



NORTH IOWA CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE
BOARD MEETING

Date: November 16, 2023

Time: 1:30pm

Location: Zoom

TOPIC/DISCUSSION ITEM	NOTES
<p>Welcome & Roll Call</p>	<p>Board members present: Chris, Enos, Sis, Ken, Heidi, Shana, and Stephanie. Meeting called to order at 1:02.</p>
<p>Approve Agenda</p>	<p>NICA Board meeting agenda 11.16.2023 motion to approve by Sis, 2nd by Ken, all in favor.</p>
<p>Minutes - Action Required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● October 12, 2023 Minutes 	<p>NICA Board meeting minutes 10.12.2023 motion to approve by Enos, 2nd by Shana, all in favor.</p>
<p>Child Care Works Initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Update on local child care workforce initiative 	<p>Guest Kelli Gerdes presented on the local Cerro Gordo County initiative to provide affordable and accessible child care for all families. They are approaching this from two directions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wage supplement program that aims to use community and business funding to raise employee pay by \$2/hour making the average wage more competitive and the industry more attractive for workers. ● Systematic change – creating a fundamental shift in how the child care industry is viewed and funded. Looking at long-term dedicated state funding as a source for centers and in-home providers. Legislation is being crafted that will create a long-term revenue source for child care providers – a source they can count on every year. <p>Jaci will be participating in Child Care Works meetings from this point forward.</p>
<p>Director Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Funded Program Visits ● HHS Alignment and Conference Update 	<p><i>Funded Program Visits</i> - Jaci has been completing site visits with each of the funded programs to discuss progress in program goals/activities, utilization of funding, and program barriers and successes. A written report will be provided to the NICA Board during the December meeting.</p> <p><i>Preschool Scholarships</i> – Jaci and Kathy updated the preschool scholarship guidelines after the completion of this years' awarding process and to prepare for FY2025. Biggest change - only accepting applications from families attending a preschool that is at a IQ\$K of level 1 or higher. In addition,</p>

	<p>families will be required to provide proof of status of living in one of the three counties.</p> <p><i>HHS Alignment Update</i> - The proposed plan will be based on HHS guidelines; contractors develop action plans to meet core objectives and will still allow for local flexibility to meet local needs to solve local problems. The realignment report should be out in the next couple of weeks and will highlight regional ways to deploy services to assure that all services in one area are in the same regional place so that relationships can be built to provide a continuum of necessary services to families. It was mentioned there is a potential for funding to come in large block grants. Plan for transition and implementation is July 2025-June 2026.</p> <p>Also discussed and emphasized was the need to fund evidence-based programs so that funding may be utilized from the family first dollars.</p>
<p>Financial Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FY24 Funding Summary 	<p>The FY24 funding summary was reviewed. At this time we have not received our 2nd quarter funding distribution from Iowa HHS.</p>
<p>Public Comment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head Start Transportation Program Update • Other Program Updates 	<p>Head Start was unable to present and will be rescheduled another month.</p>
<p>Next Meeting Date</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December 14, 2023 @ 1:00pm via Zoom 	<p>Reminder that we will be meeting at our regularly scheduled time of 1:00pm.</p>
<p>Adjournment</p>	<p>Motion to adjourn by Ken, 2nd by Sis, all in favor. Adjourned at 2:28pm.</p>