LINKING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

BOARD MINUTES –12/11/2025

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

***Members present*:**

Clarence Siepker
Bob Thode
Tammy Varland
Pastor Nick Thackery

Members absent:

Lindsay Laufersweiler
Justin Daggett
Dave George

Community members present:

Barb Riley
Elizabeth Stanek

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

Program Report: Family Foundations

Barb Riley, Executive Director of Calhoun County Public Health(CCPH), reported on the Family Foundations in-home visitation program, which serves pregnant women and families with children up to age five. The program is required to ensure that 75% of enrolled families have a parent with a high school diploma or less, are at or below 200% of the federal poverty level, or have an individualized service plan; families served are generally considered isolated.

Each visit addresses family well-being, parent-child interaction, and child development, and includes regular developmental screenings. The program's capacity in Calhoun and Pocahontas Counties is 37 families, with 35 currently enrolled. Year-to-date, 367 visits have been provided, 155 referrals made, 9 new families enrolled since July 1, and 10 Group Connections groups held. Linking Families and Communities has one contract with Calhoun County Public Health for the 37 families. Funding comes from ECI (29 families) and the ICAPP Grant (8 families).

Ms. Riley also reported that Calhoun County Public Health and Pocahontas County Public Health are forming a new Parents as Teachers affiliate due to Webster County Public Health exiting that service for which CCPH has submitted a request to cover this unexpected program cost.

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: Ms. Varland
Discussion: None
ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.

LINKING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

Approval of Board Minutes
Mr. Siepker asked if there were any changes or additions to the board minutes from the October 9th, 2025 meeting. No changes were suggested.

MOTION: Ms. Varland
SECOND: Mr. Thackery
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 Member Terms & Elections

MOTION: Mr. Thode moved to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2025 Executive Committee meeting.
SECOND: Mr. Thackery
Discussion: None
ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.

Election of Officers & Committee Members
Mr. Siepker reviewed the current officers and committee members whose terms are ending.

MOTION: Mr. Thode moved to re-elect all officers and committee members.
SECOND: Mr. Varland
Discussion: None
ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.

Financial Statements
The board reviewed financial statements for July, August and September 2025 prepared by Bowser & Richman

MOTION: Mr. Thode moved to approve the financial statements as presented.
SECOND: Ms. Varland
Discussion: None
ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Committee
The Executive Committee reported their recommendations and updates to the board from their December 3, 2025 meeting.

Family Foundations – PAT Affiliation Fees
Recommendation: Fund the new PAT affiliation fees for the Family Foundations program, serving Calhoun & Pocahontas Counties

MOTION: Mr. Thode moved to approve the recommendation to provide funding for the new affiliate fees for the Parents As Teachers program through Calhoun County Public Health.
SECOND: Ms. Varland

Discussion: None
ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.

Literacy Grants
Recommendation: Approve all literacy grant applications received from public libraries, with the exception of funds for salaries/time.

MOTION: Mr. Thode moved to approve the recommendation to fund library applications without salary/time expenses included.
SECOND: Ms. Varland
Discussion: Ms. Stanek will follow-up with each library. A contract, invoice, report form and general assistance will be provided to each.
ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.

Child Care Grants for Quality Improvements
Recommendation: The full board should review the applications received. The board held a discussion on the process and potential tool used. A general discussion was held in regard to the applications received. No action taken.

Bylaws
No action is need at this time.

SEEDS
No action needed at this time. Ms. Stanek reported that asbestos removal will begin next week, with CMU wall and roof replacement taking place the first or second week of January 2026. Snow removal from the roof was discussed. Ms. Stanek has reviewed contracts provided by Downing Construction and has set a meeting with our attorney for Dec. 22nd.Ms. Stanek provided the updated budget, noting that the total amount has not changed from the original, though some of the contingency funds have been used for required sidewalk and pavement. Downing has sent out bids for interior work, which are due back on Dec. 18th. A final budget is expected to be provided by December 23rd. Ms. Stanek will forward on the budget to members, provide a link to the meeting with Downing. A board meeting will be needed in order to proceed at that time. Ms. Stanek requested assistance in contacting/scheduling meetings with potential donors to the project.

CECC
Mr. Thackery & Ms. Stanek met with three members of the Community Early Childhood Board on Dec. 5th. A good discussion was held and relationships furthered. Discussion of relationship building between the two organizations was held. CECC is interested in maintaining communication and strategizing a potential partnership at this time, but understands that the SEEDS project is in process and would need to be completed before anything more formal is discussed.

Administrative Update & Upcoming Meetings
Ms. Stanek referred board members to the administrative update and the schedule of upcoming meetings. The board held a discussion on schedule of upcoming meetings, noting that more frequent meetings will be needed as the SEEDS project progresses. Members expressed Fridays and evenings could be options if needed, suggesting that members respond quickly to requests to meet in order to get meetings scheduled. Mr. Thackery requested that Ms. Stanek email all board members to outline that the need for more frequent meetings is necessary to keep the project on track and that the ongoing support of members is appreciated.

Adjourn

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

MOTION: Mr. Thode
SECOND: Ms. Varland
Discussion: None
ACTION: Motion passed unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 1:55p.m.

- Respectfully Submitted By: Elizabeth Stanek

Next Meeting: March 12, 2026