

Iowa Community Empowerment Newsletter

August 2003
Volume 4, Issue 5

Questions/Comments:
Kris Bell, (515) 281-4537
Kris.bell@idom.state.ia.us



Smart Start Shares with Iowa

*Iowa's Early
Childhood Vision:*

**Every child,
beginning at birth,
will be healthy and
successful.**

Karen Ponder, President of
North Carolina's Partnership
for Children



Iowa Community Empowerment is celebrating its 5th Anniversary! As part of its celebration, the week of July 9th hosted a wonderful series of events with the technical assistance expertise from North Carolina's Smart Start initiative.

We were appreciative of the knowledge and experience of *Karen Ponder*, President of the North Carolina Partnership for Children, *Tony Solari*, Policy Analyst of the North Carolina Partnership for Children; *Leslie Anderson*, Coach for the Technical Assistance Grant; *Vivian Hamilton*, Executive Director of the Iredell County Partnership; and *Carol Coulter*, Executive Director of the Ashe County Partnership.



Events for the week included a Community Empowerment State Advisory Council meeting, an Early Childhood Core Stakeholders Group meeting, an Early Care, Health and Education Symposium and finally the Iowa Empowerment Board meeting. Smart Start provided training, leadership, rich conversation and inspiration to continue to move forward with our efforts. Unduplicated, Smart Start shared with about 250 Iowans just that week!

Because of limited space, we weren't able to accommodate everyone wishing to attend the symposium. Here are messages and themes shared during that day (a limited supply of symposium information packets are available from the Empowerment Office):

- Brief Basic Principals of Smart Start; Iowa was chosen for ITAG Grant because important components are in place.
- We have to continue to think comprehensively -- for all children
- Components of quality child care system
- Child care is part of larger early care, health and education system
- Description of where North Carolina was; where they want to be; where they are; and how they got there; what they still need to do with regard to: the components of the system; subsidy, standards, child care workforce, professional development, compensation, system building
- How that system building works and looks like at the local level.
- Building collaborative leadership
- Highlights of their advocacy system: building state and local constituency; how to build Collaborative advocacy efforts

Iowa's Early Childhood Vision: Every Child, beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful.

Iowa Empowerment Board Meeting – July 11, 2003

During its July 11th Board Meeting, the Iowa Empowerment Board voted to have more meetings in 2004.

The board heard presentations from the Smart Start folks as well. These presentations focused on the role the board can play to further the initiative and how they can encourage the efforts at the community level system building.

We have an electronic copy of Executive Director of the North Carolina Partnership, Karen Ponder's presentation notes. It was an inspirational and though-provoking message. If you would like a copy of those notes, contact the state empowerment office.

The Board continues to work on its Leadership Agenda strategies and action steps.

The following quote was shared by Karen Ponder as she presented to the Iowa Empowerment Board on July 11, 2003.

By George Bernard Shaw: "This is the true joy in life. Being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one, and being a force of nature instead of a feverish, selfish little clod of ailments and grievances, complaining the world will not devote itself to making you happy. I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community, and as long as I live, it is a privilege to do for it whatever I can. I want to be thoroughly used up when I die; for the harder I work, the more I live. I rejoice in life for its own sake. Life is no 'brief candle' for me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for the moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it to future generations."



Madellyn Wagler sharing an Empowerment 5th Anniversary Celebration presentation.

It's Official! – Iowa Receives System Grant Program Award

Iowa, through the Department of Public Health, Bureau of Family Health applied for and just received notification that we received a State Maternal and Child Health Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) Grant.

IDPH will partner with Iowa Community Empowerment to develop the single comprehensive plan for early childhood: Iowa's Early Care, Health, and Education System.

Iowa's proposed goals and objective build on the systems planning work already started. The project under this grant will build on the work begun under North Carolina's Smart Start Technical Assistance grant, the extensive stakeholder input and the Smart Start consultants' recommendations. This grant proposal identifies a framework for collaborative planning that will result in a single comprehensive plan for developing Iowa's early childhood system.

Look for more information in upcoming issues of this newsletter.

Iowa four-year-olds entering school this fall, or 18-month-olds attending a licensed day-care center, are now required to be vaccinated against chickenpox. At least one dose of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine, or a history of having had the illness will be required. The vaccination requirement was approved by the Iowa Legislature and signed into law by Governor Tom Vilsack this spring.

In addition to chickenpox, the other required school immunizations are for diphtheria, hepatitis B, measles, pertussis (whooping cough), polio, rubella, and tetanus.

