

Johnson County Empowerment-Early Childhood Iowa Board
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 21, 2022
6:30-8:00 p.m.

Members present: Chris Carman, Cheryl Collins, Jon Green, Rick Leyendecker, Richard Lipman, Emily O'Sheridan-Tabor, Lori Roetlin, Angel Taylor, Joan Tephly, Susan Dale Wall

Members absent: Marguerite Oetting

Staff Present: Samantha Turnbull, Laurie Nash

Guests: Lorri Hora (CCR&R)

1. Call Meeting to Order, Establish Quorum, and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes [Board Action]

Board Chair Richard Lipman called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM, attendance was taken, and a quorum was recognized with 10 of 11 members present. **Minutes from 3/24/22 were reviewed and Rick Leyendecker moved to approve them. Susan Dale Wall seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.**

Additionally, Board Secretary, Chris Carman, recently found that he had used an incorrect date (for approval of the January minutes) in the previously approved board minutes from 2/17/21. Chris submitted a new set of minutes for the 2/17/22 meeting with the corrected date included. **Susan Dale Wall moved for approval of these corrected 2/17/22 minutes. Rick Leyendecker seconded. Passed unanimously**

2. Public Comment: No public comment was received at tonight's meeting.

3. Director's Report (A summary of key items is provided below; refer to April Board Packet for full details)

a. **Sam attended the Early Childhood Day on the Hill** Wednesday March 30th. A group of ECI areas served lunch to legislators and raised awareness about ECI boards.

b. **Sam received some FY'23 budget projections** from State ECI staff, though a final state ECI budget has not yet been approved by the legislature.

c. **Website:** We are waiting to hear if we will be able to move our content to the county website.

d. **Expense Report:** Our March 2022 expense report is in the April board packet.

e. **Board evaluations:** will be sent out this month. Please complete these as they help with prioritizing board development activities and assist us in functioning as an effective board.

f. **Car Seats:** We are considering holding a car seat clinic June 4th.

g. **Site Visits:** Site visits have been going well. Members have several more opportunities to see our contracted programs in action.

h. **Child Care Nurse Consultant:** Program is underspent and is agreeable to a budget reduction.

i. **Early Ed Work Group (Joan and Cheryl board liaisons):** Meets on the last Monday of the month 2:30-3:30 pm.

j. **Parent Ed Work Group (Emily board liaison):** Meets on the first Monday of every other month 1-2 pm.

k. **Health Work Group (Susan board liaison):** Meets on the second Monday of every other month 2-3pm.

l. **Kites for Kids:** Sam distributed many books at the Kites for Kids events in North Liberty and Tiffin. The Iowa City event is coming up Saturday and Sam plans to attend to distribute books.

m. **Week of the Young Child:** Former board member Jude Jensen was honored with the Child at

Heart award. Sam assisted with purchasing social/emotional learning books for a training that will be held for Early Childhood professionals in May.

n. **Juneteenth:** Sam plans to hand out books at the Juneteenth health and resource fair on Saturday June 18th.

o. **Indicator of the Month:** # of confirmed child abuse reports. Sam shared two relevant charts with data on child abuse in Johnson County from 2012-2021. The programs we fund that most directly affect this indicator are:

- UAY Family Support and Group and Home Health
- NCJC Family Support and Group

4. School Ready Scholarship Quality Standards [Board Action] The Board discussed options for the updating the quality standards that local early childhood programs will need to meet if they wish to enroll children who receive our School Ready Scholarships. This issue has arisen because the state is making a transition from the current QRS system to a new (but similar) approach called IQ4K. Programs which are currently rated under the QRS system can continue to participate in the Scholarship program until their QRS rating expires; at that time, they would need to switch over to the IQ4K. Thus, for a period of time, we will have programs from both rating systems involved in our scholarship program. Sam shared a section of the ECI state reporting tool which cites using School Ready Scholarships in local early childhood programs that have “a rating a 3 or higher in the QRS system or a rating 1 or higher in the IQ4K system.” **After discussion, Chris Carman moved to adopt the state report tool language identified above for our board’s use. Second by Richard Lipman. Passed unanimously.**

