LINN COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES
COMMUNITY SERVICES BUILDING
1240 26TH AVE. COURT SW
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52404
PH: 319-892-5600 | FAX: 319-892-5619

LINN COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

Tuesday, November 18, 12:00 P.M.
Hybrid meeting

AGENDA

I.	**Call to Order**	LCCS Board Chair
II.	**Minutes from October 14th Meeting** – Action Item	LCCS Board Chair
III.	**Financial Report through October** – Action Item	David Thielen
IV.	**Quarterly CACFP Report** – Action Item	David Thielen
V.	**Home Health Program Information**	Stacey Lietz
VI.	**Program Highlights**	
	a. Juvenile Detention and Diversion	Will Wright
	b. Mental Health Access Center	Erin Foster
	c. East Central Region	Jody Bridgewater
	d. Early Childhood Iowa (ECI)/DECAT	Amy Grunewaldt
	e. Child and Family Services	Gloria Witzberger
	f. Ryan White	Nichole Baker Jones
	g. General Assistance/Outreach	David Thielen
	h. Options of Linn County	David Thielen
VII.	**Executive Director Report**	David Thielen
VIII.	**New Business/Public Comments**	LCCS Board Chair
	a. Next Board Meeting –	
	i. December 9th	
	ii. **January 13th	
IX.	**Adjourn**	

MISSION: Linn County Community Services addresses local health and human service needs by providing direct services, community planning, and administration of local, state, and federal funds in ways that promote service availability, access, cost-effectiveness, and quality.

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LinnCounty.org

LINN COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
Tuesday, October 14th, 12:00 P.M.
Hybrid meeting

Minutes

PRESENT:	Melissa Dean	Andrew Elam	Theresa Lewis	Mike Hines
	Katy Lee	Laura Martin		
STAFF:	Nichole Baker-Jones	Ashley Balius	Jody Bridgewater	
	Erin Foster	Amy Grunewaldt		

I. **Call to Order** LCCS Board Chair
The meeting called to order at 12:00 p.m.

II. **Minutes from September 9th** – Action Item LCCS Board Chair
The minutes of the September meeting were approved MSC: Lewis/Elam. 6-0

III. **Financial Report through September** – Action Item Vickie Kindl
Vicki presented financials through September. She noted that this is 25% through the year. Department 33 overall expenses and revenues are slightly below expectations. Options is closely monitored to ensure sustainability and revenues often reflect as one month behind due to billing timings. DAP has no budget items due to recently being amended. The MHAC is slightly low but has been amended lower to match what has been approved by the State. MHAC revenues appear 1-2 months behind. SUD disorders related to commitals are intermittent and cannot be predicted. The Mental Health Advocate was formerly included with the MH/DS and now is reimbursed from the ASO.
Department 34 overlal is in line with expenses. Admin is at 33% which appears falsely inflated due to the annual Evolv payment. CYD is on pace with expectations. Funded agencies appear a month behind. Grant expenses are on pace and often reflect timing issues in the revenues. GA expenses are on track. Revenues from Interim Assistance is unpredictable and occurs when SSA makes a determination. Home Health revenues and expectations are in line with expectations. The grant is billed first which makes the revenues appear falsely high but this will even out throughout the year. Ryan White expenses are in line; revenues are delayed due to timing issues.
Department 35 overall is in line with expectations. Detention expenses are as expected, the revneues appear low due to timings. Diversion is in line with expectations and revenues are delayed. Shelter subsidy is below expectations but this is largely as expected.
The monthly budget report was approved. MSC: Dean/Lewis (6-0).

IV. **Program Highlight – General Assistance/Outreach** Ashley Balius

Ashley presented information about Community Outreach. Ashley provided an overview of the Linn County and LCCS Missions. 20% of her role is managing GA and the direct services and 80% of her job role is on the community outreach side. The administration of funding side includes the EFSP and ERA2. Ashley noted that EFSP has been moved over to United Way due to administrative burdens and the overall grant being serviced through United Way Worldwide. There were also two tranches of funding for Emergency Rent Assistance during the pandemic totaling $11 million. The Community Planning aspect of her role is to engage with the community to identify unmet needs and emerging issues to explore opportunities for action. Ashley noted that this position has changed substantially post-pandemic and through disaster response. There was a high administrative support burden and a number of community event planning. Ashley discussed her role in moving the overflow shelter from unstable and precarious locations winter-to-winter to a more stable location.

