

# Iowa Community Empowerment Newsletter

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## Iowa Empowerment Board - On the Road Again!

On September 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> the Iowa Empowerment Board made their third local visit. This local visit was to the community of Clarke County. On Thursday evening, the Family First Empowerment Board, along with the Clarke County



State Representative Mike Reasoner, Glen Easton, ISU Ext, and Jeff Anderson, state TA team member visit Thursday evening

Development Corporation, co-hosted a provider appreciation event in which the local child care center and home child care providers received special recognition and a gift for their contribution to the efforts in their community empowerment area. After a delicious meal and short program, the members of the

Iowa Empowerment Board talked with the Family First board members and browsed the displays of the locally funded programs and

community partners. One of the most evident successes of this area is their successful community collaborations.

On Friday morning, before the Iowa Empowerment board meeting, state and local board members had the opportunity to participate in tours of two of the locally funded programs, The Village Early Childhood Center and an Early Childhood Special Education classroom within the Clarke Community Elementary School.



State Board member John Calhoun receives a lesson in counting at the Village

The Village is a unique facility located just outside of Osceola. It houses a community child care center for children birth through school age, two head start classrooms, a part day preschool program, a family resource center, the Parents as Teachers program, and the Family Tree which is a family literacy program targeting ESL families provided in conjunction with Southwestern Community College. While visiting the children, staff and classrooms, the board members were also able to hear the stories of two families that have used the services of the Village and how those services have benefited and impacted their families.



Some of the best conversations occur on the bus!

The next stop on the tour was the Clarke Community School District, specifically targeting two Early Childhood Special Education classrooms. The commitment of the teachers to the special children in their care was commendable. The needs of the children ranged from autism, to physical disabilities such as blindness, to behavioral challenges.



Wil Reisinger, Development Corporation & local board member with Shanell Wagler, Empowerment Facilitator

After returning to the convention center, the Iowa Empowerment Board held their regularly scheduled bi-monthly meeting. Thank you to Clarke County and Family First Empowerment for hosting the Board and making our visit another valuable experience.

**Disclaimer:**  
Many articles in this newsletter are submitted by various entities. The views and opinions contained within may or may not be those of Iowa Community Empowerment.

*Childhood Vision: Every child, beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful.*

# Update April 2006– May 2006

## Links to Empowerment Web sites:

State: [www.empowerment.state.ia.us](http://www.empowerment.state.ia.us)

### Benton County

[www.bcempowerment.com](http://www.bcempowerment.com)

### Black Hawk

[www.cedarvalleyspromise.org](http://www.cedarvalleyspromise.org)

### Buchanan Delaware Fayette

[www.bdfempowerment.org](http://www.bdfempowerment.org)

### Cedar

[www.empowercedarco.org](http://www.empowercedarco.org)

### Cerro Gordo, Hancock, Worth

[www.cghwempowerment.com](http://www.cghwempowerment.com)

### Dubuque

[www.empowerdubuque.org](http://www.empowerdubuque.org)

### Floyd, Chickasaw, Mitchell

[www.fmcempowerment.com](http://www.fmcempowerment.com)

### HAWC (Howard, Allamakee, Winneshiek, Clayton)

[www.HAWC-Iowa.com](http://www.HAWC-Iowa.com)

### Hardin

<http://www.empowerhardin.com/>

### Henry

[www.healthyhenrycounty.org](http://www.healthyhenrycounty.org)

### Humboldt, Hamilton, Wright

[www.buildingfamilies.net](http://www.buildingfamilies.net)

### Jasper

<http://www.jaspercountypowerment.org/>

### Johnson

<http://www.jcempowerment.org>

### Linn

[www.linncountycommunityempowerment.org](http://www.linncountycommunityempowerment.org)

### Marshall

[www.youthandviolence.org](http://www.youthandviolence.org)

### Pocahontas, Calhoun and Webster

[www.linking-families.com](http://www.linking-families.com)

### Polk [www.hspa.org](http://www.hspa.org)

### Scott:

[www.scottcountypowerment.org](http://www.scottcountypowerment.org)

### Story

<http://www.storycountyfamily.org>

### Washington

[www.empowerwashington.org](http://www.empowerwashington.org)

### Woodbury [www.siouxlandship.org](http://www.siouxlandship.org)

## Early Care, Health and Education System Building Activities

- HOPES Update meetings - April 5 & 25
- Early Childhood Legislative Event - April 6
- ECI Co-chairs Meeting - April 6 & May 4
- ECI - Public Engagement group meeting - April 6 & May 4
- ECI - Professional Development workgroup - April 7, & May 30
- State Child Care Advisory Council steering committee - April 12
- 2006 Early Care, Health & Education Congress planning - April 14 & May 12
- QRS Oversight Committee - April 19 & May 2
- ECI - Governance component workgroup - April 20 & May 18
- Early Childhood Coordinated Leadership meeting - April 21 & May 30
- Early Childhood Outcomes, New Mexico - April 25-27
- ECCS grant web cast - Using Data & Indicators - April 26
- The Role of Unions in Financing EC Programs conference call - April 27
- ECCS Fiscal Policy Assessment - April 27
- ECCS Grant Planning Team - May 1, 17
- ECI - Quality, Services & Programs workgroup meeting - May 3
- Home Visitation web cast - May 3
- Head Start & FaDSS staff training - May 4
- PITC Module 5 Training - May 5
- State Child Care Advisory Council - May 11
- Iowa Empowerment Board meeting, Clarke County - May 19
- ECI - State Agency Liaisons - May 22
- State Technical Assistance Team Workday - May 24

