

Linn County Early Childhood Iowa Governance Board MINUTES

February 25, 2025 3:30 PM via Microsoft Teams

Name	Present	Excused	Un-Excused	Guests	Staff
Karey Chase (human services) Board Member at Large	X				
Haley Desmond (business)			X		
Julie Hanlin (faith) Secretary	X				
Shawn Knighton (citizen)	X				
Dan Louzek (health)	X @ 3:42 pm				
Katie Marshall (citizen)	X				
Brandy Meisheid (elected official)	X				
Charlie Nichols (citizen)	X				
Katheryn Paulsen (citizen)	X @ 3:32 pm				
Judy Stoffel (citizen)	X				
Megan Waterman (parent) Chair-Elect	X				
Drew Westberg (education) Chair	X				
Kristen Peyton, ECI Grant Coordinator					X
Amy Grunewaldt, ECI Director					X
Amy Becker, HACAP				X	
Meridith Myers, YPN				X	
Crystal Hall, Tanager				X	
Melissa Williams, GWAEA				X	
Angela Easley, CCNC				X	
Jennifer Ryan, Tanager				X	
Jaye Geater, CCNC				X	
Christi Regan, HACAP				X	
Hilary Robinson, GWAEA				X	
Teresa Daubitz, TIES				X	
Diana Strahan, HACAP				X	
Kelly Nelson, NPP				X	

Call to Order: Drew Westberg, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm with quorum present (9/12), (10/12) at 3:32pm, and (11/12) at 3:42pm.

Executive Committee Minutes: Included in the packet.

Public Comment: None.

Action: Minutes of 1/28/25 ECI Board Meeting:

- MSC: (Marshall, Meisheid) Motion and Second to approve minutes from January Board meeting. Motion carries unanimously @ 3:32 pm.

Annual ECI Performance Data Trends-Early Care and Education:

- Review of State Required Performance Measures- Health Prevention-Child Care Quality Supports: Peyton reviewed excel charts with 3-years of Funding, Outputs and Outcomes data for the EC-PBIS and Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation service types. Explanations of outlier data was explained and items to monitor were identified. All data was included in Board packet.

Board Operations:

ECI Restructuring Updates: The Association of Early Childhood Iowa Area Boards and Advocates have their legislative breakfast on January 26th. The Association will speak with lawmakers about the Governor's Early Childhood Continuum of Care proposal, HF 623 and SF 445. The SF 445 bill provides that, by January 1, 2026, the 7 new district boards shall be designated. The Association is committed to working with policy makers, HHS and the Governor's office toward successful

implementation of these policy initiatives. Questions remain about the timeline for implementation and potential gaps that may be created by reallocating \$11 million of existing Early Childhood Iowa funding to fund the Continuum of Care grants.

Action: Budget Revision Policy: The recommendation is to carry forward the maximum \$ amount, while remaining under the 20% carryforward cap. A funding formula from the State has not been received for next fiscal year; carryforward \$ will be needed to provide local funding to programs. In an effort to reserve \$, Open Budget Revision windows will be closed the rest of the fiscal year and only budget revisions that are necessary for program functionality will be reviewed.

- **MSC:** (Waterman, Knighton) Motion and Second to close the Open Budget Revision windows through the remainder of the fiscal year and authorize ECI staff to accept, deny, or negotiate any necessary requests. Motion carries unanimously @ 3:51 pm.

Board Satisfaction Survey: Members reviewed the results of the annual Self-Assessment survey sent to Board Members. The overall score declined slightly compared to the 2024 overall score. The lowest scoring questions were regarding the orientation process and understanding the programs funded by the Board. The highest scoring questions were regarding understanding the Board's role in meeting Open Meetings & Open Records Law and feeling that appropriate committees have been established.

Funded Partner Satisfaction Survey: Members reviewed the results of the annual survey sent to ECI funded programs. The overall score has slightly increased compared to the 2024 overall score. The lowest scoring questions were in regard to feeling Board members are representative of the demographics of Linn County and feeling that the Board communicates regularly and effectively with the community. The highest scoring question was in regard to feeling that staff are knowledgeable about ECI and able to accurately answer questions or provide useful directions.

Fiscal Operations:

Review Monthly Budget Utilization Summary: Grunewaldt reviewed the monthly budget utilization summary and noted that programs are aligned with the expected budget utilization for this time of year. ECI staff will continue to monitor budget utilization.

Program & Community Engagement:

Staff Monthly Engagement Efforts: A summary of ECI monthly engagement efforts was included in the packet.

Committees:

Child Abuse Prevention Month Events: Several ECI Board members are part of the Child Abuse Prevention Month Planning committee. The committee has assisted with the planning of events and activities to raise child abuse prevention awareness. There will be a community resource fair at Hoover Elementary on March 15th with immigrant and refugee families. At this event, positive discipline strategies will be presented and there will be access to many community resources. There will be a YPN Safety Fair at Kirkwood Community College on April 24th for families served by YPN and NPP family support programs. Any volunteer opportunities will be sent to Board members.

Next Board Meeting: March 25, 2025

Open Agenda: None.

Motion to Adjourn:

- **MSC:** (Marshall, Nichols) Motion and Second to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 4:01 pm.

Reviewer: Julie Hanlin, Secretary

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Recorder: Kristen Peyton

Signature: _____

Date: _____