

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

October 24, 2024; 3:00-4:00pm

Meeting held via Zoom

Members: Matt Majeski, David Thielen

Alternate: Kristi Tisl

Staff: Amy Grunewaldt, Meredith Hershner

Guests: Heidi Anaya

David Thielen called the meeting to order at 3:05

Public Comment: (limit of 2 minutes per person)

- N/A

Minutes

- **Action** – 9/26/24 Decat Board Minutes (in packet)
 - Not enough board members to vote, will save for next meeting
 - Minor correction to the minutes needed before voting – Iowa City was noted as the location of the new youth beds but it is actually in Scott County.

Child Welfare Trends/Issues/Updates

- Majeski shared that they are getting ready for the legislative session. Also, after 43 years Marine Holister announced her retirement.

Youth and Juvenile Welfare Trends/Issues/Updates

- Anaya on behalf of Wyatt, shared there is a minor correction needed to the September Board minutes but will vote on that next month. Otherwise, no updates.

Fiscal Items

- Financial Update
 - Grunewaldt walked through the financial update. No concerns right now. Quite a few contracts began in August and September so numbers look a little low but will grow by the end of the fiscal year. We have already expended expiring funds for FY25 so there is no cause for concern in terms of how much we need to spend this year. Likely we will have some funds that will need to be spent next year.

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Operational Items

- **Legislative Priorities**
 - Grunewaldt walked through the legislative priorities. The focus is on keeping local control and authority and addressing culturally tailored prevention. Addressing the differences in rural and urban services and being able to support services that address local populations and local needs. Also, being able to be responsive to local needs and working to integrate funding approaches.
- **First Quarter Progress Reports (in packet)**
 - Hershner walked through the seven programs and their first quarter. No issues were noted in the initial review. However, Grunewaldt brought up \$1,000 in expenditure from CRPL with no numbers reported for the literacy program. Hershner agreed to reach out to the library to learn more about how they are spending their funds.
- **Strengthening Families Program bid timeline**
 - Hershner shared an updated timeline for the procurement that is due 11/15. This will impact the board's schedule and require a special meeting in early December to review any bids and potentially award a winner.
- **November Decat Meeting**
 - The original board meeting date is on Thanksgiving so the meeting will be moved up one week to accommodate the holiday.

Agency Guest

- N/A

Open Agenda

- Majeski shared about the change in his position and that he is unsure at this time what the position or responsibilities will look like within HHS.

Next Board Meeting

- 11/21/24 at 3:00pm, virtually

David Thielen adjourned the meeting at 3:36pm