During 2020 Ashley worked closely in disaster response through LAP-AID, Rent & Utility Assistance Coordination, and launching the PATCH program post-derecho. PATCH was able to provide assistance to homeowners who were awaiting FEMA dollars, SBA dollars, or insurance payouts. Post-2020 Ashley has been the backbone support to address community issues, particularly through the Alliance for Equitable Housing. She shared that the homeless systems manager and the better establishment of the winter weather shelter. The Alliance has also developed the landlord & tenant success initiative to promote stability and there are now more units available than case managers. Ashley noted that the risk mitigation fund has not been used and the program has been able to expand to assist youth exiting the foster system as a prevention program. In housing quality, rental inspection capacity has been increased in Linn County. The equity committee commissioned an equity assessment, with an equity audit timeline and toolkit developed out of the work. Ashley is also doing strategic planning with the Linn County Food Systems Council, looking at local food viability and food insecurity. Ashley's planned work moving forward is to look at assessing the safety net in Linn County, and use that information to inform funding decisions and meet emerging needs.

Mike asked about community engagement and how Ashley goes about it. Ashley shared that she is reaching out and having conversations and that there is going to be future opportunity to engage. Andrew asked what was striking about the food insecurity conversations. Ashley noted that from the housing perspective the time scale is month-to-month but that food is an hour-by-hour basis. She noted that none of the food pantries are equipped to handle the high need but that there are households using food pantries three out of four weeks of the month. She also discussed the generational impact that if a family is highly involved in the food system then children grow up not engaged in food but also contributes to culture loss. Nichole shared that transportation is a major barrier as well as the time spent waiting and the ability to transport the food back. Ashley shared that the stigma is also a barrier with individuals feeling the need to justify why they are there. Ashley noted that the highest population for the pantries is those who make just enough to not qualify for SNAP and that with the reduction of SNAP benefits and the high costs of food that the benefits are covering less. Theresa asked if the pantries are working together or what the ripple effects might be. Ashley shared that there are 45 different pantries and that they are starting to work more collaboratively. There are about 12 that work together and are working to streamline thanksgiving meals with a single application process. Their pickup site will be determined by their address and the funders want to support more of this.

V. Program Updates

a. East Central Region/DAP — Jody Bridgewater

Jody shared her update for the Disability Access Point. She shared that it is difficult to get information out and that there have been challenges coming out of HHS. She discussed their process and that it is a more proscribed process and the goal is to maximize dollars. She noted that it's frustrating for staff as well as community members. Jody also noted the challenges in continuity of care from those outside of the old ECR. Theresa shared that some of the training grants or other benefits from the ECR are sorely missed. Jody shared there is a significant advocacy role as well. Jody noted that some of this may be growing pain and the difficulties of transitional periods but that there are big changes. Andrew asked if providers have discussed the reimbursement, but Jody noted they haven't heard. She noted the different funding levels in habilitation RCF. Mike noted that it's good that there's some continuity with Jody working on DAP, and Jody shared that the challenges are more significant in areas where there wasn't a prior relationship.

b. Early Childhood Iowa (ECI)/DECAT — Amy Grunewaldt

Amy provided the updates for ECI/Decat. She shared that they're awaiting legislation to find out if they're moving to districts. They are going to increase the child development center contract as well as the HACAP contract due to carryover funds.

c. Child and Family Services — Gloria Witzberger

Gloria was unable to attend the meeting.

d. Home Health — Stacey Lietz

Stacey was unable to attend the meeting.

e. Ryan White — Nichole Baker Jones

Nichole provided the update for Ryan White. They continue to have stable funding. Their new staff has been onboarded and their field benefit specialist will be offloading her cases to the new staff to better assist clients. They have been asked to assist other Ryan White programs with their field benefit specialists and have started helping in training. They are gearing up for open enrollment starting on October 15. The annual grant application will be coming out soon. Nichole shared that last quarter they provided 328 food vouchers, they paid 59 transactions for utility and other emergency assistance, they paid 104 transactions for rent assistance, they paid insurance copays for 29 clients. They provided 101 billable translation services. She noted that the State has asked them to track non-billable translations services, noting the example of using google translate.

f. General Assistance/Outreach — Ashley Balius

Ashley provided the GA update. She shared that there has been a notable increase in fraud attempts and a cyber security training that highlighted risks. Individuals now have to present an in-person photo ID as part of the application process. Ashley intends to reevaluate this policy at the end of the fiscal year to evaluate what the additional client burden is.

g. Juvenile Detention and Diversion — Will Wright

Will was unable to attend the meeting.

h. Mental Health Access Center — Erin Foster

Erin shared the update for the MHAC. She noted that there have been conversations with HHS and the ASO post July 1. Transportation was a significant barrier and that per code they must provide transportation both to and from services. They invited the ASO to the state Access Center meeting to highlight this barrier. Starting October 1 they are doing a trial run of how often the MHAC uses emergency transportation. They combined their policies with GuideLink and this is being trialed. Erin discussed that there's the perception of bottlenecks and that wait times are being negatively impacted. She provided examples of the increased administrative burdens.

