

Early Childhood Iowa State Board: Meeting Minutes

November 1, 2024; 9:00am to 12:00pm

Zoom Participation Only (no in-person host site)

Attendance:

Mr. Aaron Johnson (Chair)	X	Mr. Dave Muhlbauer	X
Mr. Michael Linnenbrink (Vice Chair)	X	Ms. Mary Petersen	X
Ms. Angela Anderson	X	Mr. Brook Rosenberg	X
Mr. Dave Arens	X	Ms. Paige Smothers (joined 10:19)	X
Ms. Jennifer Banta	X	Ms. Unity Stevens	X
Ms. Mayra Martinez	X	Ms. Emily Westergaard	X
Director Durham /Ms. Nichole Hansen (IEDA)	X	Director Townsend /Ms. Kathy Leggett (IWD)	X
Director Garcia /Janee Harvey (HHS designee)		Director Snow /Dr. Kimberly Villotti (IDOE)	X
<i>Staff</i>		<i>EX-Officio/Non-voting</i>	
Amanda Winslow		Rep. Michael Bergan	
Dr. Ann Lebo		Rep. Tracey Ehlert	
James Olson		Sen. Cindy Winckler	
Marianne Rodrigues		Sen. Lynn (Kevin) Evans	

Guests:

Abigail Degenhardt, Annette Koster, Cindy Duhrkopf, Debra Schrader, Deena Recker, Diane Martens, Erin Monaghan, Ginger Knisley, Jaci Miller, Jenny Robinson, Jordan Morse, Laurie Kristiansen, Mary Kay Wirth, Pat McReynolds, Shawna Lebeck, Sherri Hunt, Tammy Wetjen-Kesterson, Tasha Beghtol, Amanda McKee, Heather Rouse, Brenda Loop, Mark Adams, Lauren Linnenbrink, Mary DeLong, Todd Abraham, Sheila Hansen, Natalie Daniel, Cassidy LeCroy, Cora Herbkersman, Dawn Sickelka, Denna Klesel, Ericka Lewon, Kerri Hall, Kristy Roosa, Melissa Miller, PJ West, Monica Garner, Nichole Hansen, Rhonda Rairden-Nelson

Welcome/Introductions

Mr. Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:00 am with quorum. Introduced new hires and new board members. No changes in the agenda.

Public Comment: No comments were shared.

Action Item: Consent Agenda

Mr. Johnson asked for approval of the agenda, meeting minutes from the September 6, 2024 board meeting, and the Administrative Update.

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

Made By: Emily Westergaard

Seconded By: Brook Rosenberg

The motion was approved unanimously.

Action Item: Muscatine ECI Area Board Merger to DHLW

Motion: Approve Muscatine ECI area board merger to DHLW

Made By: Jennifer Banta

Seconded By: Dave Ahrens

The motion was approved. Unity Stevens abstain

Action Item: Local Request to Merge Quad Counties into Kids First Communities

Aaron Johnson asked Amanda Winslow and Jenny Robinson to provide an overview of Quad Counties 4 Kids (Adams, Ringgold, Taylor, and Union counties) & Kids First Communities (Clarke, Decatur, Wayne counties) request to merge effective July 1, 2025. Details of this request was provided in the administrative update emailed to the board on November 25.

Motion: Approve Kids First Communities and Quad Counties 4 Kids to merge

Made By: Dave Ahrens

Seconded By: Brook Rosenberg

The motion was approved.

Information Item: FY24 Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Annual Report

Aaron Johnson asked Rhonda Rairden-Nelson from HHS to provide an overview of the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health annual report. The ECI State Board approved the use of \$101,050 of ECI's state professional development funds to support infant and early childhood mental health initiatives. Additionally, local ECI's have contributed to mental health consultation for the child care and family support workforces.

Action Item: FY24 ECI Family Support Annual Report

Aaron Johnson asked Dr. Heather Rouse and her Iowa State University team to provide an overview of home visitation services funded by ECI in FY24. This will be an action item as it is a part of the ECI Board's comprehensive annual report due to the governor and general assembly by the end of January 2025.

Motion: Approve FY24 ECI Family Support Annual Report

Made By: Emily Westergaard

Seconded By: Dave Ahrens

The motion was approved.

Information Item: Thrive Iowa Update

Aaron Johnson asked Amanda Winslow and Ann Lebo to provide an overview of the current opportunity for expanding navigation services to help more families learn about services and enroll in services that will best meet their needs. Thrive Iowa is a community-governed infrastructure that enables information to be effectively and responsibly shared among many organizations, using technology, in support of holistic coordination. Amanda also provided an overview of the Early Intervention and Support team structure which is now comprised of three bureaus: Early Childhood Services, Family Services, Community Services.

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 Friday, November 25. The board packet documents will also be available on the HHS website, Advisory Groups:

<https://hhs.iowa.gov/about/advisory-groups/eci-state-board>

Amanda provided a summary of:

- Thriving Families Alliance
- Designation Workgroup
- FY24 Annual Report (action item for January 3 board meeting)

Adjournment

Next meeting – November 1, 2024

Reminder of 2025 ECI State Board Meeting (9:00am – noon)

Dates: January 3, March 7, June 6, September 5, November 7

Mr. Johnson asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Dave Ahrens and seconded by Unity Stevens. Mr. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 11:44 am.

Respectfully Submitted, *Dr. Ann Lebo*