



Meeting Minutes

June 24, 2026

Building 31, Room FG and MS Teams

10:00 a.m.

Members, Liaisons and Guests in Attendance: Susan Borst, Joe Bonner, Anne Schmitz, Helena Gabor, Debra Harding, Yuejun Wang, Risa Isonaka, Mary Rooney, Moraima Matus-Nicodemos, Katie Baker, Jackie Franco, Annie Carmona, Virginia Salo, Kristin Brethel-Haurwitz, Jennifer Rooms, Jasmin Bush, Tuba Fehr, James Blue, Tammie Edwards, Judith Walters, Jay Day, Sean Cullinane, Emma Brodsky, Richard Opang

I. Welcome

Co-Chair Ms. Jackie Franco opened the final meeting of the 2025-2026 board term and welcomed board members, liaisons, guests, and presenters. She reflected on the board year as a period of resetting and refocusing and thanked members for their continued commitment to NIH families and family-focused initiatives. Ms. Franco also recognized the strong response to the recent membership campaign and thanked the Membership Committee and its co-chairs for their leadership.

Special welcomes were extended to Dr. Jay Day and to Mr. Sean Cullinane of the Division of Amenities and Transportation Services (DATS), who joined the meeting to provide a transportation update related to summer Metro construction.

II. Approval of Minutes

Co-Chair Dr. Tuba Fehr called for approval of the previous meeting minutes. A motion to approve was made by Dr. Joe Bonner, a second was received, and voting members were asked to indicate approval. The minutes were approved.

III. Summer Metro Closure and Transportation Update

Mr. Sean Cullinane, DATS, provided an overview of WMATA summer construction affecting Metro service near the NIH Bethesda campus. The work is associated with Purple Line integration at Bethesda and other infrastructure improvements.

- Medical Center, Grosvenor-Strathmore, and Bethesda Metro stations will be closed from July 5 through September 5, 2026.
- Planned work includes fare-gate, switchgear, lighting, cleaning, and other station improvements.
- WMATA will operate local and express shuttle buses between Friendship Heights and North Bethesda; shuttle service is expected approximately every 5-8 minutes.
- Dedicated bus lanes along Rockville Pike will support shuttle operations beginning July 5.
- Regular WMATA bus and Montgomery County Ride On schedules are not expected to be affected.
- NIH shuttle routes and timetables will not be changed for the closure period.
- WMATA parking garages at Grosvenor-Strathmore and North Bethesda will be free during the construction period.

In response to a question about NIH parking and shuttle options, Mr. Cullinane explained that NIH is not able to expand parking access at other NIH locations or alter shuttle stops and schedules because of policy and resource constraints. He also noted that prior Metro closures have resulted in some affected riders shifting to driving, which may increase roadway traffic.

Ms. Susan Borst stated that the transportation slides would be shared with the NIH child care centers for prominent display to help families who use public transportation. She also announced that the NIH Parking Office has returned to Building 31 near the A entrance and that the NIH Federal Credit Union was expected to reopen July 6.

IV. Membership Committee Update

Dr. Joe Bonner, co-chair of the Membership Committee with Ms. Ila Flannigan, reported on the successful 2026 membership campaign and introduced four candidates recommended for the next board year, beginning in September 2026:

- Dr. Virginia Salo, NICHD - Program Officer
- Ms. Emma Brodsky, NCI - Program Analyst
- Dr. Richard Opang, NHGRI - Intramural program representative
- Ms. Jasmine Lively, OD - Auditor

Dr. Bonner thanked all applicants and interview participants and emphasized the value of maintaining overlap between experienced and incoming members. He noted that voting members would consider the recommended candidates in a brief closed session following the open meeting.

V. ORS and Child & Family Programs Updates

Ms. Susan Borst provided updates from Child & Family Programs and related ORS activities.

- Take Your Child to Work Day was described as a major success, with strong attendance, more than 200 volunteers, and more than 300 science opportunities and activities for participating children. Ms. Borst recognized Deanna Knox and Tanya Lee for their leadership in planning the event on an accelerated timeline.
- Ms. Borst announced that Ms. Deanna Knox has separated from NIH after 25 years of federal service. The board expressed appreciation for her contributions to Child & Family Programs, the Child Care Board, and stakeholder activities. A certificate of appreciation will be shared with her.
- At Safety, Health and Wellness Day, Child & Family Programs promoted the Child Care Board, child care centers, Nursing Mothers Program, parenting and adult support listservs, and the Child Care Subsidy Program. Board members were encouraged to help distribute program information through IC communication channels.
- A planned series of Kaiser wellness webinars for the remainder of 2026 was cancelled because minimum registration requirements were not met. Members were encouraged to use existing NIH wellness classes, webinars, and resources.
- Articles are being sought for the summer edition of the News to Use publication; the draft deadline announced during the meeting was August 12, 2026.

Dr. Tammie Edwards thanked Ms. Knox for her service, congratulated the child care centers on recent graduations, and thanked center staff for their support of Take a Hike Day. She confirmed receipt of new-member candidate applications for forwarding to leadership and thanked the board for its continued support.

VI. Child Care Center Reports

A. Parents of Preschoolers, Inc. (POPI)

POPI representatives were not available to provide a report. Ms. Borst noted that this is a particularly busy period for the centers because of graduations and end-of-year celebrations, and the board will receive an update at a future meeting.

B. Northwest Child Care Center (NWCCC)

Ms. Borst shared updates provided by Ms. Jennifer Rooms regarding Northwest Child Care Center activities:

- Preschool graduation was held June 12 with strong family participation.
- A professional in-service day was held June 18 and included a staff meeting, professional development, and seasonal center preparation.
- Summer pool visits and water-play activities have begun, including foam-party activities.
- A family ice cream social was scheduled for July 2.
- Additional summer enrichment includes Mad Science, Great Zucchini, a pirate party, and an end-of-summer celebration.

C. NIH Child Care Center at ECDC / Summer Program

Ms. Anne Schmitz reported on the nine-week summer program, which includes more than 20 field trips and four special events. Children attend the pool twice each week. Planned activities include trips to a Washington Mystics game, a farm, the National Zoo, Great Falls, the National Air and Space Museum,

bowling, and movies, along with special programs such as Reptile World, Blue Sky Puppetry, and magic shows.

Ms. Schmitz also recommended the film “No Country for Mothers,” noting its focus on the challenges faced by working families with young children and the affordability of child care.

VII. Child & Family Program Resources and Board Participation

Ms. Borst highlighted the updated Child & Family Program services flyer, including information on NIH child care centers, parenting and adult support listservs, the Life Management listserv, and the Nursing Mothers Program. She announced that the final option year of the Babies in Business contract supporting the Nursing Mothers Program had been extended, allowing lactation specialist services and education classes to remain available to the NIH community.

Ms. Borst reviewed the current listing of board membership and committee assignments. Incoming members will be contacted regarding committee preferences. Board members are encouraged to participate in two committees during the board year and may contact committee chairs for additional information.

VIII. Announcements and Adjournment

- Annual report guidance from NIH leadership remains pending. Once guidance is received, the co-chairs will meet with the board and notify committee chairs regarding next steps.
- The first meeting of the 2026-2027 board year will be held September 24, 2026, in hybrid format. Members who are able were encouraged to attend in person.
- Current voting members were asked to remain after the open meeting for a brief closed session concerning membership recommendations.

With no additional open-session business, the meeting concluded at approximately 10:41 a.m., followed by the closed session for current voting board members.

The next CCB meeting will be held on September 24, 2026, in person and via MS Teams.