

Wright County Community Action, Inc.
Head Start Policy Council Meeting Minutes
August 18, 2026

Members Present:

Jazmyn Harville, EHS Representative (virtual)
Gena LaPlante, Howard Lake Representative (in-person)
JoLynn Larson, Monti 209/210 Representative (in-person)
Evette Holler, Otsego Representative (virtual)
Marina Eggink, Community Representative (virtual)
Meghan Truenow, Community Representative (in-person)

Members Absent:

Meghan Polzin, Annandale Representative
Nicole Cantin, Buffalo 1 Representative
Emily Lommen, Delano Representative
JorDyn Bresinger, EHS Representative, Chairperson
Maria Mendoza, Monti 206 Representative
Samantha Peters, Montrose Representative, Vice Chairperson

Staff Present:

Dara Smida, Head Start/Early Head Start Director

I. Determine Quorum/Call to Order/Introductions

The August 18, 2026, Policy Council meeting was called to order at **6:11PM** by JoLynn Larson. A quorum was present, members introduced themselves, and the meeting began.

II. Consideration/Approval of August 18, 2026 Agenda

Policy Council members reviewed the agenda as presented.

Motion by Gena LaPlante, second by Meghan Truenow, to approve the August 18, 2026 agenda. Motion carried.

III. Consideration/Approval of the July 21, 2026 Policy Council Minutes

Policy Council members reviewed the July 21, 2026 Policy Council minutes as e-mailed.

Motion by Marina Eggink, second by Gena LaPlante, to approve the July 21, 2026 Policy Council meeting minutes as e-mailed. Motion carried.

IV. Consideration/Approval of the June 2026 Financial Reports

Staff and Policy Council members reviewed and discussed the June 2026 Financial Reports, including expenditures, credit card statements, and in-kind summary.

Motion by Gena LaPlante, second by JoLynn Larson, to approve the June 2026 financial reports. Motion carried.

V. Unfinished Business

a. Consent Agenda

The following items are presented as part of the Consent Agenda and are considered routine business. They may be approved with a single motion unless a member requests that an item be removed for separate discussion.

Consent Agenda Items:

1. Review and approve the July 21, 2026 Meeting Agenda.
2. Review and approve the June 16, 2026 Meeting Minutes.
3. Consider and approve the May 2026 Financial Reports.
4. Head Start Hiring & Termination Memo

Motion by Gena LaPlante, second by Meghan Truenow, to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried.

- b. Staff and Policy Council members reviewed and discussed the 2026 Annual Report to the Public. *Motion by Marina Eggink, second by Gena LaPlante, to approve the 2026 Annual Report to the Public. Motion carried.*
- c. At the July meeting, the Policy Council entertained nominations for a new secretary. **Emily Lommen** was nominated by herself with recommendations by Marina Eggink and Evette Holler. *Motion by Gena LaPlante, second by Meghan Truenow, to elect **Emily Lommen** as the new Policy Council secretary.*

VI. New Business

- a. The Head Start Director presented a request for a teacher waiver for Angela Brown. Angela has her CDA and is enrolled in a program to receive her Associate of Science in Early Childhood degree within the next three years. A teacher waiver would allow Angela to work as a lead teacher while in school to pursue her degree. Staff and Policy Council members reviewed and discussed the teacher waiver request. *Motion by JoLynn Larson, second by Jazmyn Harville, to approve the teacher waiver request for Angela Brown. Motion carried.*
- b. Staff and Policy Council members reviewed and discussed the August 2026 Hiring and Termination Memo. *Motion by Meghan Truenow, second by JoLynn Larson, to approve the August 2026 Hiring and Termination Memo. Motion carried.*

VII. WCCA Board Report

- WCCA is seeking two board members. One must have a background or expertise in early childhood education, and one must represent the public as an elected official. The application is on the WCCA website.

VIII. Reports from Community Representatives, MHSA Representative, and Parents

- Marina reported that there is a dentist in St. Cloud, Salem Community Outpost, who is taking new patients. The Wright County Fair was a huge success and Public Health did a lot of outreach. Their family home visiting programs numbers are up.
- JoLynn shared that her grandchild saw the doctor and the doctor was shocked at how well he is doing. He is ready for kindergarten! JoLynn said the head start staff were always encouraging and supportive, and they would listen to her.

IX. Program Director's Report

a. Updates from the Director

- A Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) was recently released. This proposes some major changes to the Head Start Program Performance Standards. Dara will send out information for families so they can stay informed, and comment on the NPRM.

b. Program Activity Report for July 2026.

The Head Start Director shared the program activity report for July 2026, detailing enrollment, attendance and meal counts.

X. Schedule Next Meeting and Adjourn

a. The next Policy Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 15, 2026 at 6:00PM in-person and via Zoom.

b. The August 18, 2026 Policy Council meeting adjourned at 7:19PM.

Motion by Gena LaPlante, second by Evette Holler, to adjourn the August 18, 2026 Policy Council meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by: JoLynn Larson, Policy Council member