

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

May 13, 2025; 2:30-3:30pm

Meeting held via Teams

Attendance: David Thielen, Hailee Sandberg, Chris Wyatt, Mindy Druschel, Kristen Huffman, Heidi Anaya, Brandy Meisheid, Meredith Hershner, Amy Grunewaldt

Call Meeting to Order at 2:31

David Thielen

Guests: (Type Name, Agency, and Questions in chat box)

David Thielen

Public Comment: (limit of 2 minutes per person)

David Thielen

Minutes: Action – 4/8/25 Decat Board Minutes (in packet)

David Thielen

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

Child Welfare Trends/Issues/Updates

Kristen Huffman/Mindy Druschel

- Kinship payment changes began in mid-April. Kinship providers paid at the same rate as foster care parents for the first four months. Also have access to a kinship navigator to support them.
- These payments used to not be accessible until 60 days and this change gives them access at 14 days.

Youth and Juvenile Welfare Trends/Issues/Updates

Chris Wyatt

- No updates

Fiscal Items

Amy Grunewaldt

- Informative – FY25 Financial Update
 - Hershner walked through the financials. No issues or questions.

Operational Items

Meredith Hershner

- Discussion – FY26 Contracts and Renewals
 - Hershner walked through the contracts and renewals that are upcoming for FY26.
 - Action – Renewal: Linn County Decat Staff and Fiscal Services
 - Sandberg/Meisheid. Carried. Thielen abstained.
 - Action – Renewal: Linn County CPPC
 - Thielen/Sandberg. Carried unanimously.
 - Action – New Contract: Tracking and Monitoring
 - Thielen/Sandberg. Carried unanimously. Thielen abstained.
 - Action – Renewal: CRSA Flex Funds
 - Wyatt/Sandberg. Carried. Huffman abstained.
- Discussion – CPPC FY26 Annual Plan

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- Grunewaldt walked through the FY26 Annual Plan for CPPC. No questions or changes from the board members.
- **Action** – CPPC FY26 Annual Plan
 - **Meisheid/Sandberg**. Carried unanimously.
- Informative – Child Abuse Prevention Month Update
 - Safety Fair with YPN
 - Hershner shared about the events throughout April and that the events impacted more than 350 individuals.
- Review – Third Quarter Progress Report Summary
 - Hershner walked through the Progress Reports. No issues or questions.

Open Agenda

David Thielen

- Hershner shared that she has taken a new role and her last day with Linn County will be 5/16.

Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, June 10, 2025, at 2:30pm

David Thielen

Adjournment at 3:27pm

David Thielen