For many parents, chickenpox is regarded as a childhood rite of passage. However, it is a serious disease that can lead to serious lifetime medical disability, and in some rare cases, death. Among those most likely to suffer complications are adults who contract the illness from their children. By protecting children from the illness, their parents and grandparents should be at reduced risk as well.

Parents and physicians who choose not to immunize children against vaccine preventable illnesses create a risk for the entire population. Having a well-immunized community decreases the opportunity for community-wide exposure to illness. Additionally, those who have chosen not to be immunized open the possibility of contracting the illness at a later age when there is a greater frequency of complications.

The department's federally funded Vaccines for Children program provides the chickenpox vaccine to Medicaid-eligible persons who have no insurance through physicians and local health departments. People who have insurance but do not have coverage for immunizations and who meet income-eligibility requirements, can receive the vaccine at a federally qualified health center.

Chickenpox Shot Required for Iowa Children

*Vaccination means
healthier children and
adults*

**Kevin Teale - Communications
Director at Iowa Department of
Public Health**

What is the Early Childhood Core Stakeholders Group?

Early Childhood Core Stakeholders Group

- Area Education Agencies
- Child and Family Policy Center
- Child Care Resource and Referral
- Child Development Coordinating Council
- Child Health Specialty Clinics
- Community Empowerment Areas
- Dental Health Advisory Council
- Department of Education
- Department of Human Rights
- Department of Human Services
- Department of Public Health
- Early ACCESS
- FaDSS Council
- Head Start Association
- Head Start Collaboration Office
- HOPES Advisory Council
- Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children
- Iowa Child Care and Early Education Network
- Iowa Early Care and Education Professional Development
- Iowa Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health
- Iowa State Extension
- Iowa State University
- Maternal and Child Health Advisory Council
- Prevent Child Abuse Iowa
- State Child Care Advisory Council
- State Library of Iowa
- United Way of Central Iowa
- Urban Education Network

Upon receiving the technical assistance grant from North Carolina in 2001, Community Empowerment was asked to convene a group of early childhood stakeholders that could provide a picture of Iowa's early childhood situation. The assessment process took a full day to complete.

Smart Start requested no more than 30-35 people in this group. Community Empowerment selected individuals that wore more than one hat to provide that input. (During this assessment phase Smart Start did meet with other groups during their three-day trip to gather as much information as possible about Iowa.) Results from this visit and the assessment were the foundation of the work that has consumed the Smart Start grant.

The Core Stakeholders has continued to meet throughout the grant period. This group has lead the way in sharing and supporting a common vision for the early childhood system in Iowa. That vision is "Every child, beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful."

In October of 2002, regional stakeholder input was received from over 250 people across the state regarding goals for the early childhood system. The Core Stakeholders group gathered that input and summarized into a document many are using to better understand their role in this system.

The vision and goals developed by the Core Stakeholders through extensive stakeholder input have been shared with many early childhood agencies and organizations and have been formally endorsed and adopted by many. (See the Vision and Goals on list of Endorsers on the following pages.)

During its July meeting, the Core Stakeholders group made a decision to continue its existence. They have served in an advisory capacity to the Smart Start Technical Assistance grant work and will continue on to serve as an advisory group to the Early Childhood Comprehensive System (ECCS) grant (see earlier article). The Core Stakeholders purpose: "Be a catalyst in the development of Iowa's comprehensive, integrated early care, health and education system."

Functions

Serve in an advisory capacity to:

- Iowa Empowerment Board
- ECCS Planning Grant
- State Departments
- Other identified early care, health and education planning boards, commissions and initiatives
- Serve as liaison/ally to constituency groups
- Ensure seamless services to children and families through braided funding streams

Specific activities include, but not limited to:

- Review, design, participate in cross-functional proposals
- Understand all parts of the system (building knowledge)
- Assess, understand, and respond to internal and external threats to system
- Create and keep system plan updated
- Assess progress against the plan.
- Agree on common language for the system
- Develop a menu of best practices and why
- Encourage personal relationships across disciplines
- Maximize resources and expertise across the system
- Be advocates for Early Care, Health and Education System

The group consists of representatives from the organizations listed at the left.

As they continue to meet, we will provide updates in this newsletter and also be creating a page on the empowerment website to include their minutes and any other helpful materials.

