Quad Counties 4 Kids Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 27, 2026
Pizza Ranch Conference Room 1 – 520 Livingston Ave, Creston, IA 6:00 PM

Chairperson Don Gee called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. with the following members in attendance:
Al Rusk, Kristina Harris, Jen Frederick, Sandra Donaldson,

Excused Absent: Angie Mullen
Unexcused Absent:
Others Present: Jenny Robinson (Director)
Public Guests: None

Additions/Approval of Agenda
The agenda for the meeting was reviewed. Al Rusk moved that the agenda be approved. Kristina Harris seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes of March 25, 2026 Meeting
The minutes of the March 25, 2026 meeting were reviewed. Jen Frederick 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 $234,516.55 or 62.91% of total funds, with a total anticipated spend of $305,808.47, with a carry over of $66,979.94 or 22%, $6,419.14 over our allowed carry over of $60,560.80.
  Sandra Donaldson moved to approve the FY2026 financial reports and ledgers as presented. Jen Frederick seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

- FY2026 Additional Funding Review needs were reviewed and discussed.
  Al Rusk made a motion to use remaining essential needs funds for baby shower baskets and the release of a Quality Improvement grant for ECE providers to use allocated funds up to $40,000 or as needed, Sandra seconded which passed unanimously. Grant amounts will be offered to in-home child care providers, centers and Preschool programs and offered on a sliding award amount based on quality rating ranging from $1,000 up to $2,250, application will be due June 15, 2026.

Director Report to the Board
Calendar items and meetings attended were presented to the board for review.
Legislation that would have restructured ECI did not pass, SF2488 passed on 5/1/2026 instead and was changed to a Study Bill of the Early Childhood System. This current bill reflects a more measured, study-based approach, shifting significantly. Recommended board focus includes partnering with state team for quality improvements, consider mergers and consolidation and prepare to share local data and outcomes. Current ECI Map was reviewed by the board.

FY2026 Annual Board/Director Evaluation
The annual board/director evaluation has been sent to the board through Survey Monkey, if all could complete ASAP, with a completion date of June 5, 2026.

FY2027 RFP Funding Recommendations
The FY2027 RFP committee presented the funding recommendations to the board for review, which includes a 3% increase for the director, effective July 1, 2026. Jen Frederick made a motion to approve the FY2027 funding as presented, Sandra seconded which passed unanimously.

FY2027 KFC – Quad Counties Board Meger

The board reviewed advancing on a board merger with Kids First Communities, that includes Clarke, Decatur, Wayne counties that was presented and approved by the State ECI Board on November 1, 2024 and due to legislation, the local board held off on merging on March 6, 2025 for FY2026. If approved, the State ECI board will be notified on the advancement at the June 5, 2026 board meeting with a signed letter of intent.

Jen Frederick made the motion to move forward with the merger with the KFC area, effective July 1, 2026 for FY2027, Sandra Donaldson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Professional Development

State ECI Board meeting is Friday, June 5 (9:00 AM-12:00 PM) for anyone board members who wish to attend.

For the new merged board, all board members wishing to stay on will complete a board member application and will be advertised in each committee for new board members.

Next Meeting Dates

The next meeting will June 18, 2026 at 6:00 PM in Afton. Board members are encouraged to attend in person. Future meetings TBD.

Agency/Community Updates

SWCC PAT will be hosting community baby showers, with Union Counties on June 8 4:30-6:00 PM at the SWCC campus, multi-purpose room and Adams County on June 15 5-6:30 PM a the Corning Community Center.

Adjournment

Jen Frederick moved to adjourn the meeting. Sandra Donaldson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:38 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jenny Robinson, Director

Sandra Donaldson, Recording Secretary