



**MINUTES OF GOVERNING BOARD MEETING  
Crookston, MN – March 7, 2025**

**Board Members Present:** In Person: Jason Carlson, Aaron Cook, Kayla Jore, Sarah Kjono, Kristi Nelson, Shauna Reitmeier, Fran Tougas, Shawn Yates. Via Zoom: Brittney Bimler. **Board Members Absent:** Jim Guetter, Maureen Hams, Drew Kjono, Karla Langaas, Chris Mills, Tom Loberg.

**Others Present:** Faye Auchenpaugh, Colleen MacRae

**Called to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 9:30 am by Aaron Cook, chairman.

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

**Minutes:** **M/S/C** (Carlson, Yates) to approve minutes of the February 7, 2025 meeting.

**Financials and Bills:** **M/S/C** (Nelson/Yates) to approve payment of the February 2025 facilitator invoice.

**Grant Opportunities and Reports:**

- **BJA's STOP School\_Violence** – Auchenpaugh completed the final APR for the training grant and reported that Responsive Classroom training is being scheduled in several school districts as part of the threat assessment grant for Year 5.

MacRae shared information on two data resources: 1) Census Bureau differentiation makes it more difficult on what you can access. 2) sparkmap.org is probably one of the most thorough data sets she has seen and is very user friendly.

Cook pointed out that we aren't seeing many grant opportunities. The group then discussed regional and state granting foundations and organizations, e.g. Sanford and Essentia, CHS funding for ag communities, BC/BS. Carlson proposed that we become more proactive – discuss our needs and zero in on what we should pursue. Our values and propositions need to stay intact so that we retain our members. Tougas said being part of a collaborative is beneficial in receiving funding.

Cook suggested we develop a focus topic at our next meeting, so we know where we want to direct our energies and our ask. What are our highest needs? Mental health, social services? We need to focus. Reitmeier said we should research area foundations to see what they might want to put their money towards. To begin this research, Carlson will arrange for a Northwest Minnesota Foundation program officer to speak at our April meeting.

Reitmeier reported that she just found out from the Minnesota delegation at a legislative conference she attended in Washington, D.C. that the Energy and Commerce Department is opening a link for people to submit stories on the impact being made by federal cuts. She will draft a letter on behalf of our collaborative to say these are challenging times and to voice some of the potential consequences of Medicaid and other cuts. The work we all do is nonpartisan work and it is moving policy forward, so here is what we do, and these are some things we want you to know.

Carlson showed a Tri-Valley Opportunity Council video that was put together and gives a shout out to the Collaborative. This will air on PBS sites, and they will use it at county fairs for recruitment, etc.

June 3<sup>rd</sup> is this year's Alluma Night at Northland Community and Technical College in East Grand Forks.

**Motion to Adjourn:** **M/S/C** (Cook/Yates) at 10:32 am.

**Next Meeting:** Friday, March 7, 2025

Faye Auchenpaugh, Facilitator