

**JASPER, MARION, AND POWESHIEK (JMP) COUNTIES EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA  
BOARD MEETING Minutes**

Foundation Offices at Ahrens Park, 1510 Penrose St, Grinnell, IA 50112

5:30 pm - Wednesday, November 17, 2021

County	Name	Present		Absent	Excused	Unexcused	Non-Board
		IP	V				
P	Steve Bernemann-(human services)		X				
M	Rachel Cecil (citizen)			X	X		
M	Brian Kingrey (education)- Board Chair		X				
J	Mitzi Smith (faith)		X				
P	Doug Cameron (consumer)-		X	X	X		
P	Mary Lindberg (citizen)- Board Vice-Chair		X				
J	Britney Schnathorst (citizen) Board Treasurer			X	X		
J	Julie Wendl (health)		X				
M	Michael Kacmarynski- (business)			X		X	
	Amy Blanchard (Director)	X					X
	Brenda O'Halloran (CCR&R)		X				X
	Stephanie Walters (MICA Family Connections)		X				X
	Melissa Woodhouse (MCPH I-Smile		X				X

- I. The meeting was called to order by Kingrey, Chair, at 5:33 pm. Meeting participation was available in-person at the location noted above and via virtual meeting. Manner of participation is noted above as in-person (IP) or virtual (V). Agenda items were reordered to ensure quorum for action items.
- II. Roll Call: JMP board members present include Bernemann, Cameron, Kingrey, Lindberg, and Smith. Wendl joined at 6:10 pm.
- III. Public Comment: O'Halloran reported many new providers are seeking licensing. She assisted Newton YMCA with emergency QRS assistance. Training continues with courses such as Conscious Discipline and All Our Kin. Woodhouse reported the Fall preschool I-Smile visits have concluded. Winter months will focus on care coordination and follow-up. A new assistant has been hired to assist with this. Walters reported Family Connections is serving 17 families with 2 referrals waiting. Socializations have started in-person on Wednesday mornings.
- IV. **Motion** to approve minutes from October 27, 2021 meeting by Lindberg. **Seconded** by Bernemann. Motion passed unanimously.
- V. JMP Audit Report: Board reviewed the draft FY21 audit report performed by CliftonLarsonAllen. No findings were reported. **Motion** by Cameron to approve the FY21 JMP audit report as presented. **Seconded** by Lindberg. Motion passed unanimously.
- VI. Executive and Committee Reports:
  - a. Treasurer's Report: Report current through November 12 was included in the board packet. Blanchard noted only \$12,000 in expenses since the last meeting. The MCPH September voucher will not be reflected until November financials are complete. The report was filed for audit.
  - b. Preschool Scholarship Report: Report was included in the board packet. JMP is currently serving 57 students at 10 preschools.

- c. ECI Director Report: Report was included in the board packet. Blanchard highlighted the connections made since the October meeting with legislators, mental health providers, and local funding sources. She also noted several recent resignations among JMP contractors and affiliates including the CCNC, postpartum home visitor, and two child care center directors.

#### VII. New Business:

- a. Mental Health Supports for Early Childhood Educators: Per discussion at the last board meeting, Blanchard has been researching opportunities in the JMP service area. One option would be to focus on the health and well-being of the child care center staff following a challenging year of COVID precautions and restrictions. Ideas might include art therapy, music therapy, yoga, stretching, nutrition, mental health awareness, and other wellness activities. Blanchard could compile a list of potential opportunities for center directors to choose from with estimated costs which would be supported by JMP Early Childhood Funding. Board was in agreement this is a valuable investment in our early care workforce. **Motion** by Lindberg to allocate \$10,000 of unallocated Early Childhood FY21 funding to mental health supports. **Seconded** by Cameron. Motion passed unanimously.
- b. FY22 Site visit schedule: The tentative schedule was included in the board packet. Board members are encouraged to participate in a site visit if possible. Dates and times will be confirmed or amended closer to the event. Blanchard anticipates all visits will be in person.

#### VIII. Old Business:

- a. FY21 Family Support Annual Report Review: The 2021 Family Support Quality Indicators report for JMP was included in the board packet. Blanchard noted the discrepancy in number of families and children served. The DAISEY report reviewed by the JMP board in August reflected four fewer families and five fewer children for both Jasper and Marion. Blanchard is unsure if these families are served by our PAT programs or they are misattributed to another program not funded by JMP ECI. Blanchard also share the presentation from Janet Horras featuring thorns and roses. Blanchard noted all three JMP counties were included in the second place category of achieving minimum or best practice standards in six of the seven categories despite challenges presented by the pandemic. Outreach to pregnant mothers is strong.
- IX. Other: Woodhouse requested permission to purchase additional toothbrushes for preschoolers as her Delta Dental grant did not cover the entirety of the need this year. Board was amenable to the request pending a specific dollar amount sent via email to Blanchard. Woodhouse will send the cost estimate to Blanchard via email.
- X. Adjournment: **Motion** by Lindberg to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 6:33 pm. The JMP Board is scheduled to next meet on Wednesday, January 26, 2022 at 5:30 pm via virtual meeting. Host site will be the Foundation Offices at Ahrens Park in Grinnell for any member of the board or public to attend in person.