

Iowa Community Empowerment Newsletter

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Disclaimer:

Many articles in this newsletter are submitted by various entities. The views and opinions contained within may or may not be those of Iowa Community Empowerment.

Our Youngest Iowans Can't Wait

It's November 10, 2005 and the 13th Annual Early Care, Health & Education Congress is now a part of history. This is one chapter, however, that will inspire for the future. Some of the more than 375 participants commented that it was the best Congress yet; and while that may be debated, the impact it will have for children and families in our state will not.

This year the theme, "Our Youngest Iowans Can't Wait: Invest Now for Continual Returns", extended the economic emphasis of previous years. For the first time in the history of Congress, both of the keynote presenters were fully sponsored by business partners. We want to say a special thank you to Principal Financial Group® and the United Way of Central Iowa, Women's Leadership Connection for their generous contributions in this way. Lakeshore Learning Materials also provided business sponsorship to the event. Without the commitment of these businesses to early care, health and education, it would have been difficult to provide conference participants with an event of such caliber.



Dr Sharon Lynn Kagan, Ed.D. opened the Congress by encouraging attendees to invest in early childhood system development through deeper rather than broadly applied strategies. She also shared her expertise in the area of early childhood guidelines and standards. Iowa has adopted Dr. Kagan's framework in building our ECHE "system of systems".

On day two, Steven Barnett, Ph.D., provided insight from the cost benefit analysis of investing in early childhood with at-risk populations. One of his key points was that although the return on investing in quality early care and education is quite significant for children in low socio-economic households, there is evidence that the middle class is being left behind and that smaller although significant returns on the dollar are evident in this population, as well.



This year's workshop speakers expanded to include physicians, more business leaders, and individuals of diverse cultures. For the general participants, these leaders shared a wealth of knowledge in the arenas of health, family support, child care and early education, economic development, and advocacy and system building. Also, new this year was a special track for Healthy Child Care Iowa (HCCI) registered Nurse Consultants. These workshops were focused on the health and safety tools to be used in Iowa's Voluntary Quality Rating System. In addition to the special breakout sessions, the HCCI nurse consultants were also invited to a reception to celebrate successes and share experiences.

Max Phillips, President of Iowa Qwest, chairman of the Iowa Business Council and newly appointed member to the Iowa Board of Education brought the Congress to a close by challenging participants to not grow weary in "building the mountain" of early care, health & education in our state. He talked about the importance of choosing the "right" mountain and speaking with one voice. He inspired the audience to not lose the momentum gained in the past year but to move forward with confidence.

Mark your calendars now to attend the 2006 *Early Care, Health & Education Day on the Hill*. On February 8, 2006 advocates from across the state will move forward with the message "Quality Counts" for children, families, policy makers, the economy and business. Our Youngest Iowans Can't Wait.

Update October 2005 – November 2005

Links to Empowerment Web sites:

State: www.empowerment.state.ia.us

Benton County

www.bcempowerment.com

Buchanan Delaware Fayette

www.bdfempowerment.org

Cerro Gordo, Hancock, Worth

www.cghwempowerment.com

Dubuque

www.empowerdubuque.org

Floyd, Chickasaw, Mitchell

www.fmcempowerment.com

HAWC (Howard, Allamakee, Winneshiek, Clayton)

www.HAWC-Iowa.com

Hardin

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

Humboldt, Hamilton, Wright

www.buildingfamilies.net

Jasper

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

Johnson

<http://www.jcempowerment.org>

Linn

www.linncountycommunityempowerment.org

Marshall

www.youthandviolence.org

Pocahontas, Calhoun and Webster

www.linking-families.com

Polk www.hspa.org

Scott:

www.scottcountyempowerment.org

Story

<http://www.storycountyfamily.org>

Washington

www.empowerwashington.org

Woodbury www.siouxlandship.org

Early Care, Health and Education System Building Activities

- Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) Co-Chairs meeting - October 6, November 3
- ECI - Public Engagement workgroup - October 6, November 3
- Family Support Leadership Meeting - October 7
- Early Care, Health & Education Congress planning meeting - Oct 7, Nov 4
- NCSL/NGA Youth Development Policy Development - October 10
- Quality Rating System Oversight Committee - October 10, 17, 31, November 15
- IAIEYC Professional Development Pre-conference - October 13
- Early Childhood Legislative Priorities meeting - October 14
- ECI Web Site Focus Group - Parent piece - October 14
- State Child Care Advisory Council - October 17
- '07 Offer Meeting - October 19, November 14
- Head Start/FaDDS Networking Session - October 19
- DE Early Learning Team Meeting (QPS implementation) - October 24
- Early Head Start Research, Helen Raikes lecture at ISU - October 25
- Early Childhood/Health Conference - October 27
- Meeting with IPTV/Ready to Learn - November 1
- Conference call with Dr Steven Barnett - NIEER - November 1
- ECI - Quality, Services & Programs workgroup meeting - November 2
- Early Care, Health & Education Congress - November 8 & 9
- Pre-K Now ICN Conference - November 10
- '06 ECHE Day on the Hill Planning - November 15
- Quality Preschool Program Standards facilitator training - November 17 & 18
- Early Childhood Leadership Meeting - November 29

