



BOARD MINUTES – 9/11/2025

LINKING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES (Early Childhood Iowa Area) met on Thursday, September 11, 2025 at 12:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Members present:

Clarence Siepker
Bob Thode

Pastor Nick Thackery
Tammy Varland

Members absent:

Lindsay Lauferweiler
Justin Daggett
Dave George

Community members present:

Elizabeth Stanek

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Clarence Siepker at 12:30 p.m. Quorum was met.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Siepker asked if there were any changes or additions to the agenda. There were no changes to the agenda.

MOTION: Mr. Thode moved to approve the agenda as presented.

SECOND: Mr. Thackery

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 June 12th, 2025 meeting. No changes were suggested.

MOTION: Mr. Thackery moved to approve the minutes as presented.

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.

Financial Statements

Ms. Stanek presented the financial statements for May and June 2025.

MOTION: Ms. Varland moved to approve the May 2025 & June 2025 financial statements as prepared by Bowser & Richman.



SECOND: Mr. Thode

Discussion: None

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.

Annual Report

Ms. Stanek presented the annual report with program data, board matrix and financial information.

MOTION: Mr. Thode made the motion to accept the annual report as presented.

SECOND: Mr. Thackery

Discussion: None

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.

Board Policy: Chapter 13

Ms. Stanek presented updates to Chapter 13 of the Board Policy with revisions to Policies 13.1 & 13.2 in order to align with the changes required by ECI in regard to Preschool Tuition Assistance, which include:

- Requiring eligible families (working 32 hours/week & at or below 160% of federal poverty level) to apply for Child Care Assistance (CCA) through Health & Human Services.
- Families that are denied CCA can then be assisted through LFC's Preschool Tuition Assistance program.
- Limiting tuition assistance to families at or below 200% of the federal poverty level.
- Requiring preschools that are HHS licensed to accept CCA payments.
- Changes to information included on the application form.

MOTION: Mr. Thackery made the motion to approve the changes to Chapter 13 of the Board Policy.

SECOND: Ms. Varland

Discussion: None

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.

FY26 Budget & Recommendations

Ms. Stanek reviewed the current budget. At their August 26th meeting, the Executive Committee reviewed area data and available ECI funding service types. The committee recommended the following to be funded out of the FY26 budget:

- Continuing the Halo Sleep Sack Program (\$25,000)
- Early literacy programs through local public libraries (\$25,000) utilizing an application process.
- Improvements in child care (\$63,774.99) utilizing an application process.

MOTION: Ms. Varland made the motion to approve the budget recommendations of the Executive Committee as presented.

SECOND: Mr. Thode

Discussion: Ms. Stanek will distribute applications to local libraries and child care centers.

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.

Child Care Project

The board reviewed the bid received from the Request for Bids for the SEEDS building and held a discussion on how to proceed with the project. The board reviewed information provided from Mr. George on an alternative roof type, current budget and was provided information on the interest of a potential contractor.

MOTION: Mr. Thode made the motion to table.



SECOND: Mr. Thackery

Discussion: None

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Varland left the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Board members discussed the project, timing and costs.

Adjourn

Mr. Siepker adjourned the meeting at 1:35

- Respectfully Submitted By: Elizabeth Stanek

Next Meeting: December 11, 2025