Building Iowa's Early Care,
Health and Education
System begins with a Vision
and Goal Statements

Iowa's Early Care, Health and Education System June 2003

VISION: Every child, beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful.**

Endorsers Vision and Goals (July 2003)

- AEA Directors of Special Education
- AEA Early Childhood Network
- Bureau of Family Health, Child Health Advisory Team
- Bureau of Family Health, Women's Health Team
- Child Care Resource and Referral
- Child Development Coordinating Council
- Dept. of Education Early Learning Team
- Dept. of Human Rights Administration
- Dept. of Human Services Administration
- Early ACCESS Regional Coordinators
- Early Childhood Special Education Network (AEA)
- Early Care, Health and Education Congress
- Family Development and Self-Sufficiency (FaDSS) Council
- Governor's Children's Cabinet
- Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children
- Iowa Childcare and Early Education NetWork
- Iowa Early ACCESS Council
- Iowa Empowerment Board
- Iowa Head Start Association
- Iowa Head Start Collaboration Office
- Maternal and Child Health Advisory Council
- Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Commission
- Special Education Advisory Panel
- State Childcare Advisory Council

RESULT: *HEALTHY CHILDREN*

GOALS:**

- Increase access to and utilization of social, emotional and mental health services.
- Increase access to and utilization of preventive health care services
- Increase the number of children with a medical home
- Increase the number of children with a dental home
- Increase the number of children with health care coverage
- Increase access to and utilization of prenatal care services

RESULT: *CHILDREN READY TO SUCCEED IN SCHOOL*

GOALS:

- Increase the capacity of schools to be ready to meet the educational needs of all children
- Increase the level of performance of children in the areas of learning, communication, movement, self-help, social skills and emotional health
- Increase family capacity to provide a quality early learning environment
- Increase access to affordable quality early learning environments for all children

RESULT: *SECURE AND NURTURING FAMILIES*

GOALS:

- Increase the safety of children in their home environments
- Increase positive relationships between children and parents
- Increase the number of families who have sufficient resources to provide a stable home to support the well-being of children
- Increase effective opportunities to learn about child development and parenting skills

RESULT: *SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES*

GOALS:

- Increase public engagement and support for families with young children.
- Increase workplace commitment to families
- Increase community investment in early care, health and education system
- Increase the recognition of cultural diversity and the promotion of culturally competent practices.

RESULT: *SECURE AND NURTURING CHILD CARE ENVIRONMENTS*

GOALS:

- Increase the number of high quality child care/early learning environments for all children
- Increase parent and community knowledge about quality child care/early learning environments
- Increase parent and community demand for quality child care/early learning environments
- Increase the accessibility and affordability of high quality child care/early learning environments for all children

**Vision and Goals developed by Smart Start Core Stakeholders and extensive regional stakeholder input.

June 2003

**Meet Iowa
Empowerment Board
Member
Mary Mincer-Hansen**



**Dr. Mary Mincer Hansen
Director of the Iowa Department of Public Health**

Dr. Mary Mincer Hansen, RN, PhD joined the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) in 2000 as a research fellow on the CDC-supported patient safety research program. A registered nurse and educator, she is the first nurse selected as Director of the IDPH.

Dr. Hansen earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Creighton University, and completed her MS degree in Nursing at Texas Women's University. She earned a PhD in Higher Education from Iowa State University. She has also earned a Certificate from the Harvard University Executive Program in Health Policy and Management, and a Certificate from the George Mason University Health Policy Institute Health Policy Workshop.

Dr. Hansen has extensive experience as a health care professional as well as an educator, researcher, and policy advisor at the state and national levels in the fields of nursing and public health administration, improving patient outcomes, promoting patient safety, and creating effective health care coalitions. She has contributed to a textbook and written articles in national journals.

Dr. Hansen has served on Senator Tom Harkin's Health Advisory Committee, is a charter member of the National Health Policy Council, and has served as the past Director of the Drake Center for Health Issues and Co-chair of Iowans United for a Healthy Future. She also has recently served as President of the Iowa Public Health Foundation and has participated in the Healthy Iowans 2010 review team and the Iowa Healthy Kids taskforce

Dr. Hansen's honors include Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Honor Society, Phi Delta Kappa International, Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, Iowa State University Excellence in Research Award, Presidential Appointment to the John F. Kennedy Advisory Committee for the Arts, Who's Who in Medicine and Health Care, and the Iowa Nurses Association Theresa Christy Award.

**Iowa Early Care Health
and Education Congress**

**November 18-19, 2003
Scheman Center, Ames**

An Economic Growth approach to issues/workshops will be one focus for this year's event. Economist Dr. Mildred Warner has been confirmed as a keynote presenter. Joan Lombardi will be another featured keynote.

As more details are determined, we will pass the information along.

