

Linn County Early Childhood Iowa Governance Board MINUTES

April 22, 2025 3:30 PM via Microsoft Teams

Name	Present	Excused	Un-Excused	Guests	Staff
Karey Chase (human services) Board Member at Large	X				
Julie Hanlin (faith) Secretary	X @ 3:34 pm				
Shawn Knighton (citizen)		X			
Dan Louzek (health)	X				
Katie Marshall (citizen)	X				
Brandy Meisheid (elected official)	X				
Charlie Nichols (citizen)	X until 3:52 pm				
Katheryn Paulsen (citizen)			X		
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	
Alejandro Pino, YPN				X	
Crystal Hall, Tanager				X	
Melissa Williams, GWAEA				X	
Angela Easley, CCNC				X	
Teresa Daubitz, Unity Point				X	
Christi Regan, HACAP				X	
Hilary Robinson, GWAEA				X	
Diana Strahan, HACAP				X	

Call to Order: Megan Waterman, Board Chair-Elect, called the meeting to order at 3:31 pm with quorum present (7/11) and (8/11) at 3:34 pm.

Executive Committee Minutes: Included in the packet.

Public Comment: None.

Action: Minutes of 3/25/25 ECI Board Meeting:

- MSC: (Marshall, Louzek) Motion and Second to approve minutes from March Board meeting. Motion carries unanimously.

Board Operations:

ECI Restructuring Updates: The funding allocation amount for FY 26 is unknown and the SF 445 bill has not been passed in legislation. ECI staff will continue to monitor the status of the bill. An amendment to the bill was approved. The amendment extends the timeline for implementation of the alignment of Early Childhood areas with the Behavioral Health Regions to July 1, 2026. The amendment also extends the timeline for full implementation of the Continuum of Care grants to July 1, 2026.

TIES Program Update: Due to the uncertainty surrounding the realignment and funding, the TIES program has made the difficult decision to conclude the program, which will no longer be available to families after April 30th. Thank you TIES for the many years of dedicated service to Linn County families!

FY 24 AUP of Linn County ECI in County Audit: The FY 24 CAFR & Compliance Report were included in the Board packet. Grunewaldt reviewed highlights of the audit with the Board. Specific to ECI there were no instances of non-compliance noted.

Annual Review of ECI Program Audit/Financial Statements (HACAP): Form included in the Board packet. Peyton reported that HACAP's audit for FY 23 was received later than typical due to a cybersecurity incident that impacted the processing timeline. Specific to HACAP's ECI-funded programs there were no instances of non-compliance noted.

Fiscal Operations:

Review Monthly Budget Utilization Summary: Grunewaldt reviewed the monthly budget utilization summary and noted that most programs are aligned with the expected budget utilization for this time of year. The TIES program will not utilize all their budget due to closure of the program. ECI staff will continue to monitor budget utilization.

Program & Community Engagement:

Action: YPN Parents as Teachers Contract Amendment: YPN staff met with Amy Grunewaldt to discuss needs of the families they serve. Some of the needs that were highlighted are as follows: car seats, pack 'n' plays, miscellaneous safety items, and educational materials. There are not enough funds in their existing ECI budget to cover these costs. To support the program's efforts to meet these needs, it is recommended to amend the YPN Parents as Teachers contract to add additional \$.

- **MSC:** (Meisheid, Stoffel) Motion and Second to award a contact amendment to YPN Parents as Teachers for up to an additional \$15,000. Motion carries unanimously.

Action: YPN Building Bright Futures Contract Amendment: YPN staff met with Amy Grunewaldt to discuss program and family needs. Transportation costs have increased significantly and there is not enough \$ in the existing budget to pay for transportation supports for families to attend group classes the remainder of the fiscal year. Other needs that were highlighted were as follows: car seats, pack 'n' plays, and miscellaneous safety items. Due to fears related to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) presence, some families have decided to refrain from participating in group classes. YPN would like to provide those families with educational tools and packets. There are not enough funds in the program's existing ECI budget to cover these costs. To support the program's efforts to meet these needs, it is recommended to amend the YPN Building Bright Futures contract to add additional \$.

- **MSC:** (Hanlin, Meisheid) Motion and Second to award a contract amendment to YPN Building Bright Futures for up to an additional \$15,000. Motion carries unanimously.

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

Child Abuse Prevention Month Events: Several ECI Board members are part of the Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Month Planning Committee. The committee is partnering with YPN to plan an event that raises awareness of the importance of families and communities working together to promote safety. This event will give families an opportunity to access safety resources and learn about different safety supports in our community. The safety fair event will be offered to families served by Family Support programs, YPN and Nurturing Parenting Program (this is not a public event). The event will be Thursday, April 24th from 5:30-7:30pm at Kirkwood Community College. The CAP planning committee is requesting additional volunteers at this event.

As a fun way to wrap up CAP month, Wellpoint is sponsoring a Day of Play event on Friday, April 25th from 5-7 pm at Cleveland Elementary. There will be a free hot dog meal (while supplies last) and free Kona Ice.

Next Board Meeting: May 27, 2025

Open Agenda: None.

Motion to Adjourn:

- **MSC:** (Meisheid, Stoffel) 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: _____