The MHAC is in the process of strategic planning. She shared that there have been extensive conversations about advocacy and legislative priorities.

VI. **New Business/Public Comments** — LCCS Board Chair

a. Next Board Meeting –
   i. November 18th – 12 pm – Hybrid
   ii. December 9th – 12 pm - Hybrid

VII. **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 12:56 p.m.

MISSION: Linn County Community Services addresses local health and human service needs by providing direct services, community planning, and administration of local, state, and federal funds in ways that promote service availability, access, cost-effectiveness, and quality.

FY26 October Budget Summary

Vickie Kindl

Financial Management Director

LCCS Department Groupings

- 33 – Mental Health & Disability Services
- 34 – Community Services
- 35 – Youth Services

October Budget Target: <u>33%</u>

Department 33 – Mental Health & Disability Services

Department 33 Totals				
	Actual	**Budget**	**%**	**Variance**
Total Expense	1,486,610	4,915,312	30%	3,428,702
Total Income/Revenue	1,320,871	4,173,827	32%	2,852,956
Total Net	(165,738)	(741,485)		(575,747)

The department expenditures and income are slightly below the budget expectation.

Department 33 – Options

Options				
	Actual	**Budget**	**%**	**Variance**
Expense	653,833	2,191,179	30%	1,537,346
Income/Revenue	738,616	2,191,179	34%	1,452,563
Net	84,783	-		(84,783)

Options management regularly monitors expense and program attendance to ensure ongoing sustainability. Revenue is often one month behind.

Department 33 – Disability Access Point

Disability Access Point				
	Actual	**Budget**	**%**	**Variance**
Expense	228,392	610,577	0%	382,185
Income/Revenue	261,578	610,577	0%	348,999
Net	33,185	-		(33,185)

The Disability Access Point Program includes staff previously covered by the East Central Region and is reimbursed by the Disability Access Point organization.

The change to the disability services platform was announced after the FY26 budget cycle. We will work on creating a DAP budget for the Fall Budget Amendment.

Department 33 – Mental Health Access Center

Linn County Mental Health Access Center				
Access Center - MH	**Actual**	**Budget**	**%**	**Variance**
Expense	435,485	1,372,071	32%	936,586
Income/Revenue	320,677	1,372,071	23%	1,051,394
Net	(114,808)	-		114,808
Access Center - SUD				
Expense	117,446	524,042	22%	406,596

The Access Center budget is split between mental health and substance use disorder services.

MHAC operations are now billed through the BH-ASO. Revenue is 1-2 months behind

Substance use disorder expenditures are as expected for this early in the fiscal year.

Department 33 – Substance Use Disorder

Substance Use Disorder				
	Actual	**Budget**	**%**	**Variance**
Expense	16,674	110,000	15%	93,326
Income/Revenue	-	-		-
Net	(16,674)	(110,000)	15%	(93,326)

Substance use disorder services are expenses related to county committals. The inflow of claims for these services varies throughout the year.

Department 33 – Mental Health Advocate

Mental Health Advocate				
	Actual	**Budget**	**%**	**Variance**
Expense	34,779	107,443	0%	72,664
Income/Revenue	-	-		-
Net	(34,779)	(107,443)	0%	(72,664)

The Mental Health Advocate was previously included with MH/DS budgets and reimbursed through the East Central Region.

Under the new platform, costs associated with the advocate will be reimbursed through the BH-ASO.

Department 34 – Community Services

Department 34 Totals				
	Actual	**Budget**	**%**	**Variance**
Total Expense	2,769,390	8,608,663	32%	5,839,273
Total Income/Revenue	733,994	2,854,648	26%	2,120,654
Total Net	(2,035,395)	(5,754,015)		(3,718,620)

Department expenditures and revenues are in line with our expectation for this early in the fiscal year.

