



**Early Childhood Iowa Area Board  
Minutes  
Thursday November 18, 2022  
Union State Bank  
611 Iowa Hwy 92  
Winterset, Iowa 50273**

**Meet and Greet**

The 4 R Kids ECI Board held a meet and greet from 6:00 to 6:30 and invited legislators in the four county area as well as a state ECI board member.

**Board Meeting (Information)**

Board Vice-Chairperson Martens convened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

**Attendance (Information)**

(x means attendance at the meeting)

Board Members Present							
Adair County		Dallas County		Madison County		Warren County	
Deb Blazek <i>Required Faith Representative</i>	x	Kevin Howe <i>Required Business Representative</i>		Paul Millhollin	x	Justin Terry <i>Required Human Service Representative</i>	
Brittany Shinn	x	Bryce Smith		Wendy Sawyer	x	Nancy Hopkins	x
Jesse Ramey <i>Required Parent Representative</i>		Colleen Strohmaier <i>Required Health Representative</i>	x	Rita Martens	x	Nichole Gunn <i>Required Education Representative</i>	x

Board members Shinn, Blazek, and Strohmaier were present by electronic means.

**4 R Kids Staff Present (Information)**

Debra Schrader, Executive Director.

**Others present (Information)**

Representative Ray Sorensen, Dave Arens (State ECI Board member), Kristie Nixon (Southwestern Community College), Tammy Ewing (Southwestern Community College), Jacob Al-Mazroa (potential board member), Gina Wells (Child Care Resource & Referral), and Ann Torbert (Dallas County ISU Extension).

**Distinction of Quorum (Information)**

Board membership consists of no less than 8 members and no more than 12 members, with 12 positions filled at the beginning of the meeting; 8 board members were present at the meeting representing quorum.

**Open Forum (Information)**

Mr. Arens shared his concern regarding Early Childhood Iowa being placed in the new Health and Human Services agency. Additionally, he shared his disappointment about the PDG grant that Early Childhood Iowa had prepared but was not submitted to the federal government. The grant could have brought up to \$30 million over three years to the state of Iowa for early childhood services. Representative Sorensen shared his district has expanded and covers Adair, Clark, Dallas, Madison and Union County.

**Introductions (Information)**

Introductions were made by Board members and the audience.

**Board Professional Development (Information)**

Representatives from Southwestern Community College provided a presentation on Parents as Teachers. The Board also reviewed state ECI Tool E, examination of public records.

**Agenda (Action)**

Board member Millhollin moved to approve the November 17, 2022 agenda. Board member Sawyer seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Minutes (Action)**

Board member Hopkins moved to approve the September 8, 2022 minutes. Board member Gunn seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Board Membership Recruitment and Retention** *(Information)*

The board has all positions filled on the board and board member retention will remain a focus. Board member Howe's term expires December 31, 2022 and replacement is being sought. There are two board members that have not attended a board meeting in several months and contact will be made to gauge their interest in remaining a board member.

**Annual Board Performance** *(Information)*

Director Schrader announced that the annual board performance review will be conducted in December and a survey link will be sent to board members. Additionally, the community will also conduct a performance review of the board. It was noted this is not a requirement of local ECI boards, however it is best practice.

**Finance Committee** *(Action)*

The Finance Committee members reviewed budgets, payment vouchers, bank statements, and fund balance reconciliations prior to the board meeting. Board member Gunn moved to approve the August September and October 2022 expenditures in the amount of \$106,577.26, \$65,575.89 and \$61,706.12 respectively. Board member Millhollin seconded. Motion carried unanimously. It was noted the rate of spending for FY22 was 21.8% of school ready funding and 21.1% of early childhood funding.

**Association of Early Childhood Iowa Area Boards and Advocates**

The FY23 legislative agenda was reviewed along with the FY22 annual report. Director Schrader attended the statewide conference on November 10, 2022 in Des Moines and assisted with the conference details.

**Board Program and Service Committee**

The Committee met October 28, 2022 at 9:00 by Zoom. Board member Hopkins reported for the committee.

**FY22 Family Support Report** *(Information)*

The committee reviewed the family support report and 2 of the 3 family support programs met or exceeded targeted performance areas, one program had areas below target expectations and the ECI director has met with the program. All three programs are evidenced based.

**Child Care Nurse Consultant** *(Information)*

The Iowa Department of Public Health has rescinded the RFP for service area 15 which includes Madison, Warren, Dallas, and Polk County for child and adolescents health and oral services of which child care nurse consultant services are included. IDPH has re-issued a RFP and awards will be posted in December. Contract extensions have been granted to Every Step and Warren County Public Health until December 31, 2022. It is to be noted local ECI boards are only allowed to contract with a Title V agency to provide CCNC services.

**1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Report** *(Information)*

The committee reviewed the 1st quarter progress reports from the contractors and there were no fiscal or programmatic concerns and spending is on target. There was one follow-up with a contractor noted. The 1st quarter reports are located on the 4 R Kids website.

**Board Process Committee**

The committee did not meet. Next meeting will be in February 2022.

**Administrative Update** *(Information)*

Director Schrader disseminated an administrative update and items included:

- Preschool experience rate;
- ECI state board update;
- PDG grant update;
- Health and Human Services alignment;
- Family support enrollment criteria;
- State of remote work report;
- Iowa Child Care Shared services project update;
- Success story;
- Early Childhood committee updates;
- Professional development activities;
- Marketing and public awareness activities.

**Miscellaneous Board Updates** *(Information)*

None.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

**Next meeting** *(Information)*

The next meeting is December 15, 2022 at Union State Bank in Winterset.