Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

6:00 PM – Thursday, July 23, 2026
Prairie View School
W911 State Hwy 44 | Markesan, WI 53946

Present:

Connie Anderson, Michael Will, Raina Lyman (6:09pm), Tonya Hitz, Tami Christian, Shawn Ross, Joe Gonyo, Jay Myrechuck, Gayle Demler, Karen Powers, Tom Dornbrook (6:09pm), Edie Crews, Paulette Feld, Donna Blend, Amber Lyn Gilbertson.

Absent/Excused:

Danielle Viau, Deb Neet, Brian Hamill, Mary Fleischman, Shaddai Carmona.

Staff:

Tanya Marcoe, Tony Beregszazi, CJ Bruden

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:01pm by President Connie Anderson. A quorum of 13/20 was present.

Review and Approval of Agenda:

A motion was made by Donna Blend, with a second by Amber Lyn Gilbertson, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Review and Approval of May 28, 2026, Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made by Michael Will, with a second by Amber Lyn Gilbertson, to approve the May 28, 2026, Board of Directors' meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Review and Approval of Actions by Committees:

The Board reviewed the following committee meeting minutes:

- FGP Advisory Committee – May 14, 2026
- RSVP Advisory Committee – May 20, 2026
- Executive Committee – May 28, 2026
- Head Start Policy Council – June 2, 2026
- F&N Advisory Committee – June 23, 2026 – No Quorum
- F&P Committee – June 25, 2026
- A&O Committee – June 25, 2026
- PPD Committee – June 25, 2026
- Executive Committee – July 23, 2026

a) Tanya Marcoe provided the Board with a brief summary of actions taken by the Executive Committee earlier that day. The committee approved the ADVOCAP Committee Manual, approved a Head Start funding request, and authorized acceptance of county funding.

b) Jay Myrechuck inquired about the F&N Advisory Committee, noting that the committee had experienced difficulty achieving quorum. Tony Beregszazi reported that he would work with Dawn Paterson to review the attendance concerns and determine whether inactive committee members may need to be replaced.

c) Michael Will inquired about what the FGP Advisory Committee was. Tony Beregszazi informed him that FGP was and acronym for "Foster Grand Parents".

A motion was made by Amber Lyn Gilbertson, with a second by Donna Blend, to approve the actions taken by committees. Motion carried.

Other Business/Announcements/Reports:

Tanya Marcoe provided updates and reminders regarding the following:

a) Committee Meetings: August 27, 2026 – JP Coughlin Center, 625 E. County Road Y, Oshkosh, WI 54901

b) Board of Directors Meeting: September 24, 2026 – ADVOCAP Fond du Lac Office, 19 W 1st Street, Fond du Lac, WI 54935

c) Committee Meetings: October 22, 2026 – ADVOCAP Berlin Office, 237 Broadway Street, Berlin, WI 54923

Adjournment to Strategic Planning Session and Board Picture:

A motion was made by Paulette Feld, with a second by Jay Myrechuck, to adjourn the Board meeting at 6:13pm and transition to the Strategic Planning Session and Board picture. Motion carried.

Strategic Planning Session:

Following adjournment of the regular Board meeting, Tanya Marcoe introduced Amy Pietsch, who facilitated the strategic planning session. Amy explained that the session was intended to gather Board guidance rather than approve a final plan. She reviewed the information previously gathered through a staff survey, the All-Staff Meeting, and a leadership meeting, and explained that the Board's feedback would help form the basis of the 2027 strategic plan. Amy also provided a brief overview of her professional background and reviewed the session agenda.

Findings to Date Briefing:

Amy reviewed five themes that had emerged through the strategic planning process and asked Board members to consider whether the themes accurately reflected appropriate areas of direction for the plan:

a) Financial Stability
b) Workforce Capacity & Retention
c) Housing Stability & Homelessness Prevention
d) Access, Navigation, Partnerships, & Trust
e) Systems, Processes, Communication, & Alignment

Board Sense-Making Activity:

Board members were provided time to review the findings, complete an individual reflection worksheet, and discuss their responses in pairs before sharing their observations with the full group.

Jay Myrechuck and Michael Will emphasized the need for a stronger mix of funding sources so ADVOCAP is not overly reliant on government funding.

Karen Powers and Edie Crews emphasized housing stability, noting that individuals who are employed may still experience housing insecurity. Their discussion included warming-shelter needs, the use of a portion of the Katherine Drexel parking lot for overnight parking in Fond du Lac, the lack of a similar option in Oshkosh, and the need for tools that help individuals navigate services and progress toward self-sufficiency.

Tom Dornbrook and Raina Lyman also identified Housing Stability & Homelessness Prevention as a priority. They supported partnership-based housing solutions that would allow ADVOCAP to share costs and resources with other organizations rather than carrying the full financial burden. They identified businesses, private industry, foundations, and churches as potential partners and noted that greater community awareness is also important.

Tami Christian and Joe Gonyo emphasized Financial Stability as a foundational priority, noting that the agency must have sufficient financial resources and planning in place to support sustainable programs and projects.

Paulette Feld and Connie Anderson emphasized effective communication with other agencies and community resources. Connie also identified the importance of demonstrating publicly that ADVOCAP is a trustworthy organization.

Gayle Demler and Amber Lyn Gilbertson discussed the cycle of housing instability and expressed concern that mental health needs and disabilities can create significant barriers affecting workforce capacity and retention.

Donna Blend and Shawn Ross focused on access to resources and customer service, including improving responsiveness to incoming calls, reducing the number of calls directed to voicemail, and strengthening reception services.

Strategic Direction Validation:

Board members then participated in a strategic direction validation activity. Using sticky notes, members responded to questions for each of the five proposed strategic directions and placed their responses on larger sheets associated with each area. The Board was asked to consider:

Does the Board support this direction as part of the strategic plan?

What would you refine?

What concerns do you have?

What Board guidance should shape this area?

Additional Strategic Planning Activities:

The session continued with facilitated activities focused on Board trade-offs, defining what organizational success should look like by 2029, and identifying conditions for Board support.