

Montana Children’s Trust Fund Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 23, 2025
Zoom Meeting

Present: David Landis, Brandi Loch, Elora Van Middendorp, Anita Wotkyns, Carrie Etherington, Charlie Wellenstein

Staff present: Josh Kendrick (Section Supervisor), MacKenzie Forbis (CTF Manager), Lona Gregor-Martin (CTF ARPA Program Specialist), Susan Wensel (CTF Budget Analyst), Alex Dahy (ECSB Administrative Assistant)

Guest present: none
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Montana Children’s Trust Fund Board Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair David Landis.

No public comment was made.

Chair David Landis welcomed everyone.

Board Business:

Board Welcome & Review July Minutes- Minutes to be sent out for approval via email so that board members may have time to review

Introduce new board members- This is the first board meeting with the new members of the board. New Board Members include Elora Van Middendorp, Anita Wotkyns, Carrie Etherington, Charlie Wellenstein, and Justine Guthrie (unable to attend)

Children’s Trust Fund Board Orientation – Mackenzie discusses the purpose of CTF and how the board helps make this work possible. The goal of this board is to make the community aware of CTF and needs associated with child abuse and neglect.

- CTF board member responsibilities- attend quarterly board meetings, grant application development, grant application review, support trust fund efforts, represent at workshops and trainings, advocate for the mission, support fundraising and resource development.
- **Partnerships and multi-year grantees**
 - Toby’s house Crisis nursery (provides urgent or emergency care for children 0-6) in Great Falls.
 - Bitterroot Early Learning Network in Hamilton (nurturing young minds and strengthening community bonds providing comprehensive ECE).
 - Mountain Home Montana in Missoula (provides trauma informed childcare with ECE practices to create a welcoming space for children to grow and learn. This is also a group living home)
- **Montana Community Response Program (CRP)** is a voluntary short-term program designed to provide families with individualized wrap around services to prevent child abuse and neglect. This program is being managed by Lona Gregor-Martin.
 - CRP provides and expands comprehensive community-based services

- ARPA funding for this has expired but PDGB-5 provided funding until the end of the year.
- There is a new RFP in process to fund this program.
- Locations include Butte 4 C's, St. John's United CARES in Billings, Alliance for Youth in Great Falls and Family Promise of Greater Helena
- **Review of CTF Strategic Plan**
- **Review of CTF Budgets**
 - Susan Wensel reviews the CTF funding sources and how each account works as well as funds in each account.
 - CBCAP Grant- This is a formula grant program with program instruction issued and lead agency designated by the governor each year.
 - State special revenue includes income tax Check the Box Campaign and divorce fees
 - Donations include Blue Cross Blue Shield sponsorship, memoriam donations, Blue Sunday, and general fundraising
 - Donations will fund a parent advisory board with the hope of offering funds for other mini-grants during Strengthening Families Month (twelve \$1000 grants for community organizations)
 - CTF is hoping to spend down state special revenue by offering higher dollar amounts for mini-grants
 - CTF is looking to start fundraising by creating community events

Chair David Landis adjourned the meeting at 11:27 am