

**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 25, 2024

County	Name	Present		Absent	Excused	Unexcused	Non-Board
		IP	V				
P	Patricia Hinrichs-(human services) Board Vice Chair		X				
M	VACANT (citizen)						
M	Brian Kingrey (education)- Board Chair		X				
J	Mitzi Smith (faith)		X				
P	Doug Cameron (consumer)-		X				
P	Mary Lindberg (citizen)		X				
J	Britney Schnathorst (citizen)			X	X		
J	Julie Wendl (health)		X				
M	Michael Kacmarynski- (business) Board Treasurer			X	X		
	Amy Blanchard (Director)	X					X
	Brenda O'Halloran (CCR&R)		X				X
	Robyn Belden (MICA Family Connections)		X				X
	Megan Thompson (MICA CCNC)		X				X

- I. The meeting was called to order by Kingrey, Chair, at 5:30 pm.
- II. Roll Call: JMP board members present include Cameron, Hinrichs, Kingrey, Lindberg, Smith, and Wendl.
- III. Public Comment: Brenda reported on assisting 4 programs with IQ4K applications and working with several home providers as well. There are currently two programs in the JMP ECI area that are operating on provisional licenses so Brenda has been working closely with those programs. There is a new licensing consultant that helps review DHHS regulation for programs that Brenda has been collaborating with. She will host an in-person Conscious Discipline course in Grinnell on March 2. Robyn reported the program enrolled a family last week so they are currently serving 15 families and Jordan is trying to recruit more families. Pediatricians, WIC staff, and school referrals are likely targets for referrals as well as internally. Megan reported an uptick in providers involved with the CCNC, particularly due to an increase in special health care needs that providers are seeking support for. A board member inquired about examples of such. Megan referenced several examples that were also highlighted in the midyear report. Blanchard noted that she has been working closely with Short Years Partnership as the program gets established in Jasper and Marion but the directors likely did not receive the meeting invite due to an oversight in the email distribution list. Blanchard will correct that.
- IV. **Motion** to approve minutes of November 29, 2023 board meeting by Wendl. **Seconded** by Lindberg. Motion passed unanimously.
- V. Executive and Committee Reports
  - a. Treasurer's Report: Blanchard reported the mid-year report was filed in Iowa Grants, at which point the board was only 30% spent out. This is primarily due to the absence of a family support contract from July through November. Board currently has \$75,000 unallocated funding. Report was filed for audit.
  - b. Preschool Scholarship Report: Report was included in the board packet. Blanchard noted that quality improvement grant applications were launched to all preschools that have a current scholarship agreement in place with JMP ECI. Grans are for up to \$2,000.

- c. ECI Director Report: Report was included in the board packet. Blanchard highlighted the bi-weekly sessions with the AECIABA legislative advocates and weekly informative emails.

VI. Old Business:

- a. Board is still seeking a Marion County board representative. Blanchard received a response to the last press release seeking board members. A person submitted an application for the board's review to represent Marion County. After discussion, **motion** by Cameron to accept the new board member. **Seconded** by Hinrichs. Kingrey abstained. Though Blanchard has discussed the responsibilities with the applicant, it is possible she may not accept the role. Blanchard will further the discussion.
- b. HHS Alignment Update: The final recommendation report from Health Management Associates was released in early January. It was less definitive than many anticipated it would be. General consensus is the Governor will focus on the Behavioral Health portion of the realignment this year so ECI will likely continue to function as-is for at least another year.
- c. FY24 Contract Monitoring Site Visit Schedule: Blanchard will confirm dates with providers and notify board members in advance.

VII. New Business:

- a. FY25 Request for Proposal (RFP) Documents: Blanchard presented both the renewal and full RFP documents for the board noting the only changes from the previous year were the dates for release, submission, review, and notification of award. Further discussion focused on the schedule for renewal versus full RFP. Grinnell Early Learning Center and MICA Family Connections are due for complete RFPs. Blanchard is recommending all contractors submit a renewal RFP unless a full-RFP is preferred by their organization. **Motion** by Hinrichs to approve documents as presented and the amended RFP schedule. **Seconded** by Lindberg. Motion passed unanimously.
- b. FY24 Midyear Data Reports: Reports were included in the board packet for review. Blanchard highlighted the new spreadsheet format and impact stories in the addendums.
- c. Designation Site Visit Meetings: Site visit format document was included in the board packet. Board members and director are not to attend the community partners portion of the meeting at 4 pm. Blanchard will send an invitation to all contractors, preschools, and other community members to attend. All sessions will be held via Zoom.

VIII. Adjournment: **Motion** by Cameron to adjourn. **Seconded** unnecessarily and enthusiastically by Hinrichs and Wendl. Next meeting is scheduled for February 28, 2024 via Zoom. Meeting adjourned at 6:51 pm.