



**4 COUNTIES FOR KIDS**

## **Early Childhood Iowa Area**

John Hughes, Chairperson

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**4 Counties For Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area  
Board of Directors  
Meeting Minutes  
Carnegie-Evans Library, Albia  
February 27, 2024**

Meeting was called to order by Chairman John Hughes at 1:08 PM

### **Quorum**

Quorum (8/9) was established as follows:

**Members present** (8): Linda Demry, Debbie Miller, John Hughes, Merry Dudley, Dave Henderson, Todde Folkerts, Jared Lawrence and Cathy Reece.

**Members absent** (1): Megan Wilson.

**Community Partners present:** Brenda Fry (Executive Director SCICAP); Jennifer Mitchell (Head Start); Leann Andre, Lora Patton (CCR&R); Dana Cockrell, Kim Hugen (Monroe Co. NEST); Morgan Small (SIEDA); Tracey Boxx (AHFA); and Amanda Jaramillo Ayón (Mental Health Consultant).. Also Present: Jodi Maddy, 4CFK Consultant. Gaylyn Mercer, ECI Area Director.

### **Introductions & Public Input**

Self-introductions were made around the room. Chairman Hughes called for public input on any non-agenda items. There was none.

### **Approval of Consent Agenda**

Motion by Dave Henderson, seconded by Linda Demry, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried with all members present voting Aye.

### **Board Health Representative**

Director Mercer introduced Lynette Major, RN, as a health representative candidate. She is a school nurse, has a medical practice in Albia and lives with her family in the town. She has approval from the school to attend meetings every other month in person.

Motion by Merry Dudley, seconded by Dave Henderson, to approve Lynette Major, RN, of Albia, as the 4CFK Board Health Representative.

Motion carried with all members present voting Aye.

### **FY2024 Early Childhood Iowa Community Plan**

Director Mercer reviewed the 45-page Plan with all in attendance. The following questions arose:

- What direct phone # should be on the Foreword to connect to Gaylyn? Updated to 303-518-5707.
- Confirm the year for the Davis County Health Improvement Plan. Confirmed as 2022.
- Confirm the NEST additional funding breakdown in the Fiscal Assessment. Dana Cockrell of Monroe County Public Health noted that NEST does not currently receive funding from DECAT. The data in the Plan is correct, as it is for FY 2023 when SCICAP administered NEST and had multiple funding streams. Updated the plan with the correct agency.

Motion by Dave Henderson, seconded by Linda Demry, to have Jody Maddy read the Community Plan and email the Board her finding of approval or not, so the Board can hold an email vote to approve the plan.\*

Motion carried with all members present voting Aye.

\*ADDENDA: Community Plan was approved via email with **YES** votes as of 4:55 PM 2/29/24 from Linda Demry, Jared Lawrence, Debbie Miller, Megan Wilson, Dave Henderson, and John Hughes.

### **Director's Update**

The ECI State rep agenda for the March 19 Community Plan visit was reviewed, as this agenda included separate meetings with service providers and the board.

It was noted that the Request for Applications for FY 2025 has been sent to all current contractors and is also posted on the 4CFK website. Deadline for applications is April 16, 2024.

The Director's HHS update noted that there is no expectation of any changes to ECI until 2025. In preparation for advocacy of ECI concerns and strengths, the Association of ECI Area Boards and Advocates is hosting a legislative breakfast on March 6 from 7-9 AM. All board members are invited. Director Mercer is serving on the Advocacy committee and met with her District representatives on Feb 23 at the Lucas County public forum. She has invited both Senator Amy Sinclair and Representative Joel Fry to the morning event on 3/6. Joel Fry is the Chair of the HHS Appropriations Committee in the House.

### **Next Meeting / Adjournment**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 19 at 1:00 PM, same location.

Motion by Debbie Miller, seconded by Merry Dudley, to adjourn.

Motion carried with all members present voting Aye. Meeting adjourned at 2:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Gaylyn Mercer  
ECI Area Director and 4CFK Board Secretary