



**Program and Service Committee Minutes**  
**Friday February 6, 2026**  
**9:00 A.M.**

**Attendance**

Meeting began at 9:00 A.M. Ricki Hall, Nancy Krause, Jess Petter, Jovanka Westbrook, and Debra Schrader was in attendance. Nancy will be the reporter for the February 19, 2026 board meeting.

**Legislative Update (Information)**

Deb provided information regarding HSB623 and the companion bill SSB3111.

**FY27 Preschool Tuition Policy (Action requested)**

There are two changes recommended to the FY27 preschool tuition policy, the cap will change from \$225 to \$240 and the requirement of adding a notice of decision from HHS regarding denial or acceptance from HHS.

**FY27 Transportation Policy (Action requested)**

There is one change recommended to the FY27 preschool transportation policy, raising the maximum reimbursement rate from \$12 to \$15 a day.

**Family Support Enrollment Criteria (Information)**

Deb provided an overview of the new FY27 home visitation enrollment criteria that HHS will require.

The enrollment criteria starting July 1, 2026 to be 100% of the families enrolling in a long-term home visitation program during the fiscal year must meet one of the following criteria in addition to having a child between the ages of 0 through 5:

- Household income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines
- Household has someone who is pregnant or under age 21
- Household has a history of child abuse or neglect or has had interactions with child welfare services
- Household has a history of substance use or addiction or has a need for substance use treatment
- Someone in the household has attained low student achievement or has a child with low student achievement
- Household has a child with developmental delays or disabilities
- Household includes individuals who are serving or formerly served in the US armed forces.

Deb has requested from HHS additional information and technical assistance on some of the criteria.

**FY26 2nd Quarter Report (Information)**

The committee reviewed the second quarter reports from contractors. Below are a few of the highlights.

- All quarterly reports were completed by January 15, 2026.
- 37% of funds have been expended; on target is 50%. It is noted that 20% carryover is allowed for local ECI boards. There are no concerns regarding rate of spending.
- There are no major concerns with contracts and most contractors, other than LSI, are close to meeting or meeting their benchmarks.
- HHS is unable to provide local ECI areas with data from Daisey which makes it challenging to monitor home visitation programs. HHS has indicated that data may be available in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.
- Notes of interest include the following:
  - Challenges still exist for Lutheran Services in Iowa in replacing staff.
  - Short Years Partnership Parents as Teachers Program is exceeding benchmarks, they also have a waiting list in Madison and Dallas County as of December 2025.
  - Infant and early childhood mental health consultation is exceeding benchmarks and the program continues to grow.
  - Preschool tuition scholarships are down slightly by 8 children compared to a year ago; preschool tuition scholarships are based on demand and it's challenging to predict requests.
- A summary of the report will be provided to the February 19, 2026 board meeting.
- Copies of the 2nd Quarter progress reports are located at [www.4rkids-eci.org](http://www.4rkids-eci.org).

**Corrective Action Plan (Information)**

Lutheran Services in Iowa is currently on a corrective action plan due to staff replacement. The most recent update provided a glimmer of hope of a possible hire as LSI has two interviews for the open position on 2/11/26. LSI will stay on corrective through the fiscal year and require weekly updates are to be continued through the fiscal year. The program and service committee will have access to the document through Google and can monitor progress on a weekly basis. It is also recommended that Deb meet with LSI and review contract termination language.

**FY27 Request for Proposal** *(Information)*

A request for proposal process will be implemented for FY2027 and a timeline was reviewed.

**Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 10:10

Next meeting is Friday May 1, 2025 from 9:00-12:00 and will be by Zoom.