

Linn Together Meeting Minutes		
September 17, 2025	12:00 – 1:00 PM	In-person & virtual Linn County Armory Building Albany, Oregon
Type of meeting	General Meeting	
Facilitator	Shannon Snair	
Notetaker	Julie Mercer	
Attendees	Heide Kizer Aranda, Brandi Blethen, Dani Crabtree, Sue Harte, Angie Jansen, Carter Kachel, Danette Killinger, Ashley LeFever, Julie Mercer, Rose Reader, Shannon Snair	
Linn Together Updates & Approval of Minutes		
• <i>Minutes:</i> Linn Together August 20, 2025 meeting minutes were approved. • <i>Sad news:</i> Former Linn Together member Rosalee Evans passed away this month. Through her work at CHANCE, Rosalee was a passionate supporter of the recovery community and as well as Linn Together’s mission to encourage healthy youth choices. • <i>Member update:</i> Longtime Linn Together member Dar Merrill has decided to step back from Linn Together activities as he addresses health concerns. • <i>Presentation request:</i> A Rotary Club group has requested a Linn Together presentation. Rose volunteered to be one of the speakers. • <i>Trivia questions:</i> Heide won this month’s trivia activity!		
Linn Together Community Outreach Events		
Presenter	Ashley	
Discussion	Recent Events • <i>Sweet Home Junior High Back-to-school Night</i>, August 27th. Sarah said it was a well-attended event with great community spirit. She talked with 62 adults and 65 teens. • <i>Bridges 2 Recovery</i>, Sept 13. The event started at CHANCE and continued to the Lyon Street bridge, where people locked hands. Danette & Rose hosted a Linn Together table. Upcoming Events: • <i>LBCC Welcome Day</i>, September 24. Welcome Day is an annual back-to-school event for LBCC students, held in the LBCC courtyard. Sarah and Angie are hosting a table. They will provide a mental health toolkit activity for LBCC students.	

	• <i>Lebanon Community Walk for Suicide Prevention & Awareness</i>, September 27 at Ralston Park in Lebanon. An annual walk to raise awareness and honor those who have experienced a loss. Ashley will have materials for participants to make mental health toolkits and will have other mental health resources. • <i>Active Aging Event at Mennonite Village</i>, October 3. Julie will host a table that will include problem gambling prevention and screening materials. • <i>Scio Family Cares Day</i>, October 4. Scio Cares sponsors this popular event, which includes a BBQ lunch, bike rodeo, cake walk, and other fun family activities. Danette will provide a children's activity and resource materials at the Linn Together table. • <i>Health & Wellness Fair</i>, October 18, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm at the Riverfront Community Center in Albany. Carter shared details about a December 20 event for Family Tree Relief Nursery clients, where Linn Together has been invited to host a table. Rose offered to help at the Health & Wellness Fair from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.
Linn Together Media Outreach	
	Julie
Discussion	Recent social media posts and listserv mailings have shared information about Suicide Prevention Awareness Month and Recovery Month. Julie noted that Linn Together regularly receives resource and information requests after mailings. This month's requests included fentanyl conversation cards for DHS, a classroom presentation for South Albany High School, and bullying resources for a local middle school parent.
Youth Marijuana Prevention Campaign	
Presenter	Shannon
	Two of the summer Youth Marijuana Prevention Campaign billboards are still up in Albany. They should remain until another client rents those billboard spaces. A school nurse in Lebanon requested campaign materials to distribute in the schools; those have been provided. Additional

	campaign stickers and posters have been ordered to be distributed during the 2025-26 school year.
Linn County Fair Booth Discussion	
Presenter	Julie
Discussion	Julie reported that our 2025 Linn County Fair booth had a total of 2,219 visitors – 1,007 adults, 565 teens, and 647 children. The booth theme was the Youth Marijuana Prevention Campaign. Visitors answered a true/false question about youth marijuana use to win a pop-up fan. Linn Together members discussed what went well and gave suggestions for next year: • The questions engaged visitors and promoted useful discussions with table hosts and among families • It was useful to have a question targeted at young children (“What would you do if you found medicine that did not belong to you?”). Next year, include specific tips on that topic in the informational bags. • Two-hour volunteer shifts were the right amount of time. • Next year, overlap shifts slightly to allow time for parking or other delays. • The raffle drawing worked very well to get email newsletter sign-ups. We had over 150 newsletter sign-ups during the fair.
Family Trivia Nights	
Presenter	Ashley
	Linn Together piloted a Family Trivia Night in April at Scio Middle School. The event was a success, and we plan to host four additional events this school year. Ideally, Trivia Nights will be held during a term that LifeSkills is being taught in the school. This helps with promotion and provides a connection for families. The first event is planned for Harrisburg Middle School this fall, as Ashley is teaching LifeSkills there at that time. Linn Together Family Trivia Nights are a fun way for families to spend time together and strengthen connections. With interactive trivia and helpful prevention tips, these events spark conversations and encourage healthy choices during the middle school years. Heide volunteered to help with the Harrisburg Middle School Trivia Night.

Agency Updates	
Presenter	All
Discussion	• <i>Linn County Juvenile Department</i>: A training on trauma-informed crisis response and de-escalation will be held on September 29 at the Knife River Training Center in Albany. Cost is \$25.00. For more information or to register, email trieker@co.linn.or.us • <i>Linn County STAND Youth Council</i>: Shannon shared that STAND will meet in October to kick off their 2025-26 school year activities. The “Keep it Real” freshmen toolkits created by STAND have been distributed to all but one high school in Linn County. • <i>Linn County Alcohol & Drug</i>: Danette shared that “Freedom from Smoking” classes are offered free from Samaritan Health, both in-person and online. To register or for more information: samhealth.org/HealthEdHub.

Next Linn Together meeting:
October 15, 2025
12:00 – 1:00 pm
Linn County Armory Building
Miller Room A, First Floor
& Virtual