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, October 28, 2026

County	*Name*	*Present*		*Absent*	*Excused*	*Unexcused*	*Non-Board*
		IP	*V*				
P	Patricia Hinrichs-(human services)- Board Chair			X	X		
M	Denise Bontrager (citizen)		X				
M	Kerri Garrison (education)-			X	X		
J	Mitzi Smith (faith)			X	X		
P	Carl Meck (business)- Board Treasurer		X				
P	Mary Lindberg (citizen)-			X	X		
J	Britney Schnathorst (citizen) Board Vice Chair		X				
J	Julie Wendl (health)		X				
M	Michael Kacmarynski- (consumer)			X	X		
	Amy Blanchard (Director)	X					X
	Nahmi Lasley (MICA Family Connections)	X					X
	Sara Paar (MICA Family Connections)	X					X

I. The meeting commenced at 5:30pm.

II. Roll Call: JMP board members present include Bontrager, Meck, Schnathorst, and Wendl. A quorum was not present due to unanticipated conflicts that arose for two board members.

III. Public Comment: Sara and Nahmi shared a hopeful report about recruiting families. They currently have 14 active families enrolled.

IV. **Motion** to approve minutes of September 30, 2026, was deferred to October meeting

V. Executive and Committee Reports

a. Treasurer's Report: Report current through September 25 was included in board packet. Meck noted there was nothing of interest to draw attention to but confirmed the reimbursement math seems on point. Report was filed for audit.

b. Preschool Scholarship Report: Current report was included in the board packet. Two children have been added since last report.

c. Director's Report: Blanchard noted the reopened Iowa Grants budget she is updating with carry-forward, the hope that MICA applies for Thrive for Jasper and Poweshiek, and an upcoming meeting with the Newton YMCA to discuss JMP funding possibilities. She also noted the auditor's report was not ready for review, and the doula-led baby-wearing proposal is not yet ready for review. Board will hopefully review both in November.

VI. Old Business:

a. ECFS bill/ECI study update- A small group of ECI and HHS representatives will meet three times to revamp 256i and identify areas of collaboration. Blanchard is not participating in that small group.

b. Policy Manual Crosswalk- No action has been taken. Blanchard is hoping for a clear path forward from the ECFS study before investing time and attention to revamping the policies.

VII. New Business

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a. Iowa Grants Narratives: Blanchard presented draft responses to five prompts in Iowa Grants. Discussion followed. Board members present concurred the draft language was sufficient to meet the intent of the board, noting the shift in optimism from just five years ago. This is a reflection of the turmoil ECI has experienced in recent fiscal years. Blanchard will submit responses by end of October.

VIII. Other:

IX. Adjournment: Board adjourned at 6:15 pm. Next meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2026 via Zoom.

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