

**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 29, 2023

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				
J	Julie Wendl (health)		X				
M	Michael Kacmarynski- (business) Board Treasurer			X	X		
	Amy Blanchard (Director)	X					X
	Leann Andre (CCR&R)		X				X
	Jordan Link (MICA Family Connections)		X				X
	Sheena Sullivan (Short Years Partnership)		X				X

- I. The meeting was called to order by Kingrey, Chair, at 5:31 pm.
- II. Roll Call: JMP board members present include Cameron, Hinrichs, Kingrey, Lindberg, Schnathorst, Smith, and Wendl.
- III. Public Comment: Leann reported CCR&R is assisting with IQ4K applications. A Pella home provider achieved a level 5, one of only two homes in the State. Leann also reported that Imagine Childcare in Newton closed as of November 22. Jordan reported three new families have enrolled and she is scheduled to take the national certification exam in February. Family Connections is serving a total of 15 families currently. Sheena reported Short Years has begun outreach in Jasper and Marion to hire staff and recruit families for Parents as Teachers (PAT). Rachel Bardwell will supervise Marion County and Danielle Kenworthy will supervise Jasper County. Goal is to begin serving families in February. Blanchard will share PAT job posting with JMP board.
- IV. **Motion** to approve minutes of October 25, 2023 board meeting by Hinrichs. **Seconded** by Wendl. Kingrey abstains. Motion passed unanimously.
- V. Executive and Committee Reports
 - a. Treasurer's Report: Blanchard noted that spending is on track. With the approval of the Short Years allocation and increase in preschool scholarship funding, JMP will have approximately \$75,657 left unallocated. Report was filed for audit.
 - b. Preschool Scholarship Report: Report was included in the board packet. No change since October meeting. Noted in the report and discussed as a board is the potential for legislation to expand funding for 4-year-old Voluntary Preschool Program from half-day to full day. Board discussed benefits and potential pitfalls for such an increase. Blanchard again noted the strain IQ4k is putting on non-center-based preschools.

- c. ECI Director Report: Report was included in the board packet. Blanchard highlighted the timely submission of the designation documents to the State ECI team. Blanchard also noted the kindness of Amanda Winslow to assist with correcting an error in the annual report.
- d. RFP Committee Report: Following the October board meeting, Blanchard consulted with Janet Horras at HHS to ensure committee understood the options for awarding funding. Committee recommended via email to contract with Short Years Partnership to provide family support in Jasper and Marion Counties and board voted unanimously in favor to do so via email.

VI. Old Business:

- a. Board is still seeking a Marion County board representative. Blanchard has reached out to several contacts to seek nominees. Board members are encouraged to recruit as well.

VII. New Business:

- a. FY23 JMP Audit Report: Report was included in the board packet. There were no findings. **Motion** by Cameron to accept the report. **Seconded** by Schnathorst. Motion passed unanimously.
- b. FY24 Budget Amendment: Amended budget proposal allocates \$183,225 to Short Years Partnership, adds \$10,000 to Preschool Scholarship funding, and leaves \$75,657 in To Be Determined status. Preschool Quality Improvement grants will be launched in January. **Motion** by Schnathorst to approve the amended budget as presented. **Seconded** by Lindberg. Motion passed unanimously.
- c. Historical Family Support Data: Board reviewed the summary data of services provided by MICA Family Connections since 2016.
- d. AECIABA FY24 Legislative Priorities: Blanchard shared the Association of Early Childhood Iowa Area Boards and Advocates (AECIABA) legislative priorities for the upcoming session. Focus is mainly on keeping early childhood initiatives local with local board oversight.
- e. HHS Alignment Update: None at this time. Still awaiting the final recommendation report from Health Management Associates. HHS has revamped the ECI website. Blanchard encouraged board members to poke through it for errors or missing features.

VIII. Adjournment: **Motion** by Schnathorst to adjourn because Doug didn't unmute quickly enough. Next meeting is scheduled for January 24, 2024 via Zoom. Meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.