

Region 6 IEIC Meeting Minutes
WEAC – 611 5th St SW, Rehearsal Hall, Willmar, MN
Wednesday, October 1, 2025, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Fiscal Year 2025 Co-chairs: Krista Swenson, Hillary Spray, Brooke Viessman, Jenny Trager, Angie Young

Present: Candice Schultz, Connie Fragodt, Amber Deters, Bri Johnson, Darla Swendzinski, Amy Stock, Stephanny Ramos, Karie Miller, Cindy Campos, Amanda Kremmin, Zylstra, Ally Kurth, Amy Stock, Jaleesa Stengel, Hillary Spray, Brooke Viessman, Angie Young, Julie Schroeder, Hannah Hanson, Jody Wharton, Jayde Smith, Emily Castaneda, Linda Mathiasen

- I. Meeting began with introductions and agency updates. Many districts are underway with preschool screenings; referral levels vary with some reporting children having M-CHAT completed by their physician. Parents expressing concerns or confusion regarding visit summaries in 'My Chart' from clinics and hospitals. Public Health home visits are up, and parents are receptive. Continued increased demand for enrolling preschool children with delays in adaptive, self-help skills. Concerns for children not passing screening due to lack of social experiences, exposure to gain age-appropriate milestones, and parent involvement. More families are seeking county financial assistance for diapers and are being referred by medical doctors with toilet training struggles. Questions regarding child protection referrals for all children under age three; referral rates from child protection seem lower than past levels.
- II. October 1's agenda was motioned for approval by Connie Fragodt, seconded by Cindy Campos. Motion carried. Minutes from April 23, 2025, motioned for approval by Amber Deters, seconded by Jaleeza Stengle. Motion carried.
- III. Membership Roster discussion for the upcoming fiscal year. New members include Brooke Viessmann, Canby Schools; Amanda Kremmin, MN Choices - Kandiyohi County; Abby Zylstra, Willmar Schools; (rotating) Ally Kurth and Mary Myers-Reinarts, Hutchinson Schools; (rotating) Shana Wall and Stefanie Leuze, Kandiyohi Public Health.

Parent Stipend is \$250 per meeting plus mileage. A reminder to encourage participation and connect interested members to Linda Mathiasen, 320-444-1523 or ldm@ldmarketinggroup.com.
- IV. Financial Update – FY26 Budget \$29,480.51 with \$155.71 carryover from FY2025. Budget has \$8,494.99 unallocated for new outreach or training endeavors, marketing and material purchasing.

IEIC Minnesota Statute 125A.30 INTERAGENCY EARLY INTERVENTION COMMITTEES was shared.
<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/125a.30>. Region 6 operating procedures will be reviewed at December 3 meeting.

Minnesota Department of Children, Youth and Family/Minnesota Department of Education updates include the Humanity Audit for Region 6 that the State is requiring for inclusion in FY2026 Work Plans. Linda Mathiasen provided background that the groundwork for this audit has occurred since being introduced in 2024. She was asked by MDE to fill the Region 6 slot for the monthly series on Implicit Bias Professional Development from MDE's Center for Equity and Excellence. Refer to attached syllabus for reference. During the meeting, a QR code was used so members could take the audit at the beginning of the meeting –feedback from the audit was too many questions and redundant. The word choice of audit was a concern, along with concerns of will this increase the paperwork schools need to fill out. More information is requested to learn how the state and local regions will use the information collected. Suggestions for improvement include confirming the goals of the audit, combining some questions since they are very specific, include options for unsure or not applicable (felt strongly this option could help identify areas where more training and support is needed). There was discussion regarding third party reviewing materials and asking if this is being done. Committee members would like to know who is reviewing Help Me Grow materials and what is being considered—including emphasis on Somali, Spanish and Hmong languages, which is not representative of all languages and cultures we are providing services to (upwards of 60 different languages in Region 6). Cat Tamminga from DCYF is planning to attend in December or February (virtual) to provide clarification.

