

**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, May 28, 2025

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				
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
	Jasmine Bailey (Jasper Ext. Early Care and Ed)		X				X
	Leann Andre (CCR&R)		X				X
	Brenda O'Halloran (CCR&R)		X				X
	Robyn Belden (MICA Family Connections)		X				X
	Sheen Sullivan (Short Years Partnership)		X				X
	Rachel Bardwell (Short Years Partnership)		X				X

- I. The meeting was called to order by Hinrichs, Chair, at 5:30pm.
- II. Roll Call: JMP board members present via Zoom include Bontrager, Cameron, Hinrichs, Kingrey, Kacmarynski, Lindberg, Schnathorst, Smith, and Wendl.
- III. Public Comment: Brenda reported that additional incentive money has been invested in child care centers and homes, with more requests than funding available. Robyn reported that Alma has recruited three new families, bringing her current caseload to 17 families. Alma is recruiting at WIC clinics. MICA is still working through the shift in supervisory responsibilities with the resignation of one staff person, though the new coordinator, Royce, will remain. The program is nearly set to transition to being a PAT affiliate though the new HHS operational manual for home visiting programs caused a pause to ensure program alignment with the guidelines. They are making the adjustments. Sheena and Rachel presented a PowerPoint that detailed families enrolled, number of visits performed, and highlights from the year. Jasmine reported there was nothing major to report as they near the end of the fiscal year.
- IV. **Motion** to approve minutes of April 30, 2025 board meeting by Lindberg. **Seconded** by Kingrey. Motion passed unanimously.
- V. Executive and Committee Reports
 - a. Treasurer's Report: Report current through May 27 was included in the board packet. Lindberg reported on typical spending and voucher review and deferred deeper discussion to later agenda items. Report was filed for audit.
 - b. Preschool Scholarship Report: Blanchard reported that cumulative reports are being submitted and final tuition reimbursements are being filed. Quality improvement grants were launched with a due date of May 30.

- c. Director's Report: Blanchard reported the ICAPP grant was successfully renegotiated. Short Years will receive \$40,000 per year to support home visiting in Marion County and GPCF withdrew from being the fiscal agent, leaving Crossroads of Pella to serve in that role and collect the administrative fee for that service.

VI. Old Business:

- a. JMP Contract Monitoring Site Visits: Blanchard completed the Postpartum Home Visit site visit on the day of the board meeting, leaving only American Home Finding Association for CCNC services left to be completed.
- b. ECI State of Affairs: Blanchard updated the Continuum of Care bill's failure to advance in the House, the launch of Continuum of Care grants that don't use ECI funds with a very tight turnaround for applications, and the unusual move to contract extensions for FY26 rather than a new contract with each ECI area. FY26 local ECI budgets are due in Iowa Grants by June 1 though the State ECI board will not approve the measures by which local boards must report funding until June 6. Contract templates for areas have been sent though they are still getting edited. JMP programs will likely not receive contracts for signature until June 15. Blanchard expects local areas will still be merged into districts regardless of the bill's failure to advance.

VII. New Business:

- a. JMP Budget for FY26: Blanchard explained the new funding categories that have been instituted: admin, home visiting, discretionary, and community collaboration. Blanchard also detailed the plan to extend current contracts into FY26 with the exception of CCNC services and CCR&R services since these costs will be funded through the child care bureau. The Early Care and Education contract with Jasper Extension will also terminate as the technical assistance reporting category has been removed and the Extension board shifted Jasmine's time to a more consistent funding source. Blanchard noted the increase in the GPCF contract amount for coordination services which accounts for a two hour per week increase in her time as well as an alignment with her current pay rate. Blanchard hours at the Foundation will increase to 40 hours per week in FY26 to accommodate additional responsibilities the Foundation sought to compensate for the potential loss of JMP funding. The board also discussed implications of the changes to Tool O, particularly the adverse effects of the new preschool scholarship guidelines. Blanchard asked for board support to develop a new scholarship policy. Kingrey volunteered to assist. Blanchard highlighted each item in the proposed budget to explain the intent of the suggested funding amounts. After discussion, **motion** by Bontrager to approve the budget as presented. **Seconded** by Wendl. Motion passed unanimously.
- b. Preschool Quality Improvement Grants: A summary of the eight grant applications received to date was included in the board packet. Due to available funding and the total amount requested, board determined it was unnecessary to score each request if the proposal meets the intention of the grant. **Motion** by Lindberg to fund all quality improvement grant requests pending Blanchard's review and approval. **Seconded** by Cameron. Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Other:: Board discussed the location and manner of the June board meeting.

- IX. Adjournment: **Motion** by Cameron to adjourn because that's his main board responsibility, seconded by Mitzi for good measure. Next meeting is scheduled for June 25, 2025, at 5:30 pm in person in Grinnell. A meal will be provided. Meeting adjourned at 6:38 pm.

JMP FY26 Budget

Project	Amount	FY26 Allocation from ECI				Comm Planning	Amt Funded	Amt Unfunded
		Requested	Admin	Discretionary	Home Visit			
		\$28,425.01	\$307,446.50	\$232,628.62	\$102,941.00		\$671,441.13	
Administrative Expenses								
D & O Insurance	\$100.00	\$100.00	X	X	X	\$100.00	\$0.00	
Board Liability Insurance	\$35.00	\$35.00	X	X	X	\$35.00	\$0.00	
Fiscal Agent	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	X	X		\$4,000.00	\$0.00	
Director	\$53,575.00	\$15,021.51	X	X	\$38,553.49	\$53,575.00	\$0.00	
Director/Board Expenses	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	X	X		\$2,500.00	\$0.00	
Audit	\$6,200.00	\$6,200.00	X	X		\$6,200.00	\$0.00	
Association Fees	\$568.50	\$568.50	X	X		\$568.50	-0.0002	
Program Expenses								
GPCF-Preschool Scholarship Fund	\$38,000.00	X	\$36,391.12	X	X	\$36,391.12	\$1,608.88	
GPCF-Preschool Scholarship Coordination	\$4,000.00	X	X	X	\$ 4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	
GCELC Sliding Fee Scale	\$38,000.00	X	\$38,000.00	X	X	\$38,000.00	\$0.00	
Grinnell Regional Public Health	\$15,000.00	X	\$15,000.00	X	X	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	
ISU Extension Early Care and Education	\$0.00	X		X	X	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Short Years Partnership	\$310,684.00	X	\$78,055.38	\$232,628.62	X	\$310,684.00	\$0.00	
MICA-Family Connections	\$107,000.00	X	\$107,000.00		X	\$107,000.00	\$0.00	
Professional Development Mini-Grants	\$3,000.00	X	\$3,000.00	X	X	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	
Preschool Quality Improvement Grants	\$30,000.00	X	\$30,000.00	X	X	\$30,000.00	\$0.00	
Literacy Projects	\$15,000.00	X		X	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	
						\$0.00	\$0.00	
To Be Determined	\$0.00	X		X	\$45,387.51	\$45,387.51		
TOTAL:	\$627,662.50	\$28,425.01	\$307,446.50	\$232,628.62	\$102,941.00	\$671,441.13	-\$43,778.63	
		\$28,425.01	\$307,446.50	\$232,628.62	\$102,941.00			
BALANCE:		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		