

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 DECATEGORYIZATION BOARD MEETING

April 8, 2021 at 3 pm via Zoom webinar

Per Iowa Code section 21.8 an electronic meeting can be held when there are valid concerns that an in-person meeting is "impossible or impractical" (e.g. COVID19).

Members: David Thielen, Chris Wyatt, Laura Faircloth, Jennifer Slife, Ben Rogers
Designees: Mary Loops, Kristi Tisl,
Staff: Chris Kivett-Berry, Jeanette Shoop
Guests: Amber Wood, AmeriCorps Member, Meridith Myers, Melissa Zehr, Megan Isenberg

David Thielen, Chair, called the meeting to order @ 3:00 pm

Action: 3/11/21 Decat Board Minutes

- **M/S/C** (Faircloth, Slife) Motion & Second to approve Minutes from the 03/11/2021 meeting. Carried unanimously.

Community Engagement:

Child Welfare Trends/Issues/Updates: no updates

Youth & Juvenile Welfare Trends/Issues/Updates: Wyatt reported that detention numbers are down due to the Covid 19-Pandemic, and also possibly due to the new screening tool that has been implemented.

Program Engagement:

Focusing Families Program Update: Megan Isenberg, Jane Boyd Director, and Melissa Zehr, Program Manager, provided programming information, and updates on the FY21 performance measures for the Focusing Families Program.

Funded Program Customer Satisfaction Survey Trends: Results were reviewed by Shoop. Plans will be developed to address the 2 lowest scoring items: "How to obtain the board meeting agenda", and "Board membership diversity".

April Prevent Child Abuse Awareness Month Efforts: Amber Wood, AmeriCorps Member, provided a summary of the activities which included: planting pinwheel gardens and developing a map of gardens, first ever 5K virtual run/walk that raised over \$950 for HACAP, development of an information sheet for parents with 15 apps to watch out for, on their child's phone.

Fiscal Items:

Action to Accept:

Transfer Letter from Juvenile Court Services (JCS), dated 4-6-21, in the amount of \$53,000 and designated for the Tracking, Monitoring and Intervention services (Link program).

- **M/S/C** (Tisl, Faircloth) Motion & Second to accept the transfer letter in the amount of \$53,000 from JCS for the Link program. Carried unanimously.

CPPC \$ Award upon notification – was accepted at the February board meeting.

PSSF S Award upon notification:

- **M/S/C** (Slife, Wyatt) Motion & Second to accept upon notification PSSF funds in the amount awarded. Carried unanimously. Abstained: Tisl and Faircloth.

Budget Utilization Summary: Shoop reviewed the summary of FY21 budget utilization, provided in the board packet, no concerns.

FY 21 Contracting:

Action: Award new FY 22 contract for Additional FY 21 PSSF\$ -

Shoop reported one agency bid on the Informal bid Solicitation for \$3,000 in PSSF funds, two other agencies were contacted and declined to bid. YPN proposes to provide the Building Brighter Futures group program, for up to ten families that are eligible for PSSF funds starting 5/1/21 through 6/30/21.

- **M/S/C** (Slife, Wyatt) Motion & Second to award \$3,000 to YPN in PSSF funds, for the Building Brighter Futures program. Carried unanimously. Abstained: Faircloth.

FY 22 Contracting: Action: Award new FY 22 Contracts for Informal Bid Applicants. Kivett-Berry reviewed the summary of all the bids and scores received.

Mother Father Supports (2 bids)

1. Top scoring applicant was YouthPort, recommended for funding by 3 of 4 reviewers.
 - **M/S/C** (Wyatt, Tisl) Motion & Second to award up to \$74,992 to YouthPort, with a combination of State and PSSF funds, for various Mother/Father support services in the form of classes both virtually and in person, serving rural and urban areas of Linn County, for FY22. Carried unanimously. Abstained: Faircloth.
2. 2nd ranked applicant was WayPoint, recommended for funding by 3 of 4 reviewers.
 - **M/S/C** (Slife, Wyatt) Motion & Second to award \$53,405 to WayPoint, with a combination of PSSF funds, special project transfer, and unobligated funds, for Caring Dads program, a pilot project addressing fathers and domestic violence, for FY22. Carried unanimously. Abstained: Faircloth.

Minority Family Focused Services (3 bids)

1. Top scoring applicant was Central City Development Corporation (CCDC), recommended for funding by 3 of 3 reviewers.
 - **M/S/C** (Wyatt, Slife) Motion & Second to award \$12,000 to CCDC, with State Decat funds, for ReSET CR program with a focus on gun violence prevention, for FY22. Carried unanimously. Abstained: Faircloth.
2. 2nd ranked applicant was AAFRA, recommended for funding by 2 of 3 reviewers. Discussion was held and by consensus agreed the vendor provides valuable service but will need to provide more robust outcomes in the contract.
 - **M/S/C** (Slife, Wyatt) Motion & Second to award \$12,000 to AAFRA, with State funds, for minority youth and family programming and support services, for FY22. Carried unanimously. Abstained: Faircloth.
3. The lowest scoring applicant, Linn County Youth Leadership Peer Group, was not recommended for funding by any reviewer.

Minority Family Stability Contract - Kivett-Berry noted that the Focusing Families Contract ends 6/30/21. Discussion was held regarding issuing a bid for minority family stability services.

- **M/S/C** (Wyatt, Slife) Motion & Second to issue an informal bid not to exceed \$20,000, State funds, for minority family stability services. Carried unanimously. Abstained: Faircloth

Open Agenda: N/A

Next Board Meeting: May 13, 2021

Adjournment: Thielen adjourned the meeting at 4:12 pm

Minutes submitted by: Amber Wood, AmeriCorps and Jeanette Shoop, Coordinator