



**Early Childhood Iowa Area Board
Minutes
Thursday November 16, 2023
St. Paul Lutheran Church
1120 N. 8th Street
Winterset, Iowa 50273**

Board Meeting (Information)

Board 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	
Christine Lundy		Colleen Strohmaier <i>Required Business Representative</i>		Jacob Al-Mazora <i>Required Human Service Representative</i>	x	Catherine Reaman-Gerdes	x
Brittany Shinn <i>Required Parent Representative</i>		Deb Hanson	x	Wendy Sawyer <i>Required Faith Representative</i>	x	Nancy Hopkins	x
Jessica Petter <i>Required Health Representative</i>	x	Open		Rita Martens	x	Nichole Gunn <i>Required Education Representative</i>	

Board members Reaman-Gerdes, Petter, and Hanson present by electronic means.

4 R Kids Staff Present (Information)

Debra Schrader, Executive Director.

Others present (Information)

Michelle Greenough representing Child Care Resource and Referral, Kristie Nixon and Nina Utterback representing Southwestern Community College.

Distinction of Quorum (Information)

Board membership consists of no less than 8 members and no more than 12 members, with 11 positions filled at the beginning of the meeting; 7 board members were present at the meeting representing quorum.

Open Forum (Information)

None

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 reviewed ECI Tool A – Organizational structure

Agenda (Action)

Board member Hopkins moved to approve the November 16, 2023 agenda. Board member Reaman-Gerdes seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes (Action)

Board member Hanson moved to approve the September 14 ,2023 minutes. Board member Al-Mazora seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Membership Recruitment and Retention (Information)

Board members continue with recruitment efforts and strive for gender balance. The board has a range of board members from eight to twelve. There is one position open on the board for Dallas County. Board member retention will remain a focus.

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.

Health and Human Services Alignment (Information)

Director Schrader provided an update on the HHS alignment. As stated on the HHS website the recommendations regarding the redesign of ECI and several other programs were to be provided in October, to date the recommendations have not been released.

Association of Early Childhood Iowa Area Boards and Advocates (Information)

The FY24 legislative agenda was reviewed along with the FY23 annual report. Board Member Martens attended the conference and was a guest speaker at the conference. Director Schrader also attended the statewide conference on November 9, 2023 in Des Moines and assisted with the conference details.

Additional Funding Request (Action)

Board member Al-Mazora moved to approve a funding request of \$3,500.00 for Short Years Partnership to purchase of technology upgrades. Board member Hopkins seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Finance Committee (Action)

The Finance Committee members reviewed budgets, payment vouchers, bank statements, and fund balance reconciliations prior to the board meeting. Board member Hopkins moved to approve the September and October 2023 expenditures in the amount of \$100,177.09 and \$129,176.92 respectively. Board member Petter seconded. Motion carried unanimously. It was noted the rate of spending for FY24 was 24.7% of school ready funding and 25.5% of early childhood funding, on target spending is 35%.

Board Program and Service Committee (Information)

The Committee met October 27, 2023 at 9:00 by Zoom. Supporting documentation from the Program and Service Committee was provided. The committee reviewed the 1st quarter progress reports from the contractors and there were no fiscal or programmatic concerns and spending is on target. The 1st quarter reports are located on the 4 R Kids website. The next meeting is February 9, 2024 at 9:00 by Zoom.

Board Process Committee (Information)

The committee did not meet. Next meeting will be in February 8, 2024.

Administrative Update (Information)

Director Schrader disseminated an administrative update and items included:

- Informational meeting recap;
- Evidenced based home visitation;
- Greater Dallas County Development alliance meeting;
- Infant and early childhood mental health spotlight;
- State ECI board update
- Opioid education offering;
- Opioid funding;
- 4 R Kids annual report approval;
- Preschool experience rate;
- Marketing events update;
- Association conference dates;
- Success story;
- Early Childhood committee updates;
- Professional development activities;
- Marketing and public awareness activities.

Miscellaneous Board Updates (Information)

None.

Next meeting (Information)

Chairperson Martens adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m. The next meeting is December 21, 2023 at Union State Bank in Winterset.