

**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, January 26, 2022

County	Name	Present		Absent	Excused	Unexcused	Non-Board
		IP	V				
P	Steve Bernemann-(human services)		X				
M	Rachel Cecil (citizen)		X				
M	Brian Kingrey (education)- Board Chair		X				
J	Mitzi Smith (faith)		X				
P	Doug Cameron (consumer)-		X				
P	Mary Lindberg (citizen)- Board Vice-Chair		X				
J	Britney Schnathorst (citizen) Board Treasurer		X				
J	Julie Wendl (health)		X				
M	Michael Kacmarynski- (business)		X				
	Amy Blanchard (Director)	X					X
	Brenda O'Halloran (CCR&R)		X				X
	Leann Andre (CCR&R)		X				X
	Stephanie Walters (MICA Family Connections)		X				X
	Nikki Harter (MICA Family Connections)		X				X
	Denice Fischer (ISU Extension Early Care and Ed)		X				X
	Rachel Garner (MCPH PAT- Marion County)		X				X
	Felicia Hazelton (MCPH PAT- Jasper County)		X				X

- I. The meeting was called to order by Kingrey, Chair, at 5:32 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).
- II. Roll Call: JMP board members present include Bernemann, Cameron, Cecil, Kacmarynski, Kingrey, Lindberg, Schnathorst, Smith, and Wendl.
- III. **Motion** to approve minutes from November 17, 2021 meeting by Cecil. **Seconded** by Cameron. Motion passed unanimously.
- IV. Public Comment: O'Halloran reported assisting 3 centers to achieve QRS 4 status. CCR&R has multiple training opportunities ongoing including All our Kin and National Administration Credential training. Andre reported on Childcare Challenge and Stabilization grants. Garner introduces Felicia to the board. Parent Cafés have restarted in Jasper and Marion County. The PAT participation incentive program has been reorganized to streamline items and provide more high-impact and desirable items for families. Walters reported Family Connections is serving 19 families. Partnership with Read2Lead continues. Cecil asked the group about determining the need for prenatal home visits. Garner responded PAT prioritizes prenatal enrollees and most can be seen in the absence of a long waiting list. The program has seen an uptick in single pregnant moms.
- V. Executive and Committee Reports:
  - a. Treasurer's Report: Report current through January 20, 2022, was included in the board packet. Schnathorst noted the balance in unallocated funds available to spend if needed. The report was filed for audit.

- b. Preschool Scholarship Report: Report was included in the board packet. JMP is currently serving 60 students at 11 preschools with one new preschool added in December.
- c. ECI Director Report: Report was included in the board packet. Blanchard highlighted the various grants available for childcare and how she is connecting directors with opportunities as she is able. She also noted her office will be under construction for the next 12 weeks so she will primarily be working from home.

#### VI. Old Business

- a. Site Visit Schedule: the board reviewed the proposed site visit schedule. Blanchard will send reminders closer to the dates of the visits.

#### VII. New Business:

- a. JMP Health and Wellness Grants: Board reviewed applications received to support the health and wellness of child care center staff in the JMP service area. The grant opportunity was shared with all licensed centers in the JMP service area via email and USPS mail. The board discussed reviewed and approved the efforts of center directors to address the needs of their staff. All grants were approved for \$1,000, the maximum allowable request. Blanchard requested permission to approve late applications upon receipt should any come in if they are similar in nature to the other requests reviewed by the board. Board agreed. **Motion** to approve Health and Wellness grants at \$1,000 each by Lindberg. **Seconded** by Cameron. Motion passed unanimously.
  - b. JMP Literacy Grants: Board reviewed two applications to support Dolly Parton Imagination Library efforts in Jasper and Poweshiek County. **Motion** to approve \$8,000 for Friends of Newton Public Library and \$5,000 for Read2Lead in Poweshiek County by Lindberg. **Seconded** by Wendl. Motion passed unanimously.
  - c. FY23 Request for Proposal: Board reviewed the RFP documents for FY23 including the proposed schedule of renewal RFP's and full RFP's and the documents pertaining to renewal and full requests. Blanchard reiterated the board could request a complete RFP from any contractor and any contractor could choose to submit a complete RFP versus a renewal RFP. Brief discussion followed regarding Child Care Nurse Consultant services in the JMP service area. The new collaborative services map may affect who holds the Maternal Child Health Contract for the area. Current CCNC services are being contracted by MCPH from Jefferson County Public Health. Motion to approve the FY23 RFP documents as presented by Cecil. **Seconded** by Wendl. Motion passed unanimously.
  - d. Mid-year Data Reports: Board reviewed mid-year data reports including addendums highlighting collaborations and success stories as well as historical trend data and DAISEY reports. Data points were all in line with expectations amidst a pandemic.
- VIII. Other: O'Halloran noted a change of ownership for Imagine Child Care in Newton. Blanchard inquired about the grants received from DHS. O'Halloran responded details are still being worked out but she anticipates the grants will follow the program, not the owner.
- IX. Adjournment: **Motion** by Cecil to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 7:11 pm. The JMP Board is scheduled to next meet on Wednesday, February 23, 2022, at 5:30 pm via virtual meeting. Host site is yet to be determined for any member of the board or public to attend in person.

Center Name	Director	Project Title	Proposal	Amount Requested	Amt Funded
Peck Child Development Center	Ashton Hoffman	Fitness Trackers	Purchase fitness trackers for 7 staff members to encourage movement in the classroom, on the playground, and outside of work hours.	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Imagine Child Care Center	Nicole Livingston	Stress-Relief Activitites	Promote team bonding through off-site activity (Smash Room), tie-dye shirt making, and mini massages on site.	\$ 980	\$ 1,000
Growing Greatness Learning Center	Melissa Brummel	Self Care Staff Day	Provide a day of self-care activities for staff to include mini-massages, healthy snacks, and team building.	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Newton Early Learning Academy	Paloma Keith	Staff Appreciation Week	Provide a week of teacher appreciation activities and recognition.	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Diamond Trail Daycare and Preschool	Mitzi Smith	Team Building and Appreciation	Build team spirit through an escape room group outing and on-site appreciation efforts such as lunch, mini massages, and fresh snacks.	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Little Sabres	Jessica Manser	Employee Health and Happiness	Provide a day of relaxation for 7 staff plus a meal.	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Stepping Stones Early Learning Center	Keri Garrison	Team Bonding	Build reposit among new and long-serving staff through an off-site day of fun (Ironside Axe).	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Grinnell Early Learning Center	Valerie Steinbach	Art Therapy	Art therapy session with a trained mental health professional with incentives for attendance.	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$ 7,980</b>	<b>\$ 8,000</b>

Organization	Address1	CityStZip	RequestedAmt	GrantAmt	Program Name
Friends of Newton Public Library	PO Box 302	Newton, IA 50208	\$18,000	\$8,000	Dolly Parton Imagination Library for Jasper County
Read 2 Lead	1298 E 142nd St South	Grinnell, IA 50112	\$ 7,206	\$ 5,000	Dolly Parton Imagination Library for Poweshiek County
			\$25,206	<b>\$13,000</b>	

Total Allocated in Budget:

\$15,000.00 Amount to be available to fund

\$2,000.00 Balance to be funded

Other Potential Partners:

Families First E.L.M.A.