



Early Childhood Iowa Monday Musings July 6, 2015 2015 Vol. 2, No. 26

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

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

***“The fundamental job of a toddler is to rule the universe.
Lawrence Kutner***

State Information:

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 July 31, 2015. Submission information is included on nomination form.

Governor Signs Education and Human Services Appropriations – ECI funds maintained at FY 2015 Levels

Education Appropriations – (ECI – Division I, Sec. 6, Par. 9)

[House File 658](#): an Act relating to the funding of, the operation of, and the appropriation of moneys in the college student aid commission, the Department for the Blind, the Department of Education, **Early Childhood Iowa (Empowerment)** and the state board of regents, providing for related matters, and providing effective date and retroactive and other applicability provisions. [View breakdown of over \\$3 billion being spent on Iowa schools in FY16.](#)

Gov. Branstad’s item veto message read in part:

“I am unable to approve the item designated as Section 11, in its entirety. I recommended a two-year budget on the second day of this legislative session including an increase in supplemental state aid for both years. Throughout the session, I encouraged the legislature to provide supplemental state aid for pre-kindergarten through 12th grade for the next two years as required by law. By using one-time money and not providing supplemental state aid for the second fiscal year, the legislature compounded the uncertainty that school districts faced this entire legislative session.

“My administration’s commitment to giving Iowa students a world-class education is demonstrated by significant, targeted growth in funding for initiatives to raise achievement. Iowa’s new Teacher Leadership System is the single largest reform measure, with an investment of more than \$150 million when fully phased in during the 2016-2017 school year. With many of our best teachers serving in leadership roles, such as instructional coaches and mentors, Iowa can better support the more demanding work teachers must do today to prepare all students for a knowledge-driven economy.

“Other targeted education reform measures my administration proposed for the next fiscal year at a cost of more than \$18 million include: an initiative to ensure children are able to read by the end of third grade, ongoing expansion of Iowa Learning Online program to offer more course options to high school students, and the Teach Iowa Scholars Program which provides up to \$20,000 to top graduates of Iowa teacher preparation programs who teach hard-to-fill subjects in Iowa schools for five years.

“With any budget, it is important to look at the entire picture. For fiscal year 2016, Iowa schools will receive over \$3 billion, by far the biggest item in the state budget.”

Human Services Appropriation – (ECI – Div. V, Sec. 16, Par. 5)

[Senate File 505](#): an Act relating to appropriations for health and human services and veterans and including other related provisions and appropriations, and including effective date and retroactive and other applicability date provisions. – [Read Gov. Branstad’s veto message here.](#)

Federal Information:

Federal Administration for Children and Families:

Caring for Our Children Basics: Health and Safety Foundations for Early Care and Education

In the United States, every 4 seconds a child is treated for an injury in an emergency department.^[1] In fact, the leading cause of death for children under age 6 in 2013 was unintentional injury as a result of motor vehicle accidents, drowning, suffocation, burns, exposure to heat, falls, and fire arms.^[2] Taking place both inside and outside the home, many of these accidents and the resulting heart ache could have been prevented.

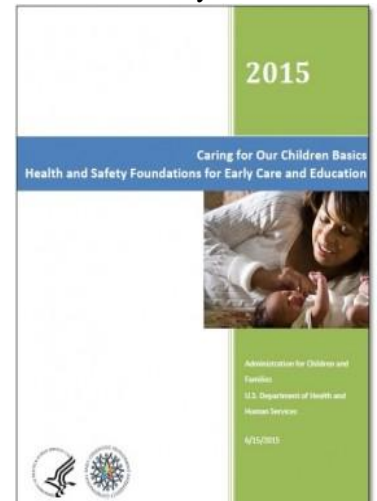
Every day, parents place their trust in teachers and caregivers in early care and education settings and have reasonable expectations that their children will be healthy and safe while in care. Parents must have this peace of mind in order to work and attend to other responsibilities that support their families. Over the last several years, great progress has been made in States to safeguard children in out of home care, in particular, yet more work must be done to ensure children can learn, play, and grow in settings that are safe and secure.

^[1] U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Division of Unintentional Injury Prevention](#). (2012). CDC Vital Signs: Child Injury.

^[2] U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System. (2013). Mortality.

States vary widely in the number and content of health and safety standards as well as the means by which they monitor compliance. While there are differences in health and safety requirements by funding stream (e.g. Head Start, Child Care Development Fund, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, State-funded Pre-K); by program type (e.g. center-based, home-based) and by length of time in care, we believe there are basic standards that should be in place to protect children no matter what type of setting. Until now, there has been no federal guidance that helps States in establishing these basic, yet consistent health and safety standards across these early care and education settings.

We at ACF are pleased to announce the release of [*Caring for Our Children Basics: Health and Safety Foundations for Early Care and Education*](#). Though voluntary, *Caring for our Children Basics* represents the **minimum health and safety standards** experts believe should be in place wherever children are cared for outside of their homes. We urge States to use *Caring for our Children Basics* to better align programs no matter what the funding source. In doing so they can reduce conflicts and redundancies found in program standards linked to multiple funding streams.



