



**Early Childhood Iowa Area Board
Minutes
Thursday December 18, 2026
Virtual Meeting**

Board Meeting (Information)

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

Attendance (Information)

(x means attendance at the meeting)

Board member	Representation	Attendance
Catherine Reaman-Gerdes	Human Service	
Christine Lundy	Education	x
Colleen Strohmaier	Business	x
Jacob Gunn	Parent	x
Jessica Petter	Health	
Nancy Krause	Citizen	x
Rita Martens - Chairperson	Citizen	x
Shelley Flanery	Citizen	x
Wendy Sawyer	Faith	x
Ricki Hall	Citizen	x
Jovanka Westbrook	Citizen	

4 R Kids Staff Present (Information)

Debra Schrader, Executive Director.

Others present (Information)

Jackie Giles (Dallas County ISU Extension).

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; 8 or 73% of board members 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)

Ms. Giles from Dallas County ISU Extension provided a presentation on the quality improvement project.

Agenda (Action)

Board member Krause moved to approve the December 18, 2025 agenda. Board member Hall seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes (Action)

Board member Sawyer moved to approve the November 20, 2025 minutes with correction of the date. Board member Strohmaier seconded. Motion carried unanimously

State ECI Board Outcome (Information)

Director Schrader provided an update of the December 2, 2026 state board meeting. Updates included state board resignation, status of the Lakes ECI board and HAWC ECI board, FY25 annual report, and meeting take aways.

Board Membership and Recruitment

There is a Dallas County board membership open on the board. Director Schrader notified current contract holder of the position and they are actively looking for a board member.

Board Annual Meeting

Election of Officers (Action)

The Board conducted the annual meeting that consists of election of officers, review of board member terms and committees. Officer's terms are for one year and start January 1 and end December 31. Board member Krause moved to re-elect Board member Martens as Chairperson and Board member Westbrook as Vice Chairperson. Board member Gunn seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Member Terms (Information)

Board members reviewed their respective terms and term limits.

Board Committees (Information)

The board reviewed the committees that each board member sits on for the next year.

Community Plan Annual Review (Information)

The board reviewed the strategic plan, ECI result areas, board priorities, vision, and mission, guiding principles, and updated local indicator data. The information will be posted on the 4 R Kids website.

Finance Committee (Action)

The Finance Committee reviewed budgets, payment vouchers, bank statements, and fund balance reconciliations prior to the board meeting. Board member Lundy moved to approve the November 2026 expenditures in the amount of \$114,308.91 Board member Krause seconded. Motion carried unanimously. It was noted the current rate of spending for FY26 is 35.9% for ECI funding and 48.1% of ARPA funding.

Board Program and Service Committee

The committee did not meet. The next meeting is February 6, 2026

Board Process Committee

The committee did not meet. The next meeting is February.

Miscellaneous Board Update

Members of the 4 R Kids ECI board and their significant others will meet for a holiday Dutch treat lunch December 19, 2025 at 12:00 at the Urban Taproom in Winterset.

Administrative Update (Information)

Director Schrader disseminated an administrative update.

- Holiday gathering;
- Board member contact information;
- State ECI board meeting;
- FY25 annual report review;
- LSI staffing update;
- 3rd Quarter payment;
- Board membership;
- Preschool experience rate;
- Indicator data;
- Mid cycle review;
- FY27 request for proposal;
- Association update
- Success story;
- Out of office dates.

Miscellaneous Board Updates (Information)

None

Next meeting (Information)

Board Chairperson Martens adjourned the meeting at 7:41 p.m. The next meeting is February 19, 2026 and will be virtual.