



**CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION BOARD
MEETING MINUTES – approved 8/13/25
May 14, 2025
9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

Board Members Present: Erin Arango-Escalante, Jonette Arms, Rep. Jill Billings, Paula Breese, Allison Budzinski, Sara Christensen, Alice Egan, Max Ellithorpe, Lance Horozewski, Johnny Humphrey (Sen. Jesse James' Office), Julie Incitti, Sen. LaTonya Johson, Jennie Kleven, Stephanie Lozano, William Olivier, Rep. Patrick Snyder, Vicki Tylka

Board Members Absent: Lynn Cook, Mary Anne Snyder, Erika Traver

Guests Present: John Elliot, Sam Hope, Anne Kessenich, Jacob Taylor, Lisa Taylor, Alvin Thomas, Tova Walsh

Prevention Board Staff Present: Claire Ackerman, Evan Golden, Lamia Kosovic, Merrissa Johnson, Becky Mather, Kris Moelter, Rebecca Murray

Call to Order and Public Comment

Kleven called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. There were no public comments. Kleven welcomed Ellithorpe, Arango-Escalante, and Sen. James as new board members.

Approval of February 12, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Horozewski moved to approve the minutes from the February 12, 2025 meeting and Ellithorpe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Financial Summary

Keller reviewed the financial summary for July 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025. No concerns were raised.

SFY25 Community Investment Plan Update

Murray presented an update on the SFY25 Community Investment Plan. The Homelessness Resource Navigator Program funds from DPI have been terminated as of March 28, 2025. The Prevention Board funded the program through April 2025 using private and some other federal funds, but needed to terminate the contracts as of April 30, 2025 because the federal funds were no longer being paid to the State. Also, the federal government has not reimbursed any expenditures since the new administration took office. Breese moved to approve the plan and Olivier seconded the motion. Motion carried. Incitti recused herself.

SFY26 Contract Renewals for Community Investment Plan

Merrissa Johnson presented the contracts listed below for renewal. Breese moved to approve awarding the contracts and Ellithorpe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- 433001-A24-0002251: Board of Regents, UW Milwaukee
- 433001-S23-0002160: 2-1-1 Wisconsin, Inc.
- 433001-C25-0002518: University of Kansas Center for Research, Inc.
- 433001-M23-0002161: Supporting Families Together Association/Thriving Wisconsin
- 433001-G25-0002516: Supporting Families Together Association/Thriving Wisconsin



Roots and Wings Foundation Grant

Murray reported that the Roots and Wings Foundation has awarded the Prevention Board \$500,000 for two years to support Family Resource Centers. Christensen moved to accept the funds and award them to FRCs who are not part of the FRC of Quality process Olivier and seconded the motion. Motion carried.

SFY26 Community Investment Plan

Murray presented the updated SFY26 Community Investment Plan. Arms moved to approve the plan and Lozano seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Policy Committee Report

Billings reported on the legislation the Prevention Board is monitoring. She also reported that the Children's Caucus hosted a presentation from the Prenatal-to-3 Center at Vanderbilt University on April 30. Moelter presented the Public Policy Guidelines. Horozewski moved to approve the guideline and Tylka seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Strong Fathers, Safe Children: The Prevention Connection Presentation

Tova Walsh, PhD, MSW, UW Madison Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work and Alvin Thomas, PhD, Phyllis Northway Faculty Fellow presented on the importance of fathers in child maltreatment prevention.

Strong and Stable Survey Update

Joshua Mersky, PhD, UW-Milwaukee Helen Bader School of Social Welfare and founding co-director of the Institute for Child and Family Well-Being (ICFW) presented an update on the Strong and Stable Survey.

Performance Improvement Committee Report

Johnson reported the committee met on May 1, 2025 and reviewed performance measures.

Celebrate Children Foundation Report

Murray reported that Breese is the new chairperson until the next election. She also presented a list of Prevention Board members who serve on the Foundation. Incitti moved to approve the presented members and Christensen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Staff Report/Updates

Murray provided an update on the SFY25 workplan/goals. She reminded the board to complete the annual board member survey.

Partner Updates

Elliott provided an update on the DCF budget.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.