

New Opportunities, Inc.
Board Meeting Via ZOOM and in Person
MINUTES
Thursday, April 25th, 2024
4:00 p.m.

- I. Board Training: The “Prevention Perspective” Presented by Toni Cunningham, Prevention Specialist.
- II. Meeting was called to order by Board President Eugene Meiners at 4:26 p.m.
 - A. Welcome and Introductions.

Present: **IN-PERSON:** Jon Hays, Eugene Meiners, Dan Benitz, Mike Fischer, Peg Hamilton, Carolyn Masters, Denis James, Terry Striegel, and Cindy Wallace

VIA-ZOOM: Tim Farmer, Deb Lightner, Jerome Kuster and Mark Hanson

Excused: Heath Hansen, Erica Burris, Carl Legore, and Kim Denman

Staff Present: Chad Jensen, CEO; Sheri Mertz, CFO; Jenni Schlichte, Board Recorder Darcy Dailey, HR Assistant, Tonya Weber Head Start Early Head Start Director, Toni Cunningham, Prevention Specialist

Guests Present: Beth Cox, Program Specialist Administration of Children and Families Head Start, Region VII
 - B. A motion was made for the approval of the March 28, 2024, Minutes, by Terry Striegel and seconded by Denis James. Motion carried.
- III. CFO Reports – Sheri Mertz
 - A. Sheri discussed with the Board the financial reports ending March 2024. There was general discussion of various line items. A motion was made to approve the financial reports ending March 2024, by Denis James and seconded by Mike Fischer. Motion carried.
 - B. Sheri presented a letter from Iowa Savings Bank noting the agency’s bank deposits exceeding the FDIC insurance level are considered public funds and pursuant to Iowa Code Chapter 12C, are covered by pledged securities the bank.
 - C. Sheri reviewed with the Board the Agency Line of Credit. This is an annual LOC in place in case there is a delay in grant funding. Sheri noted there has not been any draws on the line of credit for several years. A motion was made to approve a 1-year extension of the \$300,000 line of credit by Carolyn Masters and seconded by Terry Striegel. Motion carried.

IV. CEO Reports – Chad Jensen

- A. Sheri, Chad, Tonya, and Gene Meiners reviewed HS/EHS Policy Council agenda with the Board. The following items were discussed:
1. Financial Reports for the month ending March 2024
 2. All charge account activity for March 2024
 3. The March 2024, Policy Council Minutes
 4. The monthly Program Report for March 2024
 5. Beth Cox discussed her role with Head Start. Beth verbalized her appreciation for the New Opportunities program and the high quality it portrays. Beth also discussed what communities can do to help with Head Start needs.
 6. Terry Striegel talked about her time with Molina Health and Tennis Shoes Giveaway which occurred on April 16th at the Carroll Head Start classroom. Each child received a “bag of goodies” and a new pair of tennis shoes. Terry reported lots of smiles from the children and all those around.
- B. Strategic Plan Report – Chad presented the report from October 1,2023- March 31, 2024. The board reviewed and had a discussion regarding the Strategic Plan. A motion was made to approve the Strategic Plan report by Denis James and seconded by Terry Striegel. All voted Aye except Mark Hanson who was absent for the vote. Motion carried.
- C. NPI Report (6 Months)- Chad presented the report. The board reviewed, had a discussion and gave input regarding the 6 month NPI report. A motion was made to approve the NPI Report (6 months) by Carolyn Masters and seconded by Cindy Wallace. All voted Aye except Mark Hanson who was absent for the vote. Motion carried.
- D. Executive Summary Approval- Chad presented summary. The board reviewed, had a discussion, and gave input regarding the Executive Summary. A motion was made to approve the Executive Summary Approval by Dan Benitez and seconded by Cindy Wallace. All voted Aye except Mark Hanson who was absent for the vote. Motion carried.

V. Handouts – FYI’s

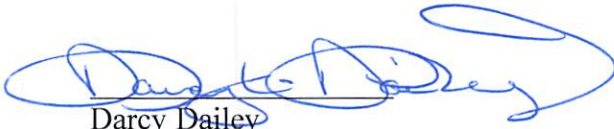
A general discussion occurred regarding:

- A. Weatherization Assistance Program (IPL-24-01) Amendment 1
- B. Community Service Block Grant (CSBG-23-01) Amendment 9
- C. Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP-24-01) Amendment2
- D. Iowa Health and Human Services (HHS) Desk Review Correspondence – Division of Community Access and Eligibility
- E. Iowa Health and Human Services (HHS) Desk Review Correspondence - WIC
- F. Iowa Health and Human Services (HHS) Weatherization Field Inspection and Report of Correspondence
- G. The Royal Throne (May)

VI. Adjournment

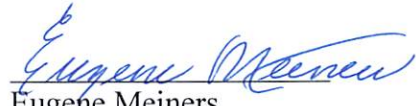
A motion was made at 5:23 p.m. by Peg Hamilton to adjourn the meeting Terry Striegel seconded the motion. All voted Aye except Mark Hanson who was absent for the vote. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Darcy Dailey
Board Recorder- HR Asst

Respectfully submitted,



Eugene Meiners
Board President