



Goodhue County  
***Health and Human Services***

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**DATE:** August 27, 2025  
**TO:** Goodhue County Board  
**FROM:** Nina Arneson, Goodhue County HHS Director  
**RE:** Out of State Travel Request

**BACKGROUND:**

The Goodhue County Child and Family Collaborative and Rise Up Partnership will cover the cost for Josh Smith, GCHHS Community Engagement Specialist, to participate in the Cradle to Career Network Convening on September 16-18, 2025, in Atlanta, GA. He is the Goodhue County Child and Family Collaborative Coordinator.

The Goodhue County Child and Family Collaborative and Rise Up Partnership have been exploring a merger for about a year. Rise Up is part of Strive Together, which brings participants in their national movement together once a year. RiseUp staff attend this yearly conference, and it's been extremely beneficial for the team. "The Cradle to Career Network Convening is the only event of its kind for local leaders working to put millions more young people on a path to economic mobility." - <https://www.strivetogogether.org/events/2025-cradle-to-career-network-convening/>

RiseUp will cover Josh's registration, hotel, and flight. At their August 21 meeting, the Collaborative board approved covering the remaining expenses—meals and ground transportation—from the Collaborative's Integrated Fund. Josh Smith's staff time attending the conference will also be covered by the Collaborative.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The GCHHS Department recommends approval of this request.