BOARD OF DIRECTORS'
MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 24th, 2026

Members Present In Person:	Nathan Avery	Myron Kouba
	Jennifer Bantam	Joy Kyhn
	Roger Dorn	Bernardo Revelo
	Linda Fitzsimmons	Barb Roebuck
	Deb Granger	Michael Stromer
Members Attending via ZOOM:	Coy Clark	Jerry Woodruff
Members Excused:	Brooke Fricke	Cecelia Loganbill
Others Present:	Meredith Collins	LaDonna Jackman
	Carrie Eurek	Kyla Martin
		Charles McGraw

President Roebuck started the meeting by declaring a quorum and joined the Board in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and the Community Action Brand Promise.

INTRODUCTIONS: Charles McGraw, RYDE Transit Director, was introduced to the Board.

AGENDA APPROVAL: There was one addition to the agenda. **Jennifer Bantam moved the Board approve the amendments to the agenda. Deb Granger seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

APPROVAL OF AUGUST MINUTES: Linda Fitzsimmons moved the Board approve the corrections to the minutes. Joy Kyhn seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Head Start held a nice retirement party for Cindy Howerter who has retired after 27 years serving as the Family Educator for our southwest counties. Cindy will be greatly missed but is looking forward to serving as a Community Representative for the Head Start Policy Council.

All Head Start sites are now back in session. We unfortunately had to delay openings in Ogallala, Minden, and North Platte due to not yet being fully enrolled. They opened on September 14th. Minden has a lot of over-income on the wait list, Ogallala has openings to enroll, and North Platte has some unexpected enrollment drops. This means staff had to complete follow-up home visits later than normal. We are also struggling with the Home-Based Program enrollment which we knew was going to be an issue since our Change of Scope was not approved. The North Platte building was ready to go with the Fire Marshal doing a final walk thru the last week of August when the windows were replaced. We are not required by the Department of Ag to have a food permit due to having no kitchen and we have a meal contract with Sodexo. The soundproof partition wall was installed on September 11th and unfortunately all panels were cosmetically damaged and did not line up correctly so they couldn't put the door up. The wall is in place and safe to use, and Eakes has ordered all new panels for replacement. Staff had to be creative and use curtains as a door to separate classrooms. All Head Start partners continue to comment or are finalizing comments on the proposed Head Start Executive Order on deregulation. The Public Comment period is through October 5th. This new Executive Order proposes to significantly revise the **Head Start Program Performance Standards**, including removing or modifying numerous federal requirements and increasing reliance on state and local

standards in several areas. We are waiting to see what proposed changes will be implemented before resubmitting our Change of Scope. Meredith shared her comments on the proposed rule with board members. We will be applying for Head Start supplemental funding to replace camera and playground equipment.

On September 2nd, Meredith attended a Housing and Urban Development (HUD) forum on housing needs in Lexington along with our Community Service Coordinator, Martha Draskovic. Martha has been nothing short of amazing helping to assist people with rent and utilities needs due to loss of Tyson employment. City, county, and community members talked about the major housing barriers facing Lexington and Dawson County. Down payment assistance, market uncertainty, and insurance costs were major barriers faced by individuals who are wanting to purchase a home. Modular housing and smaller builds were also discussed.

Meredith was contacted by the PepsiCo Foundation asking for a meeting to discuss food insecurity for Dawson and Lincoln counties. We met on September 10th at the Admin Large Conference Room. Foundation staff also requested a tour of the Food Bank. The PepsiCo Foundation currently sponsors the Food for Good initiative across the country. This was a preliminary discussion on what needs and barriers staff are seeing. We hope it is a first step to working with them to help support our Food Bank and Food Pantries assist more community members.

Mark your schedules as All Staff Day is set for Friday, April 16th at the Younes Conference Center in Kearney. We are just in the initial planning stage. Meredith asked board members for their ideas for potential trainings.

Meredith provided an update on the homes in Trenton and Stratton. Trenton is scheduled to close before October 20th. Meredith discussed the current issues with Stratton tenants as their lease was up on August 31st. Meredith also provided an update on the current board position vacancy.
Roger Dorn moved the Board approve the Administrator's Report. Nathan Avery seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

FINANCIAL REPORT – The credit card, bank statement, and monitoring files were passed around at the board meeting. There was one monitoring report. It was for the CSBG Quarterly Review and it contained no findings. September 30th is the agency year-end. The auditors are scheduled to do their onsite work from November 9 – 13. The August financial reports were reviewed. Since August is the eleventh month of the fiscal year, we should be at 91.67% for both revenue and expenses. We are at 90.64% for revenue and 88.43% for expenses. A review of the balance sheet for August was completed. The financial ratio increased from 8.8 in July to 9.11 in August. The cash ratio increased from 4.22 in July to 4.88 in August. If the financial ratio and the cash ratio calculations are over 1, they are considered good. **After discussion, Jennifer Bantam moved the Board accept and place on file the financial report as presented. Jerry Woodruff seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

