



Northwest
Minnesota
Council of
Collaboratives

MINUTES OF GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
Crookston, MN – September 5, 2025

Board Members Present: In Person: Brittney Bimler, Aaron Cook, Drew Kjono, Sarah Kjono, Kristi Nelson, Fran Tougas, Shawn Yates. Via Teams: Kayla Jore, Karla Langaas, Chris Mills.

Board Members Absent: Tom Loberg, Shauna Reitmeier.

Others Present: Faye Auchenpaugh, Colleen MacRae, Andrew Fougner, Supt. Red Lake County Central

Called to Order: Meeting was called to order at 9:33 am by Aaron Cook, chairman.

Agenda: **M/S/C** (Yates/D. Kjono) to approve the agenda.

Minutes: **M/S/C** (Tougas/S. Kjono) to approve minutes of the May 2, 2025 meeting.

Financials and Bills: **M/S/C** (D. Kjono/Yates) to approve payment of the June, July and August 2025 facilitator invoices.

Grant Opportunities and Reports:

- **BJA's STOP School Violence** – Auchenpaugh reported that Responsive Classroom training is completed or in process at eight schools and the grant will be closed as of September 30, 2025. The final report is due on January 31, 2026.
- MacRae shared a short primer on searching for grant opportunities.

Member Contact Updates: MacRae will send the document out for members to update for their counties.

Governing Board Membership Updates: Several county collaboratives are meeting this month, so replacements will be selected for Randy Bruer and Jim Guetter and Auchenpaugh will be notified of any other changes.

Moving Forward as a Partnership: General discussion on the current grant climate. Public Health is conducting assessments right now and will be incorporating other assessments into their report. They will do a presentation on their findings at a future Governing Board meeting. MacRae showed the Moorhead Asset/Network Mapping Project.

“Planning the Future of Housing for 55+ Residents” community forum in Thief River Falls: Auchenpaugh asked the Board for input on the background of this project. Bimler said there is a shortage of independent senior living housing in Thief River Falls that this project seeks to address. Currently 3-4 year waiting lists.

Motion to Adjourn: **M/S/C** (Yates/D. Kjono) at 10:19 am.

Next Meeting: Friday, October 3, 2025

Faye Auchenpaugh, Facilitator