



Early Childhood Iowa  
Monday Musings  
December 7, 2015  
2015 Vol. 2, No. 45

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](#).

*“Leadership is action, not position.”*  
– Donald H. McGannon

## State Information:

### Meeting Announcement: ECI Stakeholders Alliance December 8, 2015

The next ECI Stakeholder Alliance meeting is:

December 8, 2015  
12:30 -4:00 PM  
Urbandale Library  
3520 86th St  
Urbandale, IA 50322



A draft agenda is below.

- **What is Equity?**
- **The Importance of Fathers – Fatherhood Initiative**
- **Child Care and Development Block Grant State Plan**
- **Children of Diversity Project**
- **Finalize ECI Strategic Plan**

*To register your attendance please use this link by December 4, 2015:*

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/57SGWBY>

### Statewide Call for Action: A Strategic Plan for a Children’s Mental Health Redesign in Iowa

The Iowa Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health is pleased to announce an upcoming webinar on the topic of NAMI Iowa Children’s Mental Health Coalition’s [Statewide Call for Action](#).

Tammy Nyden, Co-Chair of the Children’s Mental Health Committee, will provide an overview of the Coalition’s proposed strategic plan for redesigning Iowa’s mental health system for children.

The webinar will be held on Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 – 10:30. Register by following this [link](#).

Feel free to share with others who may be interested.

## **Federal Information:**

### **A Conversation on Early Learning with Bright Spots in Hispanic Education**

via **Google+ Hangout** on **Wednesday, December 16, 2015** at **2:00 pm EST**.

As part of the 25th Anniversary Year of Action, the Initiative made a national call for [Bright Spots in Hispanic Education](#) and announced over 230 during Hispanic Heritage Month. To elevate the work, including promising practices, of these Bright Spots and learn from their experiences, the Initiative is hosting a series of public engagements, via **Google + Hangout** over the coming year.

These interactive sessions will provide an opportunity to hear from programs, models, organizations, or initiatives that are helping close the achievement gap, from cradle-to-career, for Hispanic students, and for discussing ways to continue moving the needle on progress for Latino students and families.

The next in the series of monthly Hangouts, will take place on Wednesday, December 16, 2015 from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. eastern standard time and will focus on Early Learning and the Latino community. Future **Google +Hangouts** are planned as follows:

- Post-secondary completion – January 20, 2016
- Family Engagement (Spanish) – February 17, 2016
- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Education - March 16, 2016
- Latino teacher recruitment – April 20, 2016

The Hangouts will be broadcast live from Washington, D.C. and viewers can participate via the Web stream, or by sending questions in during or in advance of the event through Google+, [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) or email.

For more information about the **Google+Hangouts** or the Bright Spots, please visit [www.ed.gov/HispanicInitiative](http://www.ed.gov/HispanicInitiative) or send us an email at [WHIEEH@ed.gov](mailto:WHIEEH@ed.gov) with “BrightSpot” in the subject line.

[RSVP here](#)

## Other Information:

### From Crawling to Walking

The Early & Elementary Education team at New America released a new report, "[From Crawling to Walking: Ranking States on Birth - 3rd Grade Policies that Build Strong Readers](#)" that measures states on a broad set of policy indicators that can help ensure children are on track to read on grade level by the end of third grade. The report and [data visualization tool](#) offer ideas on birth-3rd grade policies that support children's literacy development and rank all 50 states and Washington, DC on whether they have these policies in place.

### RACE: Are We So Different?

**Experience this highly personal and thought-provoking exhibition at the Science Center of Iowa October 10, 2015, through April 3, 2016.**

People look different. Like a fingerprint, each person is unique. Each person represents a one-of-a-kind combination of their parents', grandparents' and family's ancestry - and every person experiences life somewhat differently than others. But are we so different?

This provocative exhibition investigates race and human variation using three primary themes: the history of the idea of race, the science of human variation and the contemporary experience of race and racism in the United States.

The exhibit includes:

- Interactive exhibit components
- Historical artifacts
- Iconic objects
- Compelling photographs
- Multimedia presentations

*RACE: Are We So Different?* is a project of the American Anthropological Association in collaboration with the Science Museum of Minnesota, funded by Ford Foundation and the National Science Foundation.

### VISITING INFORMATION

**Admission:** Admission to the exhibition is included with SCI general admission (\$12 for adults and \$8 for children and seniors).

**Group Visits and Diversity Training:** SCI also has developed four group visit packages to provide diversity and inclusion training for groups of 20-250. [View group visit packages and information](#)

**School Trips:** School visits are only \$2 through February 2016. [Learn more about SCI School Visits](#)

**From Child Trends:**

**Fostering Early Brain Development**

**New videos for your organization**

These new short videos from Child Trends offer powerful messages for parents and providers working with young children. They feature Dr. Dana Suskind summarizing research on topics such as why the first three years of life are so important, what we know about early brain development, how to help low-income parents, and more. We'd be happy to have you post them on your website. Just send us a note at [staff@childtrends.org](mailto:staff@childtrends.org).

Watch them [here](#).

**Low-income families' private safety net**

On **Thursday, December 10th from 3 - 4 p.m. ET**, the [Self-Sufficiency Research Clearinghouse](#) will host a webinar exploring how low-income families use the private safety net - assistance from family and friends - to make ends meet. Child Trends Senior Scholar Kristin Anderson Moore will moderate the discussion.

[Register here](#).

**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

## 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