



## Early Childhood Iowa Monday Musings June 8, 2015 2015 Vol. 2, No. 23

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](mailto:jeffrey.anderson@iowa.gov)

Back Issues of Monday Musing are available [here](#).

*"If you only do what you know you can do, you never do very much."*  
-Tom Krause

### State Information:

#### IA Dept. of Public Health Seeks Public Input for the FFY16 Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Block Grant

The Iowa Department of Public Health, Bureau of Family Health and Child Health Specialty Clinics would like your input concerning the priorities, needs, and proposed program activities for the Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Block Grant application for FFY16. The priorities and proposed program activities are available on the IDPH website through June 17th for public input. The website address is: [http://www.idph.state.ia.us/hpcdp/title\\_v.asp](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/hpcdp/title_v.asp)

Please review the priorities and proposed public health strategies and activities for Iowa. Priorities are based on the Iowa's Needs Assessment (<http://www.idph.state.ia.us/titleVneedsassessment/>). The survey is asking for feedback on four types of documents:

- The Title V Needs Assessment Summary
- The proposed Five Year Action Plan
- The previous 18 National Performance Measures
- The previous eight State Performance Measures

Please provide your feedback in the online survey at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2016titlevpublicinput>

Even if you do not have any comments regarding the proposed activities, please take a moment to complete the survey stating that you had no comments. This is a way we can track and evaluate the effectiveness of web-based distribution.

### **ECI Steering Committee Seeks Nominations**

The ECI Governance Component Group is seeking nominations to fill two at-large positions on the ECI Steering Committee.

These are unfinished terms (One year and two years) and those elected would be available to fill two additional 3 –year terms.

If you are interested in nominating someone or yourself, please complete and submit the attached nomination form by June 30, 2015. Submission information is included on nomination form.

### **Iowa Department of Education Announces FY 16 Shared Visions Parent Support Grants**

A list of awarded applicants for FY16 Shared Visions Parent Support Program Grants has been posted on the IA Department of Education Website at: [FY16 Shared Visions Parent Support - Awarded Grantees](#).

The competitive grant application process resulted in a total of 6 applications being awarded funding out of the 14 total received. Final award amounts are contingent on the finalization of the state appropriation. FY16 grants are awarded with a renewal option of up to five years provided grantees meet program requirements. The next competitive grant process for Shared Visions Parent Support Programs will be for FY21.

### **Federal Information:**

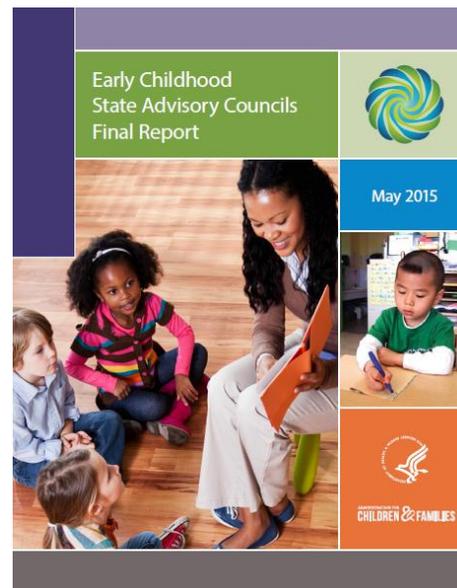
#### **ACF Releases Final Report Highlighting Significant Accomplishments by State Advisory Councils (SAC) on Early Childhood Education and Care**

ACF has released a final report highlighting significant accomplishments by State Advisory Councils (SAC) on Early Childhood Education and Care. State Advisory Councils were a dream of the late Senator Edward M. Kennedy. His early vision was to spur states on to better coordinated and higher quality early care and education. With his support, the SACs were authorized in the Head Start Act of 2007 with a goal of promoting partnerships between Head Start Agencies, State and local governments and the private sector.

#### ***[Iowa's SAC is the ECI Stakeholders Alliance]***

They were first funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. ACF awarded nearly \$100 million of ARRA funding to 45 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa in the form of SAC grants. This three-year funding was the administration's first investment in building the early childhood infrastructure for the President's Early Learning Initiative.

