



Early Childhood Iowa Monday Musings April 3, 2017 Vol. 4, No. 11

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 time when you need to do something is when no one else is willing to do it, when people are saying it can’t be done.”

- Mary Frances Berry

State Information

“OUCH! The Stereotype Hurts”

ISU Extension and Outreach is offering “OUCH! The Stereotype Hurts” -- a curriculum is designed for agencies, businesses and groups interested in promoting feelings of inclusion. The workshop, based on the book by Leslie C. Aguilar, will help participants understand the impact of stereotypes and biased statements, identify the most common reasons people sit silently in the face of bias and stereotypes, and enhance skills for speaking up against stereotypes. During the two-hour course, participants will learn six specific techniques to use when responding to difficult situations. Groups or communities interested in the “OUCH! That Stereotype Hurts” workshop can contact **Malisa Rader** at mrader@iastate.edu or their local ISU Extension and Outreach human sciences specialist in family life.

STATE DATA CENTER: DALLAS FIFTH FASTEST GROWING COUNTY IN NATION FROM 2015 TO 2016

Dallas County had the fifth fastest growing population in the U.S. from 2015 to 2016 according to new estimates provided by the U.S. Census Bureau. Dallas County’s population grew by 4.6 percent during that time, and the population has swelled by more than 27 percent since 2010.

“While the 2016 population estimates show that Iowa’s population continues to grow, that growth is occurring in only 23 of Iowa’s 99 counties,” said Gary Krob, coordinator of the State Data Center at the State Library of Iowa. “The Des Moines-West Des Moines Metropolitan area was our fastest growing metro area, increasing by 11.4 percent since 2010.”

Clinton County has had the largest decline in population since 2010, losing 1,807 people, while Adams County has declined at the highest rate, with a decrease of 8.3 percent of its population since 2010. Net migration losses occurred in 77 other counties, where more people moved out of the county than into it.

Other findings from the 2016 County population and Metropolitan Statistical Area population Estimates (all data compared to 2010 Census numbers):

- * 26 counties gained population; 73 counties lost population.
- * Largest county: Polk, 474,045 residents; smallest county: Adams, 3,693 residents
- * Polk County saw the largest increase in population, a gain of 43,410 residents
- * Dallas County had the fastest growing population (27.8 percent), followed by Johnson county (12.0 percent), and Polk county (10.1 percent)
- * 51.8 percent of the total state population (3,134,693) lives in 10 counties: Polk, Linn, Scott, Johnson, Black Hawk, Woodbury, Story, Dubuque, Pottawattamie, and Dallas. All ten counties are part of an Iowa Metropolitan Statistical Area
- * 78.8 percent of all the international migration in Iowa occurred in 10 counties: Polk, Johnson, Story, Linn, Jefferson, Black Hawk, Dallas, Woodbury, and Scott.

Fastest growing metro areas in Iowa:

- * Des Moines-West Des Moines Metro Area - 11.4 percent
- * Iowa City Metro Area - 10.6 percent
- * Ames Metro Area - 8.4 percent

The new county, metropolitan, and micropolitan population estimates, rankings, and maps are on the State Library's State Data Center web site at www.iowadatacenter.org

Federal Information:

Federal Agencies Release Joint Policy Statement to Support the Alignment of Health and Early Learning Systems

The purpose of this Policy Statement is to support States and communities in their efforts to better coordinate, align, and enhance health and early learning systems to promote the healthy development, early learning, and well-being of all children from birth to Kindergarten entry in the United States. This statement is intended for State and local policy-makers and administrators of systems, agencies, and programs responsible for children's health, social-emotional development, and early learning to understand their role and take steps to improve the integration of services for young children. The first years of life build the foundation for life-long health and wellness, educational achievement and economic security. A child's health directly affects her or his ability to learn, grow, and thrive. Similarly, high-quality early learning opportunities for children have long-term positive impacts on their health, even into adulthood. Access to quality healthcare, nutrition, safe environments, and stable, nurturing, and stimulating relationships with parents and caregivers are each critical to building a strong early childhood foundation. Too often our health care and early learning systems operate in silos, missing key opportunities to maximize both the health and early learning outcomes of children. Coordination and alignment between health systems and early learning systems have the potential to help ensure that each child's needs are identified, referrals to needed services are made and completed, services are not

duplicated, and the messages that families hear are clear, aligned, and consistently reinforced to ensure that children and their families thrive.

To read the Policy Statement: [Alignment of Health and Early Learning Systems](#)

Head Start Sandbox

The latest issue of The Head Start Sandbox is now available. The Head Start Sandbox is a free online regional magazine featuring news about Head Start in the Region VII area (Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska). To access the Winter 2017 issue go to:

https://issuu.com/mikebaugher/docs/head_start_sandbox_r7_winter_2017_w?utm_source=Your+Winter+Sand+Box+is+ready%21&utm_campaign=Sand+Box+Winter&utm_medium=email

Other Information:

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. This year's theme: Connections Matter. Science tells us that relationships have the power to shape our brains. Relationships help us learn better, work better, parent better. When we experience tough times, they help us heal. With each connection, we develop a healthier, stronger community. Child Abuse Prevention month will highlight this importance of social support as a key protective factor during the month of April.