SPECIAL REPORTS

HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START REPORTS/POLICY COUNCIL ACTIONS by Carrie Eurek – Early Head Start/Head Start reports and financials were passed around and also shared on board portal website. The notebook with the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Program Instructions (PIs) and Information Memorandums (IMs) updates is available. The following items require approval:

* Community representatives
* Enrollment attendance
* Monthly enrollment reports
* Monthly health mandate reports

Linda Fitzsimmons moved the Board approve the report. Joy Kyhn seconded the motion; motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

NORTH PLATTE SENIOR CENTER REPORT by Meredith Collins – Last month, the Center served 2,657 meals. Of those meals served, 1,177 were congregate meals, 130 were to-go meals, and 1,350 were home-delivered meals. The average donation rate was $5.00 The Policy Advisory Council approved increasing the suggested donation to $6.50 per meal or $6.25 per meal if they purchase a punch card. The current suggested donation is $6.00. This will begin November 1st. **Jennifer Bantam moved the Board approve this report. Myron Kouba seconded the motion; motion carried by unanimous voice vote.**

MINDEN SENIOR CENTER REPORT by Meredith Collins – Last month, the Center served 769 people (404 in-house, 327 to-go and 38 guest meals) in 22 days with an average of 35 people per day. Donations were $3,804.75 with an average of $4.95 per meal. The Senior Center has confirmed participation in Give Big Minden on December 11th. They will also be doing their Cookie Jar Silent Auction in November. **Nathan Avery moved the Board approve this report. Roger Dorn seconded the motion; motion carried by unanimous voice vote.**

PETERSON SENIOR CENTER MEAL REPORT by Meredith Collins – Last month, our program served 1,815 total meals (1,284 Congregate and 531 To-Go Meals) averaging 83 people per day. Total donations averaged $3.63 per meal. **Bernardo Revelo moved the Board approve this report. Michael Stromer seconded the motion; motion carried by unanimous voice vote.**

RYDE Transit Program Overview by Charles McGraw – Charles provided a program overview of RYDE Transit. **Roger Dorn moved the Board approve this report. Jennifer Bantam seconded the motion; motion carried by unanimous voice vote.**

2023-2026 Strategic Plan Overview and 2026-2029 Plan Discussion by Carrie Eurek - Carrie provided an overview of the completion of the 2023-2026, 3-year Agency Strategic Plan and led a discussion on the 2026-2029 Plan that included the three strategic directions identified from staff and board feedback, community assessments, and customer surveys. Goals will be created for each direction and the finalized 26-29 strategic plan will be presented to board in October. *(Organizational Standards – 2.1, 2.2, 4.1, 4.3, 4.4, 6.1-6.5, 9.2, 9.3)* **Jennifer Bantam moved the Board approve this report. Myron Kouba seconded the motion; motion carried by unanimous voice vote.**

Board Roles and Responsibilities/Job Description Overview by Barb Roebuck - Roger Dorn moved the Board approve this report. Jennifer Bantam seconded the motion; motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

President Roebuck moved to go into Executive Session at 11:41am. Myron Kouba seconded the motion; motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Michael Stromer moved to come out of Executive Session at 11:55 am. Roger Dorn seconded the motion; motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

A. ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Chief Executive Officer Evaluation and Compensation Review and Approval - (*Organizational Standards 7.4, 7.5)* **–** Summary of the CEO Board and staff evaluation results. **Roger Dorn moved the Board approve the evaluation and compensation review and also approved an incentive and increase equal to other administrative staff for FY26/27. Deb Granger seconded the motion; motion carried by unanimous voice vote.**

North Platte Senior Center Agreement with Sutherland Senior Center – This agreement is from September 1st through June 30th, 2027 for meals prepared by North Platte for the Senior Center for the reimbursement amount of $6.00 per meal. Volunteers from Hershey will pick up the meals. *(ROMA Goals 1-3).* **Jennifer Bantam moved**

the Board approve. Myron Kouba seconded the motion; motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Mid-Plains (North Platte) United Way Grant Award *(ROMA Goal 1)* **-** The North Platte Senior Center was awarded $8,000 for the Home-Delivered Meal Program. **Roger Dorn moved the Board approve. Myron Kouba seconded the motion; motion carried by unanimous voice vote.**

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Subaward - This is the initial FY27 subaward from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Office of Economic Assistance in the amount of $10,000. Total expected funding for the year is $665,585.21. *(ROMA Goals 1-3)* **Joy Kyhn moved the Board accept the funding. Deb Granger seconded the motion; motion carried by unanimous voice vote.**

B. OTHER ISSUES/COMMENTS

C. ADJOURNMENT -- With no further business, President Roebuck adjourned the meeting. It was announced that the next Board of Directors' Meeting would be on October 22nd, 2026.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kayla Martin

Recording Secretary

VERIFICATION

The forgoing minutes were amended/approved.

_____ _____

Board Secretary **Date**

_____ _____

Board President **Date**