

NORTH IOWA CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date: May 15th, 2025

Time: 1:00pm

Location: Zoom

Welcome and Roll Call	Meeting called to order at 1:02pm. Board members present: Chris, Enos, Shana, Heidi, Melinda, Ken, Stephanie, Sis, & Jennifer.
Approve Agenda	NICA Board Meeting Agenda 05.15.2025 motion to approve by Sis, 2 nd by Ken, all in favor.
Minutes - <i>Action Required</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> April 17th, 2025 Minutes 	NICA Board Mtg Minutes 04.17.2025 motion to approve by Enos, 2 nd by Ken, all in favor.
Public Comment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Head Start Transportation- Meghan Judisch 	<p>Head Start Transportation is not at full compacity. NICA O purchased the Little Angels building. The Manly sight is currently full of Mason City families. Clear Lake will have early head start but will reduce their hours. Meghan is unsure if Hancock County will be involved.</p> <p>Transportation Data: The number of Head Start families in Clear Lake has gotten smaller. They believe the decline is due to not having an early head start classroom there. Transportation in Clear Lake was not needed this year. In Mason City they have served 24 children. Their bus maxes out at 20. But One of the successes head start implemented is having two paras and 2 two associates to be a bus aid monitor. It has helped tremendously with safety. Jen</p>
Directors Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board Resignation ECI State Update Preschool Scholarship Process 	<p>Heidi Venem asked Lacey to announce that she needs to step down as our NICA Education Representative from the board effective immediately. Heidi has accepted the position of new Superintendent of Glenville/Emmons Community School District.</p> <p>ECI Draft Allocations have been sent to all 34 ECI areas. Our draft allocation for NICA was \$538,206.55. While we have received allocations the amounts have not been approved by the state ECI board.</p> <p>In preparation for FY26 ECI budget. I have started a contract renewal survey for current contractors. All contractors except CCR&R & CCNC have completed their contract renewal survey. All FY26 budget information needs to be submitted to Iowa Grants by June 1st 2025. This is a very tight turn around.</p> <p>The 2025-2026 preschool year now has new eligibility criteria. Any family who wants to apply for a preschool scholarship through ECI must first apply for Child care assistance. Families must submit a denial and or approval letter to their preschool programs. If a family receives childcare assistance, they will no longer be eligible for a preschool scholarship. Kathy Lloyd at CCR&R was contracted to provide preschool scholarship coordination for the 2024-2025 school year. Now</p>

	that ECI can no longer fund CCR&R. All preschool scholarship coordination will be done through the ECI director.
Financial Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FY25 Funding Summary • Director's Financial Outlook • Carry Over Estimates • FY26 NICA Budget Allocations 	<p>Lacey reviewed the financial statement and Director's financial outlook. This has been an unprecedented year NICA. Not only at the state level but with changes at our local organizations. Many of our programs have had trouble spending down their allocations. A few examples include: HeadStart Transportation's decline of enrollment at Clear Creek Elementary and NICA Mental Health Consultant resignation. The FY25 allocation for preschool scholarships was significantly higher than what was needed. Preschool enrollment was down across the board.</p> <p>The board was given carryover estimates. The board will need to decide on how to spend down those funds.</p> <p>Lacey shared the FY26 draft allocations and broke down the amounts in each category.</p>
Board Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employer or Record FY26- • Unallocated/Carryover Funds • FY26 Program Renewal Request's/Budget Updates • Contract Renewal Board Committee 	<p>Lacey shared the FY26 Employer or Record break down sheet. Which included potential salary increases. The board tabled the discussion of Employer or Record until the next board meeting.</p> <p>Lacey discussed the boards carryover funds. Lacey shared potential program funding options. A potential spend down budget was discussed. The board tabled the discussion on how to spend down funds until the next meeting.</p> <p>Lacey shared that she has been working on the FY26 NICA Budget. The board tabled the discussion and will revisit at the next meeting.</p> <p>Lacey asked the board if they would like to review contract renewals as a whole board or if they would prefer, we have an RFP Committee like in years past. The board decided that they would like to review as a large group since we have a small number of board members.</p>
Next Meeting Date <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 29, 2025 @ 1pm via Zoom 	Lacey will send a Zoom invite for the May 29th meeting.
Adjournment	Motion to adjourn by Shana, 2 nd by Enos all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 2:14pm