

**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, June 25, 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
	Leann Andre (CCR&R)		X				X
	Alma Silva (MICA Family Connections)		X				X
	Sheena Sullivan (Short Years Partnership)		X				X

- I. The meeting was called to order by Hinrichs, Chair, at 5:35pm. Pizza and salad were served for all that could attend in person.
- II. Roll Call: JMP board members present include Bontrager, Hinrichs, Kingrey, Kacmarynski, Lindberg, Schnathorst (zoom), Smith, and Wendl.
- III. Public Comment: Leann reported that all new funding for incentive grants has been awarded. She expressed gratitude for the support from the JMP board in the past and stated that CCR&R will continue to work in the JMP service area despite the change in funding source. Alma reported she is serving 17 families. A recent event helped connect 3 families in the program together socially. One new family, whose primary language is Swahili, especially enjoyed meeting others. Sheena expressed concern about understanding what "capacity" entails in the new contract language and Daisey 2.0. Blanchard tried to help the board understand the complexity of the changes happening in family support as the State tries to capitalize on federal matching dollars for home visiting. Blanchard finally suggested that Sheena is welcome to call her office any time to discuss questions. Blanchard also shared with the board a note of gratitude from the Grinnell Early Learning Center and noted that this would have been Jasmine Bailey's last meeting as a JMP contractor but she was unavailable as she just got married the previous weekend.
- IV. **Motion** to approve minutes of May 28, 2025 board meeting by Lindberg. **Seconded** by Kacmarynski. Motion passed unanimously.
- V. Executive and Committee Reports
 - a. Treasurer's Report: Report current through June 20 was included in the board packet. Lindberg reported we are about 87% spent out and carryforward will be approximately 4% of our budget. Jasper PAT charitable fund statement was included with the financial statement reflecting a current balance of \$15,838. The Short Years contract has nearly expended its entire allocation as of May so Blanchard may access the charitable fund to support Jasper PAT expenses in order to best support Short Years. Report was filed for audit.

- b. **Preschool Scholarship Report:** Blanchard reported all expenses and grants have been paid. She commended Brian's efforts to help her think through the new scholarship guidelines from the State ECI board. A summary of children supported by age and income level was included in the report for the board's reference.
- c. **Director's Report:** Blanchard reported on the challenging timeline for submitting the budget in Iowa Grants and the subsequent renegotiation required for all ECI areas to clarify administrative costs at a level not previously required or easily accessible in Iowa Grants. Blanchard also detailed the family support contract fiasco to include late corrections to the template sent by HHS. Understanding capacity and cost per family served remains an issue.

VI. **Old Business:**

- a. **ECI State of Affairs:** Blanchard reported on the outcomes of the State ECI board meeting on June 6. She confirmed the intent to move to districts by FY27. Blanchard noted she used the contract templates provided by HHS for the two family support contracts but utilized our usual template for our other two contracts. The standardization in the HHS contracts precludes much differentiation among family support contracts that JMP had historically incorporated from the RFPs.

VII. **New Business:**

- a. **JMP Preschool Scholarship Guidelines for FY26:** Kingrey described to the board how the draft policy melds our historic board guidelines with the new suggested requirements from the State of Iowa. Board discussed which programs might be adversely affected, how families might be affected, and the confusion that is caused by lumping preschool and child care into the same scholarship program. After discussion, **motion** by Bontrager to approve the JMP Board preschool guidelines as presented. **Seconded** by Kacmarynski. Motion passed unanimously.
- b. **FY26 Board meeting calendar:** The FY26 calendar eliminates a few meetings from the typical calendar as we'll have fewer contracts to manage and no need for RFPs next year. Blanchard reminded the board we can add meetings if needed.
- c. **JMP Board Terms:** Board reviewed the succession plan. Two members are ending their second terms and are eligible for a third. Kacmarynski has agreed to continue to serve. Kingrey will vacate his position. Cameron, Lindberg, Schnathorst, and Wendl have all completed their third or more terms but have agreed to continue to serve with the board's permission. **Motion** by Kacmarynski to extend the terms of service of Cameron, Lindberg, Schnathorst, and Wendl until dissolution of the JMP board. **Seconded** by Kingrey. Motion passed unanimously.
- d. **JMP Board Election of Officers for FY26:** After discussion, slate included Hinrichs as Chair, Kacmarynski as Vice-Chair, and Lindberg as Treasurer. **Motion** to approve slate as presented by Kingrey. **Seconded** by Wendl. Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. **Other::** Blanchard thanked Kingrey for his service and listed a few highlights from his terms of service.

IX. **Adjournment:** **Motion** by Kingry to adjourn because it's his last hurrah. Next meeting is scheduled for August 27, 2025 via Zoom at 5:30 pm. Meeting adjourned at 7 pm with pizza and breadsticks for all.