



Early Childhood Iowa
Monday Musings
December 14, 2015
2015 Vol. 2, No. 46

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](#).

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

State Information:

Notice of Public Comment Period and Hearing for Iowa’s Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) State Plan

The Iowa Department of Human Services, Division of Adult, Children and Family Services, is seeking input on the state's Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) State Plan for Federal Fiscal Years 2016 –2018. Federal regulations require the state to notify the public regarding the state's child care assistance program and the efforts to improve the quality of child care in Iowa.

Iowa's draft CCDF State Plan will be available for review and comment from December 18, 2015 – January 7, 2016. **The plan will be available after 1:00 p.m. on December 18th on the DHS website at www.dhs.iowa.gov.** A link to the plan will be posted on the home page under the slide show. Comments will be accepted by email or US postal mail until 4:30 p.m., Thursday, January 7th.

A **public hearing** will also occur on **January 7th from 10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.** The meeting will be held at the Iowa Association of Community College Trustees offices located at 855 E. Court Ave., Des Moines, Iowa. You may also attend the public hearing via webinar by registering at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6063536512298101249>. Comment provided in person or via webinar on that day must also be submitted in written form. Oral comment is limited to 5 minutes per person.

Comments must be submitted either by email to kshacke@dhs.state.ia.us or in writing to Kim Shackelford, Iowa Dept. of Human Services, Division of ACFS-Child Care Bureau, Hoover State Office Bldg., 5th Floor, 1305 E Walnut, Des Moines, IA 50319-0114.

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 17th, from 9:00 – 10:30. Register by following this [link](#).

Feel free to share with others who may be interested.

The Early Childhood Day on the Hill event is coming!

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend. Day on the Hill will be held on **Tuesday, February 23rd 2016 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.** in the Capitol rotunda. The focus of this year's event will be on the importance of high quality child care. Please consider sending an invitation to your state legislators now! (See Attached Flyer)

Don't know who your legislators are? Find out by visiting <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators>. Get to know your legislators by signing up for newsletters, attending community forums and simply reaching out to them. They want to hear from you! Don't wait until you get to the Capitol. Begin building a relationship today!

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 or send us an email at WHIEEH@ed.gov with “BrightSpot” in the subject line.

[RSVP here](#)

Inclusion in Early Childhood Programs - Webinar Series Kickoff, Thursday, December 17, 3:30 pm, EST.

The U. S. Departments of Education and Health and Human Services invite you to join them via Google Hangout for a discussion about [inclusion in early childhood programs](#) and why it matters to States, early childhood programs, families, and young children with and without disabilities.

Speakers include:

- Michael Yudin, Assistant Secretary, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services
- Linda Smith, Deputy Assistant Secretary and Inter-Departmental Liaison for Early Childhood Development, Administration for Children and Families
- Libby Doggett, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Early Learning
- Sharon Lewis, Principal Deputy Administrator, Administration for Community Living

The discussion kicks off a series of webinars on the research, practice, and public awareness of inclusion in early childhood programs, to be held over the next several months.

[Click here to join the event.](#)

If you have questions for our speakers prior to the event, please post them on twitter at [#inclusiongov](#) or email Christy.Kavulic@ed.gov or Shantel.Meek@acf.hhs.gov

Want more information on this topic?

The U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services and Education issued a policy statement and recommendations about inclusion in early childhood programs and why it matters to States, early childhood programs, families, and young children with and without disabilities.

- View the HHS and ED [Joint Letter Promoting Inclusive High-Quality Early Childhood Programs \(PDF\)](#).
[http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ecd/office_of_secretary_decision_joint_letter.p
df](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ecd/office_of_secretary_decision_joint_letter.pdf)
- Read the [Policy Statement \(PDF\)](#).

https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ece/policy_statement_on_inclusion_of_children_with_disabilities_in_early.pdf

- Read the [Executive Summary \(PDF\)](#).

https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ece/executive_summary.pdf

NCLB reauthorization: the Every Student Succeeds Act – December 4, 2015

In education news this week: the reauthorization of NCLB. National Journal [outlines](#) 5 key things to know about the reauthorization. EdWeek has a comprehensive outline of changes, history, and implications [here](#). They report “The newest proposed version of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act—dubbed the Every Student Succeeds Act, [has officially been released](#). . . . If all goes as planned, the bill will reach President Barack Obama's desk by the end of the year—and he's expected to sign it.” The Act passed in the House this week 359-64, and moves on to the Senate.

Other Information:

Connections Matter Train-the-Presenter Workshop in Des Moines

A CARING RELATIONSHIP CAN GIVE A CHILD A GREAT START. IT CAN HELP SOMEONE WITH A HISTORY OF TRAUMA HEAL. IT CAN IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF A NEIGHBOR AND THE WELL-BEING OF A FAMILY.

Connections Matter is a community effort. We want everyone to know that fostering caring connections with the children,

families and adults in your life matters to developing healthy brains, supportive relationships, and thriving communities.

Connections Matter Train-the-Presenter Workshop in Des Moines

Tuesday, January 12, 1-4 p.m. (In case of weather, reschedule date is Jan. 21)

Polk County River Place

2309 Euclid Ave., Des Moines

REGISTER at www.connectionsmatter.org/training. Cost is \$25

Objectives:

- Develop understanding that fostering caring relationships with the children, families and adults in life matters to developing healthy brains, supportive relationships, and thriving communities.
- Learn how to deliver a 20-minute and 50-minute presentation utilizing the Connections Matter curriculum.

Trained presenters will receive PowerPoint slides with notes and takeaway materials to hand out.

- Learn about other resources to support awareness efforts.

Target Audience: Professionals and Community Members

Speakers: Lisa Cushatt, LMSW, Program Manager, Central Iowa ACEs 360

Sarah Welch, Communications Director, Prevent Child Abuse Iowa

Lana Herteen, MA, LMHC, Community Child Advocate, Blank Children’s Hospital

The speakers indicated they have no financial relationships to disclose relevant to the content of this CME activity

Low-income Hispanics are less likely to access public assistance

Hispanic children are almost twice as likely as non-Hispanics to live in households with income of less

than \$24,000 annually. Their households have less variation (positive or negative) in their month-to-month income than do low-income non-Hispanic households, but they may face difficulties accessing public assistance programs. Learn more about the economic circumstances in low-income Latino households in three briefs from the [National Research Center on Hispanic Children & Families](#), led by Child Trends and Abt Associates with university partners.

Join @NRCHispanic for a Twitter chat about this on **Tuesday, December 15 at 2 p.m. ET**. Use [#HispanicFamilies](#) to join the conversation.

Read More: [Here](#)

School Mobility: Implications for Children's Development

More than one-fifth of children in the United States are living in [poverty](#). Children growing up in poverty face numerous adversities that can negatively affect their learning and development, starting at a very early age. For example, these children are less likely to have access to books and to hear rich vocabulary; and are more likely to be exposed to violence in their neighborhoods, attend low-quality, under-resourced schools, have stressed parents, live in crowded and/or noisy homes, and have unstable home environments. All of these stressful life experiences can compromise children's learning, as well as their cognitive and social-emotional development.

Moving from school to school can adversely affect child outcomes. NIEER researcher Allison Friedman-Krauss examines the issue in NIEER's latest blog [post](#).

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.

Watch them [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