5. Contract Amendments: JCPH Dental Voucher and JCPH CCNC [Board Action] Background: For different programmatic reasons, the JCPH Dental Voucher program and the JCPH CCNC program have each substantially underspent their FY’22 Empowerment budgets. Previously, the Dental Health Program’s budget was reduced to an amount of \$11,000. Tonight’s Contract amendment for the Dental Health Program reduces the “Required Outputs” to a level consistent with the previously lowered budget. The contract amendment for the JCPH Child Care Nurse Consultant Program reduces its program budget to \$25,000 for the remainder of FY’22. The underspent funds will be retained by Johnson County Empowerment for other uses to be determined by the Board. See the April Board packet for the actual contract amendments proposed for the JCPH Dental Voucher and the JCPH CCNC programs.

Joan Tephly moved that the Board accept and implement the proposed “SECOND AMENDMENT to the CONTRACT, between Johnson County Empowerment/ECIA and Johnson County Public Health for the Dental Voucher Program” (See board packet for details). Susan Dale Wall seconded. Motion passed with 9 YES votes and 1 Abstention (Richard Lipman).

Cheryl Collins moved that the Board accept and implement the proposed “FIRST AMENDMENT to the CONTRACT, between Johnson County Empowerment/ECIA and Johnson County Public Health for the Child Care Nurse Consultant (CCNC) program. (See board packet for details). Emily O’Sheridan-Tabor seconded. Motion passed with 9 YES votes and 1 Abstention (Richard Lipman).

6. FY22 Budget [Board Action] To make full use of available funds as we approach the end of the fiscal year, Sam shared the idea of offering “Outdoor Equipment Grants for Johnson County Quality Child Care Centers serving children Ages 0-5”. Our board had success with this approach last year when underspending occurred related to the pandemic. This year, priority would be given to eligible centers who were unable to access our funding last year. See handout in packet for full information. Maximum grant awards would be \$5,000 per applying licensed center. \$30,000 is currently unallocated in the budget that could be used for this project. Offering these grants would also help to keep our board within state Carry Forward guidelines. Sam reviewed the status of the FY22 Budget with the Board, including the impact of the Contract Amendments made at tonight’s meeting. **Emily O’Sheridan-Tabor moved to allocate \$30,000 for the “Outdoor Equipment Grants” projects described in the Board packet handout. Jon Green seconded. Motion passed with 9 YES votes and 1 Abstention (Richard Lipman).**

7. FY23 RFP [Board Action] The purpose of this agenda item was to update the full board on the work completed to-date by the four RFP Subcommittees and to reach a consensus on how best to proceed during the coming month. See the Board Packet for a list of the applications received, grouped by the following assigned subcommittees:

- **Indirect Early Education**
- **Direct Early Education**
- **Child Health**
- **Parent Education and Family Support**

Members from each subcommittee shared initial considerations regarding the applications they reviewed. The subcommittees will meet again before the May 19th meeting, at which they should be prepared to make final recommendations on funding.

Sam shared information very recently released on ECI state funding levels, with projections for how much Johnson County Empowerment may receive in FY’23. The total funds requested in the applications for our current RFP exceed FY’23 expected funding levels by approximately \$300,000. Thoughtful decisions will need to be made at our May board meeting as we consider how to fund the programs that are most needed in our community. Sam noted that the amount of our carryforward from FY’22 to FY’23 isn’t yet known. Some applying programs not funded in this RFP round, could possibly be designated as a priority for eventual use of these carryforward funds.

8. Adjourn Rick Leyendecker moved at 7:45 PM that the meeting be adjourned. Angel Taylor seconded. Passed unanimously.

Upcoming Monthly Meetings: Thursday, May 19, 2022 6:30-8:00 PM
Thursday, June 16, 2022 6:30-8:00 PM

Submitted by Board Secretary Chris Carman