

Quad Counties 4 Kids Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 28, 2026
Pizza Ranch Conference Room 1 – 520 Livingston Ave, Creston, IA 6:00 PM

Chairperson Don Gee called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM. with the following members in attendance:
Jen Frederick, Sandra Donaldson, Angie Mullen, Kristina Harris

Excused Absent: Al Rusk

Unexcused Absent:

Others Present: Jenny Robinson (Director)

Public Guests: Kristie Nixon, SWCC PAT

Additions/Approval of Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was reviewed. Jen Frederick moved that the agenda be approved. Angie Mullen seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes of October 29, 2025 Meeting

The minutes of the October 29, 2025 meeting were reviewed. Angie Mullen moved to approve the minutes as presented. Kristina Harris seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Public Comments

Report from the Finance Committee

The following is recap of revenue and expenses as listed on the financial report and ledger for FY2026:

- FY2026 Early Childhood Funds: Total spent YTD \$131,983.17 or 35.45% of total funds, with a total anticipated spend of \$318,212.04 or approximately 85%. Received 3rd Quarter payments and received an ICAP Grant for new computer and security equipment.

Angie Mullen moved to approve the FY2026 financial reports and ledgers as presented. Sandra Donaldson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

ICAP grant was reviewed and motion to approve extending director's spending allowance for the purchase of the computer equipment was made by Angie Mullen, seconded by Jen Frederick, the motion passed unanimously.

Board/Director Expense funding was reviewed, and a motion was made by Jen Frederick to approve an additional \$800 for FY2026, Angie Mullen seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Home Visitation family in need of a car seat, which can be used from the Essential Needs funding. Sandra made a motion to approve the purchase; Angie Mullen seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Transportation/PS Scholarship funding discussed. Family in need of emergency transportation in Adams County to attend school was discussed and using extra transportation funding for PS Scholarships, if the need arises. Sandra Donaldson made the motion to approve funding for the family in need and to transfer transportation funds to PS scholarships, if needed, Angie Mullen seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

FY2024 Audit has been started, but no updates yet. FY2025 Audit should start soon.

Director Report to the Board

Calendar items were presented to the board for review. Updates included:

CCR&R new consultant for our area, Shelby Nelson. Growing Iowa Grant for Child Care providers were offered statewide, but funds have been exhausted for our area at this time and staff have been visiting child care providers to support HHS compliance and quality improvement needs.

HSB 500 is standalone bill currently in the subcommittee review for CCA for Child Care Workers. This was the previous CCA Workforce Pilot Program. Highly supported.

Thrive Iowa intent to award has been released, closest to us is Cass County Memorial Hospital.

FY2027 Shared Visions Preschool Program RFP is due 2/6/2026 and the Expanding Early Childhood Continuum of Care grant is due 1/28/2026.

DECAT/CPPC Mini Grants are available for up to \$950.00 to help support local events or programs that benefit children and families age 0-18 years.

Upcoming events include AECIABA Legislative Updates on Feb 9 and Mar 2, State ECI meetings for policy/procedure updates every Friday starting 1/30/2026.

FY2027 ECI Updates

HHS held a town hall meeting on 1/22/2026 to announce proposed legislation. This surprise bill would eliminate ECI, PCA, Decat and CPPC to form one massive statewide Early Childhood and Family Service System for ages 0-18, aligns the HHS districts and creates advisory councils per district effective July 1, 2027, integrate HOPES HFI programming and expands CCA workforce pilot program. Advocacy will be needed to educate our legislators on ECI system and our concerns for local decision making in our rural communities. Next ECI State board meeting is March 6, 2026.

FY2026 Professional Development

Funding Review Committee presented the board with recommendations for PD approvals. Board discussed having Tinker Tots apply for the AEYC Scholarship first before ECI will reimburse for their request. Angie Mullen made a motion to approve SWCC ECE Conference funding and Tinker Tots Professional Development funding with a scholarship denial, Sandra Donaldson seconded the motion when passed unanimously.

Policy Review

Discussion on adding benefit policy recommendation by CIJDC EOR to Quad Counties policies, board reviewed the draft policy, and a motion was made to approve the Benefit Policy as presented by Angie Mullen. Jen Frederick seconded which passed unanimously.

FY2027 RFP Timeline/Committee

FY2027 RFP timeline was reviewed, and FY2027 RFP Funding Review Committee volunteers include Kristina, Don and Sandra. Motion was made by Angie Mullen to approve the funding review committee. Jen Frederick seconded which passed unanimously.

FY2026 Quad Reports

The Midterm Qualtrics report is due 2/28/2026. Board reviewed the report and a motion was made by Angie Mullen to approve as presented. Sandra Donaldson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

FS Data for Quarter 1 and 2 was presented and reviewed by the board.

Professional Development

Tool FF revision was presented and reviewed by the board.

State ECI Board meeting is Friday, March 6 9:00 AM-12:00 PM for anyone board members who wish to attend.

Association Day on the Hill is Tuesday, March 24 7:00-9:00 AM.

Next Meeting Dates

The next meeting will be tentatively February 25 or March 25, 2026 with future meeting scheduled on May 27, 2026.

Agency/Community Updates

SWCC PAT Educator Barb Coenen will be retiring at the end of June and they will need to hire a replacement.

Adjournment

Angie Mullen moved to adjourn the meeting. Jen Frederick seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:06 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jenny Robinson, Director

Sandra Donaldson, Recording Secretary