## Site Visits/Technical Assistance Activities

- Emmet County - April 3
- Buchanan/Delaware/Fayette - April 3
- Des Moines/Louisa - April 5
- Washington County - April 5
- Dallas County - April 10
- Cerro Gordo, Hancock, Worth - April 18
- Empowerment Contacts/Coordinators Regional TA meeting - May 10
- Decatur - May 11
- Cass, Mills, Montgomery - May 16
- Hardin County - May 15
- Clarke County - May 18-19
- Lakes Empowerment - May 23

### Annual Report Reviews

- Warren - April 5
- Hamilton/Humboldt/Wright - April 5
- Iowa County - April 28
- Marshall County - May 11

**Upcoming Events  
2006 Calendar at a Glance**

**Early Childhood Iowa  
Core Stakeholders**

June 13, 2006  
Johnston Library, Johnston

**Board Financial Oversight  
Training**

July 18  
Central Iowa location TBD

**Iowa Empowerment Board**

July 14, 2006  
Blank Park Zoo  
Des Moines

**Empowerment  
Coordinators/Contacts  
Meetings**

September 13, 2006  
Heartland AEA, Johnston

**Early Care Health & Education  
Congress**

November 14 & 15, 2006  
Scheman Center, Ames

**Partnering with Parents**

June – November, 2006  
Full 11-module series  
On-line

[www.extension.iastate.edu/pwp](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/pwp)  
August 2-3, 2006  
ISU Campus, Ames  
[www.extension.iastate.edu/pwp](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/pwp)

**Drug Affected Children: How Do  
We Care For Them?**

September 27, 2006  
Carroll, IA  
[sue-gehling@uiowa.edu](mailto:sue-gehling@uiowa.edu)

## Linkages/Outreach Activities

- National Public Health Week - April 3-7
- Youth Connections - April 4
- Promise Jobs Coordinators - April 6
- Partners in Learning - April 6
- BASIC Retreat - Child Care Center Business Practices - April 10
- Youth Development State Agency Workgroup - April 11 & May 9
- Youth Development UgrantS meeting - April 12, 17 & May 15
- LEA Accreditation/AEA Accreditation visit, Waterloo - April 17-21
- Northwest Iowa AmeriCorps Youth Project and *Project UNITE* - April 18-20
- Community of Promise Advisory - April 21
- Association of Iowa Workforce Partners - April 25
- United Neighbors - April 25
- Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development Steering Committee - April 26
- Cover the Uninsured Week press conference - April 26
- Cover the Uninsured Week Interfaith Event - April 27
- EPSDT Leadership Meeting & Conference - April 27 - 28
- Community of Promise application conference call - May 1
- MICA on-sight visit - May 1 & 2
- DM University Campus Event, Cover the Uninsured Week - May 2
- Upper DM Opportunity Training - May 5
- Cover the Uninsured Week Business Summit - May 5
- PCA Iowa Conference - May 8-9
- Parent Information Resource Center workgroup - May 9
- Health Forum, Blank Research & Education Center - May 12
- FaDSS Team - May 15
- Youth Development Grant Alignment meeting - May 15
- Caring for Kids Training - May 15-16
- FaDSS Council - May 18
- Training planning - Maternal Depression Screening - May 22
- Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development Strategic Planning Retreat - May 22
- TEACH Advisory Council - May 23
- ABCD II Panel - May 25



## ECHE System Building Updates

This issue brief is the second in a series developed by Early Childhood Iowa – Quality Services and Programs component group. This was developed to inform policy makers about the importance of health and safety within child care environments. The following is a highlight of the issue brief. For the complete issue brief, visit the Early Childhood Iowa Web site at [www.earlychildhoodiowa.org](http://www.earlychildhoodiowa.org) - *What's New* section.

### Health and Safety in Child Care – What is the problem?

Studies show Iowa has not met the challenge for supporting quality child care. Iowa ranked significantly lower in quality child care than other Midwestern states (Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska) according to the Midwest Child Care Research Consortium study (2002). Health and safety issues reported by the study include:

- No safe space for infants and toddlers to crawl or walk around
- Unsanitary conditions for toileting and diaper changing
- Inappropriate caregiver responses to toileting accidents
- Lack of hand washing
- Lack of toys and equipment for age-appropriate development
- Inadequate or inappropriate nutrition including propped bottles and forced feedings

### What special skills do Child Care Nurse Consultants offer?

They receive specialized education that addresses the unique needs of the child care setting including:

- Health resources in the community – coordination with medical providers
- Principles of communicable disease control and disease reporting requirements
- Child care considerations for inclusion of children with special health care needs
- Injury prevention for children and child care workers
- Nutrition and feeding considerations for children in the group setting
- Oral health care for young children
- Occupational health risks for care providers – including immunization recommendations
- Consumer product safety in child care
- National health and safety standards for out-of-home care



[www.empowerment.state.ia.us](http://www.empowerment.state.ia.us)

## Iowa Empowerment Board News May Meeting Update

The May 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Iowa Empowerment Board (IEB) was held in Clarke County as part of their local CEA tours. For details of this 2-day visit, see page 1 of this newsletter.

The majority of the May meeting focused on updates and next steps of the 2006 legislative session - and what a legislative session for early care, health & education it was! The allocation details are provided in this newsletter on pages 11 and 12 in the article submitted by *Every Child Counts*.

