



## BOARD MINUTES –3/20/2026

LINKING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES (Early Childhood Iowa Area) met on Friday, March 20, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

### **Members present:**

Tammy Varland  
Clarence Siepker  
Bob Thode

Justin Daggett  
Pastor Nick Thackery

### **Members absent:**

Lindsay Laufersweiler

Dave George

### **Community members present:**

Elizabeth Stanek

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Clarence Siepker at 10:00 a.m. Quorum was met.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Siepker asked if there were any changes or additions to the agenda. No changes were requested

**MOTION:** Ms. Varland moved to approve the agenda as presented.

**SECOND:** Mr. Thode

**Discussion:** None

**ACTION:** Motion passed unanimously.

### **Approval of Board Minutes**

Mr. Siepker asked if there were any changes or additions to the board minutes from the January 22, 2026 meeting. No changes were suggested.

**MOTION:** Mr. Thode

**SECOND:** Ms. Varland

**Discussion:** None

**ACTION:** Motion passed unanimously.

### **Public Forum/Board Questions**

Mr. Siepker asked if the public or the board had any questions. No comments were made. No questions were posed.

### **Board Membership**

Ms. Stanek presented the resignation received from Lindsay Laufersweiler.

**MOTION:** Mr. Thode made the motion to approve the resignation of Lindsay Laufersweiler, with thanks for her service.

**SECOND:** Ms. Varland

**Discussion:** None

**ACTION:** Motion passed unanimously

### **Financial**

Ms. Stanek presented the financial statements as prepared by Bowser & Richman for November and December 2025.

**MOTION:** Mr. Daggett made the motion to approve the November and December 2025 Financial Statements as prepared by Bowser & Richman.



**SECOND:** Mr. Thode

**Discussion:** None

**ACTION:** Motion passed unanimously

Ms. Stanek reported that the audit is not yet complete and will be brought to a subsequent meeting.

### **Budget Updates**

Ms. Stanek reviewed the current Early Childhood Iowa budget and budget projections. The current carryforward is expected to be under the 20% maximum.

Ms. Stanek gave a SEEDS project update. The project construction is on target. Donations for the construction are still being sought. The project budget was reviewed and the project private spend match for the Future Ready Iowa grant is nearly met.

### **Executive Committee**

The Committee had met on Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>, March 6<sup>th</sup> and March 16<sup>th</sup>. Executive Committee members reviewed the Board Evaluation results, executive evaluation results, bylaws, quality improvement grants, suggested changes to the medical/health insurance benefit policy with the board. Members reported that they were also reviewing possible changes/savings for fiscal operations and had interviewed for the SEEDS director position. The committee made the following recommendations:

RECOMMENDATION 1: Reissue the Quality Improvement Grant application for additional providers that did not respond to the first round and authorize the Executive Committee to approve quality improvement grant applications within the budget established by the board.

RECOMMENDATION 2: Fully fund the four (4) applications received for Quality Improvement funding and reissue the Quality Improvement Grant applications.

RECOMMENDATION 3: Issue an RFP for ECI funded services for FY27, with a focus on literacy.

RECOMMENDATION 4: Eliminate health insurance benefit. (See Medical/Health Policy)

RECOMMENDATION 4: Hire Hillary Eide for the position of Center Director at a salary of \$45,000, with a raise to \$47,800 after completion of the 90-day probationary period.

The board held discussion.

**MOTION:** Mr. Thode made the motion to approve the recommendations of the Executive Committee with further review of how to accommodate the current staff's need for health insurance.

**SECOND:** Ms. Varland

**Discussion:** None

**ACTION:** Motion passed unanimously

### **FY27 Early Childhood Iowa**

Ms. Stanek provided a summary of the current legislation HF2712/SF2462, noting there is an amendment proposed. The current bill creates a new Early Childhood and Family Services system and seeks to transition home visitation services from ECI areas to HHS. This would decrease funds to local ECI areas if passed.

Ms. Stanek reviewed the RFP for FY27.



### **Additional Board Meeting Dates**

Ms. Stanek requested that the board consider moving to a monthly or bi-monthly meeting schedule or to consider adding a meeting in between the scheduled meetings, since those are posted through December. Discussion was held.

**MOTION:** Ms. Varland made the motion to meet in May on the 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am and add additional meetings between regularly scheduled meetings throughout the rest of the year.

**SECOND:** Mr. Thackery

**Discussion:** None

**ACTION:** Motion passed unanimously

### **Adjourn**

With no further business, Mr. Siepker asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**MOTION:** Mr. Thackery

**SECOND:** Mr. Thode

**Discussion:** None

**ACTION:** Motion passed unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 am

- Respectfully Submitted By: Elizabeth Stanek

**Next Meeting: May 8, 2026**