

NORTH IOWA CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date: February 12th, 2026

Time: 1:00pm

Location: Zoom

Welcome and Roll Call	Meeting called to order at 1:00pm. Board members present: Chris, Ken, Jen, Tony, Melinda, Sis & Stephanie.
Others in Attendance	Meghan Judisch(NICAO HS Transportation) Colleen Frein (Mason City Chamber of Commerce), Lezah Hanson (Oral Health), Kassie Ruth & Justin Cornish (CIJDC)
Approve Agenda	<p>Motion by Ken to add GC4 Child Care to the meeting agenda. 2nd by Jen. Motion carried unanimously.</p> <p>NICA Board Meeting Agenda 1.826 motion to approve by Ken, 2nd by Jen Motion carried unanimously.</p>
Minutes - <i>Action Required</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● January 8th, 2026 	NICA Board Mtg Minutes 01.08.26. Motion to approve by Melinda, 2 nd by Ken, Motion carried unanimously.
Public Comment	Lezah Hanson shared an oral health presentation. Lezah stated that they have seen 30 more children at this time then last year. Which is a huge increase. Oral health is well perceived in all school districts and childcares.
Financials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2026 Funding Summary ● Directors Financial Outlook 	<p>Lacey gave a financial update for expenditures through January 2026.</p> <p>Motion by: Jen. 2nd by Sis to approve January's expenditures. Motion carried unanimously.</p>
Directors Report & ECI Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● State ECI Board Meeting Update 	<p>Lacey shared an update about the proposed HHS ECI Bill. The State Early Childhood Iowa Board will meet on Friday March 6th from 9:00am- 12pm. Lacey will discuss the information from the state board meeting at our next NICA board meeting in March.</p>
<u>Board Business- <i>Action Required</i></u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● FY26 Early Literacy Grants 	Motion by Melinda to approve nine FY26 Early Literacy Library Grants in the amount of \$22,269.72. 2 nd by Ken. Motion carried unanimously.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● FY26 Request for Additional Funds for Mason City Chamber of Commerce. 	Mason City Chamber of Commerce submitted a request for additional funding proposal for their wage enhancement program. Motion by Ken to approve the Mason City Chamber of Commerce FY26 additional funding requests of \$20,000. 2 nd by Sis. Motion carried unanimously.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● FY26 Request for Additional Funds for NICAO 	NICAO submitted a request for additional funds for a new roof for one of their head start buildings. Motion by Ken to deny NICAO request for additional funds due to Tool G Property & Equipment policy- The ECI State Board prohibits the use of ECI funds to purchase real property subject to taxation. This policy was adopted on October 9, 1999. Motion 2 nd by Sis. Motion carried unanimously.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FY26 Mini Grant RFP- Health Harvest of North Iowa 	Motion by Sis to approve the Healthy Harvest of North Iowa RFP of \$7, 971.80 for their Health Starts: A North Iowa Farm to Early Care Toolkit & Piolet. This project will be implemented under Public Awareness Fairs. 2 nd by Ken. Motion carried unanimously.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FY26 Mini Grant RFP- Community Health Center of Fort Dodge (Mason City Location) 	The NICA board reviewed the FY26 Mini Grant RFP by the Community Health Center of Fort Dodge for dental services at their Mason City location. Some concerns were raised as far as the funding they receive from other entities. Motion by Melinda approve the Community Health Center of Fort Dodge (Mason City Location) FY26 Mini Grant RFP of \$19,000. 2 nd by Sis. Motion carried unanimously.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FY26 Mini Grant RFP- Cert Works 	Motion by Jen to approve Cert Works FY26 Mini Grant RFP for \$10,097.00 for Professional Development. 2 nd by Sis. Motion carried unanimously.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FY26 Mini Grant RFP- Redeemer Lutheran Preschool & Day Care 	Motion by Sis to approve Redeemer Lutheran Preschool & Day Care FY26 Mini Grant RFP for \$5,000 for a quality improvement fire alarm system upgrade. 2 nd by Ken. Motion carried unanimously.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FY26 Mini Grant RFP- Charlie Brown Community Day Care 	Motion by Ken to approve Charlie Brown Community Day Care FY26 Mini Grant RFP for \$5,000 for a quality improvement playground resurfacing project. 2 nd by Tony. Motion carried unanimously.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FY26 Mini Grant RFP- GC4 Child Care 	Motion by Sis to approve GC4 Child Care FY26 Mini Grant RFP for \$5,000 for a quality improvement project. 2 nd by Tony. Motion carried unanimously.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employee Performance & Evaluation • Cost of Living Increase 	Kassie Ruth & Justin Cornish shared their evaluation of NICA director. Justin discussed a breakdown of a 3% and 4% cost of living increase for the FY27 fiscal year. Motion by Jen to approve a 3% cost of living increase effective July 1 st , 2027. 2 nd by Ken. Motion carried unanimously.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NICA Policies & Procedures (Mileage Rate) 	Motion by Melinda to table the mileage rate discussion until the Policies & Procedures Committee can meet to review and update policies. 2 nd by Tony. Motion carried unanimously.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FY27 Request for Funds 	The NICA board was asked to review our Community Plan in preparation for FY27 RFP Cycle. Lacey will have an RFP ready to receive applications as soon as the state ECI board has more information to share about designation for FY27.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board Membership Application 	Motion by Tony to recognize that no new board membership applications have been received. The application is listed on our NICA website. 2 nd by Jen. Motion carried unanimously.
Next Meeting Date <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 12th, 2026 @ 1pm via Zoom 	Lacey will send a Zoom invite for the March 12th meeting.
Adjournment	Motion to adjourn by Sis 2 nd by Jen. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 2:31pm.