Empowerment Options with the Iowa Program for Infant & Toddler Caregivers (PITC) Trainings

By Beth Walling, State
Coordinator

Wouldn't it be great if all of the adults taking care of Iowa's infants and toddlers were able to help our children reach their full potential in life? And wouldn't it be wonderful if these same adults had the information and skills that could lead to earlier special needs identification and intervention? Many, many providers have shared with us that they appreciate having the knowledge and support which was gained in the PITC trainings. It clearly makes sense for all of us to approach this specialized care with the same philosophy.

The Iowa Department of Education and the Iowa Department of Human Services invested in the development of the IA PITC system so that all providers in the state might have access to these free trainings. Community Empowerment partnerships with IA PITC and the Iowa Child Care Resource & Referral agencies make perfect sense as we all strive to ensure that "Every child, beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful."

Some options for Community Empowerment Areas might include:

1. Increase community awareness of the IA PITC trainings by funding advertisements in local newspapers, shoppers, etc. (prices will vary)
2. Support provider participation in a training plan program (40 hours of training) = \$200.00 per participant.
3. Support provider participation by paying for their own child care expenses (prices will vary).
4. Fund a 40 hour training series = \$2,000.00 Trainer expenses plus supplies
5. Purchase training/resource materials for a center or home provider's library to use in conjunction with the trainings (videos, books, etc.) =
Module I \$199.00 (for each module package plus \$5.95 shipping and handling)
Module II \$269.00
Module III \$209.00
Module IV \$159.00
6. Support the training of a new trainer = approximately \$6,500.00 for direct costs (regional needs vary)
7. Support the training of a new trainer by reimbursing their time off to attend the institutes.

For information on PITC please go to: www.dhs.state.ia.us/ACFS/pitc/pitc.asp

Please contact the regional Infant Toddler Specialists who may assist in answering any questions or arrange for community-based trainings to occur:

Region 1 (northwest Iowa)	Kari Daale	800-859-2025/712-786-2001
Region 2 (northeast Iowa)	Tiffany Luck	800-475-0804/319-233-0804
Region 3 (southwest Iowa)	Toni Stork	800-945-9778/712-755-7381
Region 4 (central Iowa)	Anne Kelly	800-722-7619/515-286-3536
Region 5 (southeast Iowa)	Barbara Newcomb	800-369-3778/319-324-1302

Upcoming Events

Iowa Empowerment Board

October 3, 2003

State Advisory Council

August 26th

CANCELLED

Contact/Coordinator

Meeting Schedule

September 24, 2003

Urbandale Library

**(this is a change of
date!)**

Mark Your Calendars!!

Iowa Empowerment Board Training Day

September 10, 2003 –

Cedar Rapids Area

OR

September 11, 2003 –

Atlantic Area

(see registration form in
this newsletter.)

Early Care, Health and Education Congress

November 18-19, 2003

Scheman Center, Ames

Every Child Matters in Iowa

The Every Child Matters Education Fund is a new 501(c)3 non-profit organization whose goal in Iowa is to use the media spotlight of the caucuses to make children a top political priority.

By employing a systematic and adequately funded public education campaign in early primary and caucus states, The Every Child Matters Education Fund will provide a new opportunity for focusing public attention on important children's issues including the prevention of child abuse and neglect, improving the health of low-income children, and finding solutions in child care, pre-kindergarten and early childhood education, and after-school programs.

The Every Child Matters Education Fund will make children and family issues more visible to voters, and will encourage non-voters to participate in the process. The Every Child Matters Education Fund will urge all of the presidential candidates to address the problems children face? both in the early primary and caucus states and nationally.



Working with Iowa volunteers and Organizations, The Every Child Matters Education Fund Will conduct a campaign of:

- *Public opinion polling*
- *Press outreach, including “Iowa Kids-Watch” alerts from Washington, DC, press conferences, Op-Eds, a Iowa-specific web site and research*
- *Field organizing and outreach to caucus-voters, parents, and leaders throughout Iowa*
- *Participation and visibility at campaign and civic events – including hosting events, forums, and debates*
- *Visibility through paid TV, radio, and print ads, billboards, event-based and door-to-door canvassing of with literature, bumper-sticker, yard sign, and other campaign materials*

To participate, volunteer, or receive Every Child Matters education fund Action Alerts please call 515-288-9810 or visit www.EveryChildMatters.org



Other Events and Activities

The Governor's Conference on Public Health – Barn Raising IV

August 14-15, 2003

Drake University,

Des Moines

www.idph.state.ia.us

Iowa AEYC State Conference

October 10-11, 2003

Polk County Convention

Complex, Des Moines

ICAA Annual Conference

October 20-22, 2003

www.iowacommunityaction.com

2004 National Smart Start Conference

Building Brighter Futures

January 25-28, 2004

Greensboro, NC

www.ncsmartstart.org

With back-to-school season fast approaching, summer presents an opportune time to organize a Back-to-School campaign encouraging parents to put enrolling for *hawk-i* at the top of their back-to-school checklists. Covering Kids and Families and our partners are excited to share some of the events we have planned for the 2003 Back-to-School campaign. We hope that you will join us in this exciting event.

