

FAMILY POLICY BOARD

Monday, September 14, 2020
Held via Zoom Video Conference
12:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Tita Yutuc, Kristi Arenz, Sue Mathison, Jenni Loging, Isaac Hoffman, Mary Kay Wolf, Chris Crye, Elizabeth Wright, Jason Witt, Jodi Widuch, Vie Matty, Barbara McPeak, Hetti Brown, Bridget Todd-Robbins, Nicole Brei, Heidi Odegaard, Melisa Myers, Robert Partarrieu, Tina Tryggestad, Katie Berkedal, Stacey Smith, Lacie Ketelhut, Karolee Behringer, Mandy Bisek, Audra Martine

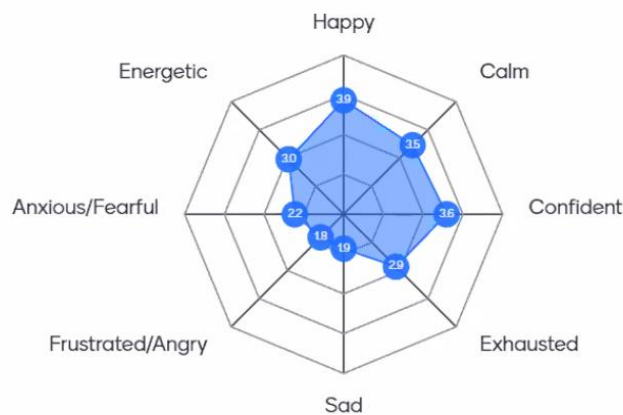
CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Tita Yutuc called the meeting to order at 12:00pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Jodi Widuch, seconded by Mary Kay Wolf to approve the August 3, 2020 minutes as presented.
Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting began with members taking the “How Are You Feeling Survey” by Mentimeter at the request of Catherine Kolkmeier. Mentimeter (<https://www.mentimeter.com>) is a company that provides real-time polling tools for groups. This poll showed a snapshot in time of how board members were feeling which could then be used to steer the meeting accordingly. Below are results for the instant feedback survey.



HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND BOARD UPDATES

HHS Board Update: Tina Tryggestad shared that at the July meeting -

- The board accepted additional community mental health block grant funding
- A resolution was passed in support of universal health care
- Most of the meeting was informational in nature to keep the board abreast of Covid news

Family and Children’s Section Update: Tracey Puent. No updates.

HS Director Update: Jason Witt

This year the Rebuilding for Learning Summit will be a half-day virtual event on September 28. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Dana Winters from the Fred Rogers Center for Early Learning. There will be smaller group sessions afterwards focusing on racial equity and action planning for our community. Advance registration is necessary and there will be some pre-work required for the sessions. The goal this year is for people to be committed to action and not to have this simply be a one and done discussion. An email containing registration information will be sent to all Family Policy Board Members.

PRESENTATION:

A large amount of information regarding Family First Legislation was shared with the Family Policy Board at the August meeting. This leaves the follow up questions of what does this mean for our community and what are our agency and personal roles in this? As a society we inadvertently created a child welfare to justice system pipeline and our resources and expectations have formed around this. Bringing about transformative change will be a difficult process.

La Crosse County has contracted with St. Paul based Alia Innovations (<https://www.aliainnovations.org>) to help navigate this change. Alia will help our county in developing intensive permanency services with a special focus on children who have been in out-of-home care settings for an extended time. This transition will be a slow prescribed approach geared towards health and not built upon a specific time frame.

Three specific examples have already begun in La Crosse County that reflect our commitment to working upstream with community partners to stabilize families earlier. Isaac Hoffman shared that the La Crosse Area Family Collaborative is adding an additional community based social worker to their team. The goal of this social worker will be to provide stabilizing supports to families before they reach a point of needing Child Protective Services interventions. Jodi Widuch spoke about the prevention focused Community Response Innovation Program run by The Parenting Place in Holmen. Bridget Todd-Robbins informed the group that Keonte Turner has been added as a System of Care Community Family and Youth worker based out of the Y. All three of these are data based collaborative efforts by which we can be an example to other counties to show how the Family First approach can work. Other programs reflective of this and eligible for Families First Act Funding can be found at the web site: [Home | Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse](#). Please think about where your agency can make an impact as this state level shift occurs.

ADJOURNMENT TO THE NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2020, AT NOON

Chairperson Tita Yutuc adjourned the meeting at 1:00pm.

Approved October 5, 2020, Rachel Klistau, Recorder