



**Early Childhood Iowa Area Board
Minutes
Thursday September 12, 2024
Union State Bank
611 Iowa Hwy 92
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 <i>Required Education Representative</i>	x	Colleen Strohmaier <i>Required Business Representative</i>	x	Rita Martens	x	Catherine Reaman-Gerdes <i>Required Human Service Representative</i>	x
Brittany Shinn <i>Required Parent Representative</i>		Deb Hansen	x	Wendy Sawyer <i>Required Faith Representative</i>	x	Nancy Hopkins	x
Jessica Petter <i>Required Health Representative</i>	x	Open		Open		Jacob Gunn	

Board members Lundy, Petter, Strohmaier, Hansen, Sawyer, and Reaman-Gerdes were present by electronic means.

4 R Kids Staff Present (Information)

Debra Schrader, Executive Director.

Others present (Information)

Kristie Vasey representing Child Care Resource and Referral and Susan Crowdes representing Madison County Public Health.

Distinction of Quorum (Information)

Board membership consists of no less than 8 members and no more than 12 members, with 10 positions filled at the beginning of the meeting; 9 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)

The Board reviewed the ECI designation requirements.

Agenda (Action)

Board member Petter moved to approve the September 12, 2024 agenda. Board member Reaman-Gerdes seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes (Action)

Board member Reaman-Gerdes moved to approve the May 16, 2024 minutes. Board member Strohmaier seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Membership Recruitment and Retention (Information)

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

Board Member Resignation (Information)

Board member Jacob Al-Mazora has resigned from the board effective September 2024.

4 R Kids Community Plan (Action)

Director Schrader provided an overview of the updated community plan that is required to be submitted to Early Childhood Iowa by October 31, 2024. This is a requirement for board designation. Board member Reaman-Gerdes moved to approve the community plan. 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 Gunn moved to approve the May and June 2024 expenditures in the amount of \$109,534.34 and \$141,478.80 respectfully and July 2024 in the amount of \$61,815.1. Board member Sawyer seconded. Motion carried unanimously. It was noted the FY24 rate of spending was well under the 20% allowance for carryover into FY25.

Program and Service Committee

The Committee met August 30, 2024 from 9:00 by Zoom. Board member Petter reported for the committee. Minutes and supporting documentation from the Program and Service Committee were provided.

Annual Report (Action)

The committee reviewed in depth the FY24 financial statements, FY24 annual reports from providers, an annual report highlight document, trend data, analysis and effectiveness of programs, local and state performance measures, executive summary, and several family support comparison documents. Director Schrader noted that all data has been entered into the state data base system and will be submitted on or before September 15, 2024. It was noted that the school ready carryover was 13% and the early childhood carryover was 8% and 20% is allowed. All but \$52,475.51 of the carryover has been allocated to FY25 programming. Board member Petter moved to approve the FY24 annual report, FY24 Executive Summary, FY24 school ready and early childhood financial statements. Board member Strohmaier seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Thrive Iowa (Action)

An overview of Thrive Iowa was provided and that Early Childhood Iowa selected the 4 R Kids ECI area to implement a pilot for and to contract with local agencies to provide the service. There is a possibility of additional funds of up to \$300,000 to support the pilots. In the event no additional funds are provided, it is recommended to provide \$5,000 of 4 R Kids ECI funding to CRISP for start up costs. Due to tight timelines as well as several unknowns, it is recommended to provide Director Schrader the authority to carry out the state requirements yet to be determined by Early Childhood Iowa. Board member Petter moved accept the recommendation. Board member Reaman-Gerdes seconded. Board members Lundy, Petter, Strohmaier, Hansen, Sawyer, and Reaman-Gerdes, and Hopkins yea. Board member Hansen nay. Motion carried.

The next Program and Service committee meeting is October 25, 2024 at 9:00.

Board Process Committee

The committee met August 29, 2024 by Zoom. Board member Lundy reported for the committee. Supporting documentation from the Board Process Committee was provided.

FY24 Marketing and Public Awareness Evaluation (Information)

The committee reviewed efforts of the past fiscal year in regards to marketing and public awareness. It was noted that \$2,724 was spent on activities which is less than the previous fiscal year. It was also noted a marketing and public awareness plan is not a requirement of a local ECI board but continues with the practice.

Open Meetings Laws (Information)

An overview of the changes to open meeting laws - Iowa Code Section 21.8 was provided.

Bylaws (Information)

The board bylaws were reviewed and there were recommended changes to Article II due to the changes of Open Meetings Laws This will be an action item for the November board meeting.

4 R Kids Board Meetings (Action)

Due to changes to open meetings laws, board meetings are allowed to be 100% virtual. Board member Lundy moved to have future board meetings 1virtual. Board member Hansen seconded. Motion carried unanimously. It was noted this does not preclude having a face-to-face board meeting, however if a face-to-face meeting is conducted a virtual option is required.

Legislative Events (Information)

The committee discussed having a legislative event. Due to the unknown status and changes to ECI, it is was recommended to not conduct a local legislative event this year.

The next Board Process Committee meeting will be in February 2025.

Administrative Update (Information)

Director Schrader disseminated an administrative update and items included:

- 1st Quarter payments;

- Lt. Governor resignation;
- Behavioral Health redesign update;
- Thrive Iowa update;
- Community plan;
- Iowa child care connect (C2);
- Medicaid births;
- Association conference;
- Success story;
- Out of office;
- Early childhood committee updates;
- Professional development;
- Marketing and public awareness update.

Miscellaneous Board Updates *(Information)*

None.

Next meeting *(Information)*

Board Chairperson Martens adjourned the meeting at 7:37 p.m. The next meeting is November 21, 2024 and will be virtual.