

Decat Intent: To redirect child welfare and juvenile justice funding to services which are more preventive, family centered and community-based in order to reduce use of restrictive approaches that rely on institutional, out-of-home and out-of-community care.



LINN COUNTY DECATEGORIZATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 26, 2024; 3:00-4:00pm

Meeting held via Zoom - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89314059020>

Members: Matt Majeski, Hailee Sandberg, Chris Wyatt

Alternate: Kristi Tisl

Staff: Amy Grunewaldt, Meredith Hershner

Guests: Heidi Anaya

Matt Majeski called the meeting to order at 3:02

Public Comment (limit of 2 minutes per person)

- N/A

Minutes

- **Action** – 8/8/24 & 8/22/24 Decat Board Minutes (in packet)
 - Approval of August 8, 2024, and August 22, 2024 Decategorization Board Minutes.

M/S/C (Wyatt/Sandberg). Carried unanimously.

Child Welfare Trends/Issues/Updates:

Matt Majeski

- Majeski shared that HHS is starting to get prepared for the legislative session. Procurement for drug testing will be taking place for collections and labs. HHS emails will be updated to HHS starting soon. Any changes will be noted with an automatic reply letting senders know of the change to the email addresses for HHS employees.

Youth and Juvenile Welfare Trends/Issues/Updates:

Chris Wyatt

- Wyatt shared that Heidi Anaya has started and has been here for about a week and a half as the new Contract Administrator. Detention has been at capacity for the last few months, so kids have been shuffled around trying to find space. This has been impacted by kids being tried as adults but being housed in Detention. Scott County is opening new beds which will help but it will be a bit until those are available.

Fiscal Items:

Amy Grunewaldt

- Informative: FY 25 Allocation
 - Grunewaldt shared the Decat allocation will be \$120,853 for this year to be spent by June 30, 2028.
- Informative: FY 25 Financial Report

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- Grunewaldt walked through the current financials. She shared we will have a few more contracts to add as those get signed and start expending funds. We are on track and there are no concerns with spend down of funds at this time.
- Informal Bid Option: **Strengthening Families Program: For Parents and Youth 10-14**
 - Grunewaldt shared that there are funds that need to be expended in the next two years and that this was a successful program during COVID and wondered if there is interest in spending funds on this program. Would be interested in seeing if there are trained facilitators. Was provided by ISU Extension in the past. Must be evidenced-based Strengthening Families Program. Would want to the successful bidder to use evidence-based programming. Discussed having an 18-month initial contract with the potential for a one-year renewal.
 - **Action:** Wyatt – made a motion for Strengthening Families Services for 18-month contract up to \$74,999 with a potential for one year extension.
 - M/S/C (Wyatt/Majeski). Sandberg abstained. Motion carried.

Operational Items:

Meredith Hershner

- Informative: Iowa Public Information Board – Electronic Meeting Change (7.1.24)
 - Hershner shared that the new information released on public meetings includes a change that all board meetings need to have a virtual option rather than having public space available. All meetings going forward must be hybrid even if the Decat Board plans to meet in person.
- Discussion: Review FY 25 Board Roster
 - Hershner shared the current Board Roster and the current standings of chair, co-chair and member terms. Asked for any suggestions or additions to the board to be invited to next months meeting to be invited to join.
- Discussion: Program Presentations
 - Hershner shared that the board targets having at least four presentations each fiscal year with the board and asked for suggested presentations. The agencies or programs below are the suggested presentations for FY25. Hershner will work on inviting programs and agencies to each meeting throughout the year.
 - Waypoint – Domestic Violence Services
 - ASAC – Family Focused or Youth Focused Services and intervention efforts
 - ECI – funded projects and cross-over family support programming
 - Other programming that aligns with families and prevention
 - Tanager and Grant Wood AEA pilot project
 - Expand on what they are doing to open child behavior centers that are specifically arounds kids with behavior issues
 - Dawn Schott – how they are doing services, new thing they are doing these new services in Iowa
- Linn County Decat FY25 Annual Report
 - Hershner walked through the Linn County Decat Annual Plan for FY25 and highlighted a few changes and additions from what was created last year. The intention is to bring the focus to collaborations and how crucial Decats and Decat Boards are to local communities. A few minor changes and additions were suggested before submitting the plan.

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- **Action –** Sandberg made a motion to approve the Linn County Decat Annual Plan with a few minor changes that need to be made and to submit the plan to the state.
 - M/S/C (Sandberg/Wyatt). Carried unanimously.

Agency Guest

- N/A

Open Agenda

- N/A

Next Board Meeting

- 10/24/24 at 3:00pm

Majeski adjourned the meeting at 3:55pm.