The Back-to-School enrollment drive is part of a national campaign to connect children to affordable health care coverage programs that exist in every state. You can help by encouraging your community outreach partners to consider being a part of this national and statewide event.

Here are just a few examples of what you can do in your local community:

1) Host a Back-to-School Health Fair

In Polk County, the *Shalom Zone Ministries Back-to-School Health Fair* takes place on August 14th at Gatchel United Methodist Church. The fair includes health screenings, local exhibitors, and free back-to-school items for underserved kids in the area. Free dinners for families will be available that evening.

Other county fairs or local summer fests including a Back-to-School Fair with *hawk-i* application assistance as a component are Clarke, Decatur, Lucas, Marion, Monroe, Warren, and Wayne Counties.

2) Organize Free Back-to-School Physicals with Local Medical Providers

Volunteer doctors will provide free physicals with on-site *hawk-i* application assistance at La Clinica and Primary Health Care Incorporated located in Des Moines.

3) Pitch Radio Public Service Announcements

For coalitions with limited resources, public service announcements can be an effective tool for reaching families through the media sources that parents rely on each day for news and entertainment. Radio stations in Scott and Polk County will be airing radio advertisements about *hawk-i* for a two-week period.

These are just a few ideas of what communities can do to get the word out about the importance of health insurance for children and the availability of *hawk-i*. To assist in such efforts, a **Back-to-School 2003 Campaign Action Kit** is available to download at www.coveringkids.org (under the “communications campaign” link). This kit has everything you will need to launch a successful Back-to-School Campaign. There are media and event templates, resources, free posters, stickers, and other materials to handout at the event.

Let's make sure the kids in our neighborhoods have the health care coverage they deserve. We hope you will participate in this effort.

For further questions, contact Sonni Vierling, Covering Kids and Families Coordinator, at (515) 281-4516 or svierlin@idph.state.ia.us.

Iowa Child Care and Early Education NetWork

Links to Empowerment Web sites

State: www.empowerment.state.ia.us

Benton County -- NEW!

www.bcempowerment.com

Buchanan Delaware Fayette:

www.bdfempowerment.org

Dubuque: www.empowerdubuque.org

Floyd, Chickasaw, Mitchell:

www.fmccom.org

HAWC (Howard, Allamakee, Winneshiek):

www.HAWC-Iowa.com

Hardin <http://www.empowerhardin.com/>

Humboldt, Hamilton, Wright

www.buildingfamilies.net

Jasper:

<http://www.jaspercountypowerment.org/>

Linn:

www.linnempowerment.homestead.com/homepage.html

Marshall:

www.youthandviolence.org

Pocahontas, Calhoun and

Webster:

www.linking-families.com

Polk:

www.humanservicesplanningalliance.org

Scott:

www.scottcountypowerment.org/

Story:

<http://www.storycountyfamily.org>

Washington:

www.empowerwashington.org

Woodbury:

www.siouxlandship.org

Send us your web site address and we'll include it in the next newsletter.

The Iowa Child Care and Early Education NetWork (The NetWork) is a statewide nonprofit, membership based organization with the mission to provide vision, leadership, and support for the child care and early education field and promote state policies and partnerships committed to the development and learning of all children. The NetWork's guiding principles are:

- All children deserve a safe, stable, healthy, nurturing and enriched environment.
- Those in the family unit are the first teachers and primary caregivers and deserve our support.
- Children are the community's greatest asset.
- All children deserve access to affordable, quality early care and education services.
- Linkages should be established to promote systemic growth.
- All early care and education services should be equitable statewide.
- The NetWork shall have a commitment to providing strong leadership on behalf of all children.

The NetWork carries out its mission through public/private partnerships and collaborative efforts. With the mission and guiding principles directing its work, the NetWork is currently providing the leadership to several projects to improve the quality, accessibility and affordability of child care and early education.

