

**Early Childhood Iowa State Board  
Meeting Minutes**

**November 3, 2023; 9:00am to 11:00 am**

Zoom Meeting (Room B100 in the Grimes Building available for public)

**Attendance:**

Mr. Aaron Johnson (Chair)	X	Ms. Mayra Martinez	X
Ms. Kelly Garcia (HHS) / <u>Janee Harvey</u> (HHS designee)		Ms. Barb Merrill (vice chair)	X
Ms. Angela Anderson	X	Ms. Mary Petersen	
Ms. Paige Smothers (arrived at 9:05)	X	Mr. Dave Arens	X
Ms. Durham/ <u>Ms. Nichole Hansen</u> (IEDA)		Mr. Ryan Howard	X
Mr. Marcus Johnson-Miller (HHS designee)	X	Ms. Jennifer Banta (joined at 9:20 am)	X
Mr. Michael Linnenbrink (left at 10:40 am)	X	Ms. Beth Townsend/ <u>Ms. Kathy</u> <u>Leggett (IWD)</u>	X
Ms. Angela Lensch		Director Snow/ <u>Dr. Kimberly Villotti</u> (IDOE) (Snow attended in person)	X
Ms. Dawn Oliver Wiand (resigned)		Ms. San Wong/ <u>Ms. Lorie Easter</u> (DHR)	X
<i>Staff</i>			
Amanda Winslow	X	<i>EX-Officio/Non-voting</i>	
Dr. Ann Lebo	X	Rep. Michael Bergan	X
Tami Foley		Rep. Tracey Ehlert	
James Olson	X	Sen. Cindy Winckler	
Marianne Rodrigues	X	Sen. Lynn (Kevin) Evans	X

**Guests:** Abbey Degenhardt, Annette Koster, Carrie Kube, Tammy Etjen-Kesterson, Diane Martens, Patricia Russmann, Kassy Hegland, Ginger Knisley, Lynn Evans, Cindy Duhrkopf, Brenda Loop, Mayra Martinez, Barbara Bremner, Kassy Hegland, Amy Grunewaldt, Lorie Easter, Erin Monaghan, Mary Kay Wirth, Pat McReynolds, Patricia Russmann, Ryan S. Howard, Sarah Vanwyk, Shawna Lebeck, Sherri Hunt, Tasha Beghtol, Kerri Hall, Jillian Herink, Ashley Otte, Shelley Horak, Cass Des Moines (Murra?), Wendy

Greenman, Cora Herbkersman, PJ West, Laurie Kristiansen, McKinley, Peggy Sellnau, Todd Abraham, Katie Champlin, Leann Andre, Taylor Watson, Sam Turnbull, Sharon Miller, Alicia Dietzenbach, Deb Schrader, Sherri Hunt, Deb Martens, Amy Blanchard, Sheila Hansen, Cassie Hegland, Marcus Johnson-Miller, Jennie Banta, Heather Rouse, Angela Anderson, Kristen Peyton, Gaylyn Mercer, Deb Gustafson, Janet Nickell Horras, Sarah VanWyk, Jaci Miller, Dave Lyons, Jordan Morse, Nichole Hansen, Klaire Wisniewski, Kristen Peyton, Page Smothers, Jill Connors, sherri Hunt, Elizabeth Stanek, Jenny Robinson

### **Welcome/Introductions**

Mr. Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:00 am with quorum. In response to changes in the agenda, Amanda shared that we received one community plan that was added.

**Public Comment:** No comments were shared.

### **Action Item: Consent Agenda Item:**

Mr. Johnson asked for an approval of the agenda, meeting minutes from the September 8, 2023 board meeting, and the Administrative Update.

Motion: Approve the Consent Agenda Items and Agenda Amendment.

Made By: Dave Arens

Seconded By: Ryan Howard

The motion was approved unanimously.

### **Information Item: 2023 Child Care Workforce Report**

Aaron Johnson will introduce Ashely Otte, IowaAEYC to provide an overview of the 2023 Child Care Workforce Report. Refer to the study. See [executive summary](#) for more details. Exploring access to benefits, ensuring opportunities for professional development and addressing compensation; what would make them stay? How much does it cost to care for a child v how much parents can afford to pay. Real time data of slots available/staff available to care for those slots.

### **Information Item: Local Story- ECI Area Board Responses to Child Care Workforce Compensation Needs**

Aaron Johnson introduced Barb Bremner, McKinley Bailey, and Samantha Turnbull to share ECI Area Board Responses to the Child Care Workforce Compensation Needs

#### a. Polk County ECI

Local solutions included a better way to qualify and a thank you bonus. Saw turnover cut in half. Staff starting wages were minimum wage, so people couldn't afford to work in childcare. Looked at Polk County ECI and brought those concepts back to their counties.

#### b. Building Families ECI (Hamilton, Humboldt, Wright)

Launched the Hamilton child care coalition. Discovered they had a lot of part-time employees so came up with an hourly bonus. Focused instead on the number of compensated hours. This led to positive results and increased childcare slots. We have to have flexibility to act differently with different local needs. There's no one way to do this and it's what makes ECI special.

#### c. Johnson County Empowerment ECI

Johnson County Empowerment has 80+ centers. Started with localized research, calling all the centers in the county. Learned \$11.16 was the average childcare worker wage and the lowest tracked profession in

the county. There were 16 closed classrooms. County supervisors have invested \$250K each with ARPA funding, ect. Targeting centers that are quality rated and having them accept CCA families as well. Focus on staff working at least 32 hours and view it as their profession.

**Information Item: FY23 Annual ECI Funded Family Support Data Review**

Aaron Johnson introduced Dr. Heather Rouse and the Iowa’s Integrated Data System (I2D2) Team that compiled this year’s annual ECI funded family support program results. ECI Family Support Programs support almost 5,000 families with almost 50,000 home visits. Prenatal enrollment is almost 38%. The demographics and impact of ECI funded family support services were shared throughout a PowerPoint presentation. Several of these data will be featured in the FY23 ECI annual report.

**Informational Item: HHS Update - Website Redesign**

Aaron Johnson introduced Klaire Wisniewski, Family Well-Being and Protection Communications Specialist to address the website realignment across agencies. The ECI website will be brought to the same platform. Visually, all agency websites will look the same. The new Department of Health and Human Services website will launch soon, which will include the ECI content. Ms. Wisniewski then showed the new website drafts as it was not live at the time of the presentation. The goal is to increase the ease of navigation throughout the HHS website. Ms. Wisniewski shared the proposed look for finding Information on the local boards. The history of ECI annual reports will be archived and available through the State Library of Iowa website.

**Adjournment**

**Next meeting – January 5, 2024**

This meeting is being planned as a hybrid (Zoom option) and in-person attendance is encouraged. The meeting space will be in B100 of the Grimes State Office Building.

Mr. Johnson asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Mr. Ryan Howard and seconded by Ms. Jennifer Banta. Mr. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 11:12am.

Respectfully Submitted, *Amanda Winslow*