

## **LINN COUNTY DECATEGORIZATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**3-4 pm, January 10, 2019**

**Linn County Community Services Building, Room # 2**

Members: Ryan Fritz, Matt Majeski, Chris Wyatt, Laura Faircloth  
Designees: Mary Loops, Kristi Tisl  
Staff: Chris Kivett-Berry, Jeanette Shoop  
Guests: Jennifer Cress-Sliffe

Chris Wyatt called the meeting to order @ 3:01 pm.

Public Comment: None.

Minutes from 11/08/18 Meeting:

- **M/S/C** (Majeski, Loops) Motion & Second to approve Minutes. Carried unanimously.

### **Community Presentation:**

a. Iowa Child Advocacy Board: Jennifer Cress-Sliffe provided the following information (from their FY 18 Annual Report): "The Iowa Child Advocacy Board (ICAB) is an independent board appointed by the Governor of Iowa to provide for citizen involvement in child welfare issues. The Iowa Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program recruits, trains, and supports concerned community volunteers who advocate for and promote the best interest of the children who are victims of abuse and/or neglect. Iowa Citizens Foster Care Review Boards are mandated by Iowa code to review the case of each child receiving foster care assigned to the local board by the state board."

Linn County has approximately 20 Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). Each CASA has one case, or at the most two cases (a case can involve multiple children from the same family). Each CASA receives 30 hours of training, and they are appointed as an 'Officer of the Court' by a Linn County Judge.

Foster Care review Boards are made up of 5 to 7 people. They review Case Permanency Plans to ensure they meet expectations, and then submit a report to the court.

b. Community Partnerships for Protecting Children (CPPC): Jeanette Shoop provided information on the projects CPPC is supporting, and information on how the 4 strategies are working together in Linn County. Currently the Community Neighborhood Networking Group has 104 members, with 25 new members this fiscal year.

### **Operational Items:**

- a. DHS Update: Majeski noted they are pleased to be able to hire additional DHS staff. They are also gearing up for the legislative session, where their focus will be on the new Family First Prevention Services Act.
- b. JCO Update: Wyatt stated they are now at 100% capacity with staff hires in Johnson County, and close to 100% in Linn County. This is the first time they have been at full capacity in the last 5 years. JCO is also looking at the next legislative session and are requesting funding for a Statewide Director of Juvenile Justice position.
- c. Family First Prevention Services Act: Majeski reported this legislation will be the biggest change to service delivery since the 1970's. The focus is on reducing out-of-home placements, and if removal is necessary placement will be prioritized as follows: Relative or Fictive Kin; Licensed Foster Family; Congregate care for treatment only.

d. Linn County Legislative Priorities: Kivett-Berry shared the approved 'Linn County Legislative Priorities.' The second priority, Mental Health and Disability Services, includes language directly from the Decat Board.

e. Professional Development Training Updates:

**Implicit Bias:** Shoop reported the trainers, Katy Swalwell and Daniel Spikes are scheduled for a one day training in Cedar Rapids on 5/13/19. They will be in Ames Community School District the week prior, and on 5/14/19 they will be in Johnson County. The cost is \$3,000.00 (all-inclusive).

- **M/S/C** (Fritz, Majeski) Motion & Second to approve the cost of the Implicit Bias training at \$3,000.00, and have the Decat Board Chair sign the MOU. Carried unanimously. Faircloth abstained.

**Trauma Informed Care:** Tisl reported she is working on scheduling dates to hold this training. This one day training will include both Trauma 101 and Trauma 201.

**Re-entry Simulation:** Tisl reported this is a 3 hour training, and the United Way of Central Iowa oversees it. The estimated cost will be the speaker fee of \$300.00. Tisl is working on dates and locations for this training.

f. New Board Member Referrals -- Tabled

**Fiscal Items:**

- a. FY 19 Budget Utilization: Shoop reviewed the Summary of Utilization through November 2018, noting the reasons why some programs are below or above the expected 42% utilization.
- b. FY 19 Projection: Kivett-Berry provided the FY 19 Decat Funding document, noting \$650,733 has been obligated this fiscal year, and the FY 20 Estimated Carry Forward is \$465,093.
- c. FY 20 Funding Prioritization Process: Kivett-Berry provided the 'Funding Prioritization Table for FY 20.' She is also noted that the February Decat meeting will focus on prioritization for FY 20.

**FY19 Board Meetings:** Feb 14, March 14, April 11, May 9, June 13

**Open Agenda:** None

**Motion to Adjourn:**

- **M/S/C** (Majeski, Faircloth) Motion/Second to adjourn at 4:08 pm. Carried unanimously.

Minutes submitted by: Jeanette Shoop, Recorder