



Early Childhood Iowa Monday Musings September 28, 2015 2015 Vol. 2, No. 35

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](#).

"Leaders are visionaries with a poorly developed sense of fear and no concept of the odds against them." – Robert Jarvik

State Information:

Medicaid Member Education and Enrollment Events

Iowa Medicaid will host a mix of in-person meetings and webinars branded as “tele-townhall meetings” in the top 17 populated cities in Iowa. These meetings will provide the public with an opportunity to receive information about the transition, ask questions directly to DHS staff, and *receive in-person enrollment assistance*.

The tele-townhalls will feature a short presentation for those with Internet access and also will be available via conference call. Iowa Medicaid will work with local venues such as public libraries to offer the in-person meetings and tele-townhalls free to the public, in order for a larger audience to view the presentation. These presentations will be designed to provide the public with the ability to participate in the process and address any questions the members have. Iowa Medicaid will track the questions that are asked, and use these meetings to prepare for further communications materials and planned responses.

To view the schedule: [Medicaid Member Education and Enrollment Events](#)

Federal Information:

U.S. Departments of Education and Health and Human Services Release Guidance on Including Children with Disabilities in High-Quality Early Childhood Programs : ***Secretary Duncan announced in Kansas City, Missouri, during first stop of back-to-school bus tour***

On September 14, the U.S. Departments of Education and Health and Human Services released a policy statement highlighting the importance of making sure that all young children with disabilities have access to inclusive high-quality early childhood programs. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced the new policy statement in Kansas City, Missouri, during the first stop of his back-to-school bus tour.

The policy statement sets a vision for States, local educational agencies, schools, and public and private early childhood programs to strengthen and increase the number of inclusive high-quality early childhood programs nationwide. As the country continues to move forward on the critical task of expanding access to high-quality early childhood programs for all young children, it is imperative that children with disabilities be included in these efforts.

You can find more information about the policy statement [here](#) and read the full policy statement attached. The policy statement and executive summary will also be posted on the [ECD website](#).

[Duncan](#) made the announcement during the Education Department's sixth annual [back-to-school bus tour](#) launch event at Woodland Early Learning Community School in Kansas City, Missouri. After the announcement, senior administration officials held a roundtable with state leaders in both Kansas and Missouri on supporting inclusion efforts. Both states committed to mobilizing existing early childhood councils or taskforces to prioritize inclusion and implement recommendations in the policy statement, leading the way for other states.

For more information developed in Iowa regarding inclusive programs, visit here: [ECSE Inclusion Brochure](#)

Other Information:

Paper Tigers Pre-View

You are invited to attend a screening of a new documentary developed by James Redford. The documentary examines the impact of trauma on children, and how one school changed its system to respond appropriately. The screening will be held at the Fleur Cinema in Des Moines on Tuesday, October 20th at 1:00 p.m. and again at 6:00 p.m. It is completely free to attend. (See next page for more information.)

The trailer can be found here: <http://www.papertigersmovie.com/>

To register for the 1 p.m. screening and learn more: [Paper-Tiger Preview](#)

Consumer education about child care

States have spent more than \$1 billion since 2011 in reaching parents with information about high-quality child care options. Recent studies illuminate the reasons parents make care decisions—insights consumer educators can use. For example, most low-income parents perceive that they have limited child care options, so they consider few options.

To read more: [Consumer education about child care](#)

BECOME A CONNECTIONS MATTER ADVOCATE!

CARING RELATIONSHIPS CAN GIVE CHILDREN A GREAT START. THEY CAN HELP PEOPLE WITH A HISTORY OF TRAUMA HEAL. THEY CAN IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF OUR NEIGHBORS AND THE WELL-BEING OF FAMILIES.

Connections Matter is a community effort. Connections Matter wants everyone to know that fostering connections with the children, families and adults in your life matters to developing healthy brains and strong communities.

BECOME A *CONNECTIONS MATTER* ADVOCATE!

We will arm you with the facts, stories, tools and materials to carry this message into your communities. Our campaign will kick off on **September 30** with the following resources:

TRAINING: Take one of our train-the-presenter workshops on Sept. 30 and Oct. 1. The three-hour workshop will teach you how to deliver a short presentation in settings such as lunch-and-learns and local group meetings. You will receive a PowerPoint presentation with notes as well as take-away materials for participants. Registration will launch in mid-August.

MATERIALS: Find tools to raise awareness of this issue in your community. Materials will include the Connections Matter logo (customizable by community), social media messages and infographics.

WEBSITE: Become immersed in the science behind the campaign and how you can take action through stories, fact sheets and resource links on our ConnectionsMatter.org website.

Sign up for updates about the September 30 launch at [What's your connection?](#)

Connections Matter strives to spark active relationship building in Central Iowa – and beyond! The campaign provides a message to advance individual support and community engagement work already underway as well as to inspire new initiatives. To learn how Connections Matter can enhance your current efforts, please contact whatsyourconnection@gmail.org to schedule a meeting.

Together we can engage more people in creating an environment that strengthens families from the start and gives adults and children with a history of trauma an opportunity to heal.

Fathers Make a Difference (October 7, 2015)

A Conference about How and Why Fatherhood Programs Work

What: A half-day conference for public and private sector professionals who manage, provide, or care about services for fathers. A keynote and three panel discussions will be heard covering **Income Opportunities**, **Legal System Access**, and **Fatherhood Education**.



Keynote: To be presented by Joseph T. Jones, Jr., Founder and CEO Center for Urban Families and National Fatherhood Leader, Baltimore, MD.

When: Wednesday, October 7, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Where: Wellmark YMCA, 501 Grand Ave. Des Moines, IA 50309

Price: \$25, includes lunch (**Registration ends Sept. 21**)

Presented by: YMCA of Greater Des Moines, Evelyn K. Davis Center for Working Families, and Polk County Fathers and Families Coalition

For More Information and to Register:

[Fathers Make a Difference](#)

New Free Resource Guide Supports Professionals Who Work With Infants and Toddlers

The August edition of "Baby Talk" is available online... [more](#)

Baby Talk is a free, one-way listserv that is distributed monthly. Each issue features resources that are high quality, readily available and free. To join the listserv, send an email **with no message** to subscribe-babytalk@listserv.unc.edu To suggest resources, please contact Camille Catlett at camille.catlett@unc.edu or (919) 966-6635.

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
November 6 (Des Moines)

ECI Stakeholders Alliance

3 – 4 Hour meetings
December 8 (PM)

ECI Area Directors

December 9

ECI State Dept. Directors

8:30 – 10:30 AM
October 2

ECI Steering Committee

October 1 (9:00 AM – Noon)
November 5 (9:00 AM – Noon)

2016 ECI Meeting Calendar:

ECI State Board

10:00 – 1:00
January 8
April 1
June 3
September 9
November 4

ECI Stakeholders Alliance

3 – 4 Hour meetings
February 23 (TBD)
May 10 (PM)
September 13 (AM)
December 13 (PM)

ECI Area Directors

April 6 All day
(June will be regional meetings)
September 13 (afternoon)
December 7 All day

ECI State Dept. Directors

8:30 – 10:30
May 6
October 7

ECI Steering Committee

Time Varies
January 7 (9:00 AM – Noon)
March 3 (9:00 – 4:00 PM)
April 7 (9:00 AM – Noon)
June 2 (9:00 AM – Noon)
August 4 (9:00 AM – 4:00 PM)
October 6 (9:00 AM – Noon)
November 3 (9:00 AM – Noon)

Early Childhood Iowa Day on the Hill

February 23, 2016