After an administrative overview provided by Shanell Wagler, the Board took action on the \$3.4 million that was allocated to improve the quality of early care, health and education programs across our state. In legislation, the IEB was given the authority to identify a method of distributing these funds to the local CEAs that would “make the most productive use of the funding, which may include use of the distribution formula, grants or other means.” The determination was made that the full amount would not be distributed through the school ready funding formula and that the specific process for distribution would be decided at the next meeting of the Board in July.

Updates were provided on the conditionally designated areas. Due to the timely and complete response in returning all necessary documentation to the Board, the status of the Buchanan, Delaware, Fayette Empowerment Area, was unanimously moved to a full unconditional three-year designation.

Final items included the appointment of a nominating committee to recommend an interested individual to the position of vice chair. The position was vacated by the elevation of Floyd Winter to chair as of May 1. The meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm after the Board engaged in the third phase of their strategic planning process.

The next meeting of the Iowa Empowerment Board will be Friday, July 14, 2006 at the Blank Park Zoo in Des Moines.

## Local Training Opportunity - Coming July 18



## Board Financial Oversight Training

You asked for it and here it comes!

For the first time, *advanced* board development training will be offered for Empowerment contacts, local board members, advisory group members, and individuals involved with local Empowerment boards and efforts.

We are pleased to be able to offer *Board Financial Oversight Training* presented by Joni Tonnemacher, CPA and Linda Leave, CPA from McGowen, Hurst, Clark and Smith, P.C. in West Des Moines. They will be offering their expertise in areas such as fiduciary responsibilities, conflict of interest, fraud protection, ethics policies, and reading financial statements.

You won't want to miss out on this valuable half-day training opportunity. It will be offered once in the morning and then again in the afternoon of July 18. Mark your calendars now. More details will follow concerning location, time, agenda and registration information, as the sessions will be filled on a first come, first served basis. Hope to see you all there!

## Meet State Board Member: Mary Cameron



Mary Cameron was appointed to the Iowa Empowerment Board on May 1, 2006 and has been involved with the Story County Empowerment Board since 2005. Mary is excited for this opportunity to serve both these boards and thinks that early childhood holds so much promise for Iowa.

Mary is a library consultant at the State Library of Iowa and works especially with public libraries on their programs and services for youth from birth to high school. She has been involved with the Every Child Reads program at the Iowa Department of Education and has implemented early literacy strategies into trainings for librarians at public libraries in Iowa. Most recently, the State Library of Iowa and the Library Service Areas are working to promote a parent training component with public libraries. In addition, Mary has worked with public librarians encouraging them to provide outreach to child care centers and preschools by taking books and programs directly to these sites. Mary spends much of her time promoting the statewide summer reading program with public libraries providing summer reading materials and workshops to public librarians.

Prior to her work at the State Library of Iowa, Mary was a teacher-librarian in the Ankeny Community School District for 21 years. Mary and her husband, Gregg, live in Ames. Mary is a native Iowan and was born and raised in Northeast Iowa.

## Nominations Sought For Iowa Empowerment Board



The Iowa Empowerment Board consists of sixteen citizen members, six state agency directors and six members of the general assembly. The state Empowerment Board currently is seeking candidates for citizen members. Citizen members are appointed by Governor Thomas Vilsack and confirmed by the Iowa Senate. Interested candidates must complete a gubernatorial appointment resume in addition to seeking a letter of recommendation from their local empowerment board. The gubernatorial appointment resume can be found at <http://www.iowai.net/iowa/governor/boards/>. Citizen member selections are reflective of the state's congressional districts to ensure representation from across the state. An equally important criterion is that appointments reflect the ethnic, cultural, social, and economic diversity of our state. We encourage candidates from diverse populations to apply.

You can also find the job responsibilities of an Iowa Empowerment Board member on our web site at the following link, [http://www.empowerment.state.ia.us/Common/pdf/ieb\\_responsibilities.pdf/](http://www.empowerment.state.ia.us/Common/pdf/ieb_responsibilities.pdf/)

Please contact the Office of Empowerment if you need more information.

# Tool GG Available to Assist Local Empowerment Boards in Understanding Their Statutory Responsibilities of a Community Empowerment Board

Tool GG: *Statutory Responsibilities of a Community Empowerment Board* can be found on the Iowa Empowerment web site at [www.empowerment.state.ia.us](http://www.empowerment.state.ia.us) and click on Empowerment Tools.

**Source:** *Iowa Code 2002, Chapter 28, Section 28.5, 28.6, 28.7*

**Purpose:** Improve results for families with young children.

**A Community Empowerment Board is charged with the following leadership functions:**

- Strategic Planning
- Oversight and Management of Programming
- Oversight and Management of Funding

**A Community Empowerment Board is legislatively mandated to:**

- Select a Fiscal Agent (meeting the criteria set in Code)
- Administer grant monies
- Assume other responsibilities established by law or administrative rules

**A Community Empowerment Board is considered a local governmental entity subject to:**

- Tort Liability
- Open Meetings Law
- Open Records Law

## Community Empowerment Administrative Rules

**Source:** *Administrative Rules 349, 1.8*

**Charge:** Community Empowerment Board is the local governing body with authority over the functions of the empowerment in their geographic area.