Iowa Child Care Resource and Referral – The NetWork provides statewide coordination of CCR&R functions around the state to provide parents, providers, businesses and communities with consistent core services. It is also the source of statewide data on child care that is collected by the local CCR&R agencies. Cathy Wheatcraft is the CCR&R Coordinator at the NetWork and can be reached at cwheatcraft@iowachildnetwork.org or 515/883-1206 ext. 126.

Child Care Apprenticeship/T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® - Registered Child Care Apprenticeship provides on-the-job training for providers currently working in licensed centers/preschools or registered child development homes; utilizes a curriculum based on core competencies for early childhood education that will articulate into degree programs; and impacts wages through a graduated wage scale.

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® IOWA will provide college scholarships for child development training for providers currently working in licensed centers/preschools or registered child development homes; assists in paying for substitute care for participants to attend classes; increases the participants' compensation upon completion of their contract and requires that participants remain in the center or in the child care field for an additional year after completing their annual scholarship contract.

For more information about both of these projects, contact Barb Merrill, Apprenticeship/TEACH Project Director at bmerrill@iowachildnetwork.org or 515/883-1206 ext. 129.

Child Care Center Business Practices – Kathy Zarghami joined the NetWork on July 1 as director of this new project that will provide child care center director and board training (through local CCR&R agencies); technical assistance (through regional technical assistance teams); and start-up, expansion and emergency loans that may be forgivable to nonprofit child care centers. Kathy may be reached at kzarghami@iowachildnetwork.org or 515/883-1206 ext. 130.

Iowa Early Care & Education Professional Development (IECEPD) - IECEPD is working to develop a professional development system for the early care and education field. The system will include a career matrix, a core body of knowledge necessary for those in the field to successfully do their work, transfer of credits between training agencies, and a trainer/training approval and registry system. For more information about IECEPD, contact Kerry Moore Kroneman, IECEPD Coordinator at kmoorekroneman@iowachildnetwork.org or 515/883-1206 ext. 128.

Iowa's Early Childhood Vision: Every Child, beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful.

Iowa Child Care and Early Education NetWork - cont.

Do You Need Help Paying For Tuition?

If you can answer YES to ALL of the following questions you may be eligible to receive a college scholarship from T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® IOWA.

Do you work in a registered home or licensed child care facility?

Do you work at least 30 hours per week?

Are you committed to remaining in the early childhood field?

Are you enrolled in the Early Childhood program at your local community college or state university OR would you like to be?

Are you willing to make a commitment to continue working at your present place of employment for at least one year?

If you answered yes to all of the above questions, you may be eligible to receive a scholarship from T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® IOWA.

For more information or an application, contact the Iowa Child Care and Early Education NetWork, (515) 883-1206 or www.iowachildnetwork.org; 218 Sixth Avenue, Suite 710; Des Moines, IA 50309.

Program for Infant/Toddler Caregivers (PITC) – The purpose of PITC is to improve the quality and availability of infant and toddler care in Iowa, offer training as well as support for those providing infant and toddler care and increase caregiver qualifications. The training system developed through the Infant/Toddler Specialists in the CCR&R agencies also develops opportunities for caregivers to learn about the unique needs of infants and toddlers; practical tips and examples of appropriate practices for caregivers; and connections with other early childhood professionals and services. For more information about PITC, contact Beth Walling, Iowa PITC Coordinator at bwallin@dhs.state.ia.us or 515/281-5246.

Better Baby Care Campaign – The NetWork is part of a nationwide effort to ensure the very best care for our youngest children by improving the early care of infants and toddlers while their parents are working, in school, or in need of out-of-home services. Through collaborative efforts with many organizations serving infants and toddlers and their families, the NetWork is providing leadership of Iowa’s Better Baby Care Campaign. For more information, contact Beth Walling.

Iowa Early Care, Health and Education Congress – In partnership with Iowa Community Empowerment and collaboration with a number of organizations, the NetWork provides the fiscal and administrative oversight of the annual Congress. For more information, contact Marla Sheffler, executive director at msheffler@iowachildnetwork.org or 515/883-1206 ext. 127.

Building Support for Child Care and Head Start – Through a grant from the Children’s Defense Fund, the NetWork is partnering with the Child and Family Policy Center and Iowa Head Start Association to provide education to grassroots advocates, policymakers and the general public on the importance of federal funding and support for child care and Head Start programs. To receive updates and to get involved in these efforts, contact Marla Sheffler.

Community Based Family Resource and Support (CBFRS) Grant Program – The NetWork is pleased to announce a new partnership beginning October 1 of this year. The CBFRS grant program and its coordinator, Kristin Fairholm, will join the NetWork.

