



**MINUTES OF GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
Crookston, MN – March 3, 2023**

Board Members Present: Randy Bruer, Brittney Bimler, Jason Carlson, Aaron Cook, Jim Guetter, Maureen Hams, Catherine Johnson, Kathy Johnson, Sarah Kiono, Chris Kujava, Kayla Jore, Karla Langaas, Andrew Larson, Tom Loberg, Chris Mills, Kristi Nelson, Shauna Reitmeier, Kirk Thorstenson, Fran Tougas, Shawn Yates. **Board Members Absent:** None

Others Present: Faye Auchenpaugh, Colleen MacRae

Called to Order: Meeting was called to order at 9:30 am by Randy Bruer, chairman.

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

Minutes: **M/S/C** (Guetter/Cook) to approve minutes of the February 3, 2023 meeting.

Financials and Bills: **M/S/C** (Yates/Langaas) to approve payment of the January 2023 facilitator invoice.

Website: MacRae reported the website is static but always referenced in grant proposals. How useful is it? Is it simply a place holder to sell our story? We have migrated to the “Weekly News Digest” for resource/sharing of information. Cook said it is good to have our information out there, but would there be a better way to use it, e.g., grants we have received in the past, return on investment, summary of all grants unfunded in the past ten years. Bruer suggested a membership list. Langaas said that keeping a website updated on monthly basis is a lot of work and it would cost thousands of dollars to get a robust website with intentionally posting 20x/month and giving people the opportunity to respond. There may a lot of merit to what we’re doing if we can enter updates as things happen. MacRae said there could also be links to major websites of importance to the Collaborative. Final consensus was to keep it going and that the Collaborative should be paying the costs for same.

Grant Opportunities and Reports:

1. **BJA’s STOP School Violence** – Auchenpaugh will be scheduling summer CSTAG and Youth Mental Health First Aid training sessions and they will be free and available to districts in all 12 counties of NW Minnesota.
2. **21st CCLC** – Continuing on with an end date of August 31, 2023. No word yet on a forthcoming grant opportunity.
3. **Family Peers** – Continuing to move forward with the capacity we currently we have. Carlson is meeting with state legislators for a five-year pilot project to infuse these services into a wider geography.

Other: Bruer reported on a Workforce Development meeting held yesterday in Thief River Falls that Reitmeier and Mills also attended. Questions addressed: What are reasons for workplace shortage? How can we keep kids and people here? Wages have a lot to do with this. Minimum wage right now to make a living in northwest Minnesota is \$15.46/hour for a family of 3. How many jobs are available? Right now, there are .4 job seekers per vacancy (yes, less than half of one person per vacancy). What are they looking at? The strategy of “build it and they will come” no longer works. We are seeking them instead. Workplace strategies also change. We need to sell them an attitude – how will they be treated, what is the workplace environment? We have a shortage of STEM, Ag, and Industrial Ed teachers, a growing need for civics, welding, mechanics, business, and other classes that will be required. We are looking at how a partnership with NCTC could be beneficial to areas near Thief River Falls or East Grand Forks, maybe need to look at NCTC for something like the career center in Moorhead.

Motion to Adjourn: **M/S/C** (Yates/Mills)

Faye Auchenpaugh, Facilitator