



Tuesday, July 29, 2025 1:00PM – 3:00PM

Lincoln County Services Building Rm 156

Virtual Meeting Link: meet.google.com/opo-eksi-osu

Join by Phone: 1 (317) 961-0739 PIN: 772 858 753#

NOTES

1) Welcome (5 min)

2) State Budget: ACT 15

- What is in it?
 - \$110 million for the Child Care Bridge Payments (Child Care Counts Replacement)
 - Applications begin July 2026 ends June 2026
 - Any regulated provider is eligible
 - Community-based option for elementary school readiness
 - “Elementary school readiness program” means an instructional program that provides 4-year-old children with the social and cognitive skills to successfully transition to 5-year-old kindergarten in an elementary school setting.
 - Details on this program can be found [here](#) 49.132
 - Child care access program
 - Details on this program can be found [here](#) 49.1335
 - Child care center teacher-student ratio pilot project
 - Changes to definition of Infant and Toddler.
 - Ages 0-17mos 4:1 ratio will receive \$200/mo
 - Ages 18-24mos 7:1 ratio will receive \$100/mo
 - Not in the budget: Copay of no more than 7% for families at 150% Federal Poverty Level. This is currently not in compliance with federal law.
- What does this mean for Lincoln Co Providers?
 - Providers have continued state funding till June 2026
 - Providers are eligible to participate in the new Wisconsin Shares child care center teacher-student ratio pilot project. This is the new 18mo-24mo 7:1 ratio

3) Adopt a Provider (45 min)

- What is it?
 - Adopt A Provider was established by the Dream Up! Taskforce in Langlade and Lincoln Counties. This initiative aims to help area child care providers meet their individual needs by giving employers and community members a streamlined and tax deductible way to support.
- How can we support it?
 - Share our Dream Up! Adopt a Provider posts on Facebook
 - Launch a marketing/fundraising campaign
- Are there funding opportunities available?
 - Merrill Area Community Foundation
 - 3CWI will write for a grant of \$10,000 for marketing for Adopt A Provider that will cover:
 - a. Costs for design (Angel Zarda)
 - b. Childcaring (Platform Host)
 - c. Newspaper Ads
 - d. Info Session Night
 - e. Mailer Campaign
 - f. Supplies for provider to share with their parents
 - g. Possible collaboration with the Boys & Girls Club

4) Strategic Planning (30 min)

- Update Lincoln Co Dream Up! Mission, Vision, and Purpose Statements
 - DRAFT Mission Statement: Making Lincoln County, Wisconsin a family friendly place to live, work, and thrive by supporting early childhood and youth initiatives.

5) Upcoming Events

- Tomahawk Community Night - Aug 5, Sarah Park
- Senator Baldwin Visit – Aug 9, Tomahawk Chamber
- Merrill Community Night Out – Aug 19, Bierman Expo Center

6) Adjourn