

New Opportunities, Inc.  
Board Meeting Via ZOOM and in Person

MINUTES  
Thursday, January 26, 2023  
4:00 p.m.

- I. **Amber Schon, 1<sup>st</sup> Five Coordinator, gave a short presentation on the 1<sup>st</sup> Five Program.**
- II. **Welcome and Congratulations to Mike Fischer, Sac County Supervisor; Dan Benitz, Greene County Supervisor; and Heath Hansen, Audubon County Supervisor.**
- III. Meeting was called to order by Board President Eugene Meiners at 4:15 p.m.
  - A. Welcome and Introductions.

Present: **IN-PERSON:** Heath Hansen, Jon Hays, Eugene Meiners, Jeff Cayler, Dan Benitz, Carl Legore, Mike Fischer, Jerome Kuster, Carolyn Masters, and Denis James.  
**VIA-ZOOM:** Peg Hamilton, Terry Striegel, Cindy Wallace, and Deb Lightner

Excused: Kathy Kluis, Erica Burris, Lori Campbell, Tim Farmer, Kim Denman, and Mark Hanson,

Staff Present: Chad Jensen, CEO; Sheri Mertz, CFO; Jenni Schlichte, Board Recorder.

Staff Presenter: Amber Schon. 1<sup>st</sup> Five Coordinator
  - B. A motion was made for the approval of the December 8, 2022, Board Minutes by Jeff Caylor and seconded by Carl Legore. Motion carried.
- IV. CFO Reports – Sheri Mertz
  - A. Sheri discussed with the Board the financial reports ending December 31, 2022. There was a general discussion of various line items. A motion was made to accept the financial reports ending December 31, 2022, by Carolyn Masters and seconded by Jeff Cayler. Motion carried.
- V. CEO Reports – Chad Jensen
  - A. Sheri, Chad, and Gene Meiners reviewed HS/EHS Policy Council agenda with the Board. The following items were discussed:
    1. Financial Reports for the month ending December 2022

2. All charge account activity for December 2022
  3. The December 6, 2022, Policy Council Minutes
  4. The monthly Program Report for December 2022
  5. School Readiness (Fall)
  6. Strategic Plan
  7. Self-Assessment
  8. Community Needs Assessment
- B. Chad presented to the Board an Update on the Carroll Family Development Center/Head Start Center Rebuild. They are all moved in and loving it!!! There will be a Chamber Coffee Ribbon Cutting & Grand Re-Opening for New Opportunities, Inc. Family Development Center and Head Start on Friday February 3, 2023, from 8:00 to 9:00AM at that building.
- C. Chad presented to the Board an update on the Opioid Settlement dollars and is working with the Counties.
- D. Chad presented to the Board the new Iowa Department of Health & Human Services draft table of Organization. There was general discussion.
- E. Chad presented to the Board the following contracts for approval:
- a) Dept. of Energy Weatherization Assistance Program DOE-BIL22-01 - \$318,341.00  
The motioned was made to approve the DOE-BIL22-01 contract by J.D. Kuster and seconded by Denis James. Motion carried.
  - b) Iowa Weatherization Program – Designation of Additional Signatories.  
The motion was made by Jeff Cayler and seconded by J.D. Kuster to approve. Motion carried.
  - c) Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP-23ES-01) \$296,212.00  
The motion was made to approve the LIHEAP-23ES-01 contract by Carl Legore and seconded by Jeff Cayler. Motion Carried.
  - d) Low Income Home Energy Assistance – Designation of Signatories.  
The motion was made by Jeff Cayler and seconded by Heath Hansen to approve. Motion carried.
  - e) Weatherization Assistance Program – IPL-23-01 - \$62,532.00  
The motion was made to approve the IPL-23-01 contract by Jeff Cayler and seconded by Denis James. Motion carried.
  - f) Weatherization Assistance Program – MEC-23-01 - \$75,744.00  
The motion was made to approve the MEC-23-01 contract by Jeff Cayler and seconded by Carolyn Masters. Motion carried.
  - g) Weatherization Assistance Program - HEAP-23-01 \$328,528.00  
The motion was made to approve the HEAP-23-01 contract by Heath Hansen and seconded by Jeff Cayler. Motion carried.

h) Weatherization Assistance Program - BHE-23-01 - \$8,857.00

The motion was made to approve the BHE-23-01 contract by Jeff Cayler and seconded by Carolyn Masters. Motion Carried.

VI. Handouts – FYI’s

- A. Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP-23-01) Amendment 2
- B. HEAP Weatherization Assistance (HEAP-23-01) Amendment 1
- C. Health & Human Services (HHS) – Iowa Emergency COVID-19 project Amendment 2
- D. Behavioral Health Exit Surveys
- E. Dept. of Human Rights – Division of Community Action desk review correspondence.
- F. The Royal Throne – (January and February)

VII. Adjournment

A motion was made at 4:58 p.m. by Jeff Cayler to adjourn the meeting. Denis James seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Jenni Schlichte  
Board Recorder

Respectfully submitted,



Eugene Meiners  
Board President

