

**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, April 30, 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	X		
P	Doug Cameron (consumer)-		X				
P	Mary Lindberg (citizen) Board Treasurer			X	X		
J	Britney Schnathorst (citizen)		X				
J	Julie Wendl (health)		X				
M	Michael Kacmarynski- (business)			X	X		
	Amy Blanchard (Director)	X					X
	Jasmine Bailey (Jasper Ext. Early Care and Ed)		X				X
	Leann Andre (CCR&R)		X				X
	Alma Silva (MICA Family Connections)		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, Schnathorst, and Wendl.
- III. Public Comment: Jasmine reported the Symposium had 75 participants registered and all but five or six attended. There are approximately 8 trainings left on the schedule for the year and she may possibly add more CPR classes. Alma reported on a group session focused on stress management for families in Head Start and Family Connections. Program is still working on recruitment. Leann reported that Brenda is taking vacation time currently to celebrate the arrival of her 11th grandchild. Additional incentive grant funds are being distributed after review by Amy, Brenda, and herself. Per email, Short Years reported on number of visits completed to date, the 30th anniversary celebration, and a group connections event held at the zoo.
- IV. **Motion** to approve minutes of March 12, 2025 board meeting by Wendl. **Seconded** by Bontrager. Motion passed unanimously.
- V. Executive and Committee Reports
 - a. Treasurer's Report: Report current through April 25 was included in the board packet. Blanchard drew attention the unspent funds allocated to MICA CCNC and the nearly expended budget line for GCELC Sliding Fee Scale. Report was filed for audit.
 - b. Preschool Scholarship Report: no change in number of funded scholarships since last report. Next decision point will be to launch quality improvement grants if the board chooses to do so. Blanchard also reported that she is fielding phone calls and emails from both preschool teachers and families about scholarships for next year.
 - c. Director's Report: Update was included in the board packet. Blanchard highlighted the sheer number of meetings and information requests from the State. New District 6 board-elect members met on April 28 with Patty representing Poweshiek County.

- VI. Old Business:
- a. JMP Contract Monitoring Site Visits: Only three site visits remain for the Farewell Tour.
- VII. New Business:
- a. ECI State of Affairs: Blanchard reviewed the bill that passed the Senate which included an amended start date for Districts and Continuum of Care to July 1, 2026, but also included requirements like monthly reports from local ECI areas and HHS oversight on matters that Blanchard thought should remain under the purview of the State ECI board. House has yet to debate the bill. Blanchard is unsure if the draft budget numbers shown briefly at the State ECI board meeting will hold since two programs historically funded by ECI have been shifted to another bureau.
 - b. JMP Budget for FY25: Board again discussed the pros and cons of retaining funds for carry-forward versus spending in the current fiscal year to ensure local investment. Per the site visit with MICA, the CCNC contract will not expend the entirety of their funding but GCELC could benefit from a higher allocation. **Motion** by Kingrey to reallocate \$20,000 from MICA CCNC to shift and additional \$15,000 to GCELC Sliding Fee Scale and \$5,000 to Preschool Quality Improvement Grants. **Seconded** by Wendl. Motion passed unanimously. Board advised tabling preschool quality improvement grants until the financial picture for FY26 is clearer. As it is an already approved budget line item, Blanchard will launch the application if it becomes clear it is feasible and prudent to do so this fiscal year.
 - c. ICAPP Grant Application: The application for \$90,000 was reopened for negotiation. The sex abuse prevention piece was not funded, the community collaboration piece needed to be increased by \$2,000 and the home visiting component decreased to \$40,000. Since no program required start-up funds, \$30,000 of the \$90,000 was unavailable to us. We are awaiting the final decision following the renegotiation.
- VIII. Other:: none.
- IX. Adjournment: **Motion** by Kingrey to adjourn, seconded by Denise for good measure. Next meeting is scheduled for May 28, 2025, at 5:30 pm via Zoom. Meeting adjourned at 6:16 pm.