**Responsibilities:**

- Establish the function and structure for community boards.
- A community board shall establish an organizational structure to ensure that the local expertise, public will and continuous input from the community are requested, reviewed and evaluated.
- Obtain extensive community input to develop a mission and a vision for the empowerment area.
- Administer, at a minimum, the community empowerment funds from the state awarded for the empowerment area.
- Administer funds as provided by law or from other federal, state, local, grant, foundation, or private moneys or other funds.
- Ensure that interest or earnings on the community empowerment funds will be used for services in the community plan.
- Coordinate with the decategorization governing boards the community plan and budget for the empowerment geographic area.
- Develop and implement a community plan, with identified priorities, based on community assessments which address human service, education and health needs to support children and their families to reach desired results.
- Ensure that an annual report for the empowerment area on the effectiveness of the community plan is submitted each fiscal year to the Iowa board and to local governing bodies in the empowerment area.
  - Complete a budget that identifies existing sources of funding, including in kind and match, and how these funds may be coordinated with the early childhood and school ready funds to support the community plan.
  - Identify members of the community board, including each member's representation.
  - Identify local empowerment area indicators to assess the effectiveness of the community plan.
  - Provide measures, data, facts and statistics, including analysis, on progress of the community collaboration and the community plan.
  - Include baseline data and the ensuing fiscal year's data for local indicators, identify priorities, link local indicators to desired results, and report performance measures.

- Provide for staff to the empowerment area and community board through the collaborative efforts of public and private organizations committed to reaching desired results for children and their families.
- Develop a plan to sustain community efforts to support children and their families within the empowerment area.
- Function as a coordinating body for collaboration and alignment of services, which are offered by different entities and directed toward similar purposes, within the empowerment area.

**A community board may:**

- Designate one or more committees for oversight of empowerment funds awarded to the empowerment area.
- Develop, within the empowerment area, neighborhood bodies for community-level input to the community board and implementation of the community plan.
- Implement the Iowa board's process to award funds at the beginning of the fiscal year to service providers.
- Establish an advisory council with representatives from the empowerment area to advocate, make recommendations, provide expertise, suggest public policy, and provide guidance to the community board. The community board may appoint an advisory council including members who are professionals knowledgeable in the fields of health, human services, early care, and education.
- Apply to the Iowa board or state agencies for waivers in order to administer categorical funds for services provided in the empowerment area which support the desired results for children and their families.

## Local Data You Can Use



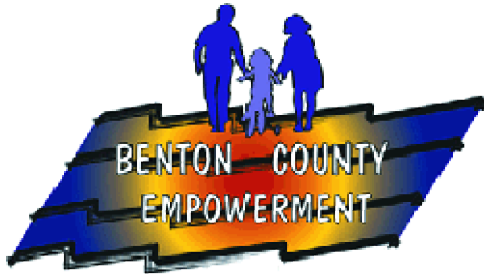
### Child Well-Being Profiles Updated

The State Data Center, a unit of the State Library of Iowa, has updated Child Well-Being Profiles for 2006. Each of Iowa's counties has a four-page profile covering children's health, education, poverty, safety and family living. The data for these profiles are provided by the State Data Center, Office of Social and Economic Trend Analysis, and Iowa Kids Counts. County information reports will be helpful for grant writing and community analysis. Reports for both 2005 and 2006 are located on this page.

<http://data.iowadatacenter.org/browse/cochildwellbeing.html>

For more information, contact Beth Henning at the State Data Center: (515) 281-4350, 1-800-248-4483 or [beth.henning@lib.state.ia.us](mailto:beth.henning@lib.state.ia.us)





*Submitted by Heidi Schminke,  
Benton County Empowerment  
Coordinator*

## **Day Of Play With Bev Bos**

This is an invitation to everyone that has young children in their lives, to come spend time, to re-examine your beliefs and practices, to connect with people like you from around the world as we find and focus on common goals in the hope that we can all become more lively and effective in our work with children. The “Day Of Play” conference presented by Bev Bos explores what it means to be truly child-centered and seeks to renew the spirit of adults who work with children. In these days the issues facing parents and educators are numerous, the questions confusing and complex; some seem only to serve to distract us from our responsibilities to the children in our care. Come and share in the “fun” with us.

Bev Bos is an internationally renowned presenter and one of the nation’s foremost experts on preschool learners. She is in great demand as a seminar leader and speaker at workshops and conferences throughout North America. Bev is an energetic, creative and inspiring teacher who has successfully used every idea she shares in her seminars with her own preschool students. In addition to being a recording artist and author, she has been featured on the television news weekly “20/20” as an outstanding proponent of child-centered preschool education. “A brain-compatible environment for children encourages divergent thinking and curiosity,” says Bos. “Children need three basic things: wonder, discovery and experience. Experience is not the best teacher, it is the only teacher.”

This workshop hosted by Benton County Empowerment will be held from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on Saturday June 10, 2006 at Bloomsbury Farms, 3260 69th Street, Atkins. Registration will be held from 9:30 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. This workshop is free to all daycare providers, preschools and Kindergarten teachers and includes lunch. To RSVP please contact Heidi Schminke at 319/472-4543 or 888/690-3444. Space is limited and will be filled on a first come first served basis.



## **Lieutenant Governor Pederson Visits Preschool**

*Submitted by Ann Stewart, Empowerment Coordinator, Building Families*

On May 1, Lt. Gov. Sally Pederson visited Bronco Beginners in Belmond-Klemme school district as part of the “Keeping our Promises” tour across Iowa. Ms. Pederson reviewed the new budget that directs \$15 million through empowerment for early childhood services this year. After talking to the children she met with the two preschool teachers, Principal, Cindy Martinek, and Building Families (Hamilton, Humboldt and Wright Counties) Empowerment coordinator, Ann Stewart.

The teachers shared with Ms. Pederson how the preschool makes a difference in the children beginning kindergarten. Dr. Martinek stated that they have 5 to 6 children each year in preschool with IEP's but when they start school usually only one child continues to need the special education support.