Site Visits/Technical Assistance Activities

- Jefferson/Keokuk - October 5
- BDF Redesignation visit - October 11
- Dubuque Redesignation visit - October 11
- Emmet Redesignation visit - October 11
- Black Hawk Redesignation visit - October 12
- Jones Redesignation visit - October 12
- Decatur Redesignation visit - October 12
- Appanoose, Davis, Lucas, Monroe Redesignation visit - October 12
- Lee/Van Buren Redesignation visit - October 12
- Cass/Mills/Montgomery Redesignation visit - October 20
- Linn Redesignation visit - October 20
- Scott Redesignation visit - October 20
- Adams Redesignation visit - October 21
- Johnson Redesignation visit - October 21
- Clinton/Jackson Redesignation visit - October 21
- Story Redesignation visit - October 24
- Polk Redesignation visit - October 24
- Boone Redesignation visit - October 25
- Hardin Redesignation visit - October 25
- Iowa Empowerment Board Meeting - November 8
- Decatur County - November 10
- Jasper County - November 14
- Dallas County - November 15
- Pottawattamie County with family support providers - November 16
- Floyd Mitchell Chickasaw - November 21
- Marion County - November 30

Other Events and Activities

The Impact of Couple and Marital Relationships on Parenting and Child Outcomes

December 2 & 9, 2005

Locations available at web site
www.extension.iastate.edu/marriage

Upcoming Events 2006 Calendar at a Glance

Iowa Empowerment Board

January 27, 2006

Blank Park Zoo, Des Moines
9:30 - 2:00

Empowerment Coordinators/Contacts Meetings

February 15, 2006

Heartland AEA, Johnston

Early Childhood Iowa Core Stakeholders

February 14, 2006

Heartland AEA, Johnston

Iowa Early Care Health & Education

Day on the Hill

February 8, 2006

Linkages/Outreach Activities

- Iowa Community Action Agencies Conference - October 3 & 4
- Maternal/Child Health Conference - October 4 & 5
- Community Meeting - Spencer - October 6
- Promise Jobs Coordinators - October 6, November 3
- FaDDS Team meeting - October 10
- Youth Development/State Agency Workgroup - October 11
- DEC Conference - October 13-17
- Prevent Child Abuse Iowa Chapter Review - October 13
- MCH Partnership Meeting - October 16-19
- Iowa Commission on Youth Development Steering Committee - Oct 26, Nov 23
- Household Health Survey planning meeting - October 28, Nov 25
- HOPES/Local Public Health/Empowerment meeting - November 1
- TEACH Advisory committee meeting - November 1
- Community Partnerships Conference - November 2
- Prevent Child Abuse Iowa Grant Reviews - November 7
- Iowa Council on Volunteer Services - November 9 & 10
- Prevent Child Abuse Iowa Conference Planning - November 10
- School Administrators of Iowa conference - November 15
- FaDDS Council - November 17
- Early ACCESS Council - November 18



www.earlychildhoodiowa.org

ECHE System Building Updates

Update on the work of Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholders

New Tools Available for Family Support/Parent Education Programs

The Early Childhood Iowa Quality Services and Programs Component group has developed an Evidence-based assessment tool for family support and parenting education programs. The assessment tool is intended for program supervisors and administrators, funders, or other decision makers. It can be used as a self assessment or may be used by a funder to assist in determining where to invest their resources. Please keep in mind that there are very few evidence based family support and parent education programs available. If your program is not an evidenced based program, you may still use this tool to examine what elements of your program do adhere to evidence based practices and areas to examine and improve the quality of services being delivered. Sue Hegland and Kere Hughes along with the Quality Services and Programs Component Group developed a tool to discuss the ten evidence-based practices for family support and parent education programs. These tools can be found at www.earlychildhoodiowa.org under “what’s new” – Evidence-Based Assessment Tool and Ten Evidence-based Practices for Family Support Programs.



www.empowerment.state.ia.us

Iowa Empowerment Board News November Meeting Update

The Iowa Empowerment Board (IEB) met the evening of November 8 in conjunction with the Early Care, Health & Education Congress. This meeting proved to be an exciting one as the Board continued to make decisions in response to last year's legislation. The first order of business was to appoint a new vice-chair. Floyd Winter was unanimously selected for this role (see page 5 of this newsletter for more information). It was also decided that the Iowa Empowerment Board would again hold two meetings in the local community empowerment areas in 2006. A committee was selected to look at the applications and choose the sites for the May and September meetings. The IEB also set the carry forward policy for School Ready funds. Within this policy, they defined the limitation on the funds being carried forward into the next fiscal year as not to exceed 30%; they defined the process for defining allowances for special circumstances; and they determined the process for the redirection of carry forward funds. The specifics of these decisions will be available in the minutes from this meeting, or by calling the Office of Empowerment. An overview of the progress to date of the Child Care Incentives Study was given by Kathlene Larson and Sue Hegland from Iowa State University. And finally, the Board gave their endorsement of the newly developed statewide family support definition and a tool regarding the use of funds targeted to family support/parent education activities. The family support definition was highlighted in last month's newsletter and can be found on the Early Childhood Iowa website at: http://www.state.ia.us/earlychildhood/eci/stakeholder/component_groups/quality_services.htm

Tool FF is highlighted in this newsletter on page 6 and can also be found on the State Empowerment website at www.empowerment.state.ia.us, click on Tools and scroll down to Tool FF.

