

Wright County Community Action, Inc.
Head Start Policy Council Meeting Minutes
June 16, 2026

Members Present:

Meghan Polzin, Annandale Representative, Secretary
Emily Lommen, Delano Representative
Gena LaPlante, Howard Lake Representative
Evette Holler, Otsego Representative
Marina Eggink, Community Representative

Members Absent:

Nicole Cantin, Buffalo 1 Representative
Tiffany Vassar, Buffalo 2 Representative
JorDyn Bresinger, EHS Representative, Chairperson
Lindsey Gibbons, EHS 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 June 16, 2026, Policy Council meeting was called to order at **6:08PM** by Dara Smida. A quorum was present, members introduced themselves, and the meeting began.

II. Consideration/Approval of June 16, 2026 Agenda

Policy Council members reviewed the agenda as presented.

Motion by Marina Eggink, second by Gena LaPlante, to approve the June 16, 2026 agenda. Motion carried.

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

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

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

IV. Consideration/Approval of the March 2026 and April 2026 Financial Reports

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

Motion by Marina Eggink, second by Gena LaPlante, to approve the March 2026 and April 2026 financial reports. Motion carried.

V. Unfinished Business

None

VI. New Business

a. Staff and Policy Council members reviewed and discussed the 2026-27 Curriculum Plan.

Motion by Gena LaPlante, second by Meghan Polzin, to approve the 2026-27 Curriculum Plan. Motion

carried.

- b. Staff and Policy Council members reviewed and discussed the 2025 Self-Assessment Report and Plan for Improvement.

Motion by Evette Holler, second by Marina Eggink, to approve the 2025 Self-Assessment Report and Plan for Improvement. Motion carried.

VII. WCCA Board Report

- At the last Board meeting, the Board approved the Head Start Curriculum Plan and the Self-Assessment Report. The housing department presented a spotlight and their program plan.
- Jennifer Greenhagen, the current Policy Council liaison from the Board, has chosen not to run for re-election. Her term was up in May. We are actively seeking a new Board member with a background and expertise in Early Childhood Education. This person will also be the Board liaison to the Policy Council.

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

- Marina reported that the county has multiple car seat events coming up. The recently Sheriff's Office open house was a big success. Wright County Public Health's next big event is the Wright County Fair in July.
- Parents discussed family engagement and the importance of finding different ways for families to be involved. One parent suggested a soap box derby. One parent expressed that parents want to see their kids perform and that gets a bigger turnout. Parents agreed that food helps with parent attendance.

IX. Program Director's Report

a. Updates from the Director

- Currently accepting children for the fall. Started hosting enrollment days to get paperwork and screenings completed before home visits.
- Lots of staff vacancies.

b. Program Activity Report for April 2026 and May 2026.

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

X. Schedule Next Meeting and Adjourn

a. The next Policy Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 21, 2026 at 6:00PM in-person and via Zoom.

b. The June 16, 2026 Policy Council meeting adjourned at 6:50PM.

Motion by Gena LaPlante, second by Evette Holler, to adjourn the June 16, 2026 Policy Council meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by: Dara Smida