

**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, August 28, 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				
J	Mitzi Smith (faith)			X	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

- I. The meeting was called to order by Hinrichs, Chair, at 5:30 pm.
- II. Roll Call: JMP board members present via Zoom include Bontrager, Cameron, Hinrichs, Kacmarynski, Kingrey, Lindberg, Schnathorst, and Wendl.
- III. Public Comment: O'Halloran reported about a busy time of year for providers as they figure out ratios and staffing with school starting. A home provider in Grinnell achieved an IQ4K rating of 5. Trainings have started online for core series. CCR&R will offer some in-person trainings. CCR&R has launched new branding and website as of July 1. Child care finder now on HHS website. With the start of the new contract with HHS, there is a new behavioral mental health consultant available as well as more office staff to help organize trainings. Bardwell reported on five new families added in Jasper and 6 in Marion. Diaper bank will open in Marion County soon and a group connections will be held in Knoxville and Pleasantville. Bardwell shared that staff is doing really well as program grows.
- IV. **Motion** to approve minutes of June 26, 2024 board meeting by Kingrey. **Seconded** by Cameron. Noting abstention by Kacmarynski, motion passed unanimously.
- V. Executive and Committee Reports
 - a. Treasurer's Report: Report current through June 30 was included in the board packet. Carry-forward funding was noted at \$21,073.07 for Early Childhood and \$107,751.45 for School Ready. Interest totaled over \$15,000 for School Ready for the fiscal year which is not included in the carry-forward total. 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 thus far and she expects more to come. Per the board's input via email, scholarships are being awarded on a sliding scale up to 250% poverty level. Blanchard noted the carry-forward allocation increases the FY25 budget to \$90,000.
 - c. ECI Director Report: Report was included in the board packet. Blanchard highlighted focus on data collection and management, fiscal management, and contract management.

VI. Old Business:

- a. HHS Alignment and New Behavioral Health Maps: New maps were released on August 6. Poweshiek is in a different area than Jasper and Marion.
- b. Thrive Iowa: Blanchard attended an invite-only Thrive Iowa Summer Tour date on July 1. Thrive is designed to connect Iowans to resources, both private and public. More summer tour dates are planned throughout the summer, including one planned in Toledo on September 5 that Blanchard was invited to. Thrive presentations are available for ECI boards if requested.

VII. New Business:

- a. Open Meeting Law Changes: Information and FAQ sheets were included in the board packet. JMP board operating procedures will not be affected with the exception of always offering an online option for board members even when the meeting will be in person.
- b. Association of Early Childhood Iowa Area Boards and Advocates: Blanchard discussed value of continued membership in the Association. **Motion** by Cameron to continue membership in AECIABA with Blanchard acting as the JMP board delegate. **Seconded** by Kacmarynski. Motion passed unanimously,
- c. FY25 Contract Monitoring Schedule: Proposed schedule was included in the board packet. Schedule includes tentative date of visit, contract amount, fiscal monitoring frequency, and contract renewal process in FY26. Schedule is included in Iowa Grants. **Motion** by Wendl to approve the schedule. **Seconded** by Lindberg. Motion passed unanimously,
- d. MICA Family Connections Curriculum Change: Robyn Belden has been working through the Iowa Family Support Credential process to get the program recredentialed with support from LSI staff. It has been challenging. MICA is also considering shifting supervision of Family Connections from Family Development to Early Childhood within MICA. After conversations with LSI technical assistance and acknowledging the focus on evidence-based curriculum, Belden anticipates transitioning to Parents as Teachers curriculum, likely to coincide with the new educator starting in September. Belden and Blanchard have discussed budget impact and contract implications though no decisions have been made. Blanchard will keep the board advised of progress.
- e. FY25 Budget with Carry Forward Funding: Carry-forward proposals follow projections as reviewed in May and June by the board. It increases preschool scholarships and preschool improvement grants by \$10,000 and leaves \$35,000 in a To Be Determined status. **Motion** by Kingrey to approve the carry-forward allocation as presented. **Seconded** by Wendl. Motion passed unanimously.
- f. FY24 Iowa Grants Annual Report: Data points and financial information have been entered. Narrative information was shared via email with a focus on the collaboration between the board and the new family support contractor. Local leadership and oversight was key to transitioning from one family support provider to a new provider. Blanchard will review all data points and crosscheck all financial numbers with the fiscal agent report prior to submitting report. Executive summary will also be shared when completed. **Motion** by Lindberg to approve the annual report. **Seconded** by Bontrager. Motion passed unanimously,

- VIII. Adjournment: **Motion** by Kingrey to adjourn because Doug couldn't unmute quickly enough. Lindberg pointed out she and Blanchard both have conflicts with the next scheduled board meeting date. After discussion, next meeting will be in person and via Zoom on October 30, 2024, at 5:30 pm. Costumes optional, but encouraged. Meeting adjourned at 6:26 pm.