Many states had already begun to develop early childhood development systems prior to receiving the grant. The SAC grant propelled further improvements in the quality of early childhood programs, better



coordination among existing early childhood programs, and streamlined service delivery.

Through the SACs' work, states developed an unprecedented level of cooperation among agencies and programs and successfully built efficiencies into program service delivery for children and families.

Councils are following the national direction set by Congress and the Administration. The Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge and Preschool Development grants required states to maintain an active, fully functioning SAC that meets federal requirements. The reauthorization of the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) in November 2014 requires consultation with the State Advisory Councils. The Strong Start bill recently announced also includes the SACs and the systemic role in the state's early learning efforts.

### **Federal Office of Child Care to Release revised State Plan**

On June 3, 2015, the Federal Office of Child Care (OCC) issued a revised State Plan Pre-print for Public Comment.

OCC has not yet posted the revised version to their website, but we anticipate them doing so within the next day or so.

You'll find the version for review and comment under Resources for States on the link below.

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/occ/ccdf-reauthorization>

Other Resources : [Federal Register Notice for Public Comment](#)

States, Territories and other interested parties have 60 days to make formal comments. The public comment period ends on July 27, 2015. All comments should reference the title -- Child Care and Development Fund Plan for States/Territories for FFY 2016-2018 (ACF-118).

Comments may be forwarded by writing to:  
Administration for Children and Families,  
Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation,  
Attn: ACF Reports Clearance Officer.  
370 L'Enfant Promenade SW.,  
Washington, DC 20447

### **THE RAISING OF AMERICA**

#### **How Can We Work Together to Raise Awareness About the Importance of Early Childhood Education?**

Expanding access to high-quality early childhood education is one of the smartest investments that we can make. Research has shown that the early years in a child's life—when the brain is forming—represent a critically important window of opportunity to develop a child's full potential and shape key academic, social, and cognitive skills that determine a child's success in school and in life.

Join us for a sneak preview screening of *THE RAISING OF AMERICA* on *June 15, 2015*. This documentary film explores how a strong start for all kids can lead to a healthier and more equitable America. After the

viewing, a panel of senior leaders in the U.S. Departments of Education and Health and Human Services will lead a discussion on the film.

This event will air on the EDstream network for those who are outside of the ED Network, and with live captioning.

To access the event, go to: [EDSTREAM](#)

Learn more about *THE RAISING OF AMERICA* at: [www.raisingofamerica.org](http://www.raisingofamerica.org)

### **Progress in Preschool but Pace Too Slow**

#### ***Message from the Deputy Assistant Secretary Libby Doggett, US Department of Education***

Arne Duncan always says that the best ideas do not come from Washington, but from States and local communities. For early learning this is really true. You all are doing a great job of advancing home visiting, child care improvements, preschool and other parts of our early learning agenda.

Last Month, the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) published their annual [State Preschool Yearbook](#), profiling state-funded preschool programs in the United States. For the second year in a row, NIEER's data show nationally states increased preschool funding and quality, and enrollment grew by 8,335 slots. In January 2014, [Mississippi](#) became the first state in four years not funding preschool statewide to create a new program. Of course, the data lags by a year, so the incredible surges we've seen in cities that have embraced preschool for all – like [New York City](#)– aren't reflected here.

While this expansion is exciting, as Secretary Duncan said at [CentroNía](#) early learning center during the Yearbook release, "The current pace of change is far too incremental. We have to think about transformational change." At the current pace, it would take 75 years to reach even half of the 4 year-olds in America. States want and need the federal government to do more.

[Representatives Hanna and Scott in the House](#) and [Senator Murray in the Senate](#) have re-introduced the Strong Start for America's Children Act. And very soon, members in both chambers will make decisions on the [FY 2016 budget](#). President Obama is asking for \$750 million to continue funding for the [Preschool Development Grants](#) and expand to many more states, the territories and Indian lands. Last competition, 36 states applied to partner with the federal government in expanding preschool, but there was only enough funding for 18.