The Ten Minnesota Commitments to Equity was shared along with the latest changes to Minnesota's racial and ethnic groups in accountability for the Minnesota Report Card and MDE Data Center files now use eight state-defined codes to replace the seven federal codes. The principal difference is the State's definition of American Indian and adding 'Other Indigenous Peoples' on demographic codes for children. American Indian is a political designation and not a racial or ethnic one. Feedback included will families feel comfortable with this change when they must choose which race they identify as more important/prominent.

A reminder to participate in [Minnesota's Story Collective](#), MN Management and Office (intersects with all MN state agencies) and originally funded through Preschool Development Grant with shared leadership MDE, DCYF, MDH, DHS, Children's Cabinet and Results Team at MN Management and Budget (MMB). It brings community experiences into program and policy decision-making. The feedback loop includes community analysis and then adaptation for long-term method of engagement.

Minnesota's shared set of early learning standards known as the Early Childhood Indicators of Progress (ECIPs) are currently being updated and the full implementation is expected Fall 2028. See [link](#). Discussion included some developmental milestones, including adaptive/self-help skills, are modified from past expectations.

DCYF links: The committee reviewed Minnesota Data Profile on Young Dual Language Learners.

- i. [Poverty in Minnesota counties: MNPH Data Access - MN Dept. of Health](#) (interactive map)
- ii. [Children's Fiscal Map / Minnesota Management and Budget \(MMB\)](#)
- iii. [Minnesota's Early Childhood Workforce - Making a Difference in the Early Years.pdf](#)
- iv. [Tip Sheet Screening, Assessment, and Evaluation \(Theory\) 4.1.25](#) (info sheet)
- v. [Home / Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights](#) (info sheet)
- vi. [Data and Reporting / Minnesota Management and Budget \(MMB\)](#)
- vii. [Follow Along Program Redesign - MN Dept. of Health](#) (updates on Follow Along Program)
- viii. [FAP: Community Engagement Reflections](#)
- ix. **National data resources:**
 - [Home - Child Trends](#)
 - x. [Working With Families to Support the Children of the Opioid Epidemic - Child Trends](#)
 - xi. [ChildFindFunnelGuidance.pdf](#)
 - xii. [Research: A Data Profile of Young Dual Language Le.. | migrationpolicy.org](#)
 - xiii. [FY26 Federal Funding at Risk | Tableau Public](#)
 - xiv. [Home | Rhonda Weiss Center For Accessible IDEA Data](#)
- b. Supporting Latine Families Webinars: Mondays: Sept. 8, Oct. 6, Oct. 27, and Nov. 10. [Register](#).
- c. MN Connector E-newsletter: [Manage Subscriptions](#)
- d. MN Department of Health Programs:
 - i. [Birth Defects Monitoring and Analysis](#)
 - ii. [Early Hearing Detection and Intervention](#)
 - iii. [Follow Along Program](#)
 - iv. [Longitudinal Follow-up for Newborn Screening Condition](#)

V. Region 6's FY2025 Work Plan was approved by DCYF, and accomplishments and year-end activities were reviewed (refer to FY2025 Work Plan). Among the activities were the following:

- 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)
- February 17: Kandiyohi YMCA Child Care Center Staff Training (DHS- 4hrs)

- April 10: Training Workshop with Guest On Track Minnesota in Willmar
 - a. 2) UCAP, (1) Center Director, (2) School Staff; (3) Family Providers; (3) Parents; (4) Autism Specialists; (2) Cancellations
- April 25: Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center – Nature School
- May 1: Fidgety Fairytales at Kennedy Elementary – Willmar
- May 9: Prairie Five Head Start Center Directors – Montevideo
- 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
- Social Media Blitz: April through May through partners
- Outreach to Bunde Moms, New London WowMoms, Lower Sioux Tribal Nation, Micronesian Community Clinic in Milan and Appleton with Prairie Five Public Health

