Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
September 08, 2026

The Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc. Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Tri-Valley Administrative Office in Crookston, MN, and remotely via Microsoft Teams.

Board members present were J. Bachmeier, T. Anderson, S. Peterson, J. Duckstsad, S. Vonesh, G. Willhite, P. Reese, K. Shaugobay, T. Malm, T. Oistad, L. Hall, D. Svaren, C. Spisak, C. Martinez, A. Waage

Staff members present were M. Hedden, N. Aaker, A. Broden, M. Hams, E. Hensrud, and A. Aubol

A quorum was established with 13 voting members present.

S. Peterson moved to approve the Consent Agenda, which included the current agenda, August 11, 2026, meeting minutes, and Status Report, Seconded by T. Anderson. Motion carried.

S. Peterson moved to approve the Financial Reports for July 2026. Seconded by S. Vonesh. Motion carried.

Treasurer J. Duckstad reported that the fiscal documents reviewed by the Finance Committee were satisfactory. Credit card information was not available at this time but will be reviewed prior to the next meeting.

No Executive Committee Report at this time.

M. Hedden presented the Chief Executive Officer report.

- The Blue Earth Center is now open and serving children.
- M. Hedden attended the NCAP conference in St. Louis last week with P. Fernandez who was being recognized for recently earning her CCAP certification.
- Cory Aughtman from the Transportation Program placed 10th at the MPTA Statewide Bus Roadeo.
- The Elgin Center hosted a Community Health Fair.
- “Tell Us Something Good” QR code campaign highlighted a positive transportation rider experience.
- Monthly “Together We Grow” staff meetings continue to improve awareness of agency-wide services and referral opportunities.
- Senior Programs Resource Guide has been completed and will be distributed through community partners, including healthcare providers, senior housing facilities, Meals on Wheels, and other service locations.
- Fisher Housing Project update. All required materials have been submitted; Agency is awaiting a determination within the anticipated 60-90 day review period.

- Head Start Legislative Update, Information received at a recent conference suggests proposed federal Head Start changes may be less severe than originally anticipated.

T. Malm moved to approve the Chief Executive Officer report. Seconded by S. Vonesh. Motion carried.

E. Hensrud and M. Hams Presented the Program Director Report. Highlights include:
Transportation Program:

- Awarded full 2027 Operating Grant totaling approximately $5.6 million.
- Funding includes providing service to Roseau and Lake of the Woods Counties.
- New bus ticket system was implemented on September 1, 2026.
  - Riders now receive a dollar-for-dollar value on purchased tickets.
  - Change improves fare reconciliation and increases required local match revenue.
- Future fare increases may be necessary due to increased match requirements.

Community Assistance:

- Awarded a new Emergency Solutions Grant totaling approximately $260,000.
- Two-year grant will:
  - Assist seven additional households experiencing homelessness.
  - Fund approximately 0.3 FTE staff support.
- Staff noted significant ongoing housing needs in Polk County.

T. Anderson moved to approve the Program Director Report. Seconded by S. Peterson. Motion carried.

M. Hedden provided the Head Start, Child and Family Programs report.
Stephanie Vonesh shared highlights from the August 22, MSHS/MSEHS Policy Council meeting in St. Cloud MN. Highlights included:

- RXII Policy Council received training.
- ERSEA Training was provided.
- Review of Information Memorandums and Program Instructions from the Office of Head Start.
- Volunteers were asked to participate in the Health & Mental Health Advisory Committee.
- A review of the Budget, Credit Card Statements, In-Kind and the Program Data Report was provided.
- Elections for RXII Executive Committee were completed.
- The Tri-Valley Newsletter is now available in Spanish as requested by last year's Policy Council.

M. Hedden shared some Head Start links with the Board of Directors.
D. Svaren moved to accept the Head Start, Child and Family Programs report. Seconded by J. Duckstad. Motion carried.

Board approval was requested to apply for the HUD Permanent Supportive Housing Grant Request in the amount of $245,000.00 from December 01, 2027, through November 30, 2028. The funds will be used for rental assistance and supportive services for 11 clients for one year. S. Peterson moved to approve. Seconded by K. Shaugobay. Motion carried.

Board approval was requested to apply for the HUD Domestic Violence TH RRH Project Renewal Grant Request in the amount of $140,000.00 from December 01, 2027, through

November 30, 2028. The funds will be used to assist families and individuals experiencing and fleeing domestic violence to prevent homelessness or end homelessness. T. Oistad moved to approve the grant application. Seconded by T. Malm. Motion carried.

Board approval was requested to apply for the HUD FY 26 HUD Domestic Violence Bonus TH RRH Grant Request in the amount of $120,000.00 from June 01, 2027, through May 31, 2028. The funds will be used to assist families and individuals experiencing and fleeing domestic violence to prevent homelessness or end homelessness. D. Svaren moved to approve the grant application. Seconded by T. Anderson. Motion carried.

Board approval was requested to apply for the HUD Rural RRH TH FY 26 Grant Request in the amount of $103,000.00 from December 01, 2027, though November 30, 2028. The funds will be used for rental assistance and support services for 6 clients for one year in Marshall and Norman Counties. J. Duckstad moved to approve the grant application. Seconded by S. Peterson. Motion carried.

Board approval was requested to apply for the Polk County Opioid Settlement Grant Request in the amount of $95,000.00 from January 01, 2027, through December 30, 2027. The funds will be used for activities, trainings, and support for families to assist with preventing opioid use. S. Peterson moved to approve the grant application. Seconded by K. Shaugobay. Motion carried.

Board approval was requested to apply for the MnDOT Grant Request in the amount of approximately $250,000.00 from January 2027 through December 2027. The funds will be used to purchase and install validators in the buses to allow credit card sales. T. Malm moved to approve the grant application. Seconded by D. Svaren. Motion carried.

J. Duckstad moved to approve the 2025 Tri-Valley Opportunity Council Annual Report. Seconded by K. Shaugobay. Motion carried.

A. Broden Shared a memo from Human Resources regarding Life/LTD/STD/Voluntary Life and ADD. There was no Premium Increase for Voluntary Benefits for 2027.

The Board reviewed several different Health Insurance renewal options that the Executive Team analyzed at their last meeting. S. Peterson moved to approve the recommendation from the Executive Team for a 5% renewal with a 2% increase in employee cost share. Seconded by J. Duckstad. Motion carried.

J. Duckstad Moved to approve the hiring of Tracey Sundeen as the Tri-Valley Head Start Director. Seconded by T. Anderson. Motion carried.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be October 13, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

J. Duckstad moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by S. Peterson. Motion carried. Adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shawna Peterson
Secretary of the Board

SP: AA