

Region 6 IEIC Meeting Minutes
WEAC – 611 5th St SW, Rehearsal Hall, Willmar, MN
Wednesday, September 18, 2024, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Fiscal Year 2024 Co-chairs: Katie Slagter, Cindy Kvaal, Jamie Sorgatz, Amber Deters,
Samantha Athmann, Amanda Meierhofer

Present: Kari Dorry, Billy Lindeman, Connie Fragodt, Jodi Wambeke, Darla Swedzinski, Stephanny Ramos, Katie Slagter, Cindy Kvaal, Jamie Sorgatz, Karie Miller, Amber Deters, Krista Swenson, Amanda Meierhofer, Jenny Trager, Angie Young, Julie Schroeder, Jody Wharton, Jayde Smith, Linda Mathiasen

- I. Meeting began with introductions and agency updates. Overall, consensus is referrals are up, which appears to be difficult due to staff vacancies and number of children. Many school districts are working on behaviors and with students who have not previously been identified for intervention services. Public Health is demonstrating difficulty getting into homes of referrals and are overcoming these barriers by being creative. Help Me Grow referral system is the primary referring source. Intake early childhood specialists continue to see gaps in contact information and reasons for the referral to begin conversation with parents/guardians. It was noted that once schools receive background information on children referred; many times, the medical record reflects a Help Me Grow referral was made but there is no knowledge of the child or documentation. There is a desire to work with clinicians to ensure referrals are made and releases are signed for communication between provider and school districts.
- II. September 18's agenda was motion for approval by Connie Fragodt, seconded by Cindy Kvaal. Motion passed. The Minutes from April 24, 2024, were motioned for approval by Darla Swedzinski, seconded by Jodi Wambeke. Motion carried.
- III. Membership Roster was reviewed, and updates were captured. Jayde Smith, Family Support Services Supervisor at Pact for Families, joined the IEIC as a mental health liaison and Hannah Hanson, Director of Special Education will be joining from SWWC. Request to encourage parent participation and share a stipend \$250 plus mileage is available. A recommendation is to partner with Willmar Public Schools cultural liaisons; Jodi Wambeke is connecting Linda Mathiasen.
- IV. Financial Update – FY 24 Budget \$30,182.47 with \$887.59 carryover from FY2024. Unallocated funds are \$9,243.40 which was helped through a \$5,000 contribution from SWWC for child find and public awareness activities.
- V. MDE updates included information on the new Child, Youth & Family Department, <https://dcyf.mn.gov>, launched July 1 and Help Me Grow/IEIC functions are now fully moved over. At the monthly Meeting of the Minds, a presentation and handout was provided on Newborn Abstinence Syndrome. NAS may be difficult to identify at birth, as it takes a few days before a baby may exhibit signs of substance dependency. NAS is not an automatic eligibility for intervention services although a child's development should be monitored. An overview of the new Continuous Licensing for childcare was shared.
- VI. FY2024 Work Plan was shared along with outcomes. It has been submitted and approved by MDE. A recap of year-end activities was presented by Linda Mathiasen. In June 2024, 1,400 grocery bags were distributed to food shelves in Region 6's nine counties plus SW Stearns County. A review of the May 2024 Google Survey to Help Me Grow Referral intake specialists in school districts reflected 100% participation of the 17 school districts polled. The survey's intent is to determine differences between birth to two years and three to five years and sources of the referrals for continued impactful child find and public awareness efforts. Medical and child care referrals appear to be lower than expected. For birth to two years, 94% majority of referrals come from Help Me Grow Referrals and 61.5% responded there is a balance between referral sources. For the older age group of three to five years, it was a 50-50 split for where referrals originated and 69.2% report a balance among referral sources. Preschool Screening was the leading referral source. The survey will be modified to reduce the ranking options for referral sources and resent on October 1, 2024.

- VII. FY2025 Work Plan discussion included elevating outreach targets to counties, clinics, faith-based groups and child care and partnering with others doing early childhood outreach, such as Talking with Teaching.

Update: Via email, we learned the IEIC can partner with Pact for Families' Early Childhood Committee to insert HMG developmental wheels into their hospital/new baby bags/Public Health visits. A motion by Amber Deters, second by Amanda Meierhofer, to purchase 1,450 developmental wheels (200 Somali, 300 Spanish and 950 English). 18 YES returned. Motion approved. In addition, we coordinated the insertion of Follow Along and Help Me Connect bookmarks into the bags.

IEIC members are asked to help promote HMG ads in community education marketing, organization websites and sharing the availability of videos created at Litchfield Public Schools. Members are asked to direct any questions or to introduce their social media staff to Linda Mathiasen at ldm@ldmarketinggroup.com.

- (SHORT 1 MINUTE) Refer A Child: <https://youtu.be/7Yrh63Dajl4>
- (FULL 4 MINUTES) Early Childhood Intervention: <https://youtu.be/L-6JANfIAtU>
- (30 Sec) Developmental Milestones: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SDjnokOjdE8>

- a. FY2025 Outreach completed or scheduled: Submit ideas to Linda Mathiasen.

- July 11 – Dawson Clinic
- August 2 – Olivia: County Child Protection Regions 6, 4, 8
- August 6 – Montevideo National Night Out: materials drop
- August 6 – Montevideo Clinic: materials drop
- August 8 – Granite Falls: materials drop
- August 16 – Countryside Public Health: virtual
- September 4 – Montevideo Clinic
- October 1 – Child Find Referral Survey to Districts
- October 3 – Parent Life at Youth For Christ
- October 8 – Willmar Fire Station Family Night
- November 19 – MOMs at Living Word in Willmar
- December 3: Kandiyohi County Child Protection

- Talking is Teaching developmental wheel, Follow Along & Help Me Connect bookmarks with Pact for Families counties Talking is Teaching new baby outreach program
- Outreach to YMCA Childcare, Bunde Moms, New London WowMoms, Lower Sioux Tribal Nation,

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