



**Warren County Early Childhood Committee Minutes
Wednesday February 5, 2025 at 10:00
Zoom**

Attendance

Barb Ranck, Kelly Phelps, Karen Goff, Veronica McVay, Kelsey Marmon, Lauren Asman, Joelle Stolte, Val Cameron, Sarah Gibson, Stacey Smith, Dawn Holt, Amanda Scalise, Lorie Williamson, Falon Flander, Amanda Scalise and Debra Schrader

Announcements

- Head Start has openings at Oviatt.
- WIC will have a mobile WIC unit to serve Warren County this year. There has been a 33% change in WIC appointments due the immigration laws.

Legislative Update

Deb provided an overview of bills in the 2025 legislative session.

Changes to ECI

There will be changes to the ECI structure starting in FY26. The current 34 ECI boards will be required to organize in line with the 7 behavioral health districts. The Governor will utilize ECI funding for a continuum of care for 4 year old preschool aged children. The only other service that will be funded is home visitation. The Governor's bill has yet to disclosed.

United Way of Central Iowa Legislative Agenda

The legislative agenda was reviewed.

Preschool Experience Rate

The preschool experience rate for the 4 R Kids ECI area was reviewed, the average rate for the are is 82.8% of kindergarteners had a preschool experience, 84.9% was Warren County's rate.

Minimum Wage Chart

A chart of states and the minimum wage was reviewed, Iowa's rate is \$7.25 and has been unchanged for 17 years. Several surrounding states rage from \$15.00 to \$11.50.

HHS Poverty Guidelines

The federal poverty rate guidelines changed January 1, 2025

Meeting adjourned at 11:00.

Next meeting is March 5, 2025 at 10:00 at the Norwalk Christian Church in Norwalk.