



Program and Service Committee Minutes
Thursday August 21, 2025
By Zoom
9:00 A.M.

Attendance

Wendy Sawyer, Nancy Krause, Jessica Petter, and Debra Schrader were in attendance by Zoom. Wendy will be the reporter for the September 11, 2025 board meeting.

FY25 Annual Report Review *(information)*

The committee reviewed the FY25 annual report materials that included financial statements, annual report snapshot of the effectiveness of programs, and Thrive Iowa pilot data. Attached are highlights of the review. Annual report information will be posted on the website.

FY25 Annual Report Approval *(action requested)*

It is consensus of the committee to recommend approval of the FY25 annual report, executive summary, and school ready and early childhood financial statements. The due date for board approval is no later than September 15, 2025.

Thrive Iowa Update *(information)*

The Iowa Department of Human Services allowed Warren County Health Services to spend down the remainder of ARPA funds for the Governors Thrive Iowa pilot through September 30, 2025. HHS did not allow CRISP the same opportunity and the Madison County Thrive pilot ended June 30, 2025. HHS provided no rationale as to why Warren County was allowed to spend down the funding but Madison County was not. There is no news as to whether there will be additional funds after September 30, 2025 to continue with the pilot in Warren County, even though there is \$3 million in the HHS budget allotted for Thrive.

ECI Redistricting *(information)*

Nancy Krause provided an update on regarding the committee she was selected to be on about moving 34 local ECI boards into 7 regions that follow the new behavioral health regions. A few meetings had been conducted but were paused with no additional information as to when they will resume.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00. Next meeting is scheduled for Friday October 24, 2025 at 9:00 by Zoom.



FY25 Annual Report Review Comments

ECI Financials

- School Ready Funding – There was \$1,111,652.20 funding available for programming of which \$992,114.83 was expended. There is \$119,537.67 in carryover or 10.8%, Early Childhood Iowa/HHS allows up to 20%.
- Early Childhood Funding – There was \$277,098.50 funding available for programming of which \$251,461.79 was expended. There is \$25,636.71 in carryover or 9.3%, Early Childhood Iowa/HHS allows up to 20%.
- Of the total carryover into FY26 all but \$105,119.75 is unallocated. A process is in place for current contractors to request additional funding if needed.
- Contractors braided other funding equaling 14.8%. United Way of Central Iowa was a generous partner in addition to Child Abuse Prevention funding.

Contractor Accountability

- 100% contractors submitted final payment vouchers by the deadline July 20, 2025.
- 100% of contractors completed their respective annual reports by the deadline July 20, 2025.
- 100% of contractor's payment vouchers were acceptable and no payment vouchers were rejected during the fiscal year. Most inefficiencies were easily corrected. Short Years Partnership improved fiscal accountability compared to the previous year.

Contractor Expectations

Contractors were asked to rate their program regarding meeting overall benchmarks for each service type funded on the following scale; (1) did not met expectations, (2) partially met expectations, (3) met expectations or (4) exceeded expectations. The results are similar to the previous fiscal year.

- 40% (8/20) reported they exceeded expectations
- 30% (6/20) reported they met expectations
- 25% (5/20) reported they partially met expectations
- 5% (1/20) did not met expectations

Other Notes of Interest

Family Support

Lutheran Services in Iowa who administers the New Parent Program (home visitation) had staffing challenges which negatively impacted benchmarks.

All three home visitation programs were averaged together for the following data points.

- There was a total of 1,743 home visits which is a slight decrease from the previous year (1,773).
- There was a total of 129 families served which is lower than the previous year (144).
- First time caregivers were 42.6%, previous year 44.4%
- Prenatal families were 36.4%, previous year 43.8%.
- 95% of new families enrolled met the 80% enrollment guidelines implemented by the 4 R Kids Board. This is to be commended as this was a new requirement in FY23.
- 92% of total families enrolled met the 75% state enrollment guidelines.
- Primary language other than English was Spanish at 17% (previous year was 18%) and Arabic at 13% (the previous year was 17%).
- Of the caregivers screened for depression, 24% screened positive.
- 66% of caregiver's education level was GED or high school and below. 11% of caregivers had a middle school or lower education or lower.
- All five outcome measures were similar to last year.

Child Care and Preschool

- Additional funds were granted to Child Care Resource & Referral to provide additional incentives for child care providers in accessing/paying for CPR and First Aid. There were less requests than expected.
- Infant and early childhood mental health consultation and Circle of Security training has been widely successful.
- Preschool tuition scholarships were less than the previous fiscal year.
- Requests for assistance from child care nurse consultants were less than the previous year.

Governor Reynolds Thrive Iowa Pilots

- Each pilot was required to enter data on every family served into the Qualtrics data system and HHS was to provide local pilots with a report. HHS is unable to extract any data and provide reports to ECI boards. The 4 R Kids area required programs to track data locally and was able to draft a report for local use.
- 279 households received navigation services, 136 households received housing support and 153 households received assistance with essential needs (i.e. utilities, cleaning supplies, care repairs, medical supplies).