The school board at Belmond-Klemme recently voted to close one of the preschool programs and discontinue the day care located in the school building. Depending on how the additional funds are to be allocated, the district will continue to work with Building Families empowerment to support their preschool program.



## Weekly Electronic E-bulletins Keep News Timely

Submitted by Laurie Kristiansen,  
FMC Empowerment Coordinator

The FMC Empowerment website is [fmcempowerment.com](http://fmcempowerment.com).

To contact the editor, email: [fmc@rconnect.com](mailto:fmc@rconnect.com).

The webmaster may be reached at: [justin@charlescity365.com](mailto:justin@charlescity365.com)

Not long ago timely communication to boards meant in-person updates at board meetings or periodic mailings that contained “need-to-know” information.

Today’s electronic media communication tools have drastically changed all that “old-school” thinking. With the touch of a computer key, important news can be delivered faster than a phone call can be placed.

FMC (Floyd-Mitchell-Chickasaw) Community Empowerment has been utilizing an electronic newsletter communication tool since July, 2005.

Laurie Kristiansen, FMC Coordinator and editor of the “*FMC Empowerment E-bulletin*”, reports the Empowerment group is nearing the publication of its 50<sup>th</sup> electronic e-bulletin.

Published every Friday, the electronic newsletter is sent to FMC board members, collaborators, and partners, along with anyone else requesting placement on the mailing list. In addition, the newsletter is also posted on the Empowerment area’s website.

### Website Promotes Fresh Information

The FMC Empowerment website is managed by Justin DeVore, CharlesCity365.com, Charles City.

According to DeVore, the e-bulletins are one of the most popular items on the FMC Empowerment website. The e-bulletins are also posted and archived on the website.

“The important part of any website is fresh information,” notes DeVore. “If all you get is out-dated information, then a website is useless. The e-bulletins are fresh information updated weekly and the exciting aspect of this communications technique is taking information you are already putting out, and placing it online. It doesn’t add anything to the editor’s workload, and the bonus is giving your website fresh information.”

While countless nonprofit organizations around the country have websites, not all take advantage of the communication opportunities electronic newsletters offer.

In a recent article of the “*Non-Profit Times*”, Reid Carr, President of Red Door Interactive, an Internet presence management company in San Diego, California, advises non-profits to have an email newsletter as an element of their web site and not just because it can reduce the cost of a regular mailing. “You need to stay in front of people and it helps them to stay in touch with you,” Carr notes.

### Number of Daily Hits

It’s easy to track how often the FMC e-bulletins are accessed once they are posted on-line, reports DeVore. During the month of April the site averaged 159 hits a day.

“The more pertinent the information on the website, the more traffic is generated,” said DeVore. Current items on the FMC site include a survey, requests for funding applications, a preschool questionnaire, event photos, plus regular information.

“Most of this new material has been added in the last month, and because of that, traffic for the month of May has soared to 236 hits a day,” said the webmaster.

### E-bulletin Content

“I started the e-bulletin last July as a means of providing important information to the board, our collaborators and partners, and the general public,” said Laurie Kristiansen, editor. “It received immediate positive response and I’ve heard many good comments about the newsletter since then,” she added.

Newsletter content contains information about upcoming Empowerment events, news from the state, empowerment partners, dates, upcoming meetings and trainings, and information for preschool teachers and child care providers.

“I never lack for anything to write about,” said Kristiansen, who holds a degree in journalism/broadcasting and has 30 years professional experience in corporate and non-profit communications, marketing, and advertising.

The FMC Empowerment e-bulletin has proven to be a successful communication strategy that works in concert with traditional marketing and public relations techniques.



**Every Child Counts**  
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***The General Assembly finished its session late in the evening on May 3rd. Every Child Counts is proud to have worked closely with Legislators, Department Staff, and the Governor's office to make sure that children had a voice this legislative session. Here's a brief summary of legislation as it relates to Early Childhood.***

For a list of your federal and state legislators, visit:

<http://www4.legis.state.ia.us/find-leg/>

To find out about individual state legislators, you can go to:

<http://www.legis.state.ia.us/asp/Legislators/LegislatorInfo.aspx>

### ***Early Learning/School Readiness***

For the second year in a row, early childhood received an increase of a little over \$20 million in Iowa. We are grateful to the Governor and the House and Senate leadership in working out a bi-partisan agreement to invest in our youngest citizens. We are also thankful to our many members who spoke up about the importance of investing in the early years.

Community Empowerment received the biggest investment, an increase of \$15 million dollars. **HF 2769** unanimously passed both Chambers on May 2nd and 3rd, respectively. The biggest changes can be found in Division II of the bill.

Some highlights of the bill include:

#### ***Division I:***

Iowa State Empowerment Board will now consist of twenty-two voting members with sixteen citizen members and six state agency members. Workforce Development has been added as the sixth state agency.

A Community Empowerment gifts and grants account is created in the Iowa Empowerment fund under the authority of the department of Management. "Moneys credited to the account are appropriated to the Dept. of Management to be used for Community Empowerment related purposes for which the moneys were received."

#### ***Division II:***

\$5 million for family support services and parent education programs to be "targeted to families expecting a child or with newborn and infant children through age three." The programs funded with this money must have a home visitation component. The funding will be distributed under the school ready grant formula.

