



Cedar/Jones Early Childhood Iowa

Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 13th, 2026; 2:00 p.m.

Olin Consolidated School Community Room/Zoom

Members Present: Dionne Daedlow, Darrick Hall, Josh Sundstrom, Heather Weers, and Stephen Williams.

Members Absent: Mike Bixler and Stephanie Musser.

Others Present: Christy Brown, GWAEA; Jaye Geater, HACAP; Melissa Tucker & Amber Brown, LSI; Chelsey Steckley, YPN; Cherie Hennings, Mackenzie Meeks, Nina Laughlin, & Chelsey Carter, Robert Young Center; and Sherri Hunt, Cedar/Jones ECI Director.

- I. Call Meeting to Order** – Board Chairperson Stephen Williams **called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.** Quorum was achieved with 5 out of 7 members present.
- II. Introductions** – All Board members and guests introduced themselves.
- III. Public Comments** – None noted.
- IV. Meeting Minutes** – Josh Sundstrom made a motion, seconded by Darrick Hall **to approve the April 16th, 2026 Board Meeting minutes.** All approved. Motion carried.
- V. FY26 Financials** – Josh Sundstrom made a motion, seconded by Heather Weers **to accept the FY26 Financials as presented.** All approved. Motion carried.
- VI. Legislative Update** – Sherri shared with the Board that State legislation has passed establishing a legislative study committee to review the current ECI system with no current structural changes being implemented. Focus will continue on home visitation services and working to draw down federal funds with home visitation services being contracted through the State HHS. Sherri stressed it will be important to stay informed and engaged in the study process.
- VII. Computer Purchase – Approval of** – Heather Weers made a motion, seconded by Josh Sundstrom **to approve the purchase of a MacBook Air for the amount of \$, not including tax to be utilized by the ECI Director.** All approved. Motion carried.
- VIII. FY27 Fiscal Agent Agreement – Approval of** – Sherri reviewed changes with the FY27 Fiscal Agent Agreement with Cedar County. Changes include processes to be put into place to insure increased accountability by both the Fiscal Agent and the ECI Board. The agreement has been approved by the Cedar County Board of Supervisors. Josh Sundstrom made a motion, seconded by Heather Weers **to approve the FY27 Fiscal Agent Agreement with Cedar County as presented.** All approved. Motion carried.
- IX. Policy Amendments – Preschool Scholarships & Indirect Cost Rate**
– **Approval of Amendments** – The Board discussed both policies, but no action was taken. Sherri will present the Board with formal policy changes at the June Board meeting.

- X. **FY27 Funding Recommendations** – Sherri presented the Board with an overview of FY27 funding renewal requests from currently funded ECI programs. Given the timeliness of the release of FY27 funding and the deadline for submitting a budget, the Project Oversight Committee did not convene to make a recommendation to the Board. Sherri put together a summary document of the program FY27 funding requests that included an overview of the programming, any changes for FY27, and a FY27 Budget request.

The Board discussed the programs and reviewed FY27 draft funding allocations and anticipated FY26 carryover, as well as EIC priorities, State ECI goals, and what factors the Board takes into consideration when making funding decisions.

Josh Sundstrom made a motion, seconded by Heather Weers **to approve FY27 funding allocations as follows:**

- **Grant Wood AEA – CART Program** -- \$91,769.00
- **HACAP – Early Head Start Program Expansion** -- \$44,489.00
- **Lutheran Services in Iowa – Parents As Teachers Home Visitation in Cedar County** - \$58,859.00
- **Young Parents Network – Parents As Teachers Home Visitation in Jones County** -- \$87,718.00
- **Preschool Scholarships** -- \$40,000.00

All approved. Motion carried. Sherri will conduct FY27 contract meetings with contractors and provide the Board with any updates/amendments needed at the June meeting. Participating contractors requested the summary document be shared following the meeting.

- XI. **FY26 Director Evaluation** -- Steve Williams shared with the Board input received from Board members regarding the FY26 Director Evaluation for Sherri Hunt. Following the review, Dionne Daedlow made a motion, seconded by Josh Sundstrom **to accept the FY26 ECI Director Evaluation as presented**. All approved. Motion carried.
- XII. **FY27 Director Proposal** – At the recommendation of the Executive Committee, Sherri presented the Board with the FY27 funding proposal breakdown for the ECI Director. The proposal includes a 2.8% cost of living increase with all other benefits remaining the same for a 20 hour weekly position. Josh Sundstrom made a motion, seconded by Darrick Hall **to approve the FY27 ECI Director funding proposal as presented**. All approved. Motion carried.
- XIII. **FY27 Budget Approval** – Josh Sundstrom made a motion, seconded by Heather Weers **to approve the FY27 Cedar/Jones ECI Budget as presented with an anticipated \$380,394.93 in FY27 funding including FY26 carry forward and \$376,946.26 in expenses leaving approximately \$3,448.57 unallocated**. All approved. Motion carried. Sherri shared with the Board that a final decision regarding unallocated funds will need to be made by October 2026.
- XIV. **Discussions with Clinton/Jackson ECI & Dubuque ECI** – Sherri shared that the Executive Committee met with representatives from the Clinton/Jackson ECI Board. Good discussion was had regarding options for a partnership in FY27 and a possible merge in FY28. The Clinton/Jackson Board also plans to meet with representatives from Dubuque ECI and will get back to us regarding their thoughts on possible next steps.

- XV. Director Update** – Sherri had no other items to share at this time. Her work continues preparing for FY27 with many new requirements from the State ECI office.
- XVI. Adjourn** – Josh Sundstrom made a motion, seconded by Heather Weers **to adjourn the meeting at 3:11 p.m.** All approved. Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 18th, 2026; 9:00 a.m.; Olin CSD/Zoom

Next Exec. Committee Meeting: Tuesday, June 9th, 2026; 11:30 a.m.; Dittos, Stanwood