

**Kids First Communities Board Meeting
Hybrid Meeting
In-Person Meeting: The Village - Osceola
Electronic Meeting: VIA Zoom
May 21, 2026 • 5:00 PM**

Mary DeLong, Board Chair called the board meeting to order at 5:01 PM with a declaration of a quorum.

Board Members Present:

Mary DeLong, Clarke (required human services); Ron Schlichte, Clarke (required business); Athena Porter, Decatur (required consumer); Kathy Lerma, Decatur (required health); Marvin McCann, Clarke (required education);

Board Members Absent: Linda Prunty, Wayne (public/elected official)

Director Present: Jenny Robinson

Guests: Erin Harrison, SCICAP PAT; Jen Mitchell, SCICAP Headstart

No additions or corrections to agenda.

Motion to approve agenda: Marvin McCann

Second: Kathy Lerma

Action: All ayes motion carried unanimously.

After reviewing minutes from the 3/19/2026 Board Meeting, motion to approve minutes as presented.

Motion to approve: Athena Porter

Second: Kathy Lerma

Action: All ayes motion carried unanimously.

Agency Updates:

Jen Mitchell, SCICAP Headstart Supervisor announced that Osceola Headstart received Shared Visions 5 year grant award. Erin Harrison SCICAP PAT Supervisor announced that the Wayne PAT program was awarded 3 CPPC mini grants were they will be offering upcoming family events in Wayne County.

Reports:

Financial Reports

- **FY2026 Financial Reports**

- FY2026 Financial Report and Ledger distributed for review.

Funds Spent YTD: \$284,193.86 or 64% YTD, with anticipation of \$372,883.84 or 83% of funds with carry over balance of \$73,975.83 or 20%.

After reviewing the FY2026 financial report and ledger, a motion was made to approve the FY2026 financial reports and claims as presented.

Motion to approve: Ron Schlichte

Second: Kathy Lerma

Action: All ayes motion carried unanimously

Director Report

Copies of the Director report was distributed for Board member review and discussion. Meetings attended since our last meeting were recapped in the report. The following items were highlighted:

- Legislation that would have restructured the ECI system 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, considering mergers and consolidation and preparing to share local data and outcomes.

- Current ECI Map was reviewed by the board.

New Business

- **FY2026 Additional Funding Review included:**

- The Village for Professional Development of \$780 for CPR/First Aid Training
- Reallocated \$1,000 for Wage Enhancements in CPC category from PS Funds in Discretionary.
Motion to approve: Ron Schlichte
Second: Athena Porter
Action: All ayes motion carried unanimously
- Quality Improvement grants to increase to \$25,000 to call Child Care Providers including in-home, centers, and preschool programs.
Motion to approve: Marvin McCann
Second: Kathy Lerma
Action: All ayes motion carried unanimously

- **KFC – Quad Board Merger**

- The board reviewed advancing on a board merger with Quad Counties, that includes Union, Adams, Ringgold and Taylor 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 of the advancement at the June 5, 2026 board meeting with a signed letter of intent.
Motion to approve: Ron Schlichte
Second: Kathy Lerma
Action: All ayes motion carried unanimously

- **FY2027 RFP Funding Review Recommendations**

- The FY2027 RFP committee presented the funding recommendations to the board for review, which includes a 3% increase in Salary for the Director effective July 1, 2026.
Motion to approve: Ron Schlichte
Second: Kathy Lerma
Action: All ayes motion carried unanimously

Old Business:

- Annual Board/Director Evaluation was created and emailed to all board members.

Board Development

- Board members will complete an application to remain on the newly formed board, if approved.
- Board members are encouraged to attend the June 5, 2026 State ECI Board meeting.

Meeting dates

Next board meeting will be June 18, 2026, if board merger is approved 6:00 PM, location TBD.

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Kathy Lerma, seconded by Ron Schlichte, followed by unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 6:05 PM.

Submitted Jenny Robinson, KFC Director

Recorded by Athena Porter, KFC Secretary