

Wright County Community Action, Inc.
Head Start Policy Council Meeting Minutes
July 21, 2026

Members Present:

Emily Lommen, Delano Representative (virtual)
Evette Holler, Otsego Representative (virtual)
Marina Eggink, Community Representative (virtual)

Members Absent:

Meghan Polzin, Annandale Representative
Nicole Cantin, Buffalo 1 Representative
JorDyn Bresinger, EHS Representative, Chairperson
Lindsey Gibbons, EHS Representative
Gena LaPlante, Howard Lake Representative
Maria Mendoza, Monti 206 Representative
JoLynn Larson, Monti 209/210 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 July 21, 2026, Policy Council meeting was called to order at **6:08PM** by **Dara Smida**. A quorum was not present so items could not be voted on. Recommendations were made for approvals at the next meeting.

II. Consideration/Approval of July 21, 2026 Agenda

Policy Council members reviewed the agenda as presented.

Recommendation by Marina Eggink, second by Evette Holler, to approve the July 21, 2026 agenda.

III. Consideration/Approval of the June 16, 2026 Policy Council Minutes

Policy Council members reviewed the June 16, 2026 Policy Council minutes as e-mailed.

Recommendation by Evette Holler, second by Marina Eggink, to approve the June 16, 2026 Policy Council meeting minutes as e-mailed.

IV. Consideration/Approval of the May 2026 Financial Reports

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

Recommendation by Marina Eggink, second by Evette Holler, to approve the May 2026 financial reports.

V. Unfinished Business

None

VI. New Business

a. Staff and Policy Council members reviewed and discussed the 2026 Annual Report to the Public.

Recommendation by Marina Eggink, second by Evette Holler, to approve the 2026 Annual Report to the Public.

b. Staff and Policy Council members reviewed and discussed the July 2026 Hiring and Termination Memo.

Recommendation by Emily Lommen, second by Evette Holler, to approve the July 2026 Hiring and Termination Memo.

c. The Policy Council entertained nominations for a new secretary. Emily Lommen was nominated by herself.

Recommendation by Marina Eggink, second by Evette Holler, to elect Emily Lommen as the new Policy Council secretary.

VII. WCCA Board Report

- The WCCA Board did not meet in July.
- 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 the Wright County fair started tomorrow. Public Health has a lactation station and changing station available for parents to use.
- Emily asked if there were any changes/updates to car seat regulations. She also asked about project pencil and whether Head Start could have a supply drive to free up money in the budget for other uses.
- Evette said families are getting ready for the fall and first home visits.

IX. Program Director's Report

a. Updates from the Director

- Head Start is considering hosting a car seat clinic at our main office, possibly partnering with the fire station.
- We have multiple staff vacancies for preschool. We continue to recruit and interview applicants.

b. Program Activity Report for June 2026.

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

X. Schedule Next Meeting and Adjourn

a. The next Policy Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 18, 2026 at 6:00PM in-person and via Zoom.

b. The July 21, 2026 Policy Council meeting adjourned at 6:45PM.

*Motion by Emily Lommen, second by Marina Eggink, to adjourn the July 21, 2026 Policy Council meeting.
Motion carried.*

Respectfully Submitted by: Dara Smida, Head Start Director