CBFRS is a federally funded program supporting state efforts to develop, operate, expand and enhance a network of community-based, prevention-focused, family resource and support programs that coordinate resources among a range of public and private organizations; and fostering understanding, appreciation, and knowledge of diverse populations in order to effectively prevent and treat child abuse and neglect.

In Iowa, there are three grantees that receive funds through this federal grant:

- Prevent Child Abuse Iowa
- Parents Anonymous of Iowa, Inc.
- Iowa Respite and Crisis Care Coalition

Some of the programs provided by these three agencies and funded through the CBFRS funds include: Young Families Initiative: statewide parent education programs targeted at families with young children; statewide respite and crisis child care services; and Parents Anonymous groups, which are parent education and support groups across the state.

Other Services - The NetWork is also a resource for funding and career opportunities for early childhood education through its web site at www.iowachildnetwork.org. Membership information and forms are also available on the web site.

What Children Need

Parents are instrumental in helping a child become ready to start school by the age of five. The following list developed by the Devereux Early Childhood Initiative tells parents what they should do and what they should not do in assisting a child to become socially and emotionally healthy and independent.

What children don't need.	What children do need.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Their own room • A giant swing set • Expensive toys • Television • VCR or DVD • CD player 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe places to play (away from street traffic or dangerous objects) • Special things they can call their own (a blanket or stuffed toy) • Playthings that they can use one way now and another way later (like blocks) • A place to store books and playthings they can reach • Playthings they can use with other people (like board games) • Things that encourage pretend (dress up) • Things that help them learn about themselves • People who care
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents to do everything for them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do things in the same order and in the same way most of the time (be consistent with bed time and meal times) • Change the way we do things when the child is tired or excited or when something special happens (take a nap if tired or skip a nap if playing with a friend) • Active and quiet times (time to sit and read a book, or play outside) • Help with the family chores (pick up toys, set the table, take out garbage) • To have enough time and help to say goodbye and hello again every day
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look at flash cards • Copy their ABC's • Do worksheets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen, talk and share • Read stories everyday • Spending one-on-one time with you everyday • Plan and carryout their own ideas (plan a day at the beach or park) • Express their imagination and creativity (play dough and art activities) • Solve problems on their won • Use the big muscles in their arms and legs (run and play on playground equipment at the park) • Use the small muscles in their hands and fingers (hold a pencil or use a child's scissors) • Learn about sharing and cooperating with others (play with other children) • To make choices and decisions (give them the choice of two kinds of ice cream to buy at the grocery store)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be the center of attention or allowed to do what ever they want 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know they are loved just they way they are (no conditions to loving the child) • Learn about things that make them unique and special (a dimple on the chin or something they do well) • You to understand what most children their age can and cannot do (know the developmental stages of a child's growth) • You to play and talk with them (tell them stories of your childhood, show them how to play with a new toy) • A few simple rules and help to learn to follow the rules (do not jump on the sofa, run in the house) • You to teach them what to do instead of getting angry when they make a mistake (learning feelings) • You to look for the possible reasons for their behavior (has a tantrum because they are tired)

Parents need to know that children are not just "little adults". Children need to establish coping skills, autonomy, and feel loved and wanted.

Early Learning Guidelines

(What are they and why are people talking about them?)

Nominations to the Iowa Empowerment Board are always welcome. The vacancies for citizen members are appointed by Governor Vilsack based on recommendations from community empowerment boards.

If you know of potential candidates, please send a letter of nomination to the Appointments Coordinator in the Governor's Office.

Please contact the Empowerment office you need additional information.

Shanell.wagler@idom.state.ia.us or kris.bell@idom.state.ia.us

You may have heard talk recently about early childhood professionals in Iowa developing Early Learning Guidelines (ELG) or Standards but do you know **what** they are, **why** and **how** they are being developed, and by **who**?

First, the **what**: ELG describe what children should know and be able to do. They provide guidance in developing programs to the adults who work with children. They provide a foundation for professional development of the early childhood education field. And, they inform assessment approaches.

Second, the **why**: As part of President Bush's Good Start Grow Smart Early Childhood Initiative, the federal Child Care Bureau required each state to submit a plan for the development, implementation and assessment of ELG in a section of their two-year Child Care Development Fund plan.

This effort is to support the No Child Left Behind law enacted for the K-12 system and is seen as the next critical step in education reform. It is based on the premise that early childhood is a critical time to develop physical, emotional, social and cognitive skills.

Because a significant number of children receive care outside of the home, it is critical that early childhood programs such as child care and Head Start prepare children to succeed in school. The ELG will be a tool to help these programs meet that goal.

