LINKING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

BOARD MINUTES

September 10, 2026 – 12:30 p.m.
Linking Families and Communities Office Conference Room
Fort Dodge, Iowa

The Linking Families and Communities Board met on Thursday, September 10, 2026, at 12:30 p.m. at the Linking Families and Communities Office, Fort Dodge, Iowa.

Board members present: Clarence Siepker, Bob Thode, Dave George, Nick Thackery (arrived at 12:40 p.m.), and Tammy Varland.
Others present: Bill Musick, Kristy Vogel, Hillary Eide, and Elizabeth Stanek.

Introductions
The meeting was called to order by Chair Clarence Siepker at 12:30 p.m. A quorum was present.

Approve Agenda
Moved by Varland, second by George, to approve the agenda as published. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve Minutes of June 11, 2026 Board Meeting
Moved by Thode, second by Varland, to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2026 Board meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Forum/Board Questions
No public comments or Board questions were brought forward.

ECI Funded Program Report: Calhoun County Public Health – Family Foundations Parents As Teachers Program
Kristy Vogel, Family Foundations Parents As Teachers Program Supervisor at Calhoun County Public Health, provided a program overview, history, and update. Family Foundations is currently serving at its funded capacity of 37 families, with 29 families funded by Early Childhood Iowa and 8 funded by the Iowa Child Abuse Prevention Program.

Thackery joined the meeting at 12:40 p.m.

Election of New Member
Moved by Varland, second by Thackery, to elect Bill Musick to the Linking Families and Communities Board, effective immediately. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve & Place on File March, April & May 2026 Financial Statements
Moved by George, second by Musick, to approve and place on file the March, April, and May 2026 financial statements. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve FY26 ECI Annual Report & Financial Statements
Moved by Thode, second by George, to accept and place on file the FY26 Early Childhood Annual Report and financial statement. Motion carried unanimously.

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Staff Reports
Staff provided the SEEDS Report and Director's Report, highlighting current activities, needs, and upcoming items for Board consideration.

Executive Committee Report/Recommendations
The Executive Committee provided its report and recommendations.

Moved by Thode, second by Varland, to authorize the Executive Director, at her discretion, to purchase a used 15-passenger van in an amount not to exceed $50,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Thode, second by Thackery, to approve and authorize a contract with Doyle Construction for necessary site grading at 407 Kenyon Road in an amount not to exceed $5,240.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Thode, second by Varland, to authorize the Executive Director to apply for grants to support SEEDS and early childhood services. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by George, second by Thode, to designate unallocated ECI funds for future early childhood literacy proposals and an Early Care Scholarship pilot program; expand the current Preschool Tuition Assistance Program on a sliding fee scale to families with incomes between 201% and 300% of the Federal Poverty Level; and amend the ECI budget to increase the Fiscal Agent line item to $12,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve SEEDS Staff & Parent Handbook
Moved by George, second by Thode, to approve the SEEDS Staff Handbook and Parent Handbook. Motion carried unanimously.

Issues from Members
No issues were brought forward by members.

Adjourn
Moved by George, second by Varland to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 2:17 p.m.

- Respectfully Submitted By: Elizabeth Stanek

Next Meeting: December 10, 2026