

**Region 6 IEIC Meeting Minutes**  
**WEAC, ISD 347 District Office, 611 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, Rehearsal Room**  
**Wednesday, September 27, 2023, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

Fiscal Year 2024 Co-chairs: McLeod and Meeker Counties: Amy Stock, Nicole Cline, Sue Thomes,  
Laurie Terning, Heather Sage

Present: Kari Dorry, Billy Lindeman, Connie Fragodt, Karie Miller, Jodi Wambeke, Amy Stock, Sue Thomes, Katie Slagter, Cindy Kvaal, Amber Deter, Rhonda Buysse, Julie Schroeder, Erin Hoffmann, Tina Saue, Jody Wharton, Linda Mathiasen

Guest: Shawn Holmes, Help Me Connect, new Children and Families Department

- I. Meeting began with introductions and agency updates. Referrals are steady with an increase in medical diagnoses, including some new diagnoses. A few districts are seeing a shift in population with more Hispanics enrolling and increased needs for working with translators. Early childhood staffing remains a concern. The 2023 legislature passed significant investments for families and children including increasing Early Learning Scholarships to up to \$15,000 for children ages three and four years. Families' income must be equal or less of 185% of the federal poverty income requirements. Eligibility will expand to children ages birth to two years in January 2024.
- II. September's agenda was motion for approval by Erin Hoffmann, seconded by Kari Dorry. Motion passed. The Minutes from April 26, 2023, were motioned for approval by Connie Fragodt, seconded by Amber Deters. Motion carried.
- III. Membership Roster changes include adding Heather Sage, Litchfield Public Schools; Nicole Cline, McLeod Public Health, Amy Eisenbraun, BBE Schools; Jody Wharton, Supporting Hands Nurse Family Partnership. To increase parent participation at IEIC meetings, the stipend for attending was motioned by Kari Dorry and seconded by Sue Thomas to increase it from \$100 to \$250 plus mileage reimbursement. A total of \$4,000 will be allocated from work plan funds to recruit and retain a parent participant who has a child under 12 years with a disability.

The decision was also made to cleanse the roster of members who are not actively attending per Region 6's IEIC Operating Procedures:

***Attendance:*** *Two consecutive absences without notifying the chair would result in dismissal from the Committee. Designees may be assigned as follows: When members are unable to attend scheduled Region 6 Help Me Grow IEIC meetings, they may assign a designee, in writing, to the Chair. The designee shall have the authority to exercise the full privileges of the absent member.*

- IV. Minnesota Department of Education updates include Meetings of the Minds are held monthly virtually and co-chairs are invited to attend with Linda Mathiasen. DEI training continues and is now switching to train the trainer. Recent sessions were on microaggressions and culturally-responsive teaching.

Shawn Holmes, Help Me Connect, attended the meeting virtually to share [Home - Help Me Connect \(state.mn.us\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/about/org/cfh/cfhorgchart.pdf) website and its broad listings of local and state resources for professionals to share with families. New marketing materials will be available this winter to promote Help Me Connect. Rack cards are available through Region 11 for no charge. She also provided insight in the newly created Children, Youth and Families Department. Linda Mathiasen also shared slides from an IEIC statewide meeting explaining the functions of Public Health, Human Service and Department of Education that are proposed to move to the new Department. Dept of Children and Families. More information will be shared as it becomes available.  
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/about/org/cfh/cfhorgchart.pdf>.