Third, **how** they are being developed: A stakeholders group representing all areas of early childhood education was pulled together to develop a process for the development and implementation of the ELG. That group decided to form three committees to handle different aspects of the plan. The Communications and Marketing Committee is charged with putting together a communication plan to keep early childhood professionals, parents, policy makers, the business community and others informed. The Communications Committee is co-chaired by Joanne Lane, CCR&R of Northeast Iowa and Cathy Wheatcraft, Iowa Child Care and Early Education NetWork.

The Guidelines Development Committee will write the guidelines using information gathered from existing guidelines in other states, national experts and other resources. This committee is co-chaired by Cathy Swackhammer, Southern Iowa Economic Development Association and Dee Gethmann, Iowa Department of Education.

The third committee, co-chaired by Jody Caswell, Iowa Department of Human Services and Kerry Moore Kroneman, Iowa Child Care and Early Education NetWork is the Implementation and Professional Development Committee. This committee will be responsible for incorporating the guidelines into professional development efforts and educating early childhood professionals in using the guidelines.

A fourth committee, the Executive Committee, co-chaired by Penny Milburn, Iowa State University Extension and Iowa Department of Education, and Marla Sheffler, Iowa Child Care and Early Education NetWork, will oversee the work of the committees and the progress of the project.

All of these committees will bring their work to the stakeholders group periodically to have them take information to the groups they represent for feedback.

Before developing this process, the stakeholders developed a list of values that would guide the work. These included looking at the whole child, not just their cognitive development and developing guidelines for birth to five, not just three and four year olds as required by the Child Care Bureau.

If you have questions about Early Learning Guidelines or the process being used to develop them, please contact Penny Milburn at 515/727-0656, pmilburn@iastate.edu or Marla Sheffler at 515/883-1206, msheffler@iowachildnetwork.org.

DID YOU KNOW?.....

There is a Training Coordinator in each of the five Iowa Child Care Resource & Referral regions? Training Coordinators work to identify, enhance and expand professional development opportunities for child care providers who work in homes and centers throughout their region.

When planning a training opportunity for child care providers, communicating with the Training Coordinator who serves your Empowerment area can make your job easier. Training Coordinators can help you:

- identify trainers
- schedule professional development opportunities
- avoid scheduling conflicts with other planned professional development opportunities for providers
- identify professional development needs in your community
- avoid duplication
- promote your professional development opportunity through CCR&R newsletters and websites

Have you met the Training Coordinator in your area yet? She is expecting your call.

Region 1:
CCR&R of Northwest Iowa
Donna Proeschel
712-786-3486 or 800-859-2025
dproeschel@mid-siouxopportunity.org

Region 4:
CCR&R of Central Iowa
Carol Rainforth
515-286-3329 or 800-722-7619
crainfo@co.polk,ia.us

Region 2:
CCR&R of Northeast Iowa
Nancy Dunn
319-274-8209 X458 or 800-475-0804
nancy.dunn@episervice.org

Region 5:
CCR&R of Southeast Iowa
Gail Thompson
563-324-1302 or 800-369-3778
gthompson@iowatrain.org

Region 3:
CCR&R of South Central Iowa
Carol Jensen
712-755-7381 or 800-945-9778
caroljensen@harlannet.com

**Lending you a helping
hand**



Attention Community Empowerment Area Board Members!



YOU are invited to a day of Training.

The Iowa Community Empowerment State Team invites the dedicated area board members to join us for a day of training and capacity building. Part of the day will focus on Board Development activities...generic responsibilities of being a board member and specific responsibilities of Community Empowerment Area Boards. The second part of the day will focus on best practices for quality early learning. Our Head Start partners will be assisting with this part of the agenda.

Lunch will be provided; registration is required by August 29, 2003.

Targeted Audience: Community Empowerment Area Board members; Coordinators/Contact Persons; and Empowerment Advisory Group members.

September 10, 2003
9:30-3:30

Collins Plaza Hotel
1200 Collins Road N.E.
Cedar Rapids, IA 52302

OR

September 11, 2003
9:30-3:30

Cass County Community Center
805 West 10th Street
Atlantic, IA 50022

Sign Me Up for the Local Community Empowerment Area Board Training

Check one:

September 10 – in Cedar Rapids

September 11 – in Atlantic

Name _____

Empowerment Area _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Send to: Shanell Wagler, Iowa Department of Management; Community Empowerment Office;
State Capitol, Room 12; Des Moines, IA 50319;
FAX: 515/281-4225 email: Shanell.wagler@idom.state.ia.us.

If questions, call (515) 281-4321.