

Early Childhood Iowa State Board: Meeting Minutes

March 7, 2025; 9:00am to 11:00pm

Attendance:

Mr. Aaron Johnson (Chair)	X	Ms. Melissa Miller	X
Mr. Michael Linnenbrink (Vice Chair)		Mr. Dave Muhlbauer	X
Ms. Angela Anderson	X	Mr. Brook Rosenberg	X
Mr. Dave Arens	X	Ms. Paige Smothers	X
Ms. Jennifer Banta	X	Ms. Unity Stevens	X
Ms. Mayra Martinez	X	Ms. Emily Westergaard	X
Director Durham /Ms. Nichole Hansen (IEDA)		Director Townsend /Ms. Kathy Leggett (IWD)	X
Director Garcia	X	Director Snow /Dr. Kimberly Villotti (IDOE) Joined at 9:29am	X
Janee Harvey	X		
Staff		<i>EX-Officio/Non-voting</i>	
Amanda Winslow	X	Rep. Michael Bergan	
Dr. Ann Lebo	X	Rep. Tracey Ehlert	X
Amanda McKee	X	Sen. Cindy Winckler	X
		Sen. Lynn (Kevin) Evans	

Guests:

PJ West, Abigail Degenhardt, Tammy Wetjen-Kesterson, Diane Martens, Lacey Waller, Rozy Warder, Tasha Beghtol, Angel Smith, Holly Rash, Jordan Morse, Becky Beckner, Liz Melcher, Jess Burger, Mary Kay Wirth, Sam Early, Renee Rankin, Melissa Miller, Marianne Adams, Amy McLaughlin, Cyndi Winn-every Step, Mayra Martinez, Salena Siefken, Pay McReynolds, Brenda Loop, Wendy Hoogeveen, Jenny Robinson, Ginger Knisley, Becky Beckner, Gaylin Mercer, Cindy Winn, Monica Garner, Elizabeth Stanek, Jeremy Koerselman, Beth Ownby, Michele Cullen, Carrie Kube, KayCee Boros, Liz Crane, Suzanne Cohrs, Molly Gosselink, Cyndi Mears, Sherri Hunt, Patricia Russman, Cindy Duhrkopf, Angie Anderson, Bridgette Prince, Erin Monaghan, James Olson, Sarah Guilliatt, Nicole Wiegand, Dawn Sickelka, Cass Elizabeth Kehret, Mallory Berkenpas, Amy Blanchard, Terry Hendershott, Jessica Shields, Erin McLarty, Kerri Hall, Kelly Schulte, Angie Anderson, Laurie Nash, Shawna Lebeck, Lisa Hilsenbeck, Liz Ernst, Alyssa Barton, Annette Koster, Erin Harrison, Melissa Tucker, Gloria Carr, Heather Rouse, Dawn Sickelka, Diane Martens, Lora Patton, Molly Gosselink, Nicole Wiegand, Sheila Hansen, Ashley Otte, Alisha Dietzenbach, Lora Patton, Amy Grunewaldt, Lora Patton, Kristy Roosa, Carrie Malone, James Olson, Jay- Community United, Whitney Howell, Mallory Berkenpas

Non-board Members In the room: Deb Schrader, Barb Bremner, Kassie Ruth, Tony Reed, Dax Oberreuter, Sarah Ekstrand, Shelley Horak, Abby Patterson

Welcome/Introductions

Aaron Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. Attendance roll call was completed. Aaron called for any changes to the agenda. Aaron said there will be an opportunity to share questions in the Q&A during the open section of the board meeting.

We are still in need of two citizen members for boards from Iowa Congressional Districts 1, 2, or 3. A letter of support from the local ECI board is a required component of an individual's application to be considered for an ECI State Board citizen member slot.

Public Comment: Aaron Johnson recognized Sam Early, board member with Polk County ECI, for comment. Mr. Early shared concerns with shifting ECI funds that cover broad services to fund the proposed Continuum of Care grant.

Action Item: Consent Agenda

Mr. Johnson asked for approval of the agenda, meeting minutes from the January 3, 2025, board meeting, and the Administrative Update.

Motion: To approve the consent agenda, inclusive of the meeting minutes and administrative update.

Made By: Melissa Miller

Seconded By: Emily Westergaard

The motion was approved unanimously.

Information Item: Future Opportunities for the Early Childhood System

Aaron Johnson asked Amanda Winslow to provide an overview of our agenda items:

- Future Opportunities for the Early Childhood System
- Highlights from House File 623, formerly HSB 145
- Overview of draft proposed infrastructure for a unified system to enhance prevention and early intervention services for families

The chat and conversation were captured in the [Early Childhood Continuum of Care questions 3.20.25 FAQ](#).

Information Item: ECI Admin Update & 2024 ECI State Board Meeting Dates

Aaron Johnson asked Amanda Winslow to share highlights from the administrative update that was distributed via email to the ECI State Board members, ECI Area Directors, and stakeholders on Monday, March 3, 2025.

Amanda provided a summary of the following:

- Upcoming Designation Meetings - canceled due to pending legislation

- Technical Assistance Updates KFC & Quad Counties for Kids – transition to serve as one board paused due to pending legislation
- Committee for identifying a new chair and vice chair

Adjournment

Next Proposed Meeting: April 11, 2025

Reminder of 2025 ECI State Board Meetings (9:00am – noon) Dates: June 6, September 5, November 7

Mr. Johnson asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Emily Westergaard and seconded by Brook Rosenberg. Mr. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 11:05am.