

Board Members Present:

Jack Willey (Arrived Late)  
Peter Duytschaever  
Lindsey Burken  
Nin Fligel  
Dan Srp  
Roberta Rosheim  
Sarah Hogan  
Charlie Minnick  
Gwen Deming

Board Members Absent:

Linda Hledik

Staff Present:

Peggy Sellnau  
Mary Kay Wirth

Guests:

Alicia Wagner, CCRR-zoom  
Chris McClimon, CCNC  
Jenny Holm, Grow Clinton  
Jessica Barnhart Clark, LSI

## Clinton/Jackson Early Childhood Iowa Board Meeting Minutes

**February 26, 2024**

Dan Srp called the meeting to order at 4:01 PM. Jack Willey appointed Dan to preside over the meeting since he had another meeting. Mary Kay Wirth conducted roll call. Members present are listed at left.

January 30, 2024 minutes: Roberta made a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting; Charlie seconded the motion. Vote: All Ayes, motion carried.

Director's Expenditure Report: Mary Kay presented the Director's expenditure report for January 2024 for review. Mary Kay reported that providers' spending is on track for the year. Peggy and Mary Kay met with Nicholas Manrique who is the Budget Director for the Clinton County Auditor's office. He is working on a spreadsheet that would show expenses/budget to date. Nin made a motion to approve the expenditure report as presented; Lindsey seconded the motion. Vote: All Ayes, motion carried. There are currently 24 Preschool scholarships. Peggy reported that some preschools had fewer slots available due to staff shortages.

The ECI Director's Activities were shared for February. The list shows the community involvement during this time. Mary Kay noted that ECI Director's meetings have focused on changes to service types in Tool O. Contract reviews for providers are all scheduled and underway. The schedule of site visits was shared.

Jessica Barnhart Clark from LSI presented to the board and highlighted the New Parent Program. Clinton/Jackson ECI supports the home visiting program. She shared how they find families for the program. The main sources for referrals include hospitals, doctors' offices, schools, WIC, churches, and other agencies. It is beneficial to enroll families (prenatally) when possible to create a strong relationship with parents. The outcomes for the program are assessed every 6 months using the Life Skills Progression assessment. A notable result is that 94.4% of families have improved or maintain a healthy family functioning, problem solving and communication skills.

Jenny Holm from Grow Clinton presented to the board about the findings from the Child Care Market Study recently completed in Clinton. Here are some of the take aways: child care is too expensive, most families make too much to qualify for assistance, there are not enough spaces in child care centers for ages birth-2 years, and 5-11 year olds, parents miss work due to lack of child care, and it is hard to keep positions filled in child care centers due to low pay. The community and businesses need to work together to start to find a way to improve access to child care in our community. In April Jenny will host a roundtable to discuss possibilities to work on the Child Care issues. In addition, we can reach out to other ECI areas that are working on wage enhancement programs for child care centers.

The ICAP Board Insurance was presented and discussed. The cost is \$2,662. Roberta made a motion to approve the annual board insurance policy and premium. Gwen seconded the motion. Vote: All ayes, motion carried.

The 2023 ECI State Annual Report was shared. Mary Kay pointed out there are five goals in the ECI Strategic Plan. Also, page 13 includes examples of three ECI areas response to child care compensation.

A letter was presented from the Scott County Health Department requesting to amend the FY24 contract for the I-Smile Program with Clinton-Jackson ECI. Based on current trends I-Smile will be spending fewer ECI funds than expected. The FY24 budget for I-Smile is \$38,835 and they are requesting to revise the budget to \$18,510. An

amended contract will be put together for the next meeting. Also, board members should be thinking about ways to utilize the \$20,325 that will be left. The plan is to discuss the ideas at the next Executive Board meeting.

Budget considerations include proceeding with renewals. One new area to consider is Wage Enhancements for Child Care Workers. Staff costs currently include Peggy working several hours per week. She will continue through budget planning.

New Business/Community Input: Gwen reported that CPPC and Clarke University are planning an Early Childhood Conference for April 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. She will share a link to be sent out to board members. Gwen also has CPPC calendars available.

Adjourn/Next Meeting Date: Meeting adjourned at 5:22 PM. The next regular C/J ECI Board meeting will be held on March 25th at 4:00 PM in person and via Zoom at the Clinton County Satellite office in DeWitt.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Kay Wirth, Clinton/Jackson ECI Director

Any person in need of special assistance or accessibility needs should contact Mary Kay Wirth at [mwirth@clintoncounty-ia.gov](mailto:mwirth@clintoncounty-ia.gov) or call 563-659-3651.

Board President Signature Jack Willey Date 3-26-24