

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

January 14, 2025; 2:30-3:30pm

Meeting held via Teams

**Members:** Hailee Sandberg, David Thielen, Chris Wyatt, Valarie Lovaglia

**Alternate:** Kristi Tisl

**Staff:** Meredith Hershner

**Guests:** Heidi Anaya, J'nae Peterman

**David Thielen called the meeting to order at 2:31pm**

**Public Comment:** (limit of 2 minutes per person)

- N/A

### Minutes

- **Action** – 12/03/24 Decat Board Minutes (in packet)
  - M/S/C (Sandberg/Wyatt). Carried unanimously.

### Presenter

- J'nae Peterman – East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG)
  - Peterman shared her 2024 Alliance to End Homelessness presentation. Her position was recommended by National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) to end homelessness. Position put together by Linn County and City of Cedar Rapids.
  - Overview: 6 Elements of an effective system – housing first approach, homeless prevention, diversion, street outreach, emergency/crisis services, quick return to housing with equitable housing options
  - Data: 117-day average length of stay to rehouse – NAEH recommends 30 days; 54% of people accessing shelters using side doors and are not using Coordinated Entry; Chronic homelessness is increasing and has been since 2021, Children experiencing homelessness decreased from 26% in 2019 to 7% in 2024; Permanent Housing Placements are higher in Linn County vs. State and National averages; Returns to Homelessness is less in Linn County at 14% vs. State and National averages
  - Upcoming initiatives: Landlord and Tenant Success Initiative – incentivizes landlords and clients for every goal that they meet; Lived Experience Advisory Council – individuals currently experiencing homelessness to drive policies and practices

### Child Welfare Trends/Issues/Updates

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- Mindy Druschel just became a SWA and Valarie is transitioning down to the Iowa City HHS. Paige is also still a SWA.

### **Youth and Juvenile Welfare Trends/Issues/Updates**

Chris Wyatt

- No updates

### **Fiscal Items**

Amy Grunewaldt

- Informative – FY25 Financial Update
  - Hershner reviewed the updated financial information for each contract. No questions or concerns from the board.

### **Operational Items**

Meredith Hershner

- Discussion – Contract Summary and contracts ended June 30th
  - Hershner reviewed the Contract Summary with the board. Next month the board will vote on the contracts they would like to renew for FY26.
- **Action** – Renewals for FY2026
  - This action item will be held for next month when we have more information about funding.

### **Open Agenda**

David Thielen

- N/A

**Next Board Meeting:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at 2:30pm

David Thielen

**David Thielen adjourned the meeting at 3:18pm**