- V. Financial Update: FY 2023 Final Budget closed with \$8,483.94 carryover funds. This was mostly due to SWWC helping to secure annual HMG referrals materials. These funds need to be used first before FY2024 funds of \$24,555.96 for a total FY2024 budget of \$33,039.90.
- VI. Milestones – Develop trainer for Child Care Providers is hosting Energize! Super Saturday, September 30 Conference in St. Cloud: <https://www.milestonesmn.org/eventsconferences>. Assignment is for Linda Mathiasen to invite Tristin Altmann, Milestones, to future meeting to discuss Region 6W and 6 E trainings. Interest in hosting a Super Saturday training that can include early childhood developmental milestones, challenging behaviors and the Help Me Grow referral process continues.
- VII. FY2023 Work Plan was shared with outcomes. It has been submitted and approved by MDE.
- VIII. The Work Plan for FY2024 was reviewed. See list below. Suggestions for targeted outreach and introductions to Childcare, School Personnel, Hospitals and Clinics, County groups including Public Health, Social Workers, Child Protection, Jail, Employers; Early Childhood Events; and community organizations that serve families and young children.  
FY 2024 Complete & Scheduled:
- a. Region 6 videos are complete. **ASSIGNMENT (ALL):** IEIC members are asked to coordinate with their departments and organizations to push it out on social media, district and county websites, include in ECFE courses, staff trainings, newsletters, etc.  
**Video links:**  
**(SHORT 1 MINUTE) Refer A Child:** <https://youtu.be/7Yrh63Dajl4>  
**FULL 4 MINUTES) Early Childhood Intervention:** <https://youtu.be/L-6JANfIAtU>
    - i. Thank you to Cindy Kvaal for her leadership and participation on this project.
    - ii. Region 11 – statewide would like access – discussion
    - iii. Advertising Resources are available for use at [Resources Hub for Providers \(helpmegrowmn.org\)](https://www.helpmegrowmn.org). A motion to spend up to \$3,000 in Movie Theater advertising in communities: Madison, Montevideo, Litchfield, Spicer, Hutchinson, Canby and Willmar. An additional \$1000 can be approved by co-chairs. Motion made by Cindy Kvaal, seconded by Billie Lindemann. Motion carried.
  - b. Trainings scheduled: Interest remains in Super Saturday in smaller communities with centers.
    - i. September 25 – Renville County Staff – thank you, Katie S, for the connection
    - ii. October 10 – Family Outreach at Fire Station, Willmar
    - iii. October 30 – Cougar Cubs – Observation: Finding the Function of Behavior
    - iv. March 1-2 – Kid’s First Conference – trainer Observation: Finding the Function of Behavior) and vendor expo
    - v. TBD: Cardinal Place – Willmar – ADHD: Seeing the Disability Behind the Behavior and Tools for the Toolbox – Strategies to Meet Challenging Behaviors
- IX. Ordering of materials was put on hold. Several items are inventoried at SWWC in Willmar. Requests can be made to Linda Mathiasen, [ldm@ldmarketinggroup.com](mailto:ldm@ldmarketinggroup.com).
- X. **Next meeting:** December 6, 2023 at 9 a.m. – noon in Willmar.
- XI. **FY 2024 dates:** December 6, 2023, VIRTUAL-February 21, 2024, April 17, 2024.

**2024 Work Plan Quick Reference:**

FY 2024 Targets for Work Plan from April 2023 Meeting:

- a. Host Super Saturday in Appleton/Benson/Madison. A subcommittee was held with Milestones, Prairie Five and Kari Dorry. Propose a Saturday in August. Seek funding for food from SWIF. Budget ranges based on trainers. Six hours is preferred length. Up to \$2,000 was approved at April 26, 2023's IEIC meeting; carryover funds remain.
- b. Presentations to SWWC, Early Childhood Teachers, Paras, HeadStart, UCAP, Prairie Five. Sue Thomas is connecting Linda for these presentations.
- c. Partnering with Kandiyohi County Early Childhood Outreach/WPS Schools for outreach to Jennie-O, MinnWest, Riverdale Dairy, Bethesda, onsite outreach events.
- d. Linda Mathiasen to do a presentation to Countryside Public Health
- e. Presentations and Materials:
  - a. Public Health, County groups
  - b. CentraCare, local clinics/hospitals systems
  - c. Diverse populations: CLUES, Community Integration Center, Tribal Nations-Lower Sioux
  - d. Emergency shelters/food shelves including Hope for the City, Mothers of Preschoolers, congregations
  - e. Childcare Centers and Family Providers

Milestones or IEIC:

- a. Motion for up to \$2,000 for materials, room rental, and materials for Super Saturday made by Billy Lindeman, seconded by Connie Fragodt. Motion carried.