The next Iowa Empowerment Board meeting will be held on January 27, 2006 from 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. at the Blank Park Zoo in Des Moines.

Nominations Sought For Iowa Empowerment Board

The Iowa Empowerment Board consists of thirteen citizen members, five state agency directors and six members of the general assembly. The state Empowerment Board currently has two vacancies for citizen members. Citizen members are appointed by Governor Thomas Vilsack and confirmed by the Iowa Senate. Interested candidates must complete a gubernatorial appointment resume in addition to seeking a letter of recommendation from their local empowerment board. The gubernatorial appointment resume can be found at <http://www.iowai.net/iowa/governor/boards/>. Citizen member selections are reflective of the state's congressional districts to ensure representation from across the state. An equally important criteria is that appointments reflect the ethnic, cultural, social, and economic diversity of our state. We encourage candidates from diverse populations to apply. Please contact the Empowerment Office if you need more information.

Meet State Board Member: Floyd Winter, Newly Elected Vice-Chair



After a forty-one year career in education as a teacher, high school principal and director of secondary education, Floyd continued his service work in 1999 as the community coordinator with Cedar Valley's Promise. This local youth initiative of America's Promise provides a collaborative and unified effort of Black Hawk County youth providers, agencies, volunteers and the business and industry sectors to meet identified needs of the 27,000 young people from birth to age eighteen. "Uniting for the Love of our Children" is the theme of Cedar Valley's Promise, which is the local empowerment and decategorization policy board.

In addition to serving on several boards and councils at the local level Floyd is a member of the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service, the Iowa Empowerment Board and the Governor's Advisory Council for the Prevention of Child Abuse. Because of his experience in secondary education, Floyd feels that increasing the quality and affordability of early childhood education and care is of utmost importance in preparing every young person to access opportunities for success. Floyd and his wife Sherry are the parents of three children and grandparents of two grandsons. Floyd enjoys reading and playing basketball in the UNI NBA (Noon Basketball Association).

Valuable CEA Resource Revised November 2005:

To view Empowerment's Toolkit, visit www.empowerment.state.ia.us and click on Tools

Iowa Community Empowerment

Local Community Empowerment Board Resource

In the last several issues of this newsletter, we have highlighted newly developed tools for Community Empowerment boards to use as guidance in making local decisions. These tools are part of a Toolkit which is available on the Iowa Empowerment web site. Each toolkit section and tool has been reviewed and revised to offer the most up to date resources on everything from how to deal with specific issues that may arise, to board capacity and development. Primarily, the Toolkit contains information that is divided into these areas:

- Section 1: What is community empowerment
- Section 2: Developing a learning agenda on early care, health and education
- Section 3: Developing community commitment
- Section 4: Developing an effective board
- Section 5: Developing and implementing a community plan
- Section 6: Achieving results
- Section 7: Utilizing technical assistance

In each section the individual tools are referenced that will give further guidance. Check out this valuable resource!

New Tool Available to Assist Local Empowerment Boards with School Ready Funds to Support Family Support and Parent Education

Tool FF was endorsed as guidance by the Iowa Empowerment Board at their meeting on November 8, 2005. You can find this resource, along with other valuable tools, on the Iowa Empowerment web site at www.empowerment.state.ia.us and click on *Empowerment Tools*.

School Ready Allocation	“Empowerment areas are encouraged to commit 60% of School Ready funds to family support and parent education based upon a local community needs assessment” - <i>Iowa Administrative Code(IAC), 349 Chapter 1.10(3)c.</i>
Definition of Family Support (IAC)	Community-based services to promote the well-being of children and families. Family support programs have the following characteristics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family driven, meaning there is a true partnership with families; • Comprehensive, flexible, and individualized to each family based on their culture, needs, values and preferences; • Build on strengths to increase the stability of family members and the family unit; • Utilize informal and formal family support.
Definition of Parent Education (IAC)	A family support program that implements organized and planned meetings designed to support parents’ efforts to enhance their children’s health and development. Parent education programs have the following characteristics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides parents’ with information, skills, support systems and confidence in their parental role in order to support, nurture and promote children’s health and development; • Strengthens positive relationships between parent and children; • Builds on parents’ strengths and utilizes their experiences, ideas and knowledge; • Provides information that meets the needs of parents for specific content and shared in a manner that is responsive to parents’ learning style, education and culture.
Goals of Family Support Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase parent confidence and competence in their parenting abilities • Safe, stable, and supportive families who are connected to their communities • Enhance the health, growth, and development of children and adults in the family unit
Use of Funds	The school ready funds designated for family support programs and parent education must be used to directly support individuals who function in the role of parents. The funds may be used in the following ways, but are not limited to these examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family support program utilizing a home visiting service delivery model • Parent support groups • Family resource centers • Parent education
Accountability System	School Ready Budget Form: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document projected expenditures on the SR Budget forms to support family support and parent education services. CEA Annual Report – Performance Measures School Ready Funds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document through input, output, quality/efficiency and outcome data the performance measures of family support programs utilizing a home visiting service delivery model. (Due annually, beginning in September 2006) Performance Measures to be reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of children participating in a family support program utilizing a home visiting service delivery model • Number of families participating in a family support program utilizing a home visiting service delivery model • Number of face-to-face visits • Percent of children, 0 –3 years old, referred to Early ACCESS
Contractual Agreements with Programs Technical Assistance	CEA Board will determine the contractual agreements at a local level with program providers. Contact: Shanell Wagler Facilitator Office of Empowerment Iowa Department of Management 515-281-4321 Shanell.Wagler@iowa.gov

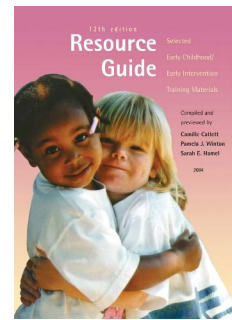


EARLY CHILDHOOD RESOURCE LIBRARY

A lending library for early childhood professionals and parents in Iowa

Training Materials Aid Early Childhood Interventionists/Providers

Early childhood resources are available for statewide lending from the Disability Resource Library in Iowa City and are appropriate for all individuals who are involved in professional development or parent training for early care and education. These videocassettes, kits, and books are endorsed for training value by the renowned Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute in their biennial **Resource Guide** (www.fpg.unc.edu/~scpp/pdfs/rguide.pdf).



A triad of Iowa organizations sponsors this library project: 3-4-5 Thrive! (Dept. of Education); The Center for Disabilities and Development; and the Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children. The major themes of the collection are Inclusion, Family-Professional Collaboration, Diversity, Teamwork, and Early Care and Development. All items are listed and described at the Disability Resource Library (DRL) website:

www.healthcare.uiowa.edu/cdd/multiple/drl/drl.asp#earlychildhood.

Reservations for materials are accepted on the DRL phone line: 1-800-272-7713. The borrowing period is three weeks. Items are express shipped to your address – the only cost to the borrower is return shipping via U.S. Postal Service, or you can visit the library to check out items in person.

Suggestions for additions to the collection are always welcome, and purchases continually made with each new edition of the Frank Porter Graham Institute Resource Guide. We invite fellow Iowans to use these materials to enhance our knowledge of, and our commitment to, an all-encompassing early childhood system.

Association for Iowa's Children

For more information please visit our website www.iowaschildren.com



Child At Heart Award Recipient

The Association for Iowa's Children is pleased to announce that Lisa Gray of Indianola, Iowa has been selected as the 2005 *Annual Child at Heart* award recipient. She was nominated by the Warren County Empowerment area and was recognized during the Early Childhood Congress on November 9, 2005. Ms. Gray was instrumental in establishing the Wee Care Respite Nursery in Warren County 15 years ago and has coordinated the program since its inception. Wee Care was the first state licensed respite program in Iowa. It has often been cited as a model program in a large part to Lisa's leadership and commitment to children and families in the community.

Lisa has been an integral partner with other Empowerment programs as well as local agencies, civic groups and schools. She has consistently demonstrated her wiliness to do what ever it takes to reach out to children and parents. Lisa has truly made a difference in the lives of countless children and families in Warren County. She is an inspiration to all who have had the opportunity to work with her and is a commendable candidate for the *Child at Heart Award*. Congratulations Lisa!!! You are a true champion for Iowa's Children



The Association for Iowa's Children encourages you to nominate someone next year. Nomination forms can be found at the association's web site www.iowaschildren.org.



Every Child Counts
Sheila Hansen
Kelli Soyer
515-280-9027
shansen@cfpciowa.org
ksoyer@cfpciowa.org

For a list of your federal and state legislators, visit:

<http://www4.legis.state.ia.us/find-leg/>

To find out about individual state legislators, you can go to:

<http://www.legis.state.ia.us/asp/Legislators/LegislatorInfo.aspx>

Every Child Counts Announces 2006 Legislative Priorities

Early Learning & School Readiness

- ✓ Build on the 2005 “down payment” by increasing investments for early care and education:
 - ◆ Expand quality pre-school opportunities
 - ◆ Increase participation in Early ACCESS
 - ◆ Raise child care reimbursement rates and increase professional development opportunities
 - ◆ Increase the eligibility level for child care subsidies
 - ◆ Expand public and private partnerships and investments in early learning infrastructure

Child Safety & Well-Being

- ✓ Preserve and enhance Medicaid in providing primary, preventive, and developmental health services
 - ◆ Retain EPSDT in state and federal law
 - ◆ Expand Achieving Better Child Health and Development (ABCD) pilot statewide
- ✓ Advocate for youth “aging out” of the foster care system
 - ◆ Expand foster care services and Medicaid coverage for youth from age 18 to 21

Child & Family Economic Success

- ✓ Provide detailed and credible information on tax policies and their impacts to policy makers, organizations, and the public
 - ◆ Support changes to make Iowa’s tax system recognize the costs of raising families
 - ◆ Advocate for closing tax loopholes to fund essential children’s services
- ✓ Advocate for eliminating predatory lending practices
 - ◆ Prohibit exorbitant interest rates for payday and car title lending
 - ◆ Curb deceptive sub-prime lending practices, including deliberate over-appraisals
 - ◆ Require greater disclosure of refund anticipation loan costs and alternatives for receiving income tax refunds

Every Child Counts is Available for Your Next Meeting!

Every Child Counts continues to grow. Our network has developed because of your work. Members have been responsible for arranging community meetings and inviting Every Child Counts to speak about this exciting opportunity in Iowa.

If you have community members you think would be interested in hearing more about Every Child Counts, we are available to schedule speaking engagements. Please feel free to contact Sheila Hansen, shansen@cfpciowa.org, or Kelli Soyer, ksoyer@cfpciowa.org, or at 515/280-9027



Iowa Child Care and Early Education Network

Submitted by Leslie Schmalzried,
Executive Director

There is a lot of excitement at the Network! On November 1, the Board of Directors met and approved a new organizational structure. This month's article provides just a snapshot of the current team members and overview of their role at the Network. Please feel free to contact us at 515-883-1206 if we can be of service to you!

Leslie

Meet Our Team!

Leslie Schmalzried, Executive Director of the Network, has over 14 years of nonprofit executive management experience, is a Licensed Masters Social Worker and a Certified Prevention Specialist Level II. Leslie has a Bachelors degree in Management and a Masters degree in Organizational Management with emphases in human resource and nonprofit management. Leslie and her husband, Steve, have been married for over 30 years and have two grown sons and a granddaughter who just celebrated her first birthday!

Barbara Merrill is the newly appointed Associate Director for the Network and the Project Manager for the T.E.A.C.H. Iowa and Apprenticeship Project. Barb has a Bachelors degree in Child Development from the University of Maine and a Masters degree in Adult Education and Training from Drake University. Barb has over 20 years experience in child care in Iowa as a Head Start teacher, a director of a center and in several positions at Central Iowa's Child Care Resource & Referral regional office. Barb and her husband, Rob, have two grown children, including a newlywed!

Isbelia Arzola's first day as the Project T.E.A.C.H. Counselor at the Network was October 31! Isbelia and her husband came to Iowa from Venezuela over ten years ago. She is the mother of two, ages 4 and 8. She has a Masters' of Education degree from Iowa State University and experience teaching at the community college level and supervising student teachers. She will provide T.E.A.C.H. support to Des Moines Area Community College students, and teach the CDA class in Spanish.

Pat Dautremont is our Project T.E.A.C.H. Assistant. Pat has two years of early childhood education coursework from Iowa State University and Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC), and an A.A.S. degree from DMACC as an Administrative Assistant. She worked two years for the Child and Adult Care Food Program and for 20 years as a family child care provider. Pat has been working at the Network since September 2004. She is the mother of three young adults and enjoys making formal wear for her sons in a pinch!

Stephanie Morton is also one of the newest members of the team and joins us as our Director of Programs and Services. Stephanie will be assisting Leslie as we work to build a statewide coordinating network for Child Care Resource & Referral. In addition, Stephanie has assumed the duties of coordinating the Child Care Center Business Practices Project in the absence of Kathy Zarghami. Stephanie has a Bachelors degree in Education with an emphasis in Early Childhood. Stephanie has been hard at work on a Masters degree plus Stephanie is the mother of four-year old Mara!

Beth Walling is the Project Manager for the Iowa Program for Infant & Toddler Caregivers (IA PITC). Beth has a Bachelors degree in Child Development from Iowa State University and a Masters degree in Education from Drake University in Early Childhood. She has been married 29 years to her high school sweetheart, Will, and they live with their golden retriever, Marty. Beth and Will have two grown children, Andy is 25 years old and Carrie, who is 24, and married to a wonderful guy, named Jake.

Kathleen Zarghami has been the Child Care Center Business Practices Program Manager during the last two years. Kathy has a Masters degree in Family Environment from Iowa State University and has worked in Early Childhood for over 20 years as a preschool and Kindergarten teacher, college instructor, family development specialist, child abuse prevention county director, Head Start director, and Child Care Home Consultant. Kathy is married and has three grown sons. Kathy is currently taking a leave of absence from her full-time position to spend time with her elderly mother. Kathy will serve the Network as a Special Projects Assistant. The Network has been provided an exciting opportunity to work collaboratively with the Minnesota Development Corporation for Children to

Network News Continued...

replicate their efforts in Iowa! Kathy will be working approximately 10 hours per week between November 1, 2005 and the end of June 2006.

Kathleen Zimmerman is our new Administrative Services Manager. Kathleen and her husband live in Altoona and are avid home remodelers! Kathleen enjoys having lunch out with friends and family and loves to shop in West Des Moines. Kathleen retired from corporate America in September and has been working part-time at a florist in Ankeny and assisting the Child Care Resource & Referral Region in Central Iowa with a variety of training projects and updating of NACCRRAware for child care provider information during the last couple of months! We are excited about having Kathleen join our team on December 5!



Ready to Learn Family Book Clubs and School Ready Family Support Dollars

Submitted by Dena Gopelrud, IPTV/Ready to Learn

Iowa Public Television's (IPTV) Ready to Learn (RTL) service is part of public television's response to a critical national educational goal: All children will enter school Ready to Learn.

RTL in Iowa combines quality PBS KIDS programs with outreach efforts encouraging adults to extend a child's learning by linking concepts from programs to reading and other learning activities. As part of its efforts, RTL, working with local partners throughout the state, sponsors book clubs for families with children birth through 5 years old. Each time a family attends one of the eight book club sessions, they receive:

1. A free age-appropriate book.
2. Information on strategies to use when reading to children such as how to teach children new words. The strategies taught are the same as those in the Every Child Reads curriculum developed by the Iowa Department of Education.
3. Information on how to control children's use of media, using television as a teaching tool and child development.

Each session is based on a theme such as "winter" or "counting." Books and materials that are distributed match the theme. They are available in English and Spanish.

Sponsoring Family Book Clubs is one way Empowerment areas can invest their school ready dollars to support family support/parent education activities. For more information, contact Dena Gopelrud, RTL coordinator, at dena@iptv.org, 515-242-6268.

Iowa Child Care Resource & Referral



CCR&R 101

Submitted by *MariLynn Pierce, Region 2, CCR&R Director*

Have you found yourself wondering about the role of Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) and how it fits into the Early Care and Education world? Are you hesitant to make referrals to CCR&R because you're not sure about available services? Perhaps some basic, background information would be helpful.

July 1, 1992 marks the birth of a statewide CCR&R system, in response to legislation and administrative rules developed by the Iowa Department of Human Services. From its inception, CCR&R has been focused on improving the quality and availability of affordable child care in Iowa. Each of the 5 CCR&R regional offices is charged with providing services to Parents, Child Care Providers, and Communities.

Parents:

CCR&R is to "Assist families in selecting quality child care." (Iowa Code 237A.26)

1st Rule of Thumb: When parents need guidance on selecting and locating a child care provider to meet their unique family needs, refer them to CCR&R.

Providers:

CCR&R is to "Assist child care providers in adopting appropriate program and business practices to provide quality child care services. refer to the Child and Adult Care Food Program ... provide resource materials to child care facilities." (Iowa Code 237A.26)

2nd Rule of Thumb: When a child care provider needs technical assistance, program consultation, professional development ---- most anything – refer them to CCR&R.

Communities:

CCR&R is to "Provide information to the public regarding the availability of child care services Actively encourage the development of new and expansion of existing child care facilities in response to identified community needs..... Provide specialized services to employers, including the provision of resource and referral services to employee groups identified by the employer and the provision of technical assistance to develop employer-supported child care programs." (Iowa Code 237A.26)

3rd Rule of Thumb: When a community needs data specific to parents/children needing child care and the number of identifiable child care slots available or they need an Early Care and Education professional to be at the community development planning table, refer them to CCR&R.

The National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (NACCRRRA) provides this quote from Shannon Christian, Associate Commissioner, ACYF, Child Care Bureau:

"At the local level, R&Rs make a huge contribution assisting parents, training providers, promoting coordination, building supply, and collecting data. And, at the national level, NACCRRRA does a terrific job with Child Care Aware for the Child Care Bureau. There is no question about it – R&Rs have become a critical piece of the nation's child care infrastructure."



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It Out!

News from IDPH Oral Health Bureau



By Bob Russell,
IDPH Dental Director



Access to Oral Health Care for Medicaid Children

Recently, the Bureau of Health Care Access analyzed Iowa counties as dental Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA's) for designated purposes, a process that is completed every four years. In 2001, 72 full counties and one partial county (Polk) qualified as a dental HPSA. *In 2005, it appears that approximately 79 full counties will qualify based on geography, Medicaid, and low-income populations. These counties are considered to have a shortage of dentists needed to provide care for the number of residents within it.

This comes at a difficult time as House File (HF) 841 (Iowa Care) of last years legislative session mandates that every Medicaid child 1-12 years of age will have a dental home by July, 2008. The number of few dentists and misdistribution of workforce limits the availability and convenience to patients. Additional difficulties include the low number of pediatric dentists and available general practice dentists willing to see children below the age of three.

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Department of Human Services (DHS) have been meeting regularly to define the definition of a dental home. Currently there are two definitions. The first one through the American Dental Association requires that a dentist and dental auxiliaries must serve as the primary workforce. The second definition of dental home comes from the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Association of Pediatric Dentistry, and Maternal and Child Health Bureau. In this model, a dentist may or may not serve as the initial entry point of oral health services. Given the availability of providers, an alternative care provider or public health delivery system for initial screening and preventive care services may be utilized. The dentist will remain the ultimate treatment provider and point of referral for definitive care.

The collaboration between IDPH and DHS strives to boost dental access for Iowa children. Determining what constitutes a dental home will position Iowa one step closer to accomplishing the goal of HF 841.

*To see a map of pending Dental Services Shortage Areas by Type, please go to http://www.idph.state.ia.us/hpcdp/common/pdf/health_care_access/dental_hpsa.pdf.

Early Childhood Overweight

Iowa PedNSS Data: A Gauge of Preschool Nutrition Indicators

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Tel: 515-281-4545



The Iowa WIC Program has participated in the Centers for Disease Control’s Pediatric Nutrition Surveillance System (PedNSS) since 1984. PedNSS provides data on the prevalence of underweight, overweight, anemia, low birth weight and breastfeeding initiation and duration for children 0-4 who participate in the WIC program. At present, there is a lot of interest in childhood overweight. PedNSS is one of the few sources of reliable data on the prevalence of overweight among Iowa children. The only other source of data on weight status of Iowa children comes from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) – another CDC surveillance system that tracks high school youth. YRBS relies on the ability of youth to accurately report their height and weight. Also, the sample is also often not representative due to the refusal of selected schools to participate.

Percent of WIC Children with BMI* >95 th Percentile		Percent of WIC Children That are Hispanic with BMI>95 th Percentile
County	All Children	
Franklin	22.6%	34.4%
Butler	22.4%	Not provided
Wright	21.6%	37.1%
Monroe	19.7%	1.6%
Marshall	19.4%	47%
Buena Vista	18.9%	59.3%
Louisa	17.7%	53.3%
Keokuk	17.5%	0%
Fremont	17.0%	5.8%
Mills	16.8%	1.6%
Nation (2002)	14.3	32.2
Iowa	13.6	14.1

PedNSS data is carefully collected at WIC clinics, using recommended techniques and equipment. Its limitation is that it describes only the population of children whose families meet the income guidelines for WIC (185% of poverty) and choose to participate. Approximately forty three percent of all children born in Iowa participate in WIC the first year of their life. Nevertheless, PedNSS data on overweight provided early insight into the growing prevalence of overweight among children living in Iowa. The period of 1984 to 2003 saw a steady rise in the prevalence of overweight. The prevalence of overweight for children between the ages of 2 years and 5 years grew from 7.1% in 1984 to 13.6% in 2003. Minority populations in Iowa are small, but trends are similar to those reported in other states. Of children over two years of age, 12.8% of white, 11.1% of black, and 19.4% of Hispanic children were overweight in the 2003 report.

County specific PedNSS data is shared with the local WIC agency serving that county. Local WIC agencies are encouraged to make that data available to community partners. While not specific to populations other than WIC, PedNSS data is a loose indicator of progress towards goals for population-based interventions or can be the impetus to study a problem more thoroughly. This data may be useful when applying for grants or when advocating for programs or policies and procedures to alleviate a problem. The ten counties with the highest prevalence of overweight in children two years of age and older in 2003 are shown in the table on the left.

The data on the percent of Hispanic children is shown in this table to suggest that it is wise to consider the community demographics when planning interventions. With Iowa’s growing Hispanic population and data supporting the fact that Hispanic children are at higher risk of overweight, some Iowa communities will want to design interventions that target Hispanics. Communities with few Hispanic children and a high prevalence of overweight will plan interventions after studying their particular populations more thoroughly.

The information shared in this article is a sampling of information that is available. The best source of this data will be your local WIC agency. However, questions can also be addressed to the Iowa WIC Program. Contact Susan Pohl at 515-281-4545 or spohl@idph.state.ia.us.



IOWA NETWORK
OF CHILD
ADVOCACY CENTERS
Serving all of Iowa's children

Child Protection Centers

By Susan K. Tesdahl, LISW, St. Luke's Child Protection Center, St. Luke's Behavioral Developmental Center, Cedar Rapids

In 1985, a child in Iowa who had been sexually abused might find himself telling his story to six or seven different people and often, nothing would change for him. In 2005, children across the state of Iowa are served by four Child Protection Centers which work with law enforcement agencies and the Department of Human Services to ensure these children's needs are met.

The Blank Regional Child Protection Center in Des Moines, the Mercy Child Advocacy Center in Sioux City, the Mississippi Valley Child Protection Center in Davenport and the St. Luke's Child Protection Center in Cedar Rapids form the Iowa Network of Child Advocacy Centers (INCAC), an affiliated state chapter of the National Children's Alliance (NCA). The NCA sets strict standards of excellence for providing services to suspected abuse victims. The Iowa Network's goal is to ensure that every child in Iowa has access to a Child Protection Center. Conversely, it is also the goal of the Iowa Network that there will come a day when none of the children in Iowa will ever need a Child Protection Center because child abuse within our state will have been eliminated.

Child Protection Centers operate under a research based model that provides a child friendly environment for comprehensive investigative services including a physical exam, a forensic interview, a family consultation and referrals for ongoing services. Clinical staff at the Child Protection Centers are expertly trained to meet the distinctive needs of children who have experienced child sexual abuse, child physical abuse, denial of critical care, exposure to illegal drugs or who have witnessed violence. In addition, the Centers are available to provide consultation and education to smaller and rural communities regarding appropriate triage of children reporting abuse.

In calendar year 2004, the four Iowa Child Protection Centers served 4,434 Iowa children. In that same year, the four Centers in Iowa had a total budget of \$1,838,000 in expenses and received \$764,000. in reimbursements. This left a 58% funding gap, which had to be covered by each of the Centers' parent institution. Great news arrived in 2005, when the Iowa Legislature approved \$1,000,000. to be appropriated through the Iowa Department of Public Health to the four Centers for support of their operations.

The Iowa Legislature, in essence, expressed their belief that Iowa's children are strong and resilient and capable of blooming in spite of adversity and their belief that the four Iowa Child Protection Centers stand ready to help them.

***"Our greatest glory consists, not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall."
~ Oliver Goldsmith***

Healthy Child Care Iowa (HCCI)

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HCCI Update

There are new items listed on the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) list of hazardous products. You may view the listing of products relating to child care and early education by going to the Iowa Department of Public Health website: <http://www.idph.state.ia.us/hcci/recalls.asp>

To view recalled product information, first select a product category from the following list.

- [Beds, Cribs, and Bedding](#) no new recalls
- [Child Clothing, Shoes, and Accessories](#) one new recall
- [Equipment \(including infant supplies/equipment\)](#) three new recalls
- [Furniture Related to Child Care and Early Education](#) one new recall
- [Toys and Play Related Items](#) one new recall

To view a full listing of all items recalled in the month of October, please go directly to the CPSC website: www.cpsc.gov

Home Playground Safety Handbook available for download:
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/pubs/324.pdf>

Regional Child Care Nurse Consultant Receives National Honor

Kim Schroeder, Regional Child Care Nurse Consultant from the Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc. Child Care Resource and Referral program, in Remsen, received a national award from the Consumer Product Safety Commission. The award recognizes leadership and innovation in state and local programs.

Schroeder has received funding support from the Consumer Product Safety Commission to develop and conduct an injury prevention program for early childhood care and education programs in northwest Iowa. The injury prevention program involves on-site assessments of the equipment and practices in the early childhood facilities. Equipment like cribs, playpens, nursery accessories, window blinds, and toys are included in the assessment. Care provider practices like infant sleep position and use of recalled products were also assessed.

Dick Sievers, executive director of Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc. administered the grant funds and facilitated payment to local child care nurse consultants to field test the assessment instrument. Child Care Nurse Consultants Sue Nielson, Siouxland District Health; June Weiss, Webster County Public Health; Karen Konz, Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc.; Lori Price, Hamilton County Health Department; Sue Aber and Kristy Vogel, Calhoun County Health Department; and Deb Birks, Crawford County Home Health and Hospice participated in field testing the assessment instrument. A total of 155 early childhood care/education businesses were involved in the injury prevention project. The injury prevention assessment will be used statewide in the quality rating system.



Kim Schroeder and Dick Sievers



Submitted by Lindsay Miller
IDPH
Covering Kids & Families

To view the complete Medicaid
Reform Bill – HF 841 go to:

Link:

<http://coolice.legis.state.ia.us/Cool-ICE/default.asp?Category=billinfo&Service=Billbook&menu=false&hbill=HF841>

Back-to-School 2005!

On August 2, 2005, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation kicked off its sixth annual Covering Kids & Families Back-to-School Campaign. The campaign encourages parents to include enrolling their eligible, uninsured children in Medicaid or SCHIP as an important part of getting their children ready for the new school year. Motivational messages are used to remind parents to list enrolling their children for health care coverage at the top of their back-to-school checklist, right along with buying notebooks and school shoes. When children are healthy, they are better prepared to learn in the classroom and stay active on the playing field.

Recent studies show that of the 8.4 million uninsured children in the United States, more than half are Hispanic or African-American. Therefore this year's campaign focused on reaching parents of Hispanic and African-American eligible, uninsured children. Through their efforts *Covering Kids & Families* and its partners reached thousands of families nationwide.

In Iowa, *Covering Kids and Families* grantees and volunteers hosted a wide range of Back-to-School activities and distributed *hawk-i* information at all of the events. The activities included: exhibit booths at county fairs, school registration booths, PSAs on local radio stations, head start and elementary school registration packets, and back-to-school physical clinics. Other exciting events included:

- Partnership with the Salvation Army in Cerro Gordo, Jasper, Poweshiek and Mahaska Counties for their Free School Supplies Program Day.
- *hawk-i* information provided at the Early Childhood Hearing and Vision Screening Day in Mason City.
- Partnership with the Boy Scout Troop #9 in Webster County to provide school supply donation boxes at local businesses.
- Mass mailing of *hawk-i* informational packets to all school administrators and superintendents in Shelby, Kossuth, Winnebago, Hancock, Worth, Cerro Gordo, Franklin, Mitchell, Floyd and Butler Counties.
- Shalom Zone Ministries Back-to-School Health Fair in Polk County. The event included free health screenings, community organization exhibitors and available back-to-school items for underserved kids in the area.

For more information on 2005 Back-to-School events across the country, to order free materials or to get involved please visit: www.coveringkidsandfamilies.org

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