Department 34 – Administration

Administration				
Administration	**Actual**	**Budget**	**%**	**Variance**
Expense	451,312	1,108,676	41%	657,364
Income/Revenue	-	-		-
Net	(451,312)	(1,108,676)		(657,364)

LCCS Administration expenditures are in line with expectation. Evolv maintenance is paid in August for the full year.

Department 34 – Child & Youth Development

Child & Youth Development				
	Actual	**Budget**	**%**	**Variance**
Expense	1,047,780	3,421,007	31%	2,373,227
Income/Revenue	331,565	1,019,098	33%	687,533
Net	(716,215)	(2,401,909)		(1,685,694)

Child & Youth Development is in line with our expectations for October.

Department 34 – Funded Agencies & Grants

Funded Agencies & Grants				
Funded Agencies	**Actual**	**Budget**	**%**	**Variance**
Expense	110,143	398,404	28%	288,261
Grants				
Expense	92,365	369,115	25%	276,750
Income/Revenue	78,089	369,115	21%	291,026
Net	(14,276)	-		14,276

Funded Agency expenditures are generally behind by a month and therefore in line with our expectation.

Grant expenditures and revenue are where we expect at this time.

Department 34 – General Assistance

General Assistance				
	Actual	**Budget**	**%**	**Variance**
Expense	427,678	1,361,411	31%	933,733
Income/Revenue	12,030	130,000	9%	117,970
Net	(415,648)	(1,231,411)		(815,763)

GA expenditures are in line with the budget expectation.

Revenue from Interim Assistance is unpredictable and occurs when Social Security Administration makes a benefit determination on a client that we assisted.

Department 34 – Home Health

Home Health				
	Actual	**Budget**	**%**	**Variance**
Expense	245,611	744,620	33%	499,009
Income/Revenue	145,643	206,745	70%	61,102
Net	(99,968)	(537,875)		(437,907)

Home Health revenues and expenditures are in line with our expectation.

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Department 34 – Ryan White

Ryan White				
	Actual	**Budget**	**%**	**Variance**
Expense	394,502	1,205,430	33%	810,928
Income/Revenue	166,667	1,129,690	15%	963,023
Net	(227,834)	(75,740)		152,094

The Ryan White program revenues and expenditures are in line with the budget expectation. As it is a reimbursable grant, revenue is generally 1-2 months delayed.

Department 35 – Youth Services

Department 35 Totals				
	Actual	**Budget**	**%**	**Variance**
Total Expense	1,605,909	5,317,495	30%	3,711,586
Total Income/Revenue	349,067	2,097,317	17%	1,748,250
Total Net	(1,256,842)	(3,220,178)		(1,963,336)

Youth Services expenditures are in line with our expectation for October.

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Department 35 – Detention & Diversion Services

Detention & Diversion Services				
Detention	**Actual**	**Budget**	**%**	**Variance**
Expense	1,287,705	4,122,126	31%	2,834,421
Income/Revenue	198,496	1,184,192	17%	985,696
Net	(1,089,209)	(2,937,934)		(1,848,725)
Diversion	**Actual**	**Budget**	**%**	**Variance**
Expense	304,072	1,093,369	28%	789,297
Income/Revenue	150,571	913,125	16%	762,554
Net	(153,501)	(180,244)		(26,743)

Detention and Diversion are both where we would expect them at this point in the fiscal year.

About half of the budgeted Detention revenue is the payment from the State of Iowa that is generally received after the end of the fiscal year.

Department 35 – Shelter Subsidy

Shelter Subsidy				
	Actual	**Budget**	**%**	**Variance**
Expense	14,131	102,000	14%	87,869

Shelter Subsidy is below the budget expectation. The state formula for this has changed and the amount owed by counties was lowered. This is in addition to the decrease in emergency shelter beds available in the community.

LCCS Totals

LCCS Totals				
	Actual	**Budget**	**%**	**Variance**
Total Expense	5,861,908	18,841,470	31%	12,979,562
Total Income/Revenue	2,403,933	9,125,792	26%	6,721,859
Total Net	(3,457,975)	(9,715,678)		(6,257,703)

Overall, LCCS is where we expect it to be at this point in the year. Expenditures are in line with expectations. Revenue will increase as we continue through the year with regular monthly billings.

