

Community Resource Center Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: July 28, 2025

Attendance:

Members

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amy Arnt-Buzzard | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jayne Gibson | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jessica Jungroth | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Zerina Said |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Suzanne Arntson | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marlena Hanson | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jessica Little | <input type="checkbox"/> Wahbon Spears |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kanisha Bliss | <input type="checkbox"/> Lee Her | <input type="checkbox"/> Julie Neitzel Carr | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Molly Scroeder |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Compeau | <input type="checkbox"/> Jeff Horton | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Felicia Orozco | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Catherine Wright |

Staff

- ☒ Hafsa Abdi
- ☒ Heather Reynolds
- ☒ Sherri Killins Stewert
- ☒ Megan Waltz

Guests

- ☒ Dakota Jones- Wilder
- ☒ Stephanie Cossette- White Earth Nation
- ☒ Cyndy Rastedt- White Earth Nation
- ☒ Erik Mattson- North St. Louis Family Collaboration

Location: Webex link

Purpose of the council:

To advise the commissioner of the Department of Children, Youth, and Families on the development, implementation, evaluation and ongoing governance of Community Resource Centers in Minnesota.

Duties of the council:

Duties include, but are not limited to, advising the commissioner on:

- The development and funding of a network of community resource centers
- The development of requests for proposals and grant award processes
- The development of program outcomes and accountability measures, and
- Ongoing governance and necessary support in the implementation of community resource centers.

Meeting objectives

1. Review and orient the council to its purpose, goals and objectives responsibilities, deliverables, and the timeline to ensure co design, implementation and monitoring, as per the legislation.
2. Build relationships amongst the council members to increase communication and support the sharing of individual values, experiences and interest to benefit the collective interest.
3. Reflect on key learnings and data from relationship-based services, programs and initiatives which seek to connect families to state, local and regional resources.
4. Discuss the characteristics and essential resources for coordination, planning and partnerships for collaboration that is responsive and contributes to families getting what they need for wellbeing of children, families, and communities.
5. Recommend potential measures of success for **culturally responsive, relationship-based service navigation** through programs, services or initiatives intended to benefit children, families, and communities.

Agenda with added Minutes

1. Welcome, Introductions, and Agreements

- A. Question: If you could change your name, would you? Why or why not?
- B. Review of meeting objectives, meeting agenda, meeting agreements.

2. Welcome

- A. Review: Community Resource Center Advisory Council Charter, go over agenda for this meeting.

3. Grantee Spotlight- North St. Louis Family Collaborative: Eric Mattson

- A. Background
 - Funded by DCYF: ELY community resources, VEMA, and LSS mobile unit.
 - ELY have established a PAC.
 - Their PAC developed 2 groups: New parent social- parents of newborns expecting parents get together. Circle of support: a mutual aid group for parents with children with special needs.
 - VEMA: BIPOC organization. Mission is to lift the voices of all people in their communities that experience racism, discrimination, injustice and/or prejudice
 - No PAC.
 - Mesabi Fit: Used to be a YMCA and was recently established in 2024 as Mesabi Fit.
 - Beyond Traditional fitness, they are committed to enriching overall wellbeing with program options tailored to every individual.
 - Building an indoor dome.
 - Joined the DCYF grant on June 20th.
 - Lutheran Social Services (LSS) Mobile Unit
 - Valley Youth Center
 - After school and summer program serving youth ages 5+ up in West Duluth
 - Work mainly with youth.
 - Family advisory coordinator hired May 22nd. Lots of experience working with BIPOC population. Former teacher and foster parent.
 - Lincoln Park Children and Families Collaborative: South organization funded by North St Louis Family Collaborative
 - Well established PAC.
 - Services include gardening, food distribution, supervised visits, clubs, and community events.