\$10 million for these three purposes:

- \$5.5 million to assist low-income parents with preschool tuition for children ages four and five not attending kindergarten up to 200% poverty level. This is an increase from 185%. Also, "if sufficient funding is available after addressing the needs of those who meet the basic income eligibility requirement, a community empowerment area board may provide for eligibility for those with a family income in excess of the basic income eligibility requirement through use of a sliding scale or other co-payment provision"
- \$3.5 million for efforts to "improve the quality of early care, health, and education programs". The empowerment office is permitted to use up to \$100,000 of the \$3.5 million for its technical assistance expenses.
- \$1 million to implement recommendations of a newly created business community investment advisory council

Creation of a Council to advise the state empowerment board "on the best means to leverage private investment in early care, health, and education services" and provide options for "creating model projects for public-private partnerships to support quality early care, health, and education programming in communities." By the end of the year, the council is to submit recommendations that address the following:

- A strategy for blending funding for early care, health, and education services from the public sector and the private sector based on "the vision Iowa program, the grow Iowa values fund, and other economic models"
- A strategy for community empowerment area boards to develop and implement local public-private partnership networks and apply for state and private funding to implement innovative programming, or apply for competitive grants to enhance such partnership
- A strategy for requiring local match funding for a community empowerment area to access allocated funding

### **House File 2734 – Health & Human Services Budget**

For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2006, EFFECTIVE January 1, 2007, child care providers will be reimbursed from the DHS at the rates based on the rate reimbursement survey completed in December 2004.

Over \$1.2 million is allocated for child care quality improvement initiatives, including but limited to the development and continuation of the quality rating system.

\$1.2 million is transferred to the Iowa Empowerment fund for professional development and training activities for persons working in early care, health, and education.

### **House File 2527 – Education Budget**

There were not any significant changes in this budget for early childhood. However, the \$1 million for Professional Development will be transferred to the Iowa Empowerment Fund along with the \$1.2 million from the HHS budget for Professional Development. This results in \$2.2 million in the Iowa Empowerment fund for professional development. This money is to be used for professional development and training activities for persons working in early care, health, and education and Empowerment must work with ISU Extension, AEA's, Community Colleges, CCR&R and local Community Empowerment Boards.

## **T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® IOWA Scholarship Program**

Submitted by Barb Merrill,  
Apprenticeship/TEACH Program  
Coordinator



T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood ® IOWA has reached a three-year milestone in offering college scholarships and supports to Iowa's child care workforce. Over 250 full-time child care providers have earned Child Development Associate credentials, Early Childhood Education associate degrees, or are currently completing those educational goals with support from the T.E.A.C.H. program.

This is only possible because of support from many partners around the state. We are thrilled to report an increase in the number of funding partners supporting the T.E.A.C.H. program! Funding for T.E.A.C.H. comes in part from the Iowa Department of Human Services through federal funding from the Child Care Development Block Grant, from United Way of Central Iowa Women's Leadership Connection, from the Boone, Dallas, FMC, HAWC, Linn, Marion, Polk, Scott, and Story Community Empowerment areas, and from the child care programs who co-sponsor a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship recipient. If you are interested in more information on how you can support providers from your area, contact Barb Merrill at [teachiowa@childcareservices.org](mailto:teachiowa@childcareservices.org). Many thanks to our loyal funding partners!

Participation from child care providers and teachers has increased due to those of you who encourage them to consider attending college with support from T.E.A.C.H. Partners at all fifteen of Iowa's community colleges, from Community Empowerment at the state-wide technical assistance level and in the local Empowerment areas, in Area Education Agencies, Head Start, United Way agencies, and four year colleges play a key part in identifying and recruiting providers who might be potentially interested in T.E.A.C.H. support. A critically important partner around the state is the Iowa Child Care Resource & Referral system and their 150 staff around the state. Working on a daily basis directly with child care providers and center programs, these key partners identify and encourage providers to consider increasing their own level of professionalism and education through increased professional development. Many thanks to all of our collaboration and recruitment partners!

Another key set of partners is the T.E.A.C.H. advisory team. Many of these partners have been part of T.E.A.C.H. in Iowa since before its inception, during the planning process. The group meets quarterly regarding issues of recruitment, child care workforce concerns, needs of providers as nontraditional college students, and much

**T.E.A.C.H. Early  
Childhood® IOWA  
Scholarship  
Program  
Continued...**

more. The group includes Tom Rendon, Head Start Collaboration Office, Iowa Department of Education, committee chairperson; Jody Caswell, Child Care Unit, Department of Human Services; Mary Jo Huddleston, Regional Director, Child Care Resource & Referral of Southeast Iowa, Davenport; Alicia Lewis, Child Care Program Manager, Children and Families of Iowa, Des Moines; Angela Mapes, Director of Center participating in TEACH, Kiddie Karrasel, LeClaire; Julie Nash, Dallas/Boone County Empowerment Coordinator; Carol Rainforth, Training Coordinator, Child Care Resource and Referral of Central Iowa; Kim Richman, Registered Child Development Home Provider and past T.E.A.C.H. scholarship recipient, Des Moines; Greer Sisson, State Coordinator, U.S. Department of Labor/Bureau of Apprenticeship & Training, Des Moines; Stacie Steveson, Professional Development Coordinator, Child Care Resource & Referral of Northeast Iowa, Waterloo; Marcia Stewart, Professional Development, MATURA Head Start, Creston; Marsha Swanson, ECE Faculty/Department Chair, Iowa Lakes Community College, Emmetsburg; and Shanell Wagler and Debbie Scrowther, Community Empowerment, Iowa Department of Management. The successful completion of the national T.E.A.C.H. self-study process, required by our license, showcased some of the accomplishments of these important partners. Many thanks to our Advisory Team!

