

**JMP (Jasper, Marion, Poweshiek) EARLY CHILDHOOD AREA  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Foundation Offices at Ahrens Park, 1510 Penrose Ave, Grinnell, IA  
Wednesday, January 23, 2019 at 5:15 pm

<i>Name</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Excused</i>	<i>Unexcused</i>	<i>Non-Board</i>
John Grennan (business) Board Vice Chair	X				
Steve McCombs (elected)	X				
John Leeper (citizen)	X				
Muriel Johannessen (faith)	X				
Doug Cameron (education)	X				
Mary Lindberg (citizen) Board Treasurer	X				
Britney Schnathorst (consumer) Board Chair	X				
Betty Moll (health)	X				
Julie Wendl (human services)	X				
Amy Blanchard (Director)	X				X

- I. The meeting was called to order by Doug Cameron at 5:25 pm.
- II. Roll Call: Due to inclement weather conditions, the board meeting location was changed to Grinnell with a conference call option for any board member or provider that did not wish to travel. JMP Board Members present at the Foundation Offices include Cameron and Lindberg. JMP Board Members present via conference call include Grennan, Johannessen, Leeper, McCombs, Moll, Schnathorst and Wendl. A quorum was reached.
- III. Approval of Minutes: **Motion to approve** minutes of November 28, 2018 board meeting by Lindberg. **Seconded** by Moll. Motion passed unanimously.
- IV. Treasurer's Report: Board reviewed the financial report current as of January 16, 2019. Lindberg noted spending is proceeding as expected. She recently reviewed preschool scholarship reimbursements from two schools that submitted several vouchers at once due to staff changes at the schools. Cameron asked that the Treasurer's Report be accepted and filed for audit.
- V. Public Comment/Provider Reports: No providers were present at the meeting. Two providers sent updates which were shared with the board. Gienger reported via email that everything is going well with providers and trainings. She is looking forward to services getting underway with the new CCNC, Laura Peterman. Garner reported via email that both Parents as Teachers programs are serving the maximum number of families they can. Newly referred families will be put on a waiting list. Parent Cafés are going well in both counties. Program will credential at the end of March. Blanchard added that Garner is considering moving the Jasper County PAT office in to a new space in the same building which would incur an increase in rent but would allow the educators more flexibility for storage and greeting families in their office. It will be a nominal increase and it appears the budget can accommodate the additional cost. Garner will coordinate with the building owner for the office shift.
- VI. Director's Report: The director's report was included in the board packet. There were no comments or questions from the Board.

## Old Business:

- a. JMP Strategic Planning committee: The JMP board has the opportunity to participate in a facilitated strategic planning process as part of a grant received by GPCF. A committee of 3 to 4 JMP board members would meet one to two times a month for about four months to work through the process. The timing is helpful as the JMP board crafts a new five-year community plan. Board members asked if the meetings would be during the day, if a conference call option would work, and if there was a possibility to condense the meetings into fewer, longer sessions.. Blanchard will check with the facilitator, Nicole Brua-Behrens. Cameron and Schnathorst said they could serve on the committee if the time commitment could be worked out. Blanchard will review the overall process to identify if the model will be helpful to JMP's work process. Issue was tabled until further information could be gathered.
- b. The JMP website link was shared with board members for their review. Overall impressions were good. Board members were asked to review it and provide feedback as needed.

## VII. New Business:

- a. Quality Improvement Initiatives for Preschools and Daycares: The grant applications were released in January and are due back on February 22. After discussion, board decided that all applications will be reviewed by all board members prior to the February 27 JMP board meeting. Discussion and scoring of grants will be an agenda item at the February meeting. Tentative funding recommendations will be made at that time and final approval of grants will take place at the March 20<sup>th</sup> JMP board meeting. Grantees will be notified in early April and grant reports will be due to Blanchard by October 1. Blanchard will create a scoring rubric to facilitate grant review.
- b. Board members reported on existing needs assessments in each of their counties. All three counties described mental health services were lacking and a high percentage of respondents to the surveys listed mental health as a top priority for their county. Expansion of Medicaid was also identified as a need, which might assist with mental health services as well. Crisis intervention services have expanded in Jasper and Poweshiek counties. A new urgent care clinic has opened in the Hy-Vee in Newton which should help decrease ER visits. When asked about availability of health services in Jasper County, one board member commented that Skiff is very good about making arrangements for specialists. The same is true for Grinnell Regional Medical Center and their new affiliation with Unity Point Health. Another board member commented that challenges are created when neighboring counties are served by different overarching regions, such as the Mental Health Regions. Poweshiek and Jasper county are in the same Mental Health and Disability region but Marion county is served by another. For Marion County, some assessments seemed outdated. The Marion County Public Health assessment clearly defined needs, which included mental health and substance abuse as top priorities. The immunization rate in Marion is not as high as the rest of the State but it is interesting that the poverty rate, food assistance rate and free and reduced lunch rate is lower than the average in the rest of Iowa. Also, lack of family planning services and mental health assistance for adolescents is noted in assessments. Obesity is also an issue. Another board member commented that the low unemployment rate is often considered a good thing in Iowa but the residents that are working 2 to 3 jobs in order to make ends meet are rarely discussed. It was also noted that all assessments reviewed focused on health needs and none mentioned childcare as a health-related issue. It could be the role of JMP board members to make quality childcare part of the discussion. The MICA assessment did note that many respondents did identify access to childcare as an obstacle but few said that the cost of childcare was prohibitive.

- c. Mid Year Data Reports from Providers: FY19 mid-year data reports with historical mid-year data for the past 2 years were included in the board packet. Blanchard noted several highlights among the data sets including an increased number of infants served at Grinnell Community Daycare, an increase in visits by Child Care Resource and Referral which might reflect referrals from DHS to CCR&R for new potential providers and the new column tracking number of attendees at trainings in our service area through Early Care and Education and CCR&R. Success stories and collaborations were also included with the data sets.
  - d. FY20 RFP Review: The proposed FY20 Request for Proposal was included with the board packet. No language changed from the previous year but all dates were updated. Board reviewed the timeline for the grants. **Motion** to approve the FY20 RFP by Lindberg. **Seconded** by Wendl. Motion passed unanimously.
- VIII. Other: Steve McCombs is no longer assigned JMP as one his committees as a Marion County Supervisor. Kisha Jahner will replace him. He will accompany her to the board meeting in February and make introductions. The board thanked Steve for his service.
- IX. Adjournment: **Motion** by Lindberg to adjourn. **Seconded** by Johannessen. Meeting was adjourned at 6:20 pm. The JMP Board is scheduled to meet February 27, 2019 at 5:15 pm at Skiff Medical Center in Newton.