options with CentraCare
 - b. Movie Theater 30-second Ads: Millenium Theater-Montevideo, CineMagic Century Theatre-Hutchinson, and Spicer Cinema.
 - c. WRAC8 – Willmar Public TV - Refer A Child:
<http://cityofwillmar.cablecast.tv:51234/CablecastPublicSite/show/7982?channel=4>
Early Child Intervention: <http://cityofwillmar.cablecast.tv:51234/CablecastPublicSite/show/7983?channel=4>
 - d. Latest e-newsletter: E-newsletter: <https://mailchi.mp/23032c2ed003/happy2024>
 - i. Past issues: <https://us2.campaign-archive.com/home/?u=c73ec0cd277ef143931b5387d&id=54ad3834d1>
 - e. HMG Screen by 3 Bookmarks distributed through Reach Out and Read program with CentraCare
- Outreach & Trainings:**
- a. September 25 – Renville County Staff
 - b. October 10 – Family Outreach at Fire Station, Willmar
 - c. November 30 – Cougar Cubs in Franklin
 - d. March 1 & 2 – Kids First Conference – Linda is presenting (2) breakout sessions and hosting a vendor booth in conjunction with Region 8
 - e. April 27 – Willmar Public Schools Cardinal Place
 - f. TBD – CentraCare, Pact for Families
 - g. May 6 – ASD Training Series with MDH
- VIII. A motion was made by Julie Schroeder and seconded by Tina Saue to purchase up to \$700 in HMG Materials: 300 English Developmental Wheels, 100 Spanish Developmental Wheels and Screen by 3 Bookmarks (quantity to be determined by Jodi Wambeke and Linda Mathiasen in partnership with CentraCare). Motion carried. Distribution of materials will be available following the April 24, 2024 meeting.
- IX. Next meeting: **April 24, 9 a.m. - noon (IN-PERSON)** at the WEAC in Willmar, Rehearsal Room.