

**Region 6 IEIC Meeting Minutes**  
**WEAC – 611 5<sup>th</sup> St SW, Rehearsal Hall, Willmar, MN**  
**Wednesday, April 24, 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, Billy Lindeman, Connie Fragodt, Marge Knudson, Jody Ammerman, Darla Swedzinski, Amy Stock, Stephanny Ramos, Katie Slagter, Cindy Kvaal, Jamie Sorgatz, Kristin Swenson, Hillary Spray, Rhonda Buysse, Jenny Trager, Angie Young, Julie Schroeder, Jody Wharton, Tina, Saue, Linda Mathiasen

- I. Meeting began with introductions and agency updates.
- II. April 24's agenda was motion for approval by Cindy Kvaal, seconded by Connie Fragodt. Motion passed. The Minutes from February 28, 2024, were motioned for approval by Amy Stock, seconded by Marge Knudson. Motion carried.
- III. Membership Roster was reviewed. Jamie Sorgatz joined the IEIC as Renville County Alternate. She is with United Community Action Partnership's early childhood mental health. Request to encourage parent participation and share a stipend \$250 plus mileage is available.
- IV. Financial Update – FY 24 Budget \$32,966.12 with \$8,483.94 carryover from FY2023. Unallocated funds are \$5,706.75.
- V. MDE updates included information on the new Child, Youth & Family Department that will launch on July 1. Follow Along Program offered through Public Health has successfully finalized contracts with eight community connector organizations as part of the Follow Along Program Redesign: *Baby's Space, FamilyWise, Centro Tyrone Guzman, Change, Inc., Dodge-Steele CHB, Healthy Community Initiative, Restoration for All, Inc., Project FINE*

Free Help Me Connect Materials are available at <https://forms.web.health.state.mn.us/form/hmc-materials-order-form>. Other MDE updates include the continuing series for MN Act Early and FAP Professional Development Series: Autism and Developmental Delays:

- i. May 6 – [Help Me Grow-Early Intervention](#) (Linda Mathiasen is presenting) and [Help Me Connect](#)
- ii. June 3 – [Mental health supports](#)
- iii. July 8 – [Overcoming common barriers](#) and [waitlists](#)
- iv. August 5 – [EIDBI and healthcare coverage](#)

MDE has launched a Referral System connecting families to Head Start:

<https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/datasub/hsprr/> [Minnesota Head Start and Public Preschool Referral \(mn.gov\)](#)  
Subscribe to keep informed on the Department of Children, Youth & Families: <https://mn.gov/mmb/dcyf-implementation/>. Part C federal application materials, which contain more detail regarding the planned administration of the program between the two agencies, will be posted for public comment on the [Interagency Coordinating Council's website](#) by March 22, 2024 for 60 days. Two [public hearings](#) were held to share the plan and gather comments on March 27 and April 12. It was shared that few, if any, public comments are received and MDE asks for support to further engagement to ensure the continuation of a strong system of early intervention services for young children with disabilities and their families. Updates to the previously disseminated through a [FAQ](#). Please contact [MDE.ECSE@state.mn.us](mailto:MDE.ECSE@state.mn.us) with any questions or comments. Linda Mathiasen continues to be involved in MDE's Implicit Bias course from the Center for Equity & Excellence. More information about Region 6's IEIC Equity Audit will be available in FY2025.

Help Me Grow Bumper Ads through Region 11 are available for use in social media and online advertising:

- i. Clap Along <https://youtu.be/m4G9Ku0ZH74>
- ii. Should we read that page? <https://youtu.be/PqJBlgGktEo>
- iii. Aplauda con su bebe! [https://youtu.be/4gXZNRAlO\\_A](https://youtu.be/4gXZNRAlO_A)

- VI. Work Plan Updates: Review of FY24 Activities and discussion for additional year-end opportunities. New suggestions are presenting to Big Stone County, ECFE in Milan, Youth for Christ, and Upper Sioux.

**Advertising:**

- a. Region 6 Referral Videos (3 versions) are posted to SWWC: <https://www.youtube.com/@swwcsc>
- b. Movie Theater 30-second Ads: Millenium Theater-Montevideo, CineMagic Century Theatre-Hutchinson, and Spicer Cinema.
- c. WRAC8 – Willmar Public TV
- d. Pioneer TV – Exploring options
- e. E-newsletters: Past issues: <https://us2.campaign-archive.com/home/?u=c73ec0cd277ef143931b5387d&id=54ad3834d1>
- f. 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
- d. March 1 & 2 - Kids First Conference – (2) breakout sessions and vendor booth with Region 8
- e. April 27 - Willmar Public Schools Cardinal Place
- f. May/June - CentraCare – Willmar Region (virtual), Benson
- g. May 6 - ASD Training Series with MDH
- h. May 8 – PACT for Families
- i. June 5 – Glencoe Head Start – Observation and Documentation: Planning for Individual Needs

- VII. Old business was looking at the Referral Tracking Tool created by Billy Lindemann, Julie Schroeder and Linda Mathiasen. The Google Form was created using a sample from Region 8. Revisions to the form were suggested by the group. The revised form will be sent out again and will be part of the FY2025 Work Plan. It will be sent out May 10, 2024 as a trial. Julie Schroeder will help with distribution.

**Google Tracking Draft:** <https://forms.gle/SmbbgAvaNCz1NnVQ7>

- VIII. Year-end activities and outreach opportunities were discussed. Kari Dorry made a motion to purchase up to \$3,500 in grocery totes for distribution by food shelves; it was seconded by Cindy Kvaal. Motion carried. Linda Mathiasen will contact the food shelves and make arrangements. Additionally, a motion was made by Connie Fragodt to purchase up to \$1,500 in developmental wheels. Jamie Sorgatz seconded the motion. Motion carried. Material drops and outreach to summer programming at shelters and libraries.

- IX. For FY2025, Region 6 will continue the Committee Facilitator Model and continue outreach goals by offering free trainings to child care centers, family childcare providers, school programs and community groups. A focus will be on outreach to clinics providing developmental milestones and referral information along with Help Me Grow Screen by 3 bookmarks to children through CentraCare’s Reach Out and Read programs. Other key tactics are connecting with county staff and doing public awareness activities. SWWC will continue as fiscal host and some updates to the role may result to the transition between MDE and Department of Children, Families, Youth. Cindy Kvaal made a motion to continue services with Linda Mathiasen for 209 hours for \$20,064. The motion was seconded by Amy Stock. Motion carried. Her contract will be revised to include other duties as approved by co-chairs. Julie Schroeder will be facilitating the contract. FY2025 co-chairs are Renville and SW Stearns Counties: Katie Slagter, Cindy Kvaal, Jamie Sorgatz, Amber Deters, Samantha Athmann, Josie Dingmann and Amy Eisenbaun. Amanda Meierhofer, Eden-Valley Watkins schools will be joining in FY2025.

- X. **Fiscal Year 2025 Dates – September 18, December 4, February 26, 2025 (Virtual), April 23, 2025**