

NORTH IOWA CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date: September 19th, 2025

Time: 1:00pm

Location: Zoom

Welcome and Roll Call	Meeting called to order at 1:00pm. Board members present: Chris, Ken, Stephanie, Melinda, Sis and Enos
Approve Agenda	NICA Board Meeting Agenda 09.19.25 motion to approve by Ken, 2 nd by Sis. All in favor.
Minutes - <i>Action Required</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> August 14th, 2025 Minutes 	NICA Board Mtg Minutes 08.14.2025. Motion to approve by Melinda, 2 nd by Ken, All in favor.
Public Comment	No Public Comment
Financials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2026 Funding Summary Directors Financial Outlook 	<p>Lacey shared the final FY26 Funding Summary Spreadsheet. Final carryover amounts from FY25 are. School Ready- \$87,499.94 18%. Early Childhood- \$18,811.17 %14.</p> <p>The board will continue to monitor the budget. And is aware of the need to spend down carryforward dollars first.</p>
Directors Report & ECI Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ECI Redistricting ECI State Update FY25 Annual Report 	<p>The district 3 team held their meet and greet on September 18th for new district board members. Amanda McKee, Liz Ernst & Amanda Winslow from the state TA team attended. The board members who attended this meet and greet were able to ask numerous questions to the TA team about redistricting.</p> <p>The District 3 team is moving forward at a much faster pace for redistricting then District 2 is. District 2 ECI Directors are hesitant to move forward with redistricting since there has been no legislative action. District 3 ECI directors are ready to move forward with redistricting and are following the timeline from Tool U.</p> <p>The NICA board understands that districting is not negotiable. The NICA board raised concerns that each district is moving at different paces. While District 3 is being progressive with moving forward what does that mean for Hancock & Worth County who are in District 2?</p> <p>The NICA board is worried about having local representation on district boards. Having only one board representative from each county is upsetting. Ken stated that he is concerned about adequate staffing & support for directors in districts. As well as contractors who will be split between multiple districts.</p>

	<p>Hancock County is still in need of a board member to volunteer for the District 2 ECI board.</p> <p>The next state ECI board meeting is scheduled for October 17th.</p> <p>The FY25 NICA Annual Report was submitted on September 12th.</p>
<p>Board Business <i>Action Required</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Education Board Member • Family Connections FY26 Contract • FY26 RFP Summaries 	<p>Tony Hiatt Superintendent from Northwood-Kensett Community Schools has volunteered to join the NICA board as our education representative. Motion by Sis to approve Tony Hiatt as our new education board representative. 2nd by Ken. All in Favor. Tony will join us at our October meeting. The search for the NICA Citizen board representative has been suspended.</p> <p>Family Connections FY26 contract was signed on September 16th, 2025. Ken stated that it is crucial that the ECI board maintain their relationship with Family Connections. Motion by Enos to not pay Family Connections July, August and expenses before September 16th invoices due to delay in signing the contract. 2nd by Ken. All in Favor.</p> <p>A detailed discussion about Family Connections was had. The board would like to see an increase in capacity of the number of families served to use the remaining unallocated funds. The board would like to see the funds be used under our current home visitation contract with Family Connections. Family Connections staff is already at capacity with the number of families they can see. The board will continue to have conversations with Family Connections about how they can use additional funds. A meeting will be set up with Family Connections and MercyOne prior to the NICA October board meeting to discuss capacity. The board would like to see a path to move forward with the home visitation unallocated funds in sixty days.</p> <p>Lacey shared with the board the RFP Summaries for review prior to the board meeting. The board has decided which programs to fund for FY26.</p> <p>The board discussed in length the second RFP by the Mason City Chamber of Commerce for their Wages/Child Care Works Program. The board would like to see the Mason City Chamber of Commerce encourage childcare centers to participate in the collaborative, especially in Hancock & Worth County.</p> <p>Motion by Sis to award the Mason City Chamber of Commerce \$50,000 for their Wages/Childcare Works Collaborative. 2nd by Melinda. All in Favor.</p> <p>The board reviewed the RFP by LSI's request for funding for Home Visitation. At this time, the board decided to not fund their request.</p> <p>The board reviewed an RFP by Sunbeam Childcare & Preschool for salary assistance. Sunbeam Childcare & Preschool has been closed for a number of years. While the board was ecstatic to see that they were re-opening. The board ultimately decided to not fund their request.</p>
<p>Board Membership Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Citizen 	<p>The board has decided to suspend pursuing a replacement for the Citizen board opening.</p>

Next Meeting Date <ul style="list-style-type: none"> October 9th, 2025 @ 1pm via Zoom 	Lacey will send a Zoom invite for the October 9th meeting.
Adjournment	Motion to adjourn by Sis 2 nd by Ken. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 2:40pm