Recently at the [Fordham Institute](#), Robert Putnam, author of *Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis*, said that early childhood education does work, has a very high pay off, and is what we ought to be doing it everywhere. Parents, educators, [researchers](#), [law enforcement](#), and [business leaders](#) are all calling for increased investments in early education. I hope that our representatives will hear these bipartisan voices and pass a transformative budget that ensures more of our children enter kindergarten ready to succeed.

### **Other Information:**

## **Orchard Place Seeks Candidates for Child Care Resource and Referral Director Position**

Cathy Wheatcraft will be retiring from her position as Region Director for Region 4 of the CCR&R Program early in October.

Orchard Place is currently recruiting candidates for the director position.

Individuals can contact Marilyn Kline-Johnson, SPHR, SHRM-SCP, Director of Human Resources at [hr@orchardplace.org](mailto:hr@orchardplace.org) with questions or to email a resume.

The position is posted on the Orchard Place website at [www.orchardplace.org/careers](http://www.orchardplace.org/careers)

## **The Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children Seeks candidate for Counseling Specialist for T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® IOWA.**

The *Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children* is seeking a strong candidate to serve as a Counseling Specialist for T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® IOWA.

We anticipate a full-time professional-level position available early summer 2015. Some flexibility in hours may be arranged, occasional evenings and Saturdays are required. Must be willing to relocate to Des Moines area if necessary.

Required: Bachelors' degree (or higher) in Early Childhood Education, Child Development, Child & Family Services, or closely related field is absolutely required. Two-three years' minimum experience in an early learning program, child development home or center or preschool, is also required. Experience in project facilitation or in another professional administrative role within our field is desired. Must be outgoing, comfortable with basic math, flexible and highly organized. We seek to find a strong early childhood leader with a commitment to higher education, professional development, a passion for the field of early childhood education, and the ability to be a team player.

T.E.A.C.H. Counseling Specialist position responsibilities include:

- Provide college and scholarship counseling by phone, email, and in person to T.E.A.C.H. recipients and potential recipients. Following agency procedures, promptly and accurately process applications, invoices, grade reports, income verifications.
- Maintain and share information regarding the early childhood education course work requirements of colleges in Iowa, with the Child Development Associate (CDA) credentialing process, with federal financial aid, with barriers for the workforce such as articulation and transfer of credits.
- Serve as an advocate for the early care and education workforce in Iowa, speaking up on their behalf at local efforts and state-level committees.
- Recruit early care and education teachers and providers to participate in the T.E.A.C.H. program. Presentation skills and some in- and out-of-state travel required.
- Provide some project management and implementation of committee work. Support other Iowa AEYC early childhood professional development efforts.
- Work successfully as part of a close-knit team of creative professional early care and education leaders on agency-wide and state-level initiatives.

May schedule hours between 7:30-5:00 weekdays. A monthly evening and/or Saturday is required.

For more information about T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® IOWA, go to [www.iowaaeyc.org](http://www.iowaaeyc.org)

Applications will be accepted until June 15, 2015. Position to start on or soon after July 1, 2015.

Email professional letter of interest and resume to [bmerrill@iowaaeyc.org](mailto:bmerrill@iowaaeyc.org) or mail to:  
Barbara Merrill, Iowa AEYC, 5525 Meredith Drive Suite F, Des Moines, IA, 50310.

### **Preventing Childhood Injury Conference**

***Registration is now open for the 2015 Preventing Childhood Injury Conference!***

***September 29, 2015***



# **Blank Children's Hospital**

## **UnityPoint Health**

**Registration:** Pre-registration is required; limited seating. Only online registrations will be accepted. For more information or to register: [Click here](#) .

**Intended Audience:** Injury prevention advocates, public health professionals, nurses, public safety officials (fire, law enforcement, EMS), school professionals and others interested in injury prevention.

**Purpose:** To educate health professionals and injury prevention advocates on injury prevention strategies and interventions for lasting success. This program will provide participants with tools that they can take back to their local community and use to promote the health and safety of children.

**Objective:** To explore the ever-changing world of technology and its impact on childhood injury.

#### **Tentative Topics:**

- Pediatric Concussion
- Bullying Research and Prevention
- Prescription Drug Abuse in Youth and Adolescents
- Days, Weeks, Months? How to make sense of safety initiatives all year long.

