

**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, March 12, 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	X		
J	Mitzi Smith (faith)			X	X		
P	Doug Cameron (consumer)-			X	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
	Sheena 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, Hinrichs, Kacmarynski, Lindberg, Schnathorst, and Wendl.
- III. Public Comment: O'Halloran reported Jasper County has created a child care strategic planning coalition through Jasper County Cares. CCR&R is now connected with the group. Sheena and Rachel reported on families served by Short Years. They're seeing an increase in the number of clients that have been affected by domestic violence, transportation barriers, and mental health challenges. Short Years is celebrating their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in April. All are invited. One family in Jasper needs translation assistance (Spanish).
- IV. **Motion** to approve minutes of January 29, 2025 board meeting by Kacmarynski. **Seconded** by Lindberg. Motion passed unanimously.
- V. Executive and Committee Reports
  - a. Treasurer's Report: Report current through March 7 was included in the board packet. Report was filed for audit.
- VI. Old Business:
  - a. JMP Contract Monitoring Site Visits: Blanchard reported that 2 visits have been completed, 2 are confirmed on the calendar. Four more will be scheduled for JMP ECI's "Farewell Tour."
- VII. New Business:
  - a. ECI State of Affairs: Blanchard reviewed highlights, or the lack thereof, from the State ECI board meeting on March 7. It remains unclear how soon district boards will be established, how funding will be allocated to districts, and how contracts will be executed on July 1.
  - b.

- c. District 5 and District 6 board representation: At this time, every ECI area is asked to have a current board member volunteer to serve on a new district board to ensure representation from every county or former ECI area. Since JMP will be divided among 2 districts, Blanchard asked for two volunteers. It remains unclear what the new district board responsibilities will be, when those responsibilities will start, and what the makeup of the boards will be.
  - d. JMP Budget for FY25: Board discussed the pros and cons of retaining funds for carry-forward versus spending in the current fiscal year to ensure local investment. Board currently has \$23,558.51 available in unallocated funding. Based on information available at this time and current needs in the JMP area, Blanchard proposed a budget reallocation to support Short Years Partnership and child care providers through incentive grants administered through CCR&R. **Motion** by Lindberg to allocate \$25,000 to CCR&R for incentive grants and \$5,750 to Short Years Partnership for program expenses, with additional support for Short Years allocated from the Jasper PAT charitable fund administered by GPCF. **Seconded** by Kacmarynski. Motion passed unanimously. Board advised tabling preschool quality improvement grants until the financial picture for FY26 is clearer.
  - e. ICAPP Grant Application: Blanchard helped coordinate a \$90,000 grant application to support home visitation, parent education, and home visitation programming in the JMP service area. Crossroads of Pella is the lead applicant, but GPCF would be the fiscal agent for the funds. Funding could assist Short Years in FY26 and 27, which might be key to assist with the transition from local ECI board funding to district funding. Award announcements will be made on April 15.
- VIII. Other: Blanchard noted that Michael will be a married man when he attends the next JMP board meeting. Congratulatory wishes were offered and speculation about potential new perspectives he might offer ECI in the future 😊.
- IX. Adjournment: **Motion** by Wendl to adjourn, doing her part in Doug's absence. Next meeting is scheduled for April 30, 2025, at 5:30 pm via Zoom. Meeting adjourned at 6:38 pm.