CACFP Meals Served				
	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	TOTAL
Free	2,043	1,477	2,501	6,021
Non-Reimbursable	66	53	58	177
Reduced Price	94	60	109	263
Total Meals Served to Children	2,203	1,590	2,668	6,461
Meals Served to Adults	-	-	-	-

CACFP Attendance Data				
	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	TOTAL
Number of Days Meals were Served	22	19	21	62
Total Monthly Attendance	790	565	950	2,305
Average Daily Attendance	36	30	45	37

Accrued CACFP Budget Data				
	YTD	Budget	% Utilized	% Expected
Salaries & Benefits	$ 39,221.56	$ 155,612.89	25%	25%
Food Expenditures	$ 14,221.50	$ 77,000.00	18%	25%
Non-Food Expenditures	$ 1,606.00	$ 8,000.00	20%	25%
Total Expenditures	$ 55,049.06	$ 240,612.89	23%	25%
CACFP Revenue	$ 18,305.60	$ 73,800.00	25%	25%
Deficit	$ (36,743.46)	$ (166,812.89)	22%	25%

LINN COUNTY
CHILD & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
4:30 p.m., Tuesday, October 7, 2025
Teams Meeting

PRESENT:

Nancy Cleary, Private Sector Representative
Terri Godwin, Linn County Child & Youth Development Services
Ann Hearn, Private Sector Representative
Kelly Nelson, Linn County Family Transformation Services
Maryann Pudar, Linn County Child & Youth Development Services
Colette Stocks, Linn County Child Development Center
Gloria Witzberger, Linn County Child & Youth Development Services

Call to order: Gloria Witzberger, Linn County Child & Youth Development Services, called the meeting to order. June 3, 2025, minutes were approved, and introductions were made. Gloria welcomed Nancy Cleary, new LCCYDS Advisory Committee member. Nancy retired two years ago after thirty-five years of service to Linn County. Her commitment to Linn County programs and community is greatly appreciated.

LCCYDS Update by Gloria Witzberger, Linn County Child & Youth Development Services, Director*:*

Grant/Contract Updates – Gloria shared *LCCYDS Grant/Contract Funding for FY26* document highlighting funding by program. She expressed relief that the same founding sources were available for FY26. Shared Visions and Early Childhood Iowa grants were extended for one more year. The Shared Visions five-year contract was due for renewal. It has, however, only been extended for one additional year. State Voluntary Preschool Program contract with Cedar Rapids Community School District was approved with no changes. This year has been full of unknown and hard to plan for delivery of services. That concern has been averted until the end of the current Fiscal Year. All Linn County Programs are working on plans to absorb upcoming financial challenges in funding sources.
Ann Hearn asked about funding for School to Home Connections Program shown as negative. Gloria clarified that School to Home Connections and Reaching Families programs are both County funded as one line item on financial reports.
Sunshine Law Training Requirements for Appointed Officials - the new Iowa law *House File 706* mandates that anyone appointed to an official governmental body on or after July 1, 2025, completes an educational course on Iowa's Sunshine Laws *(Iowa Code Chapter 21, and Iowa Code Chapter 22).* This is applicable to newly appointed member, Nancy Cleary, and any members of this Committee who are interested in completing the course. Training is available online through the Iowa Public Information Board at https://www.ipib.iowa.gov. Linng County is working on implementing in-person training. Gloria asked to have completed Certificates sent to her.
Iowa Health and Human Services Change in Leadership – Governor Reynolds recently announced upcoming resignation of Kelly Garcia from her role as HHS Director. Larry Johnson, current director of the State Department of Inspections, Appeals and Licensing, will step in as an interim director.

Facilities Report – LCCDC is working with Linn County Facilities on request for the second shed. The $28,000 cost has been approved and must be spent prior to end of the year. The only stipulation is that the shed must be prefabricated instead of built.
Hy-Vee Receipts: LCCDC continues to accept Hy-Vee receipts. Gloria thanked Committee members who forwarded their receipts to LCCDC.
New Members Recruitment – Parents and guardians have been offered to join the LCCYDS Advisory Committee. Many expressed lack of time to commit due to busy schedules of balancing work, and children's programs and activities.

***Financial Update - Gloria Witzberger, Linn County Child & Youth Development Services, Director**:*
Gloria shared Budget update from Victoria Kindl, LCCS Financial Director. There were no concerns reported, and all programs are operating on track.

PROGRAM OVERVIEWS
Linn County Child Development Center*: Update by Colette Stocks, LCCDC*

- Colette stated LCCDC is currently fully staffed. She has received a resignation notice from one of the staff today. She will be posting a 20-hour-per-week Child Care Worker vacancy.
- 33 children graduated last August and transitioned into Kindergarten. Each classroom had an end of the year celebration with their families.
- July and August were busy months for enrollment planning and paperwork with families. 56 children are currently being served. All funding slots for preschool rooms have been filled. Several children will be starting Early Head Start program in Toddler room in the upcoming weeks.
- Due to upcoming funding cuts, all families are required to apply for HHS Child Care Assistance. Families must present either a Notice of Decision, or Letter of Denial from HHS Child Care Assistance prior to being considered for other available funding.
- 50% of currently enrolled children have some type of Health Action Plan in place due to allergies or some other health needs. These include asthma, seizures, food allergies, and Marfan's Syndrome.
- IQ4K Certification expires in May of 2026. Each member of staff is required to complete 24 hours of training prior to end of Certification. Toddler room staff are currently used for coverage while the preschool staff takes training.
- Grant Wood AEA completed children hearing testing on September 8. 2 children have been referred to their primary physicians for follow up.
- Blinding sunlight from upper windows in classrooms continues to be an issue. Rotted tree stumps are being patched up but still need to be removed and replaced with more durable equipment. Children need equipment for climbing. They are currently climbing trees, which presents safety issues and liability.

Linn County Family Support Services: *Update by Terri Godwin*
Peer Group: Deb Clark retired on October 3, 2025. She reached 35 years of service with Linn County on October 1st. Reception for Deb was held on September 29th. Current and past families have been invited to honor Deb. Many of the past participants who are now parents came to celebrate Deb and express how their lives were impacted by Peer Group.
Peer Group currently has 79 participants. Three groups are currently on hold until replacement for Deb is found. Other groups are blended with Jessie's group, so there is no interruption in services.

Finding adequate replacement for Deb's role is very challenging. The position has been re-posted last week. Deb's combination of experience, personality and calmness will be hard to match.

Reaching Families: Amy Koffron is currently serving 16 families on regular basis. Additional families reach out when they have questions/needs. Amy reported frustration with fewer resources. Catherine McAuley Center funding for families with refugee status has been reduced. Legal Aid and Catholic Charities have long wait lists.

Amy was able to assist refugee family from Africa with finding a day program for their adult daughter with intellectual disability.

School to Home Connections Program: Tanya Moyle currently has 8 youth receiving services. Tanya spent more time with her clients outside during the summer. This allowed her to observe and support the youth in different environments.

One of Tanya's clients is struggling with school attendance during the school year. Two of her clients transitioned to Middle School this year. She took one to the open house and had the opportunity to establish relationship with the school counselor. Now she has three clients from the same school.

Strengthening Families: The first cohort of Strengthening Families with four youth completed the curriculum. Areas of growth include: increased family stability; improved healthy families functioning; increased positive relationship and positive feelings toward youth; and increased skills in general child management. Two families are ready to start in November, but that is not enough to justify resources. Terri is looking for two more families to start the group.

Children's Mental Health Assistance Program (CMHA): New cycle started on July 1st. Currently, only 5.6% of the budget has been spent. The biggest impact was that Tanager's Social Skills Group decided not to utilize funding for summer services. The funds can cover more months during the school year. Terri has seen an increase in requests for September and October.

Family Transformation Services: *Update by Kelly Nelson*

33 families are currently being served by Healthy Families Nurturing Parenting Program: 26 families with focus children and 7 pregnant women.

Staff have been taking a lot of training required after affiliation with Healthy Families America on July 1st. All staff and supervisor completed Foundations Training, and FROG (Family Resilience and Opportunities for Growth scale). As part of Healthy Families program, Kelly is required to spend hour and a half to 2 hours meeting with each individual staff, in addition to regular team meetings.

HACAP 1st Five attended FTS Staff Meeting on September 10th. This partnership has been put on hold due to COVID and change in leadership. Both groups discussed opportunity for continued partnership.

Kelly shared information about Healthy Families Nurturing Parenting Program at ECI Board Meeting on September 23.

Kelly received signed MOU from HHS in September. Now she can provide HFNPP services to HHS clients via Welfare Protocols.

FTS team attended Bridgehaven. Nicole Buttler, former FTS Intake Technician, works there. They discussed partnership and collaboration.

Kelly and Maryann will reconvene working on Iowa Family Support Credentialing. The Credentialing was postponed until March 2026, due to changes in program operation after affiliation with Healthy Families America.

Appreciation/Adjournment

Gloria honored Deb Clark for her thirty-five years of services to Linn County youth.

The next meeting of this Advisory Committee will be at **4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 2, 2025.**

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.