



4 COUNTIES FOR KIDS

Early Childhood Iowa Area

John Hughes, Chairperson

**4 Counties For Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
Carnegie-Evans Library, Albia
November 21, 2023**

Meeting was called to order by Chairman John Hughes at 1:00 PM

Quorum

Quorum (8/9) was established as follows:

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

Members absent (1): Cathy Reece.

Community Partners present: Brenda Fry (Executive Director SCICAP), Janell Staats (SCICAP Fiscal); Jennifer Mitchell (Head Start); Lora Patton (CCR&R); Kim Hugen, Dana Cockrell (Monroe Co. NEST); Erin Hall (SCICAP PAT); Tracey Boxx, Tammy Merrill, Julie Meeker, Alison Buckalew (AHFA); Brenda Comer (MATURA); 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 Linda Demry, seconded by Dave Henderson, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried with all members present voting Aye.

Service Provider Presentations

A lively interactive discussion arose in response to the wealth of information prepared by the 4CFK service providers in their annual presentations. The following contractors presented reports:

- Monroe County NEST
- PAT (Parents As Teachers)
- MATURA
- American Home Finding Association
- CCR&R Orchard Place

The work done by these contractors is impressive and valuable, and this showed from their statistics as well as stories. The collaborative conversation and connections made between professionals from all these organizations at the meeting, illustrated the value of bringing them together to hear from each other and network.

Director's Update

Director Mercer raised the Board's continuing need for a Health Representative. Two names were suggested: Lynette Major, a school nurse in Albia, from Kim Hugen; and Carrie Selby, whose name generated enthusiasm, from Jared Lawrence. Director Mercer will follow up with Carrie Selby first.

Providers were particularly interested in information from the Director regarding the HHS Alignment initiative. The final report and recommendations are still outstanding, so news was minimal and speculation abounds among early childhood service organizations. Most of the attendees expressed a similar concern about losing local control, but everyone is committed to doing all they can within their own organizations to support children in our counties.

Next Meeting / Adjournment

The next regular meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 16 at 1:00 PM at the Carnegie-Evans Library in Albia.**

Motion by Dave Henderson, seconded by Linda Demry, to adjourn. Motion carried with all members present voting Aye. Meeting adjourned at 2:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Gaylyn Mercer
ECI Area Director and 4CFK Board Secretary