B. Challenges

- Finding pre-existing centers to adopt the CRC model. For example, if their programming is only youth focused, they need to shift focus to working with parents/caregivers.
- A collaboration has many moving parts and different levels of development (hiring navigators, establishing PACs, etc) so development/progress can occur.
- Promoting services/making families aware of program existence.
- Starting PACs from scratch.
- Bringing the protective factors to life.
- Developing measures/outcomes for grant deliverables.
- Parents/caregivers completing all the information on surveys.

C. Successes/Lessons Learned

- Finding pre-existing agencies that understand they will be working with youth and families.
- Provide trainings to potential FRCs in the following order: Protective factors, standards of quality, and parent advisory.
- Implemented standards of quality and parent advisory first; however protective factors would have helped FRCs.

What has worked well?

- Utilizing pre-existing CRCs. Some of them have the infrastructure programming in place and can adjust well.
- Community approach rather than county driven, more desirable for parents/caregivers that have had bad experiences with county services.
- Having a BIPOC center in our network. Helps view things through a culturally sensitive lens.

D. Future Plans and Goals

- Continuing to build network, team meetings, strong focus on developing community navigators.
- Promote services including the mobile unit.
- Establish PACs in all centers and enhance already established PACs and participate in presentations.

4. Grantee Spotlight- White Earth Nation: Cyndy Rastedt & Stephanie Cossette

A. Background:

- The WECARE program is based on a culturally grounded linkage to care approach for the entire family system. The program participant is at the center of our WECARE model, and client well-being and access to services are determined by understanding the spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical well-being needs.
- Linking families to needed services through the assessment process.
 - i. Start WECARE journey.
 - ii. Call WEN_TPH to request an assessment for you or someone in your family.
 - iii. You are connected to a WECARE navigator who arranges a time to meet with you in the community.
 - iv. After the assessment is complete, the WECARE navigator enters your information into a software system. Referrals are then sent to tribal programs that will follow-up with you.
 - v. Once the tribal programs receive the referral request, you should be contacted in 3-5 business days to discuss your needs and eligibility.
 - vi. Within one week, your WECARE navigator will follow up with you to provide support and help address gaps in the services your family needs.
 - vii. WECARE navigators provide continued support and connections to additional resources and education.
 - viii. White Earth families are successfully integrated and connected to tribal programs.
- Supports foster parents with education and helping families strengthen social connects as a prevention strategy.

B. Successes

- Partnership with ICW has grown even stronger.
- Co-sponsor meaning training sessions for foster parents with ICW.

- Connecting families to resources in key areas.
- C. Challenges
 - Staffing limitations in a medically underserved, rural area.
 - Revised assessment tool.
 - Delayed start due to grant timing.
 - New data system.
 - i. A new data system has been introduced to improve efficiency and tracking but has not been fully implemented. This delays ability to analyze and utilize key information to drive progress.

5. Governance

- A. How do we define governance?
 - Refers to the structures, processes, and decision-making system that ensure strategic alignment, accountability, resource coordination, and consistent implementation across a multi-site initiative. In this project, governance enables coordination among the diverse community-based sites- each with varying staff capacities and organizational missions- to collectively support children, youth, and families in navigating a complex array of services and programs.
- B. Question: What are your thoughts on how governance is defined here?
 - Answers:
 - The definition is a little much and confusing.
 - Seeing the tasks associated with this will help me understand. It seems a little inspirational right now.
 - The tasks might be helpful. A part of me wonders, do the numbers matter? Is it 9? Is it 10? What do we want governance to be. The bottom paragraph I'm reacting to that but I'm not sure why or what that means. Is 'transparency, equity, consistency and responsiveness' bold while the following words aren't because they're "opposing" things?
 - I'm a little confused on the nine diverse community-based sites. It's a little confusing when people look at it and they're reading it. It sounds like... it doesn't show like what the purposes of the sites are. Are they able to say this is the timeline that we'll be able to help with what they offer?
 - Answer:
 - Nine is confusing because it does refer to grantees. It needs to be taken out
 - For the general public, simplify it. It's very formal.

