

North Iowa Children's Alliance Early Childhood Area Board Meeting

Location: Zoom Only
July 27th, 2026 @ 12:45PM - MINUTES

Board Members in Attendance: 6 of 9

X	Chris Watts- (EO)- Chair		Stephanie Lau (P)		
X	Ken Zimmerman- Vice Chair	X	Enos Loberg (EO)		
X	Kara Volgeson (H)	X	Melinda McVey (F)		
X	Sis Greiman (EO)	X	Jennifer Hepperly (HS)		
X	Tony Hiatt (E)		Vacant (C)		

Representation: F=Faith, EO=Elected Official, B=Business, E=Education, HS=Human Services, P=Parent/Consumer, H=Health, C=Citizen, LOA=Leave of Absence

Others in Attendance: Lacey Waller (Director), Gloria Carr (Admin Assistant/Preschool Scholarship Coordinator)

The meeting was called to order by Chris Watts at 12:46pm.

Approve the Agenda for July 27th, 2026:

- o Motion by: Tony Hiatt to approve the June 27th, 2026 agenda as written.
- o Motion 2nd by: Ken Zimmerman
- o Motion carried unanimously

Approve Minutes from June 22nd, 2026:

- o Discussion: Chris requested a correction to the June 22nd, 2026 meeting minutes under the FY26 preschool scholarship section. When roll call is taken the board member's name's need to be listed in the minutes. Lacey will make the requested correction.
- o Motion by: Ken Zimmerman to approve the June 22nd, 2026 NICA board meeting minutes with the correction to the section where roll call was taken.
- o Motion 2nd by: Melinda McVey
- o Motion carried.

Public Comment:

- o No Public Comment was given.

Business Items:

- **Agenda item: Board Member Resignation**
 - o Discussion: Shana Butler submitted her letter of resignation from the NICA board effective immediately.
 - o Motion by Ken Zimmerman to accept Shana Butler's NICA board resignation.
 - o Motion 2nd by: Tony Hiatt
 - o Motion carried unanimously
- **Agenda item: New Board Member Approval**
 - o Discussion: Kara Volgeson Public Health Director from Cerro Gordo County was contact by Chris Watts to be the new Health representative for the board. Kara provided a brief summary about herself. Introductions by board members were given.
 - o Motion by Tony Hiatt to accept Kara Volgeson as the new Health representative for the NICA Board.
 - o Motion 2nd by: Jennifer Hepperly
 - o Motion carried unanimously
- **Agenda item: Board Conflict of Interest Document**
 - o Discussion: The Conflict-of-Interest Declaration document was reviewed and acknowledged by the board. Lacey requested that board members send her their Conflict-of-Interest Documents as soon as possible.
 - o Motion by Jennifer Hepperly to accept the FY27 Conflict of Interest Declaration document.
 - o Motion 2nd by: Sis Greiman
 - o Motion carried unanimously
- **Agenda item: FY27 Preschool Scholarships**
 - o Discussion: Lacey discussed the FY27 Preschool Scholarship Guidelines for preschools and families. Lacey shared that multiple preschool's have increased their tuition rates for the upcoming school year. To reflect the increase in

tuition and to streamline things across the NICA, FMC and T4F boards. Gloria and Lacey discussed increasing the NICA scholarship rate from \$165 per month to \$200 per month. Gloria and Lacey also discussed the parent attestation form and child care assistance updates.

- Motion by Jennifer Hepperly to approve the FY27 Preschool scholarship tuition rate increase from \$165 per month to \$200 per month, while also approving the parent attestation form and CCA guidelines.
- Motion 2nd by: Ken Zimmerman
- Motion carried unanimously

Adjournment:

- Motion to adjourn by Jennifer Hepperly at 1:02pm.
- Motion 2nd by Sis Greiman
- Motion carried unanimously

Next meeting: August 20th, 2026 at 1:00pm virtually via Zoom.