

NORTH IOWA CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date: January 8th, 2026

Time: 1:00pm

Location: Zoom

Welcome and Roll Call	Meeting called to order at 1:00pm. Board members present: Chris, Shana, Ken, Enos, Jen, Stephanie, Melinda and Sis.
Others in Attendance	Kathy Lloyd (CCR&R), Meghan Judisch (NICA HS Transportation)
Approve Agenda	NICA Board Meeting Agenda 11.13.25 motion to approve by Shana, 2 nd by Enos. Motion carried unanimously.
Minutes - <i>Action Required</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> November 13th, 2025 	NICA Board Mtg Minutes 11.13.2025. Motion to approve by Shana, 2 nd by Ken, Motion carried unanimously.
Public Comment	No Public Comment
Financials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2026 Funding Summary Directors Financial Outlook 	Lacey gave a financial update for expenditures through December 2025. Motion by: Shana. 2nd by Enos. Motion carried unanimously
Directors Report & ECI Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> State ECI Board Meeting Update 	The State Early Childhood Iowa Board will meet on Friday January 9 th from 9:00am- 12pm. Lacey will discuss the information from the state board meeting at our next NICA board meeting in February.
<u>Board Business- <i>Action Required</i></u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FY26 Mini Grant RFP 	Motion by Shana to open a FY26 Mini Grant RFP. RFP's due by January 16 th 2025. Board will review the proposed RFPs in February and will make funding decisions. 2 nd by Ken. Motion carried unanimously.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ECI Assn Dues 	Lacey gave a review of the association's original purpose and where the organization stands today in terms of early childhood advocacy. The board understands that some of the dollars are used for lobbying. While the board does not agree with lobbying, the board felt that participation in the ECI Assn would continue to benefit Lacey as a new ECI Director. Motion by: Jen to renew the membership for FY26 and pay the \$435 invoice. The board will review the state of the ECI Assn at the start of each fiscal year. 2nd by: Enos. Motion carried unanimously
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early Literacy Library Grants 	The board reviewed the proposed Early Literacy Library Grants. The board was upset by the number of applications received. Motion by Shana to extend the deadline for local libraries to apply for funding. The date has been extended to

	January 23 rd , 2025. 2 nd by Sis. Motion carried unanimously.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employee Performance & Evaluation 	The board reviewed the results from the Survey Monkey Employee Performance Evaluation. Kassie Ruth from CIJDC was unable to attend the meeting as originally planned. Therefore, Motion by Jen to table this discussion until the February board meeting. 2 nd by Enos. Motion carried unanimously.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NICA Policies & Procedures 	Chris discussed the need to update the NICA Policies & Procedures Manuals. A committee was formed to review the manuals. The committee consists of Chris, and Jen. A meeting will be scheduled with Kassie from CIJDC.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employee Mileage Rate 	Lacey discussed the current Employee Mileage Rate that is listed in the current NICA Policies & Procedure's Manual. The current rate received is not reflective of the Policies & Procedures Manual. The board was asked to review the current rates. Motion by Shana to table this discussion until Kassie Ruth can attend a board meeting. 2 nd by Melinda. Motion carried unanimously.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family Connections Contract 	<p>The board has continued to discuss the delay of the signed FY26 Family Connections Home Visitation Contract. Previously, it was decided that the board would not pay for Family Connections program expenditures for the months where the contract was not signed. The board has shared that while the contract was not signed until September. The contract's effective date was July 1st, 2025-June 30th-2026. Family Connections Employer on Record is Trinity Health (Mercy One). Trinity Health has had numerous upper managements changes this last year which was a factor in the delay of the signed contract. This was at no fault to Family Connections itself. The board discussed that the home visitation services had been provided to the community in the months prior to the contract being signed.</p> <p>Lacey has spoke with the state TA team regarding this issue in length. The TA team stated in their email that while a decision to retroactively pay expenses without a signed contract is not considered best practice. It is a local board decision.</p> <p>Motion by Jen to retroactively pay Family Connections for their July, August, and September expenditures. While noting that this is a one-time board exception. Motion 2nd by Shana. Motion carried unanimously.</p>
Next Meeting Date <ul style="list-style-type: none"> February 12th, 2026 @ 1pm via Zoom 	Lacey will send a Zoom invite for the February 12th meeting.
Adjournment	Motion to adjourn by Sis 2 nd by Enos. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 2:05pm