Child Abuse Prevention Month resources are available on the PCA Iowa website

<http://www.pcaiowa.org/grantees/public-awareness/child-abuse-prevention-month/> and open to anyone who would like to use them. Included are:

- a. Social media posts (with images)
- b. Posters
- c. Website banners
- d. Sample letter to the editor
- e. Sample newsletter copy
- f. Infographic
- g. Sample activities
- h. Radio PSA
- i. TV PSA
- j. Billboard graphics
- k. Sticker graphics
- l. Bookmarks
- m. Tee shirt

Webinar – “Learn the Signs. Act Early”

The Iowa Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health will be sponsoring a free webinar on the “*Learn the Signs. Act Early.*” Campaign to improve identification of children with developmental delays and disabilities. Our presenter will be Rachell Swanson-Holm. The webinar will be held on **Tuesday, April 4th, from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.**

Please use the link below to join the webinar. Registration is not required. The webinar will be recorded and posted to the Association's [website](#) for those unable to attend the live event.

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://zoom.us/j/5152814926>

Or iPhone one-tap (US Toll): +14086380968,5152814926# or +16465588656,5152814926#

Or Telephone:

Dial: +1 408 638 0968 (US Toll) or +1 646 558 8656 (US Toll)

Meeting ID: 515 281 4926

Webinar Objective:

Increase awareness of the Iowa Act Early campaign, *Learn the Signs. Act Early.* and the Regional Autism Assistance Program's goals to improve early identification of children with developmental delays and disabilities, including autism so children and families can get the services and support they need as early as possible. Learn about free resources to assist families, early care and education providers, and health care professionals to support early childhood developmental monitoring.

Presenter Bio:

Rachell Swanson-Holm, B.S. University of Iowa, is a Family Navigator Coordinator for the Regional Autism Assistance Program (RAP), Division of Child and Community Health, Stead Family Department of Pediatrics at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. She works with Family Navigators and other RAP team members statewide who connect families to services and supports for their child with Autism Spectrum Disorder and other developmental disabilities. Rachell has an extensive background in family to family support and family leadership roles that includes working with numerous stakeholder groups across Iowa to improve the system of care for young children with autism and developmental delays, with a special emphasis on early detection and intervention. Rachell is the Center for Disease Control and Preventions, Act Early Ambassador for Iowa and is especially committed to collaboration with parents, health care professionals, early care and education providers, primary care providers, and programs that serve young children.

Five Numbers to Remember About Early Childhood Development

1. More than 1 Million New Neural Connections Per Second
2. 18 Months: Age At Which Disparities in Vocabulary Begin to Appear
3. 90 – 100% Chance of Developmental Delays When Children Experience 6 – 7 Risk Factors
4. 3:1 Odds of Adult Heart Disease After 7 – 8 Adverse Childhood Experiences
5. \$4 - \$9 in Returns For Every Dollar Invested in Early Childhood Programs

To Learn More: [Five Numbers to Remember](#)

Southeast Iowa Early Childhood Summit – April 29, 2017

Southeast Iowa Early Childhood Summit was created to offer resources that will help support parents and childcare providers in their important roles they play in the lives of our children. We know it can be difficult to be a parent and/or a childcare provide – **WE ARE HERE TO HELP!**

This year, we are focusing on PLAY and the importance of play in our children's lives. Playtime is an excellent tool that helps us connect with our children and teach important skills. Not only is it important for children, but adults also.

JOIN US FOR THIS YEAR'S FREE JIM GILL CONCERT AND FAMILY CARNIVAL



Get ready to sing, clap, dance and sneeze along during this visit by award-winning musician and author Jim Gill. Jim Gill's distinctive music play creates the spirit of a family room in the concert hall and is an invitation to children, parents and grandparents to sing and play **together!**

[**Learn More About Jim**](#)

Child Care providers can receive DHS Training Credit.