6. Governance Tasks

- A. Introduction of tasks
- B. Question 1: Are these the right tasks for the CRC governance?

▪ **Menti response:**

Join at menti.com | use code **9419 9386**

Are these the right tasks for CRC governance? What may be missing?

test

yes

Yes, I believe that they are

Yes, but wonder if this group should work on sustainability as well.

yes

I think this group should also address or discuss sustainability.

Yes- and spread to cover the entire state

Yes,

Yes -- 5, 6, and 9 are important

Sustainability and integration

Sustainability is what I am concerned about-it's essential-but how do we help develop that

YES - lifting up the importance of sustainability!

yes

yes

#6 is important as that is something that our agencies may not have the capacity to do this work

Shared vision resource coordination sustainability Policy and Systems navigation and for sure accountability are extremely important

Na

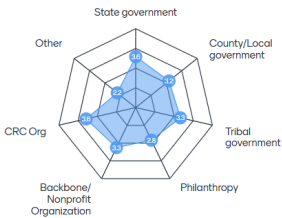
C. Topic: Responsibility and Critical Partners

D. Question: Who is responsible for each of these tasks? Listed below are the developed choices

- State government, county/local government, tribal government, philanthropy, backbone/non-profit organization, other

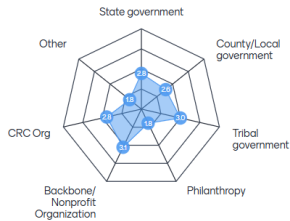
▪ **Menti response:**

Who's responsible - strategic alignment and shared vision

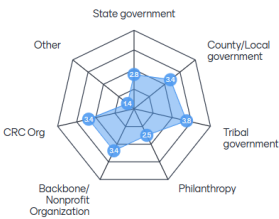


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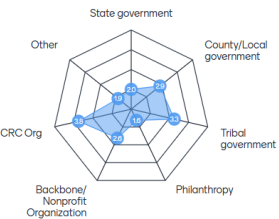
Who's responsible - decision making and authority structures



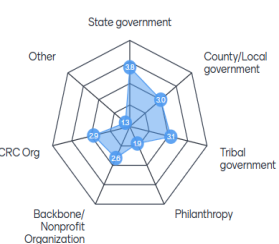
Who's responsible - accountability and performance management



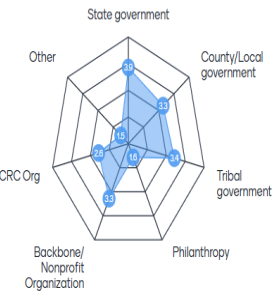
Who's responsible - resource coordination and equity



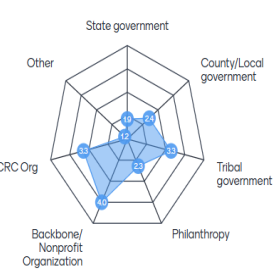
Who's responsible - capacity building and technical assistance



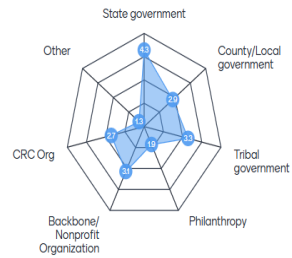
Who's responsible - policy and systems navigation and support



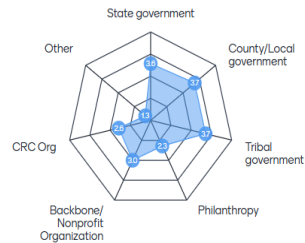
Who's responsible - partner engagement and communication



Who's responsible - data governance and knowledge sharing



Who's responsible - sustainability and strategic planning



F. Closing, One-word Reflections, Next StepsOne

- One word reflections: Interesting, overwhelming, excited, excited, excited, excited & overwhelmed, connection, processing, inspired, hopeful, appreciative
- Send survey to AC on participation for in-person meeting