

**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, October 30, 2024

County	Name	Present		Absent	Excused	Unexcused	Non-Board
		IP	V				
P	Patricia Hinrichs-(human services)- Board Chair		X				
M	Denise Bontrager (citizen)		X				
M	Brian Kingrey (education)- Board Vice Chair			X	X		
J	Mitzi Smith (faith)		X				
P	Doug Cameron (consumer)-	X					
P	Mary Lindberg (citizen) Board Treasurer	X					
J	Britney Schnathorst (citizen)		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
	Rachel Bardwell (Short Years Partnership)		X				X
	Jasmine Bailey (Jasper ISU Ext, Early Care & Ed)		X				X
	Alma Silva (MICA Family Connections)		X				X

- I. The meeting was called to order by Hinrichs, Chair, at 5:30 pm. Meeting was slated to be in-person in Newton but was flipped to virtual due to impending storms affecting the area.
- II. Roll Call: JMP board members present via Zoom include Bontrager, Hinrichs, Kacmarynski, Schnathorst, Smith, and Wendl. Cameron and Lindberg joined Amy at the Foundation Offices, lured there by hot soup and brownies.
- III. Public Comment: O'Halloran reported on trainings and incentives happening currently and reported on an IQ4K Level 5 rating achieved by a child care home, one of only 7 IQ4K 5 homes in the state of Iowa, two of which are in the JMP service area. Bailey reported on recent trainings and planning for Symposium in April. Bardwell reported on increasing presence in Marion County as well as an upcoming drive-through baby shower in Jasper County. 25 slots are taken with 15 on the waiting list. Families are encouraged to watch an informational video about PAT before arriving to the shower. Silva introduced herself as the new parent educator for Poweshiek County. Program currently has 11 families with one recruiting event soon and she is planning another one. Program intends to switch to the Parents as Teachers curriculum. Via email, Megan Thompson reported that MICA CCNC services for Jasper and Poweshiek are being fulfilled by Tara Berstler while a new CCNC is being sought.
- IV. **Motion** to approve minutes of August 30, 2024 board meeting by Kacmarynski. **Seconded** by Lindberg. Motion passed unanimously.
- V. Executive and Committee Reports
 - a. Treasurer's Report: Report current through October 25 was included in the board packet. Two programs are slightly more than 25% spent out. Blanchard expects it shouldn't be an issue but will keep an eye on it. Report was filed for audit.
 - b. Preschool Scholarship Report: Report was included in the board packet. Blanchard noted a record number of applications were submitted, likely due to an increase in available options for

wrap-around care and 3 year old preschool as well inflationary demands on family budgets causing more families to consider seeking support. Recommended action is to allocate an additional \$12,000 from the TBD funding line to increase the budget to \$102,000.

- c. ECI Director Report: Report was included in the board packet. Blanchard reported on the new Qualtrics data management opportunity for performance measures and reminded the board about the Association Annual Meeting on November 14.

VI. Old Business:

- a. FY24 Iowa Grants Annual Report: The JMP report was reopened for negotiation due to the Association dues not being listed as a separate line on the excel sheet, though they were lined out in the report under administrative costs. Blanchard made the correction in collaboration with the accounting staff and the report was resubmitted before the deadline.

VII. New Business:

- a. FY24 Audit Report: The audit report was included in the board packet for review. There were no findings. **Motion** by Cameron to approve the report. **Seconded** by Smith. Motion passed unanimously.
- b. Q1 Daisey Family Support Data: Quarterly reports by county were included in the board packet. Based on staffing, goal is to serve 40 families in Jasper, 30 families in Marion, and 20 families in Poweshiek. All three counties are working toward the goal but none have met it yet.
- c. FY25 Budget Amendment: Budget presented makes several changes or corrections to include adding a line to the administrative portion to more clearly identify the Association dues split between early childhood and school-ready funding, correcting the early childhood administrative carry-forward amount that was inadvertently double-counted in the carry-forward budget passed at the last meeting, and shifting \$12,000 from the TBD line item to preschool scholarships to accommodate the increased demand this year. **Motion** by Lindberg to approve the budget amendments as presented. **Seconded** by Wendl. Motion passed unanimously.
- d. JMP Board Development Activity: Blanchard presented a Halloween-themed PowerPoint titled "Spooky Brain Stew- ECI Food for Thought" which highlighted current trends, potential changes, unsettling budget projections, and potential plans of attack to mitigate the negative effects of the aforementioned items on children, families, and current contractors. Big ideas discussed include fee-for-service billing (or performance-based pay), changes to preschool scholarship qualifications (tied more closely to IQ4K rating), emphasizing open communication with our contractors to ensure budgets are met reasonably, and the possibility of increasing the JMP ECI service area as the alignment progresses. The discussion was rich and very valuable.

- VIII. Adjournment: **Motion** by Cameron to adjourn. Next meeting is scheduled for November 20, 2024, at 5:30 pm via Zoom. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.