

Community Resource Center Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: March 23, 2026

Attendance:

Members

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amy Arnt-Buzzard | <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Jessica Little | <input type="checkbox"/> Wahbon Spears |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kanisha Bliss | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lee Her | <input type="checkbox"/> Julie Neitzel Carr | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Molly Schroeder |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Compeau | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeff Horton | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Felicia Orozco | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Catherine Wright |

Staff

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hafsa Abdi | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sherri Killins |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Heather Reynolds | Stewart |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rebecca Juarez | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Megan Waltz |

Guests

- | |
|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Katie Kardell-SMOC |
|--|

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 are responsive and contribute 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. What are some of your favorite memories of being snowed in?
- 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- Katie Kardell from SMOC

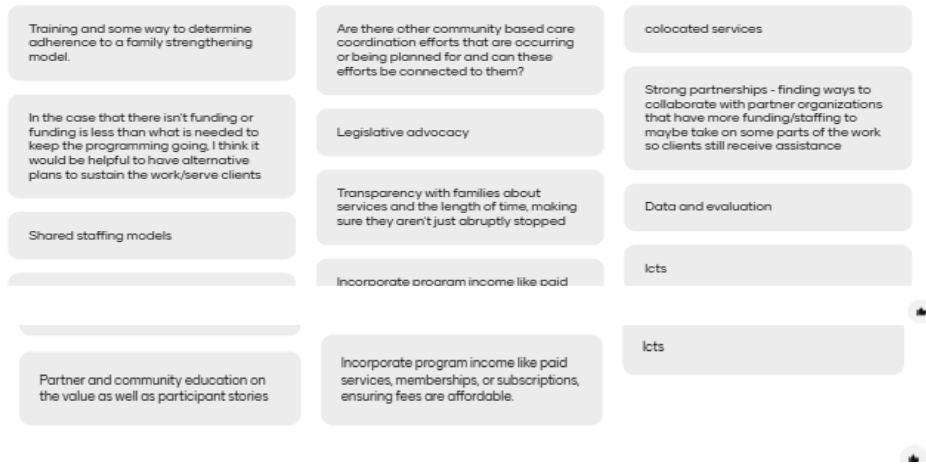
- A. Organizational overview
- B. Partners
- C. Programming

4. Case Study 1: Sustainability and Strategic Planning

- A. Review Governance Tasks
 - Sustainability and Strategic Planning
 - Guide long-term planning, funding diversification, and sustainability strategies
 - Prepare for transitions in leadership, funding, or policy context with continuity planning.
- B. Introduce Case Study
 - By the second year of the initiative, CRC sites were demonstrating strong results:
 - Families were navigating services more easily.
 - Organizations were collaborating across systems.
 - Parent advisory councils were informing local decision making.
 - However, as leadership looked toward the future, several questions emerged:
 - What happens when the state grant ends?
 - Which CRC activities should continue?
 - Who is responsible for sustaining this work?
 - What funding sources could support it long term?
 - Across the state, CRC organizations had already begun exploring sustainability strategies. Some examples include
 - Funding diversification
 - Braided funding
 - Infrastructure support
 - Philanthropic and campaign funding
 - Integration into existing programs
 - Organizational commitment
- C. Governance Steps In
 - Rather than expecting every site to pursue the same strategy, governance leaders focused on ensuring that:
 - Sites are supported in sustainability planning
 - Promising strategies are shared across the network
 - The state helps align funding opportunities when possible
- D. Menti Question: What are some governance actions to respond to the case study?

○ Response:

What are some governance actions to respond to the case study?



5. Case Study 2: Resource Coordination and Equity

A. Activity: Walk through case study for resource coordination and equity.

- Resource coordination and equity
 - Overseeing equitable distribution of state funding and resources based on community need.
 - Supporting cross-site resource sharing, joint staffing strategies, and collaborative capacity-building.

B. Activity: Introduce case study

- During the first year of CRC implementation, funding offered at the same level to each community. This approach helped ensure all sites could establish their operations, but it also surfaced an unintended issue. At one CRC located in a very low opportunity area, staff quickly realized that navigation alone was not enough. Families were being referred to services that simply did not exist locally. For example:
 - Families needed childcare, but the community had very few licensed providers.
 - Families needed employment support, but workforce programs were located over an hour away.
 - Families needed mental health services, but providers had month-long waitlists.
- Navigators could help families fill out forms and make referrals, but they could not create services where none existed. Meanwhile, a CRC located in a higher opportunity area had the opposite experience. Navigators were able to quickly connect families to multiple existing programs, but they had limited funding to expand partnerships or develop new initiatives.

