

**Region 6 IEIC Meeting Minutes**  
**Jefferson Learning Center, 1234 Minnesota Ave, Willmar, MN**  
**Wednesday, December 4, 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, Marge Knudson, Jody Ammerman, Bri Johnson, Jodi Wambeke, Darla Swendzinski, Amy Stock, Sue Thomas, Karie Miller, Katie Slagter, Cindy Kvaal, Jamie Sorgatz, Amanda Meierhofer, Krista Swenson, Hillary Spray, Jenny Trager, Julie Schroeder, Hannah Hanson, Emily Castaneda, Jayde Smith, Katie Palmreuter (parent), and Jaleesa Stengl (parent)

- I. Meeting began with introductions and agency updates. We had two parents join the committee who shared their child's experiences with early intervention services – one is attending the ELC Ready Clinic in Montevideo and the other just graduated from IEP services and is now achieving average to above average in all areas. UCAP is seeing great progress in mental health awareness and sent twelve referrals for additional evaluation. Dramatic drop in lack of potty training among preschoolers is increasing expenses, requiring full-time paraprofessionals to change children. Help Me Grow referrals continue at elevated levels. Autism is rising again. Home visiting is working on creative outreach to encourage higher acceptance rates; universal postpartum phone calls are working well. The Kid's First Conference for early care and education professionals is set for February 28 - March 1, 2025, and plans to sell out at 300 participants again this year.
- II. December 4's Agenda and the Minutes from September 18, 2024, were motioned for approval by Amy Stock, seconded by Connie Fragodt. Motions carried.
- III. Membership Roster was reviewed, and updates were captured. Two parents attending may request \$250 stipend plus mileage. New members also included Bri Johnson from Willmar Early Childhood Intake and Emily Castaneda, early learning scholarship coordinator.
- IV. Financial Update – FY 24 Budget \$30,182.47 with \$887.59 carryover from FY2024. With the recent allocation of developmental wheels for partnership with Talking is Teaching campaign, unallocated funds are \$7,111. This includes a \$5,000 contribution from SWWC for child find and public awareness activities.
- V. MDE updates were reviewing MACMH's Infant & Early Childhood Guiding Principles and Diversity-Informed Tenets. IEIC coordinators around the state were able to virtually attend the keynote speaker at the fall symposium. Region 11 has released new pricing on Help Me Grow Materials; Help Me Connect materials are available for no charge.

**December updates:**

[Minnesota Down Syndrome Association](https://cdn2.assets-servd.host/willing-spurfowl/production/DSAMN_NewParentsGuide_Web.pdf) has a brochure available for newly diagnosed: [https://cdn2.assets-servd.host/willing-spurfowl/production/DSAMN\\_NewParentsGuide\\_Web.pdf](https://cdn2.assets-servd.host/willing-spurfowl/production/DSAMN_NewParentsGuide_Web.pdf) and Think Small Parent-Powered Texts signup: <https://www.thinksmall.org/texts/>

Early Childhood Connector Call: January 14. [https://mn.gov/dhs/partners-and-providers/news-initiatives-reports-workgroups/child-care-and-early-education/early-childhood-connector/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://mn.gov/dhs/partners-and-providers/news-initiatives-reports-workgroups/child-care-and-early-education/early-childhood-connector/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

Part C Federal Listening Sessions: Multiple Dates. [MDE Public Calendar](#)

IEIC State Coordinator/Chairs December Meeting: Supporting families, children, and providers specific to marijuana use and legalization – we brought this topic of interest forward.

- i. [Let's Talk Cannabis Illinois | New and Expecting Moms](#)
- ii. MDH: [Marijuana Use While Pregnant or Lactating- Topic of the Month](#) and <https://www.health.state.mn.us/docs/people/wic/nutrition/english/gendrugs.pdf>
- iii. NAS information from the MDH Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) website: [Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome - MN Dept. of Health](#)
- iv. District Handbook & Policy Samples: <https://www.rbed6049.org/early-intervention-services-2/>

- v. Intervention Brochures: [https://assets-rst7.rschoolday.com/rst7files/uploads/sites/696/2024/08/30210326/0704\\_001.pdf](https://assets-rst7.rschoolday.com/rst7files/uploads/sites/696/2024/08/30210326/0704_001.pdf) or [https://assets-rst7.rschoolday.com/rst7files/uploads/sites/696/2024/08/30210554/0705\\_001-1.pdf](https://assets-rst7.rschoolday.com/rst7files/uploads/sites/696/2024/08/30210554/0705_001-1.pdf)
- vi. Other Reading: <https://www.parents.com/kids/health/the-dangers-of-vaping-around-your-kids/> and <https://www.parents.com/news/what-you-should-know-about-the-potent-thc-products-that-look-like-candy/>

VI. FY2025 Work Plan review had recent activities to outreach targets to counties, clinics, faith-based groups, and child care and partnering with others doing early childhood outreach.

October 2024 Google Survey to Help Me Grow Referral intake specialists had an expanded distribution list. 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. Child care and parents are areas for increased outreach and awareness opportunities. Part C referrals showed a balance between referral sources with most coming through the Help Me Grow referral system. Whereas Part B referral system shows a drop with most coming from early childhood screening and teachers. NICU baby referrals are increasing and can pose timing challenges if baby is still receiving hospital interventions.

Discussion for outreach ideas for Big Stone, Chippewa, Swift, Lac qui Parle, and SW Stearns were for developmental wheels. Agreement to conduct an electronic vote for purchasing--the motion was made by Jody Ammerman, seconded by Kari Dorry to purchase 450 developmental wheels in various languages, not to exceed \$1000. Motion passed with 20 yay responses. Local social media influencers are a suggested opportunity to bring information to diverse cultures and English Language Learners. Another suggestion is translating Region 6's three videos into more languages: cost \$1200 for doing so in Spanish, Somali and Chuukese.

**Other ideas included for research:**

QRC sticky notes – Linda Mathiasen

Toilet Training parent education with Help Me Grow message – Kari **Dorry & Linda Mathiasen**

Micronesian outreach at WIC and Community Clinics – Hillary **Spray to connect with Linda Mathiasen**

Micronesian translation (Chuukese) of developmental milestone poster – **Jenny Trager with Linda Mathiasen**

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
- November 20 – Upper Sioux Health Fair in Granite Falls
- December 2: Cultural Liaisons – Spanish & Somali in Willmar
- December 3: Kandiyohi County Child Protection
- January 10: Prairie Five Child Care Aware (virtual)
- January or February: Kandiyohi YMCA Child Care Center Staff Training
- Talking is Teaching (800 bags): Inserts HMG developmental wheel, Follow Along & Help Me Connect bookmarks with Pact for Families (5) counties' new baby outreach program
- Outreach to Bunde Moms, New London WowMoms, Lower Sioux Tribal Nation, Micronesian Community Clinic in Milan and Appleton with Prairie Five Public Health

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