

**MINUTES**  
**PLATTE COUNTY BOARD OF SERVICES**  
**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

**Members Present:** Dr. Michael Shafe, Stuart Anderson, Dr. Jeffrey Kingsley

**Members Absent:** Sandra Thomas

**Staff Present:** Drew Ehrlich, Martha Jaynes, Chad Sinnwell, Richard Vandal, Diane Bickham, Tim Coleman

**Visitors:**

The Farmer's House - Dana Chatlin and Melanie Hudgens

Special Olympics – Katie Balint and Christina Hunt

Northland Connections / Neuro Diverse City (NDC) – Jeff Janney and Sheri Edwards

The meeting was called to order at 5:00pm by Dr. Shafe.

**CSP Presentations**

The Farmer's House

Dana Chatlin and Melanie Hudgens outlined program updates and funding request. The Farmer's House's Early Work Experience program is the primary service. Students from Platte County schools attend one of three markets to gain practical job skills in retail operations, small commercial kitchens, horticulture, and related enterprises. Dana Chatlin and Melanie Hudgens reported ~83 students on the 2025–2026 roster (does not include occasional one-time experiences). Four Platte County school districts and eight classes currently participate. Dana Chatlin and Melanie Hudgens emphasized both hard job skills and soft skills (communication, customer service, teamwork) as program outcomes.

Melanie Hudgens also described the Social Enrichment programming, which includes dances, game nights, cooking classes, and other activities. The Annex funded in part by PCBS was credited with expanding capacity, allowing enrollment growth for community integration and reducing overcrowding at the Platte City location.

New funding request (not Legacy based) included \$1,500 for one-year subscription to Open Futures learning modules (approximately 50 video modules) to support side-by-side learning for clients and staff across community integration and employment services. Dana Chatlin indicated the subscription tier and final price could change with additional users or modules.

Northland Connections / Neuro Diverse City (NDC)

Jeff Janney presented program growth, usage data, and expansion plans. Northland Connections reported substantial growth since 2024. Platte County residents comprise ~60% of overall participation. Jeff emphasized NDC's mission to reduce isolation and encourage organic social relationships.

Northland Connections stated they are likely to relocate to a larger Zona Rosa location after the first of the year. The new space will include multiple activity rooms, a sensory room, a working kitchen, quieter meeting spaces, glass-partitioned rooms for supervision, and an accessible entrance. Rent will remain the same at \$10 per month. The new space is estimated at ~2,500 sq ft, up from the current ~2,000 sq ft.

Northland Connections requested increased funding for 2026 to support expanded programming and staffing due to rapid growth. The request increases monthly support from \$5,000 to \$8,000 per month, after initial draft \$6,500 request. The increase accounts for staffing/supervision needs and program supports.

#### Special Olympics Missouri

Katie Balint and Christina Hunt provided an overview of year-round sports programming. They currently offer 13 sports, adding soccer this year, and operates unified sports that pair athletes with and without intellectual disabilities. Katie Balint and Christina Hunt outlined partnerships with four Platte County schools and Park University and plans for expanded school participation and a unified track meet.

Katie Balint and Christina Hunt explained local and regional events are free to participants. State competitions require a \$50 per-athlete fee, which is included in the current funding request. The Special Olympics funding request covers venue/practice costs, medals, and assessment fees. Katie Balint confirmed the requested funding will cover current Platte County athletes' state participation needs and the Committee members encouraged them to return for additional one-time funding requests should athletes advance to national or international events.

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Dr. Shafe and seconded by Dr. Kingsley to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 5:55pm.

Minutes taken by:

Tim Coleman

PCBS Executive Support Assistant