We at ACF hope this set of standards will be a helpful resource for States and other entities as they work to improve health and safety standards in licensing and quality rating improvement systems (QRIS). These are the basics. As states build on and improve their QRIS levels we envision *Caring for Our Children Basics* to be the baseline or foundation of their framework. Other tools such as *Stepping Stones to Caring for Our Children* and the full set of *Caring for Our Children* Third Edition should be consulted as states establish higher levels that move programs from the entry to higher levels of quality.

We also anticipate *Caring for Our Children Basics* will support greater efficiency of monitoring systems for early care and education settings. I encourage everyone to read our [White Paper – Innovation in Monitoring in Early Care and Education](#) published earlier this year. A common framework will assist the Nation in working towards and achieving a consistent level of quality upon which families can rely.

For more information, please visit <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ece/caring-for-our-children-basics>.

Other Information:

Bishop Julius Trimble: Early Childhood Education is a Moral Imperative:

A letter was written by Julius Trimble, bishop of Iowa Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, titled, "[Early childhood education is a moral imperative.](#)" It ran July 3rd in The Des Moines Register and it discusses not only the importance of early childhood education but also the need to develop innovative financing mechanism to expand programs.

Seniors: Press candidates on children's issues

Charles Bruner, Child and Family Policy Center, wrote the following, which was published in the Des Moines Register on June 30th, "I'm a baby boomer senior citizen. I am used to getting appeals from candidates that involve preserving Medicare and Social Security and ensuring

taxes don't bite into my fixed income. I know presidential candidates will be speaking to these issues in Iowa, as they seek to garner support for their bids.

Yet these are not issues about my future and our country's future that concern me (and many seniors like me) the most."

I'm most concerned with the future we pass onto the next generation and the degree to which we equip our nation's children, and grandchildren, to be healthy, educated, and with the opportunity to succeed. What I want candidates to speak about is how they will ensure a bright future for our nation's children."

To read all: [Press candidates on children's issues](#)

Child Care Aware Releases 2015 Fact Sheets

Nearly 11 million children under age 5 are in some type of child care setting every week. On average, the children of working mothers spend 36 hours a week in such care. About one-third of these children are in multiple child care arrangements. Parents have a hard time finding child care, a harder time affording it, and too often it is of dubious quality.

- [Child Care in America: 2015 State Fact Sheets — Introduction](#) (Introduction to key data related to child care)
- [Child Care in America: 2015 State Fact Sheets — Full Report](#) (National summary of key data and all state fact sheets – you must go through the entire checkout process in order to download the *full* PDF report)
- [Share Toolkit](#) -- social media posts and graphics for sharing (.DOCX)
- [For State Specific Information](#)

This annual report uses federal and national data and information from state Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) agencies and other state agencies to look at:

The Drake University Harkin Institute for Public Policy and Citizen Engagement:

Join us for Coffee with Robert Putnam

On **July 10th at 9:00 AM**, the Drake University Harkin Institute for Public Policy and Citizen Engagement will host Robert Putnam, the author of *Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis*. The book examines why fewer Americans today have the opportunity for upward mobility. Through Putnam's research, he identifies the need to reach across party and ideology boundaries to provide solutions for our kids.

The event is sponsored by Every Child Matters in Iowa, Save the Children Action Network, the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines, the Greater Des Moines Partnership, the Iowa Community Action Association, the Child & Family Policy Center, the United Way of Central Iowa, the American Academy of Pediatrics, Iowa Chapter, First Focus, and the Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children. The event is free and open to the public. However, space is limited to ensure an intimate experience. [Please CLICK HERE to register for tickets.](#)

Iowa AEYC Early Care and Education Fall Summit: September 18-19, 2015:
Our Journey to One Goal: The Successful Child



Iowa Association for the
Education of Young Children

We invite you to join hundreds of other Iowa early childhood care and education professionals at this year's Early Care & Education Institute: *Our Journey to One Goal – the Successful Child*. Registrants can choose to attend one, two or three days. PLEASE NOTICE this year: we are offering a special rate for Saturday-only, for teaching staff unable to attend during the week. We are also offering a new online individual registration option and a group registration form (paper copy).

We are pleased to welcome to welcome Dr. Susan Neumann from New York University, former U.S. Assistant Secretary of Education, as our Friday keynote speaker. She is working on interventions to change the odds for children who are at risk, especially in the area of early literacy. Lisa Murphy, the *Ooey Goey Lady*, a perennial favorite, joins us for a keynote address and another workshop on Saturday. Dr. Juliann Woods, a national leader in areas relating to early intervention, is returning this year. The Institute will feature over 70 other workshops, four opportunities to register for a pre-conference event in addition to the two Institute days, dozens of exhibitors, professional membership Association annual meetings, and six hours per day of approved training credit.

The Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children would like to thank our nine co-sponsoring organizations for this event, Iowa Head Start Association, Iowa Department of Education, Early Childhood Iowa, Iowa Subdivision of the Division of Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children, Child Care Resource & Referral of Iowa, Iowa State University Extension & Outreach – Human Sciences, Iowa Early Childhood Community College Alliance, Iowa Family Child Care Association, and First Children's Finance. Members and/or staff of these organizations may register at a reduced member rate.

To register, visit our website, <http://www.iowaaeyc.org/iowa-aeyc-institutes.cfm>. You will find a complete registration book as well as the online form and paper forms. Be sure to check the website regularly for updates on the Institute! Thank you for forwarding this on to your members, your staff and other colleagues who might be interested.

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 15 (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

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

*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: _____