

Johnson County Empowerment-Early Childhood Iowa Board
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 17, 2022
6:30-8:00 p.m.

Members present: Chris Carman, Cheryl Collins, Jon Green, Rick Leyendecker, Richard Lipman, Marguerite Oetting (6:34), Emily O'Sherridan-Tabor, Lori Roetlin, Angel Taylor (6:54)

Members absent: Joan Tephly, Susan Dale Wall

Staff Present: Samantha Turnbull, Laurie Nash

Guests: Debbie Ackerman (JCPH), Sandra Busta (GWAEA), Missie Forbes (4Cs)

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 7 of 11 members present. This quorum was later increased to 9 of 11, when two additional members joined at 6:34 and 6:54 (as noted above). **Jon Green made a motion to accept the minutes from 1/20/22. Seconded by Rick Leyendecker. Passed unanimously.**

2. Public Comment: Debbie Ackerman reported that JCPH will be returning to in-person WIC appointments on March 1st, following state direction.

3. Director's Report: The written Director's report was included in the February Board packet. Refer to the full document for complete details. The following are key highlights:

a) Our Designation visit with the State Technical Assistance Team took place on February 3rd. During their meeting with the board, the state team informally indicated we would be re-designated. Sam will receive a designation report from the state team as the next step. As a positive result of the designation visit, we have been asked to present about our board activities at the State ECI Board Meeting on Friday March 4th.

b) Website: We are waiting to hear if we are able to move our content to the county website.

c) Expense Report: January 2022 expense report enclosed in board packet for review by members.

d) School Ready Scholarships: 12 families are currently on our school ready scholarship wait list.

e) Car Seats: We held a busy and successful car seat clinic on 1/29/22 in collaboration with the ambulance department. We installed 26 new car seats and passed out 8 pack n plays.

f) Board Indicator of the Month: Number of confirmed child abuse reports

The board reviewed this data as well as the priority area, results area and the funded programs connected with the indicator. The fact that many families were forced to isolate at home during the pandemic meant there was less contact with staff in early childhood programs (who are mandated by law to report suspicious injuries to enrolled children). Thus, confirmed cases of child abuse could possibly decline during the pandemic, despite it being an extended period of sustained stress on families.

4. Work group board representatives [board discussion] Joan Tephly recently suggested that it would be helpful to have Sam's monthly report include remarks from board members who serve on established subcommittees (early care & education, family support/home visitation, and health). Doing so would highlight current work of the groups and deepen board engagement. Board members liked the idea and also saw it as a way that even non-board subcommittee members could engage with the board on relevant topics. We thank Joan for her suggestion.

5. JCPH CCNC subcontract [board action] Note: see Board packet for copy of the proposed subcontract between JCPH and a qualified CCNC. Background: Our provider of Child Care Nurse Consultant (CNNC) service, Johnson County Public Health, had a resignation from this nursing position earlier in the year. To assure an appropriate match between key job functions and applicants' education/experience, JCPH felt it best to create a new job category specifically for the CNNC role. This will be a positive change in the long term for both JCECIA and JCPH, however this also involves a series of HR and County administrative approvals, plus normal job advertisement, all of which take time. In trying to meet current needs for CCNC services, JCPH heard there was a qualified Child Care Nurse Consultant working part-time in a nearby county who would be available to accept a short term contract to cover CCNC responsibilities in Johnson County until a permanent hire is made. This matter is being brought to our board since all our provider contracts require board approval for this type of subcontracting. The contract in question is for interim purposes only and can be cancelled with 30 days notice. **Emily O'Sheridan-Tabor moved to allow JCPH to enter into the subcontract included in the February Board Packet. Cheryl Collins seconded. Passed unanimously.**

6. Contractor Presentations:

Missie Forbes shared information on the 4C's mission and services. The Home Ties early childhood center serves 32 children, half of whom are funded with Child Care Assistance. Empowerment funds 5 slots that provide up to three months of child care for families in crisis to work on specific goals toward stability. These families often are experiencing homelessness and enrollment in Home Ties allows them to seek housing, employment and on-going child care funding (like Child Care Assistance). This year Home Ties provided specialized training to staff on child mental health, in light of pandemic stresses. Current center enrollment includes a high percentage of Sudanese families. Missie reviewed their "Provider Services" for those working in child care homes or centers. Starting Strong is a support service for 30 individual lower income home child care providers who are willing to dedicate at least 50% of their capacity to families on Child Care Assistance. Ready Set Go offers some similar supports to home child care providers who are not low income. Education and Training services are offered to providers in both child care centers and homes. Positive Environments for Positive Behaviors (PEPB) provides coaching for child care staff on how positive environments, interactions, routines, and transitions can all work to promote healthy social-emotional development. PEPB's purpose isn't to directly focus on individual children who have challenging behaviors, but rather to promote positive overall group functioning. "Registered Home Start Up Support" (RHSS) offers assistance to members of immigrant and refugee communities who wish to become home child care providers. They receive guidance (in their home language) on state child care requirements and have access to other supports in starting their home services.

Sandra Busta (Grant Wood AEA) shared information on the Childcare Alliance Response Team (CART) program. The goal of CART is to decrease challenging behaviors in childcare programs and safely retain enrollment of children who display difficult behaviors while supportive changes are being implemented. This involves observing classroom approaches and environments and offering practical suggestions and training to staff. CART involves center staff and parents of a child with challenging behavior to work closely as a team in using consistent approaches in both environments. Referrals are also made to additional community services, such as play therapy. Pre and Post Data is collected to measure outcomes. Teacher surveys also assure their input is received by CART. Sandra offers group trainings through 4Cs on preventing and addressing challenging behaviors. This involves approaches that helps children recognize and appropriately express "big emotions".

7. Approve FY23 RFP [board action]. The full FY23 RFP proposed for implementation in March, 2022 was included in tonight's Board Packet. The RFP Development Committee has been working on this for the past several months and all proposed processes, scoring instruments and application materials have come before the

Board for review, feedback and refinement during this time. Chris Carman **moved to approved the RFP packet that was included in the February Board Packet. Rick Leyendecker seconded. Passed unanimously.**

8. Family Support Program’s COVID vaccination policy [board discussion] After discussion at the January meeting, Sam obtained copies of COVID vaccination policies from both Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County (NCJJ) and United Action for Youth (UAY). The policies of both agencies state that their Family Support staff must either opt to maintain full vaccination for Covid or complete weekly Covid testing. After discussion, the Board preference is to acknowledge the value of these existing agency policies without formulating its own Empowerment-ECI Board policy. Jon Green suggested sending a letter to all of our grantees highlighting the effective approach of these two organizations’ policies and thanking them for their efforts. Other board members expressed support for this.

9. Adjournment: Jon Green made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Rick Leyendecker. Passed unanimously.
The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Richard Lipman at 7:40 PM.

Next Monthly Meeting: Thursday, March 24, 2022 6:30-8:00 PM

Submitted by Board Secretary Chris Carman