

Board Members Present:

Nin Flagel
Gwen Deming (Zoom)
Sarah Hogan
Linda Hledik
Charlie Minnick
Jack Willey

Board Members Absent:

Erin George
Lindsey Burken
Robert Rosheim
Peter Duytschaever

Staff Present:

Mary Kay Wirth

Guests:

Julie Hamann (LSI)
Lori Jahn (LSI)

Clinton/Jackson Early Childhood Iowa Board Meeting Minutes February 23, 2026

Jack Willey, the board chair called the meeting to order at 4:07 PM. Mary Kay Wirth conducted roll call. Members present are listed at left.

Lori Jahn, a guest from LSI gave an update that 44 car seats have been installed in the last month, the Healthy Homes project has started, they are 1 family away from full capacity, and diapers/books are being used as incentives.

January 26, 2026 minutes: Nin made a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting; Sarah seconded the motion. Vote: All Ayes, motion carried.

Director's Expenditure Report: Mary Kay presented the January 2026 Director's expenditure report. Sarah made a motion to approve the expenditure reports as presented; Linda seconded the motion. Vote: All Ayes, motion carried. There are currently 16 scholarships, attendance continues to be monitored, and Mary Kay is researching ASQ screenings as they will be required for preschool scholarships in 2027. There was a discussion about getting preschools trained.

The Director's Activities include the ECI Monthly Fiscal Tracking Spreadsheet due 2/28/26 and the Mid Year ECI State Report (Qualtrics) due 2/26/26.

Mary Kay listed upcoming events: Meeting with Christi from HACAP Head Start about billing 2/25, State ECI Board Meeting 3/6, Clinton Jackson Conference Planning, CCR&R Spring Conference 3/28, Community Baby Shower 4/25, Healthy Kids Day YMCA 5/9, and Board orientation for Erin George TBD.

Contractor site visits will be scheduled in March. A calendar of the dates will be sent to board members.

The ICAPP insurance renewal for \$3,034 was presented. The cost is an increase of \$60. The coverage is March 1, 2026-March 1, 2027. Sarah made a motion to renew and pay the ICAP insurance as presented; Linda seconded the motion. Vote: All Ayes, motion carried.

The Quality Improvement Grant forms including the announcement letter, application, and list of allowable expenditures developed by the state ECI were presented and discussed. CCR & R will be sending out the information to all licensed and registered child care programs, as well as any of the Department of Education Preschools in our counties. A committee will meet after March 25th to award the grants. Nin and Charlie agreed to serve on the Committee to review the grant applications. Other board members may join them.

The State ECI leaders are continuing to hold weekly meetings to review the Board Policies & Procedures for ECI areas. A committee from our board will need to meet to go through the Policies and Procedures to adopt for our area.

The state's Early Childhood Iowa Annual Report 2025 was reviewed and discussed.

Information was given about the ECFSS Bill that is currently in legislation. The Bill suggests keeping the ECI areas & boards for local service delivery. It would transfer all home visiting programs to HHS in order to draw down federal funds.

Nin attended the District 7 Advisory Committee meeting. The meeting highlighted each areas budget and priorities and started conversations on developing shared advocacy plans within D7.

Adjourn: Sarah made a motion; Charlie seconded the motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 5:15 PM.

The next regular C/J ECI Board meeting will be held on **March 23rd**, at 4:00 PM in person and via Zoom at the Clinton County Satellite office in DeWitt. If the meeting needs to be moved to Zoom only, this will be posted.

Executive Meeting:

March 9, 2026, at 7:30 via Zoom

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 or call 563-659-3651.

Board President Signature _____ Date _____