Essential in our success has been the support of the T.E.A.C.H. National Technical Assistance Center and the staff of Child Care Services Association, Chapel Hill, North Carolina. T.E.A.C.H. licenses (one per state) are granted by CCSA and include an individualized database and on-going assistance. Our staff attended the annual national conference in Chapel Hill. Staff from North Carolina has traveled to Iowa four times in the past three years to assist us in making the program a success. Many thanks to our T.E.A.C.H. national partners!

Other critical players in T.E.A.C.H. success are the staff of our program. Barbara Merrill is Program Manager, Isbelia Arzola is our Des Moines Area Community College/Polk County Counseling Specialist, and Pat Dautremont is our Program Assistant. We look forward to expansion of our program staff in the year ahead to respond to the demands of increased scholarship participation. Many thanks to our staff team!

Our primary task in the months ahead is recruitment and expansion of our program. If you have an upcoming training conference, a provider recognition event, an association meeting, a local Empowerment meeting, or similar event – please invite one of our staff to come and share our successes in hopes of encouraging others to participate. We'd be glad to present or exhibit at your event, or join a community planning meeting. Perhaps you have heard that our current home, the Iowa Child Care & Early Education Network, is in the processing of dissolving as a non-profit agency. Scholarship support to the T.E.A.C.H. recipients will continue uninterrupted over the summer months. We are anticipating a smooth transition to a temporary “home” by July 1, and a bidding process occurring so other non-project agencies interested in becoming the permanent home for T.E.A.C.H. IOWA may learn more about the program and express their interest.

For more information on this process, please contact Barb Merrill, [teachiowa@childcareservices.org](mailto:teachiowa@childcareservices.org)

# Iowa Child Care Resource & Referral



*Submitted by Mary Jo Huddleston,  
Director, CCR&R Region 5*

Iowa's voluntary Quality Rating System (QRS) is off and running! QRS Specialists working from the 5 Regional Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) offices are operating in concert with DHS to implement the 5-level program.

Child Development Homes, child care centers and preschools are encouraged to attend local meetings to learn more about the project and the benefits of participating. As of May 10, 2006, 37 meetings had been held and 48 are scheduled in the coming months to assure all early childhood professionals have access to the information. These local meetings include information on QRS process, documentation required, bonuses available for attaining specific levels and technical assistance related to completion of Health and Safety assessments required for higher levels. The meetings are hosted by the Regional QRS Specialist, local CCR&R staff, Healthy Child Care Iowa Nurse Consultants and local provider organizations. Information is also available about accessing training related to Environmental Rating Scales – a component of higher rating levels.

Participating in the QRS allows early childhood professionals in all settings to demonstrate to parents and their communities their commitment to providing quality care. Achievement bonuses allow the State to reward them for that commitment. Bonuses for Child Development Home providers range from \$400 at level 2 to \$1000 for those attaining a level 4 rating. For Licensed Child Care Centers, bonuses are set based on the number of children served and range from \$400 (level 2 serving up to 25 children) to \$4000 for a center attaining level 4 and serving more than 100 children. These achievement bonuses are paid each time a rating is re-determined or renewed and a quality rating level is in effect for two years.

Iowa is one of many states considering a quality rating system and one of only about 12 who have implemented such a system. As of May 10, **582** applications had been requested by providers and 6 have been submitted to DHS for consideration. Applications are reviewed by Regional QRS Specialists for completeness and readiness for submission. At that point, technical assistance can be offered as necessary to help assure success.

The CCR&R is pleased to be a partner with DHS, ISU Extension and local Empowerment areas in implementing this important project. The results will be early childhood professionals better equipped to provide high quality care, and parents educated about making better child care choices.





Two research studies that highlight the importance of getting books to children in other settings.

Research by Clyde Robinson in "Picture Book Selection Behaviors of Emergent Readers," reported the most important finding was the enthusiastic response of emergent readers to the simple procedure of selecting and taking home books.

In another study done by Clyde Robinson, "The Influence of Selecting and Taking Picture Books Home," it was found that when preschool children took books home on a daily basis, literacy activities at home increased."

## Public Libraries Provide Outreach to Child Care Centers and Preschools

*Submitted by Mary Cameron, State Librarian*

When the State Library revised its public library standards program ("In Service to Iowa: Public Library Measures of Quality") in 2004, the following was added: "The library offers outreach services to day care centers and other entities in which groups of preschool children gather....Outreach service includes collections and programming."

Many public libraries in rural Iowa were finding that their preschool story times were dwindling in attendance and their collections of wonderful picture books were not being used. Because of Iowa's changing demographics and the number of children in child care and preschools, public librarians saw the need to change one of their most basic services: If children weren't coming to them for story times, they would go to the children.

All library sizes, regardless of funding and staff, provide outreach services.

Carol Rosenbaum from the Avoca Public Library said, "I deliver books to home daycares. I call and ask if there is anything special they want in their new boxes. I try to add new books every six weeks. I usually take about 25 to 30 books to each home. I choose according to the age and gender of the children. When it works into the home provider's schedule, I stay and read to the children."

Paula Spoo from the Estherville Public Library reported noted, "I created a brochure to distribute and display so providers know about the service. I try to do whatever it takes to get services to the daycare providers. I keep the Emmett County Child Care Consultant informed about library services, events and crafts I have done at the daycares. I put what some people may consider a lot of time and effort into this, but I consider it a challenge and am willing to do what it takes to bring these patrons in. I try to keep it in a nutshell and have an evaluation form to judge the success of the program that will be completed by my director, the board members, the daycare providers. I already feel the program is a success. Our circulation is up and I am getting out and telling the library story. I have daycare providers coming to the library on their own looking for books for their own families."

