

**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, January 28, 2026

County	Name	Present		Absent	Excused	Unexcused	Non-Board
		IP	V				
P	Patricia Hinrichs-(human services)- Board Chair		X				
M	Denise Bontrager (citizen)		X				
M	VACANT (education)-						
J	Mitzi Smith (faith)			X	X		
P	Doug Cameron (consumer)-		X				
P	Mary Lindberg (citizen)- Board Treasurer			X	X		
J	Britney Schnathorst (citizen)			X	X		
J	Julie Wendl (health)		X				
M	Michael Kacmarynski- (business) Board Vice Chair		X				
	Amy Blanchard (Director)	X					X
	Danielle Kenworthy (Short Years Partnership)		X				X
	Sara Paar (MICA Family Connections)		X				X
	Nahmi Lasley (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 include Bontrager, Cameron, Hinrichs, Kacmarynski, and Wendl. A quorum was present.
- III. Public Comment: Kenworthy reported a total of 401 visits have been completed this year. Program is serving 53 families, 78 children, with 19 newly enrolled families. Danielle reported on a successful noon years eve event in Jasper County at the library that resulted in a new family enrolling. Sara introduced Nahmi, the new parent educator for Poweshiek, to the board. Nahmi is completing PAT training. MICA achieved PAT affiliate status in December.
- IV. **Motion** to approve minutes of November 19, 2025, board meeting by Wendl. **Seconded** by Bontrager. Motion passed unanimously.
- V. Executive and Committee Reports
  - a. Treasurer’s Report: Report current through January 23 was included in board packet. Blanchard noted budget is approximately 40% spent out at midyear. She also highlighted first Child Awareness/Fair grant was awarded to Four Oaks to support community building among foster families and children in Poweshiek County. Report was filed for audit.
  - b. Preschool Scholarship Report: Blanchard noted a new Peck CDC family is being supported through the charitable fund and thanked Britney for encouraging Peck to reach out. Preschool QI grants were launched in January with a due date of February 20. Board will review at February meeting.
  - c. Director’s Report: Blanchard updated board about the ongoing saga with HHS and the legislature regarding ECI. Blanchard also informed the board of a potential new contract opportunity with UnityPoint Health to support a resource navigator for postpartum care. It’s too early in the process to commit funds or predict future funding for such a contract, which makes it difficult for everyone to plan.

- VI. Old Business: none.
- VII. New Business
- a. FY25 Annual Report Review: The JMP FY25 annual report, submitted in September, was reviewed by HHS in November along with other contract-related documents. HHS noted the lack of a signature from the board chair on the uploaded community plan as well as the four cent discrepancy in the carry-forward from FY25.
  - b. HHS Early Childhood and Family Services Plan: Blanchard shared the email from Janee Harvey sent on January 16, the link to the recording from the town hall on January 22, the link to information shared on the HHS website regarding the proposed legislation, and a bill summary from the Association. Blanchard will keep the board apprised as the situation develops.
  - c. FY27 RFP: Blanchard predicts the JMP board will extend contracts this year, similar to the past three years. It is too difficult to predict the funding landscape at this point.
- VIII. Other:
- IX. Adjournment: Motion by Cameron, as it should be, to adjourn. Seconded by Wendl for effect. Next meeting is scheduled for February 25, 2026 via Zoom at 5:30 pm. Board anxiously awaits Kacmarynski to don the consumer hat, possibly in time for the next meeting. Meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm.