



Early Childhood Iowa Monday Musings January 12, 2015 2015 Vol. 2, No. 2

Welcome to the ECI **Monday Musings**. It is a compilation of information, practical advice, training announcements, and/or success stories. **Monday Musings** is intended to disseminate information to Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholders in a timely fashion. (We may on occasion send out a separate email with information if it needs immediate attention or if for a specific audience.)

Please let us know if you have something you would like to contribute or have suggestions or comments at jeffrey.anderson@iowa.gov

"The events of childhood do not pass, but repeat themselves like seasons of the year."
- Eleanor Farjeon (Poet and Author: "Morning has Broken")

State Information:

Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) Public Engagement Component Group Seeks **Child at Heart** Nominations

Early Childhood Iowa is seeking nominations for its 2015 **Child at Heart** award, to be presented on March 5th. This award is given annually to one individual who advocates for early childhood at the local level, and one individual who advocates for early childhood at the state level.

Nominations are due by close of business on January 30th. ***Instructions for submitting a nomination are attached to the email, as well as an optional toolkit for Early Childhood Iowa Boards or other organizations to use in promoting local recognition.***



Please be aware that nominations can be submitted by anyone; however, this year nominations must include a letter of support from the local ECI Director or Chairperson. ECI Directors/Chairpersons may submit letters on behalf of multiple individuals. The purpose of this new requirement is to promote awareness and communication between the community and ECI Boards.

The awards will be presented during ECI's annual Day on the Hill event. Please take advantage of this opportunity to recognize those who work diligently to advocate for young children.

Nominations must be submitted to james.olson@idph.iowa.gov no later than 4:30 p.m. Friday, January 23, 2015.

Questions may be directed to James Olson at 515-281-6880 or james.olson@idph.iowa.gov.

Child Care Resource and Referral Releases Video

Iowa Child Care Resource & Referral (CC R&R) has released a new video on **Iowa's Quality Rating System (QRS)**.



“We encourage **ALL** child care providers to join, renew or achieve a higher level on Iowa's Quality Rating System (QRS) for their New Year's Resolution.”

Iowa Child Care Resource and Referral

To view the video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Znkxlrupo&feature=youtu.be>

Create awareness of the Quality Rating System by sharing the video with others.

Earn Your Stars

CCR&R has experienced Child Care Consultants to support child care providers while earning y QRS gold stars. Click [here](#) to learn about QRS or call us at 877.216.8481 to find your Child Care Consultant.

Iowa Child Care Resource and Referral is also collaborating with ECI to create videos to assist parents in selecting quality child care. Look for this in the Spring of 2015.

Iowa Department of Public Health Seeking Nominations for the ***Family Support Participant of the Year*** and the ***Family Support Professional of the Year***.

IDPH has some exciting news from the world of Iowa Family Support and they need your help!

This is our chance to recognize and honor the hard work of families and family support professionals in Iowa.

One family and one family support professional will be selected from all nominations received and will be recognized at the opening night reception of the **2015 Child Abuse Prevention and Family Support Conference** (April 13, 2015). The person who has nominated said family or family support professional of the year will be notified via email early March if their nominee has been selected. The conference registration will be coming out soon!

Please see both nomination forms attached to this email and feel free to share with others in your agency, your program and as well as family support programs in your area! **Nominations are due no later than February 18, 2015 at 4 p.m** and should be returned via email to PJ West at pj.west@idph.iowa.gov. I have included an audio-photography-video consent and release form if needed.

Reminder: 2015 ECI Day-on-the-Hill March, 5 2015

The 2015 Early Childhood Day on the Hill event will be held on **Thursday, March 5th**! Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend. This year's event will focus on the importance of brain development in the first 2,000 days of life. The keynote presentation will be given by Dr. Andrea McGuire, followed by regional and individual meetings with legislators. More information will follow closer to the date. A preparation webinar is planned for February 10, 2015. Watch for the announcement.



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Federal Information:

Head Start Celebrates 50 Years of Service

This year marks another milestone for Early Childhood Education - [Head Start](#) turns 50! In those 50 years, Head Start has become the nation's leader and cornerstone for early education. Over a million children are served by Head Start programs every year, including children in every state, territory, and in most American Indian and Alaskan Native communities. Since 1965, nearly 30 million low-income children and their families have received these comprehensive services to increase their school readiness.

Click [here](#) to find a Head Start Program near you.

Other Information:

Iowa Invited to Participate in Professional Development Pilot

Iowa has been selected a one of five state to join a pilot project that is part of NAEYC's Early Childhood Workforce Systems Initiative ([ECWSI](#)). A grant from the [Alliance for Early Success](#) has supported the NAEYC Summit of States in alternate years as well as special projects during the years between the Summit. The project for Fiscal 2015 is the development of a set of quality indicators for effective, integrated state professional development systems. Development of the indicators is underway with support from an Advisory Panel. Allison Lutton of NAEYC stated in the invitation, "We believe that Iowa's experience with building professional development systems and history of cross sector PD system work would bring important perspectives and input to our development of PD System Indicators."

Class Observation Training

The Iowa Head Start Association is offering CLASS Observation Training March 11-12, 2015. Participants will gain an in-depth understanding of the three domains: emotional support, classroom organization, and instructional support, as well as how to use the observation tool. Participants will be prepared to test for reliability. Training is appropriate for education coordinators, teacher coaches/mentors, directors, individuals involved in classroom observation, and individuals teacher staff professional development. For more details or to register, visit the [Iowa Head Start Association Training Calendar](#).



New Year, New YOU!

It is a brand new year and Live Healthy Iowa has a challenge for you!

If your resolution is to improve your health, lose weight, make new friends, learn new things or have fun then join us in the 10 Week Wellness Challenge which begins January 26.

For more information Ctrl+Click on the Live Healthy Iowa Banner above.

For more information about Early Childhood Iowa, visit our website:<http://www.earlychildhoodiowa.org/>

To join the ECI Stakeholders, please complete the commitment survey at:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FSXR5F2>

2015 ECI Meeting Calendar:

ECI State Board

10:00 – 1:00

January 9

April 3

June 5

September 4 November 6

ECI Stakeholders Alliance

3 – 4 Hour meetings

February 10 (TBD)

March 5 (AM) Held in conjunction with the ECI
Day on the Hill

May 12 (PM)

September 8 (AM)

December 8 (PM)

ECI Area Directors

All day

April 8

(June will be regional meetings)

September 16

(December will be regional meetings)

ECI State Dept. Directors

8:30 – 9:30

February 6

March 6

May 1

August 7

October 2

December 4

ECI Steering Committee

Time Varies

January 8 (9:00 AM – Noon)

March 12 (9:00 – 4:00 PM)

April 2 (9:00 AM – Noon)

June 4 (9:00 AM – Noon)

August 4 (9:00 AM – 4:00 PM)

October 1 (9:00 AM – Noon)

November 5 (9:00 AM – Noon)

Early Childhood Iowa Day on the Hill

March 5, 2015