C. Governance steps in

- Step 1: Identifying Need- State staff combined multiple sources of information:
 - Child Opportunity Index Data
 - CRC Quarterly Reports
 - Site Visit Observations
 - Parent Council Feedback
 - Navigator Case Patterns

- Together, this data showed that very low opportunity areas required more than navigation- they required community capacity building including creating or expanding programs, services or initiatives.
- The problem was not that CRCs were failing. The problem was that systems and services were unevenly distributed across the state.
- Step 2: Reframing the Goal
 - Governance leaders reframed the CRC strategy. The CRC initiative was not designed to fix every systemic issue immediately. Instead, the goal was to:
 - Strengthening the community’s ability to build and sustain the services families need. This means shifting the attention from simply funding sites to building local capacity.
 - Possible strategic source coordination actions:
 - Targeted resource allocation
 - Cross-site resource sharing
 - Joint staffing strategies
 - Collaborative training and capacity building

D. Menti Question: What are some governance actions to respond to the case study?

- Menti

Response:



What are some governance actions to respond to the case study?

The visualization shows the following responses:

- require a local needs assesment
- a equitable funding formula based on a factors that impacted the ability for the lower resourced CRC to provide for community members
- ...and assistance with creating a plan to support their community. For example, if there isn't child care or transportation services, what creative alternatives are there that the state would fund
- services, what creative alternatives are there that the state would fund
- fund capacity building separately
- If there are limited resources in a high need area, governance should look to expanding the programs offered in the area
- capacity building or planning funds for communities to build their infrastructure to fill in gaps of what may not be available
- Flexibility in how to spend the funds in places limited in services
- Flexibility in how to spend the funds in places limited in services
- Every site should receive a different level of support determined on their location and need if we want to be equitable. Those in areas where services are low should get more attention..
- Establishing "guidelines" or base funding and then use data to help determine allocation of funds based on need.
- A way to provide more immediate resources at the location to free up a little of the families' finances. (Diapers, gas cards, grocery cards, cleaning products, etc)

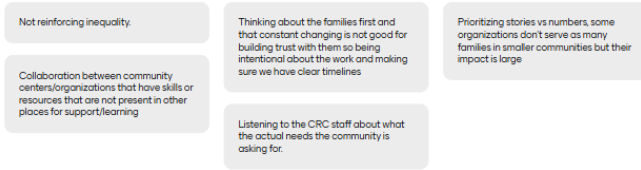
6. Lessons learned

- A. Activity: Review lessons learned from case study
 - Rather than expecting CRC staff to solve systemic problems alone, governance focused on aligning resources and partnerships to build sustainable solutions.
 - Most importantly, governance structures ensured that **resource decisions were transparent, data-informed, and grounded in equity.**
- B. Menti: What are some other possible benefits to the recommended actions?

- Menti Response:

Mentimeter

What are other some other possible benefits to the recommended actions?



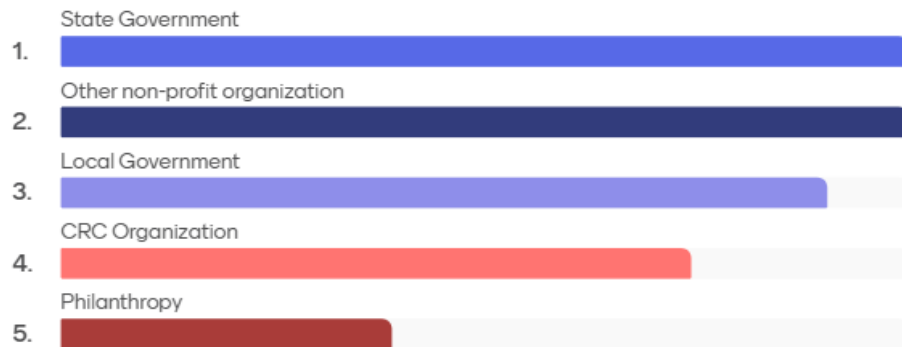
7. Review

- A. Activity: Restate the two governance area objectives for resource coordination and equity, and sustainability and strategic planning.
- B. Activity: Show governance tasks on slide and give opportunity to ask about any of them.
- C. Menti: Who is responsible for resource coordination and sustainability and strategic planning?

- **Menti response:**

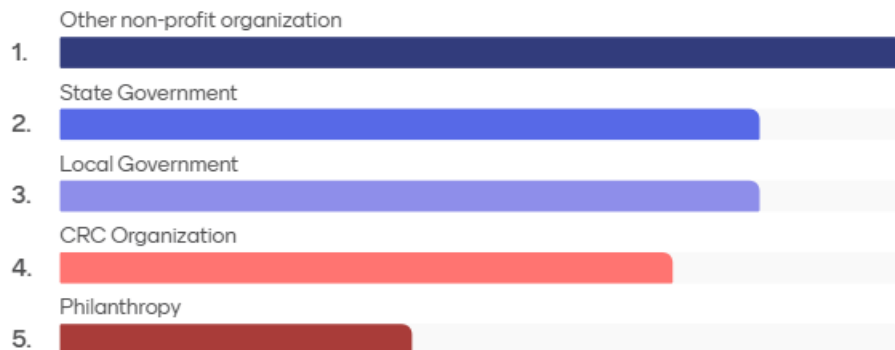
Mentimeter

Who is responsible for resource coordination and equity?



Mentimeter

Who is responsible for sustainability and strategic planning?



Mentimeter

8. Closing, One-word Reflections, Next Steps

- A. Update on sustainability workgroup
- B. In-person meeting moved to spring during all-grantee meeting