- VI. 2026 Work Plan goals will continue with an emphasis on deepening relationships with referral partners and target audiences of reaching child care providers, family friend and neighbor programs, faith-based programs, clinicians, county and preschool staff, tribal nations, cultural liaisons, and the public.
- a. FY2026 Outreach completed or scheduled:
 - i. E-newsletter: [https://mailchi.mp/a74939eec92d/fall2025?e=\[UNIQID\]](https://mailchi.mp/a74939eec92d/fall2025?e=[UNIQID]). Subscribe any new colleagues, staff: [Link](#). Send content suggestions to ldm@ldmarketinggroup.com.
 - b. Google form survey to school intake: Julie Schroeder and Linda Mathiasen will work together to update the distribution list and concentrate outreach efforts to districts not responding to Region 6’s Intake Survey on referrals sources and engaging their local communities. May need peer-to-peer reach out assistance throughout the year.
 - c. Continue promotion and sharing of Region 6’s Refer a Child videos:
 - i. ➤ [30-second video](#)
 - [2-minute video](#)
 - [4-minute video with parent testimonial](#)
 - d. Outreach completed and scheduled:
 - i. State Public Health (Southwest) – July 22
 - Discussion: how to encourage more participation in [Follow Along](#)
 - ii. Cardinal Place – August 25 & 27
 - iii. MN Choices County Supervisors – October 3
 - iv. Tri County (Glencoe) Head Start – October 3
 - v. Willmar Fire Station – October 7
 - vi. UCAP Family Child Care Mentors & Mentees – October 20
 - vii. Kid’s First Conference – Can we insert materials? Attend, MNAFEE Annual Conference, organized by the Minnesota Association for Family and Early Education in April 2026
 - e. Public Awareness – Radio and Social Media Campaigns
 - i. Retractable Help Me Grow banners with QR Code were distributed to the following (more still available, contact Linda Mathiasen):
 - a. Schools: Ortonville MACCRAY, Montevideo, Willmar, Lac qui Parle, Madison, Glencoe Silver Lake, Litchfield, Renville County West, Belgrade Brooten Elrosa, Hutchinson, Minnesota Valley Service Cooperative
 - b. Public Health: McLeod, Kandiyohi
 - ii. Radio campaign update – Electronic Vote to spend up to \$2200 with Lakeland Media on 30-second ad created from voiceover of Region 6’s “Developmental Milestones” video. Motion by Katie Palmreuter, seconded by Amanda Meierhofer on 9/29/2025 – 22 Yay. Motion carried. The actual payment was \$1815 for 60% ads on KQIC/Q102 and 40% KOLV-Big Country 100.1 FM with matching campaign for October, November, and early December.
 - iii. Continued discussion with Region 11 and DCFY for a coordinated Social Media campaign using Region 11’s marketing firm, Risdall.
 - f. At large training topics have been well attended in the past, including FY2025 when partnering to address self-toileting skills. Region 6 is encouraged by DCYF to collaborate with partners to address this

specific topic. Discussion for ways to address adaptive, self-help skills in a broader sense. Due to the increased demand for resources, enrollment and staff policies are under review and are being changed. A suggestion was to collect documentation on the impact of pulling resources away from students who are currently on an IFSP/IEP; frequency of pre-k staff leaving instructional activities/classroom to change diapers and assist with toileting needs of students who are not on IEPs. Additional questions being explored where this impacts the services/supports being provided to the students on IEPs and is this a bigger issue for specific demographics than others or is it an issue for all children, which the latter was confirmed through additional discussion. A sample district's preschool enrollment policy that changed for FY2026 was shared for review and consideration. The new policy will be monitored and adapted by school board.

Topics of interest for at large training include support and training for parents and early care and education professionals on listening, routines, and self-dressing.

- VII. Adjournment was motioned by Cindy Campos, seconded by Connie Fragodt. Motion carried.
- VIII. **Fiscal Year 2026 Dates – December 3, 2025, April 29, 2026, at WEAC, Willmar, 9 a.m. – Noon. February 18, 2026, will be virtual.**