

Minutes
Special ASSET Board Meeting

United Way of Story County, 315 Clark Ave., Ames, IA 50010

August 5, 2026, Hybrid at 12:15 pm

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Join:https://www.google.com/url?q=https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/296009966188538?p%3Dq9WVNI%3B3iYFB31v0D&sa=D&source=calendar&usd=2&usg=AOvVaw3KuS_2HraIkrU2TkBmzbDg

Meeting ID: 296 009 966 188 538

Passcode: ag6qN6E7

In Attendance: Deb Schildroth, Becky Harker, Amy Shaw, Sandra King, Jess Peebler, Sarah Mansell, Ashley Thompson, Linda Hagedorn

Virtual: Liz Zuercher, Klayten Perreault, Aidan Shervheim, Moriah Morgan, Thomas Stein, Karen Kiel Rosser, Misty Zimmerman, Emma Cassabaum, Juliana Nnoko, Ron Smith

The meeting was called to order at 12:25 pm by Linda Hagedorn, Chair.

NEW BUSINESS

Policies and Procedures for Approval (Sandra King)

New meeting notification changes listed by King to reflect changes in Iowa Code Chapter 21. Cleaning up “New, expanded, or returning services” language on page 11. Page 12 should be listed as “Appendix A” and be on a separate line. Admin Team recommends approval. Additionally, changes on pages 3, 5, 6, and 9 were also discussed.

Motion by Harker, seconded by Cassabaum to approve changes. Motion passed unanimously.

HF 2490 – Modifications to Iowa Code section 21.4 (Sandra King)

King explained that Iowa Code section 21.4 has been updated and there is now a requirement for public meeting agendas to be posted in a location that is accessible to the public 24/7. She also shared that the ASSET Board needs to annually designate a physical location where ASSET agendas will be posted.

Motion by Hagedorn, seconded by Kiel Rosser to designate the agenda posting location for ASSET agendas as Ames City Hall in the police lobby and Story County Administration Building first floor on the window near the main entrance. Motion passed unanimously.

King also noted information on AMENDED agendas. In accordance the new law, agendas amended after they have been posted must be marked “AMENDED,” with the amended

provisions identified, and reposted [following the same requirement of 24-hours in advance of the meeting].

New ASSET Agency Applications

Ames Interfaith Refugee Alliance (AIRA) (*Deb Schildroth*)

Schildroth reviewed the process of new agencies applying for ASSET Funding.

She stated that AIRA is one of two groups under an umbrella group called “AXIOM.” The other group is Ames Sanctuary Interfaith Program and they work with individuals who are undocumented. AIRA works with only legal immigrants, approximately 70 individuals from various countries, including Haiti and Sudan. The Admin Team is recommending denying, as service AIRA is requesting funds for is governmental fees to continue allowing refugees to remain in the country. AIRA representatives noted that there have been ongoing changes to this program by the government which results in delays and some people not receiving their documents even when the fees are paid. Thompson brought up that during their presentation, there were many political comments, so UWSC is concerned about meeting ASSET agency requirements.

Motion by Harker, seconded by Zuercher to deny AIRA's agency application based on not meeting agency requirements.. Motion passed unanimously.

Foundations Learning Center (*Sandra King*)

King shared the application from Foundations Learning Center with the group. They have served the community for five years providing childcare to ages 0-5 years. They are housed at Cornerstone Church and there appears to be a very close partnership between the church and daycare center in terms of governance and funding. King read their mission statement and belief statements. ASSET requires a demarcation statement as ASSET cannot provide funding to religious organizations. Although they provided the required statement, the Admin Team believed the relationship between the agency and church was too closely intertwined.

Motion by Harker, seconded by Cassabaum to deny Foundations Learning Center's application due to the lack of demarcation with Cornerstone Church. Motion passed unanimously.

New/Expanded Services

Camp Fire Heart of Iowa – Afterschool Programming “Sparks” Ames Afterschool Program. (2.04 Day Care – School Age) (*Ashley Thompson*)

Thompson reminded everyone that the Admin Team takes action on New/Expanded services request and that ASSET Board action is not required. This is a daily afterschool program that runs through the school year (Aug-May) and is different than summer programs. Their focus is on literacy and STEM learning. With a shortage of childcare centers that accept childcare assistance, ASSET dollars would be used to help assist families on the sliding fee scale. The Admin Team approved this as a new service

Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance – Emergency Gas Vouchers (2.01 - Emergency Assistance for Basic Material Needs) (*Deb Schildroth*)

The emergency gas assistance program has been offered for several years and has been funded through donations. ASSET funding is being requested to assist individuals who come to the Good Neighbor office seeking assistance. Individuals can come in up to three times throughout the year to receive \$10 in vouchers that are only accepted at select locations. The Admin Team has not taken action on this request as additional information is being requested from Good Neighbor. Thompson brought up concerns around the current gas voucher program by Good Neighbor as there aren't many tracking measures in place. Good Neighbor commented during their presentation that any funds from ASSET would be tracked but the self-generated funds would not.

YSS – Youth and Young Adult Recovery Housing (2.15 Supportive Housing) (*Deb Schildroth*)
This new service is designed to support youth who have received substance use treatment at the Ember program. Once they've left their treatment program, they would be able to move into recovery housing for up to 18 months. YSS is considering one of their existing properties as a location to provide this service in Ames (10-15 beds). However, they are about 18 months out from being able to provide the service. YSS has funds from their opioid settlement to help with the remodel of the property

Thompson shared a concern regarding clients residency status. YSS stated they accept people from anywhere. From a residency perspective, this will be important to analyze.

The Admin Team denied approving this as a new service for FY 2027-28 as the concept is still being designed and the service not yet provided. It could be a service that comes back at a later date for consideration.

Update on E-CImpact

Mansell shared that she's nearly ready for Monday's training session. Application is complete. There will be two years of confirmed allocations with new proposed. Agencies have received invitation to join. Any number of employees—no cost increase. Focused on agency prep for next week.

Test Microsoft Teams

This is the first virtual meeting held using Microsoft Teams. Everyone was able to hear fine, but there are issues on Jess's end. She will look into addressing the issues and setting up more Team meetings.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Harker, seconded by Hagedorn, to adjourn at 12:58pm. Motion passed unanimously.