**Cost:** \$30 - Early Bird Registration until July 31.

\$50 - Registration from August 1 - September 18.

**CEUs:** EMS CEUs will be provided at no cost.

**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

September 11 (Council Bluffs)

November 6 (Des Moines)

**ECI Stakeholders Alliance**

3 – 4 Hour meetings

September 8 (AM)

December 8 (PM)

**ECI Area Directors**

All day

(June will be regional meetings)

September 16

(December will be regional meetings)

**ECI State Dept. Directors**

8:30 – 10:30 AM

October 2

**ECI Steering Committee**

Time Varies

August 4 (9:00 AM – 4:00 PM)

October 1 (9:00 AM – Noon)

November 5 (9:00 AM – Noon)



Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholders Alliance  
Nomination Form for At-Large Members  
To serve on the ECI Steering Committee

2015-2016 Nomination Form

The Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholders Alliance is accepting nominations for At-Large members on the ECI Stakeholders Alliance Steering Committee.

There are three categories of ECI SC membership including:

The co-chairpersons of the ECI SA component groups;

A minimum of three at-large members to ensure representation based on a variety of factors including but not limited to geographic, racial/ethnic identity, gender and early childhood sector (i.e., early learning, family support, special needs/early intervention, health, mental health and nutrition). These at-large members shall be nominated by the ECI SA membership or self-nominated. As is true with the component group co-chairpersons, these at-large members shall serve three year terms with a maximum of two terms served consecutively and;

Members designated to meet the requirements of the State Advisory Council initiated through the Head Start federal legislation (42 USC 9801, Section 642B) and the following;

- The Early Childhood Iowa Office lead staff person or designee;
- The staff person responsible for the implementation of the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Grant or designee, as long as that grant is in effect; and
- A member of the Early Childhood Iowa State Board if and when his or her participation is possible.

The Steering Committee is charged with organizing, managing, and coordinating the activities of the ECI Stakeholders Alliance and component groups which it does during monthly Steering Committee meetings held in Des Moines. To learn more about their role, go to the ECI website, policies and procedures manual, see Section 2.0:

[http://www.earlychildhoodiowa.org/state\\_system/ECI\\_stakeholders\\_alliance/policies\\_and\\_procedures.html](http://www.earlychildhoodiowa.org/state_system/ECI_stakeholders_alliance/policies_and_procedures.html)

It is expected that any Steering Committee members be available to attend these meetings (generally scheduled for the first Thursday of every month) in addition to the quarterly ECI Stakeholders Alliance meetings and other gatherings as appropriate. Members from outside the Des Moines area can also participate in most committee meetings via conference call.

**Please complete the attached nomination form and return to Jeff Anderson by June 30, 2015.**

**Mail: Iowa Department of Management, Iowa State Capitol, Des Moines, Iowa 50309**

**or**

**Email: [jeffrey.anderson@iowa.gov](mailto:jeffrey.anderson@iowa.gov)**

*Nominators can nominate **themselves or others** by providing the following information.*

Name of nominee:

Phone number and email address of nominee:

Phone number and email address of nominator (if different from nominee):

Current Employer and Position:

Number of Years as a member of the ECI Stakeholders Alliance (formerly ECI Council):

How do you currently participant in ECI Activities? i.e. where have/are you making commitments?

**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION REGARDING NOMINEE** (This information will be a supplement to the ballot to help members in their voting process): Briefly include length of time in current position, relevant past positions, contributions made to ECI and Iowa’s overall Early Childhood System, anticipated contributions the ECI Steering Committee etc.

Briefly describe what you/the nominee would bring or add to the ECI Stakeholders Alliance Steering Committee? What would your goals be during your tenure?

It is expected that the At-Large Steering Committee members will attend monthly planning meetings, ECI Stakeholders Alliance meetings and be active participants in other scheduled retreats or activities of the Committee.

Due to this, does the nominee have the support of their supervisor/employer to be named to the ECI Stakeholders Alliance Steering Committee? **YES**\_\_\_\_\_ **NO**\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Supervisor (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Nominator/Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_