

**New Early Childhood Enrichment Center Advisory Council Meeting Held
November 6th, 2025**



On November 6th, 2025, the Early Childhood Enrichment Center Advisory Council meeting was held at Dakota Layers, hosted by Scott Ramsdell and Jody Hernandez, CEO of the Boys and Girls Club of the Northern Plains. The meeting focused on what needs to happen before the ongoing construction of the Flandreau Early Childcare Enrichment Center, which is scheduled to open in May 2026, is completed. The new advisory council was established to represent all three partners: the City of Flandreau, the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe, and the Boys and Girls Club of the Northern Plains. With the task of assisting with operational readiness, and as a community advisory committee, guiding facility operations while serving as ambassadors who advocate for this facility throughout our community.

The center will be located southwest of the Flandreau

School District and northeast of the Boys and Girls Club. It will feature 9,900 sq ft of new construction dedicated to serving children from birth to age 5. This project started in Fall 2022 with a community needs assessment that identified a high demand for childcare in Flandreau, along with a need for flexible options to accommodate diverse work schedules and family situations.

In May 2026, when the Early Childhood Enrichment Center opens, it will have a total enrollment of sixty children. Twenty children, infants, and toddlers have their own classrooms. With forty children, twenty 3–4-year-olds in one classroom and 4-5-year-olds in another classroom. With a total of twenty-two full-time employees.

Once the early childhood enrichment center is established in 2027, phase two will be implemented. This will

involve opening mildly ill rooms staffed by a CNA, extended hours of care to meet the needs of the non-traditional work schedules, and expanding services by opening three additional infant/toddler classrooms, one additional preschool classroom, and one additional flex space for school-aged children. Opening these additional rooms will increase the total enrollment to one hundred thirty-eight children. Made possible with an increase in full-time employees to a total of thirty-four.

I would like to thank Kristi Bietz, Trustee I, for attending and becoming a part of the advisory council. Along with Elizabeth Fisherman, I.T. Computer Support Specialist, and Philip Allen, Roads Transportation Fleet Manager, for all their time and efforts in helping make this a success that will enhance and strengthen our community for generations. -Amber Allen
CCDF Administrator