To Learn More or to Register: [Southeast Iowa Early Childhood Summit](#)

Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children Spring Leadership Institute: May 6, 2017

The Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children is pleased to announce registration is **now open** for our Spring Leadership Institute, ***Saving Play***, May 6, 2017 at Prairie Meadows Conference Center in Altoona. Led by national expert and author Gaye Gronlund, we will explore integrating play-based learning for children ages birth through six with early learning standards. Two hundred fifty professionals from across the state are expected to gather to learn and network together that day. Teachers, administrators, child development home providers, trainers, higher education faculty, consultants, and policy makers are encouraged to attend. All participants will receive lunch, materials, and a copy of the newly released book, ***Saving Play*** <http://www.redleafpress.org/Saving-Play-Addressing-Standards-through-Play-Based-Learning-in-Preschool-and-Kindergarten-P1636.aspx>. Six hours of approved training credit hours will be provided. Questions? Contact us at events@iowaaeyc.org

Iowa AEYC Seeks Executive Director

The Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children has a vision that all young children thrive and learn in a society dedicated to ensuring they reach their full potential. With such vision, the Iowa AEYC values early childhood as a distinct and specialized time in human development as well as the role of a strong, caring community to nurture children and families. In order to accomplish its vision, the Iowa AEYC is seeking an experienced, results-oriented Executive Director to lead the nonprofit organization in its mission to promote high-quality early learning for all children, birth through age 8, by connecting practice, policy, and research. Iowa AEYC advances a diverse, dynamic early childhood profession and supports all who care for, educate, and work on behalf of young children.

Reporting to a Board of Directors, the Executive Director executes the organization's vision, provides leadership to the organization, assures its overall program effectiveness,

ensures the acquisition of sufficient resources, protects and projects a positive statewide and national public presence, understands the political environment, and has an extensive knowledge of early childhood education and advocacy best practices.

The Executive Director position offers a competitive salary commensurate with qualifications, as well as a full benefit package.

The Successful Candidate has:

- A commitment to our organization's vision, mission, development and implementation of the strategic plans.
- A background in early childhood education, childcare workforce development, postsecondary education, public agency administration, or similar field.
- Ability to raise funds from diversified funding sources, oversee the organization's financial management, and develop and use financial plans, budgets, and monitoring tools.
- Effective leadership in terms of collaborating with external partners and stakeholders.
- Proven experience with entrepreneurial activities that maximize growth and identifies opportunities.
- Background and experience with advocacy for those in early care and education who may have no opportunity to advocate for themselves.
- Ability to guide the development of overall organization structure, work processes, and quality controls.
- Ability to recruit, select, develop, mentor, retain and supervise a staff team within a collegial work environment.

Minimum Qualifications

- At least five years leadership-level experience preferred with a nonprofit or educational entity. Experience must include oversight of programs, supervision of staff, nonprofit fiscal management, fund development, marketing activities, budgeting, and direct work with a board of directors
- Member of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (*preferred*)
- Master's Degree or equivalent in early childhood education, non-profit management, educational leadership or related field
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Position will be filled in the spring of 2017

To Apply: Submit application packet to Dr. Brian Kingrey, Governing Board President, c/o Iowa AEYC, 5525 Meredith Drive Suite F, Des Moines, Iowa 50310.

Application packets must be postmarked by April 7, 2017, 5:00 p.m. CDT. Please direct questions regarding the application process to Dr. Brian Kingrey at search@iowaeyc.org

The following should be included in your application packet. Those packets without specific items listed will not be reviewed.

- 1) Cover letter that describes how your experiences exemplify each of the eight characteristics of the *Successful Candidate* as listed above.
- 2) Resume
 - a. Education and Work Experience
 - b. References (3)
 - i. Contact Information

ii. Letter of Recommendation (3) from References listed

Early STEM Matters - Providing High-Quality STEM Experiences for All Young Learners:

A new report from the Erikson Institute, [Early STEM Matters: Providing High-Quality STEM Experiences for All Young Learners](#) (January 2017), offers guidance around the development and improvement of effective early childhood science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education policies and practices. It describes four guiding principles related to early childhood STEM education and six actionable recommendations for educational leaders, researchers, funders and policymakers at the local, state, and federal levels. The report is the culmination of two years of work by the Early Childhood STEM Working Group, which includes scholars, policy makers, curriculum developers, and educators from across the U.S.

Developing Culturally Responsive Approaches to Serving Diverse Populations: A Resource Guide for Community-Based Organizations

As the U.S. grows more diverse, community based organizations (CBOs) are serving an increasingly diverse group of children and families. In this changing environment, developing cultural competence—behaviors, attitudes, and policies that enable organizations to work effectively in cross-cultural situations—is critical.

A [new resource guide](#) from the [National Research Center on Hispanic Children & Families](#) helps community-based organizations find relevant resources for choosing, adapting, or developing interventions; ensuring workforce diversity; budgeting for culturally competent programs, and more.

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>

2017 ECI Meeting Calendar:

ECI State Board

10:00 – 1:00

April 7

June 2

September 8

November 3

ECI Stakeholders Alliance

3 – 4 Hour meetings

February 28 (PM)

May 9 (PM)

September 12 (AM)

December 12 (PM)

ECI Area Directors

April 19 All day

(June will be regional meetings)

September 12 (afternoon)

December 6 All day

ECI Steering Committee

Time Varies

April 6 (9:00 AM – Noon)

June 1 (9:00 AM – Noon)

August 3 (9:00 AM – 4:00 PM)

October 5 (9:00 AM – Noon)

November 2 (9:00 AM – Noon)