

**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 20, 2026

County	Name	Present		Absent	Excused	Unexcused	Non-Board
		IP	V				
P	Patricia Hinrichs-(human services)- Board Chair		X				
M	Denise Bontrager (education)		X				
M	VACANT (education)-						
J	Mitzi Smith (faith)			X	X		
P	Doug Cameron (citizen)-			X	X		
P	Mary Lindberg (business)- Board Treasurer			X	X		
J	Britney Schnathorst (citizen)		X				
J	Julie Wendl (health)		X				
M	Michael Kacmarynski- (consumer) Board Vice Chair		X				
	Amy Blanchard (Director)	X					X
	Rachel Bardwell (Short Years Partnership)		X				X
	Sara Paar (MICA Family Connections)		X				X
	Royce Hickie (MICA Family Connections)		X				X
	Nahmi Lasli		X				

- I. The meeting was called to order by Hinrichs, Chair, at 5:30pm.
- II. Roll Call: JMP board members present include Bontrager, Hinrichs, Kacmarynski, Schnathorst, and Wendl. A quorum was present.
- III. Public Comment: Bardwell reported they have increased family recruitment efforts in Jasper County including attending WIC clinics in Colfax, the car seat safety event in Newton, and increasing Facebook marketing. Program has four pending enrollments in Jasper County and 3 in Marion County. The graduation celebration at the zoo was a great success hosting 224 people across the five-county service area for about \$220. Paar reported current enrollment is 13 families. Amy shared with them information about the Grinnell Chamber New Resident Welcome event on May 28.
- IV. **Motion** to approve minutes of April 22, 2026, board meeting by Wendl. **Seconded** by Bontrager. Motion passed unanimously. Kacmarynski abstained.
- V. Executive and Committee Reports
  - a. Treasurer's Report: Report current through May 18 was included in board packet. Blanchard informed the board she is working with Short Years to process mileage and other expenses that date back to July 2025 that had not yet been billed but were included for reimbursement with the May voucher. Once due diligence is performed, a separate voucher will likely be processed with the approved expenses. Report was filed for audit.
  - b. Preschool Scholarship Report: Blanchard reported that UCC preschool in Grinnell will close after the current school year. All reimbursement requests will be processed in the coming week. There have been inquiries from preschool teachers about scholarships next year. Amy will meet with Pella Christian on May 29.
  - c. Director's Report: Blanchard noted she received an email from HHS staff today with 36 attachments, all pertaining to FY27, with budgets due in Iowa Grants in 7 business days.

- VI. Old Business:
- a. HHS Early Childhood and Family Services Plan-Bill passed with AEIABA-endorsed study language. It has not been signed by the Governor yet.
- VII. New Business
- a. Quality Improvement Grants: Board reviewed two grant proposals. **Motion** to approve the Poweshiek Extension Child Safety Fair (\$2,420) and Colfax-Mingo Preschool (\$2,500) grant requests by Bontrager. **Seconded** by Kacmarynski. Motion passed unanimously.
  - b. Budget amendment for UnityPoint-GRPH Postpartum Visit program: The program is requesting approval to request reimbursement for Postpartum Doula training and increased lactation consultation training. After discussion, **motion** by Bontrager to approve the request. **Seconded** by Schnathorst. Motion passed unanimously.
  - c. FY27 JMP Budget: Blanchard reviewed submitted budget requests for all programs that will renew a current FY26 contract. Blanchard explained the new Tool O services category for director support and the clarity needed around preschool scholarship coordination time-tracking for directors. Currently there is not a plan to renew the postpartum visit program contract in its current state but there is a budget line for health services. **Motion** to approve the budget as presented by Wendl. **Seconded** by Bontrager. Motion passed unanimously.
  - d. Board Membership: Board discussed potential board member recruits from Marion and Jasper County. Doug's last meeting will be in June.
- VIII. Other:
- IX. Adjournment: Motion by Schnathorst from the ballfield to adjourn. Seconded by the crowd. Next meeting is scheduled for June 24, 2026 in-person at a location to be determined at 5:30 pm. Meeting adjourned at 6:28 pm.