Some public libraries use senior citizens, 4-H clubs, and National Honor Society members to help them provide services.

Joa LaVille from the Marshalltown Public Library wrote, "We just started a book delivery program called "Books to Go" where volunteers from the Retired Senior Volunteer Program bring 25 books in a rolling suitcase to the Head Start classroom they are assigned to. They then stay and return to the classroom once a week to share the books with kids (informally on a small group basis...not like story time.) We have done this for more than a year with two ladies, but have just recently added more volunteers and are undergoing a serious recruiting effort. Some classrooms have two volunteers who rotate the responsibility. We trained the volunteers how to select books and helped them with the paperwork required by Head Start. Our priority for this year is to match volunteers with each Head Start classroom (we still have a few to go). Ideally, in the future this service will be available to any daycare center that requests it. Our early volunteers received Every Child Reads Training and we would like to provide that to the others."

While this service varies based on the public library's staff and funding, more librarians are adding this service all the time.

## The Bureau of Nutrition and Health Promotion (BNHP) administers the following programs to assist families in making healthy choices:



Iowa Department of Public Health

Iowa WIC Program  
1-800-532-1579



Your child has you. And you have WIC.



## Update on the Programs of IDPH Bureau of Nutrition and Health Promotion

*Submitted by Kala Shipley, Community Health Consultant  
Bureau of Nutrition and Health Promotion*

Over the past thirty years, the rate of childhood obesity has doubled among children in the United States, 2-5 years of age. Developing healthy habits early in childhood will assist in preventing obesity-related diseases in the future.

A recent Institute of Medicine report encourages changes in communities, schools, the media, and homes to impact healthy choices for families and to impact child obesity rates.

The Bureau of Nutrition and Health Promotion (BNHP) administers the following programs to assist families with making these healthy choices. Iowans Fit for Life, a CDC funded program, is developing a comprehensive state plan to address nutrition and physical activity for Iowans of all ages. Early Childhood plans include empowering families to overcome barriers to selecting healthier foods and physical activity in the home, work place, and community; helping child-care providers establish a healthy nutrition and physical activity environment; and promoting family-friendly work force policy that supports breastfeeding employees. Visit [www.iowa.gov/iowansfitforlife](http://www.iowa.gov/iowansfitforlife) for more information.

Another program supported by the BNHP is The Iowa Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (commonly known as WIC). During a WIC appointment, participants receive information to assist families in making healthy lifestyle choices. Ideas provided include offering healthy meals and snacks, increasing activity for all members of the family, making family meals a positive experience and promoting and supporting breastfeeding.

The Iowa Nutrition Network funded by Food Stamp Nutrition Education, another program provided through the BNHP, contracts with local partners to coordinate Pick a **better** snack™ & ACT nutrition and physical activity education in over 1000 elementary classrooms. Nutrition education will be expanded in preschool classrooms and in-home parent visitation programs next year.

For more information on the Bureau of Nutrition and Health Promotion, visit [http://www.idph.state.ia.us/hpcdp/nutrition\\_health\\_promotion.asp](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/hpcdp/nutrition_health_promotion.asp)





## Healthy Child Care Iowa (HCCI)

Sally Clausen, ARNP, BSN  
Healthy Child Care Iowa  
Iowa Department of Public Health  
[sclausen@idph.state.ia.us](mailto:sclausen@idph.state.ia.us)

### HCCI Update

Colleagues: there are new recalls posted to the Consumer Product Safety Commission and Food and Drug Administration websites. Products that pertain to early childhood and child care are reviewed on the Healthy Child Care Iowa website: <http://www.idph.state.ia.us/hcci/recalls.asp>

You can find information on recalled products on the Consumer Product Safety Commission web site: <http://www.cpsc.gov> or on the Food and Drug Administration website: <http://www.fda.gov/opacom/7alerts.html>.

Healthy Child Care Iowa maintains a list of products that have a warning or have been recalled in the last six months.




To view recalled product information, first select a product category from the following list.


- [Beds, Cribs, and Bedding](#) No new recalls
- [Child Clothing, Shoes, and Accessories](#) 1 new recall
- [Equipment \(including infant supplies/equipment\)](#) 3 new recalls
- [Food, Drug, Medicine hazards and recalls](#) 1 new recall
- [Furniture Related to Child Care and Early Education](#) no new recalls
- [Toys and Play Related Items](#) 1 new recall

### Mumps cases in Iowa

As of May 18th, Iowa had 1,808 mumps cases have been reported to the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) with 82 counties experiencing mumps activity.

The IDPH Healthy Child Care Iowa campaign mailed English and Spanish versions of the mumps fact sheets to over 15,000 child care businesses listed on the Child Care Resource and Referral agencies database. For more information about mumps or to print the fact sheets, visit the IDPH Web site at [www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/mumps.asp](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/mumps.asp).

- [Mumps Fact Sheet](#) 
- [Mumps Fact Sheet - en español \(Spanish\)](#) 
- [Mumps Fact Sheet - Bosnian ZAVISE INFORMACIJA NA BOSANSKOM JEZIKU, KLIKNITE OVDJE](#) 

Community Empowerment areas may contact their local public health agency for information about mumps immunization clinics. [County Contact Information](#) 





Submitted by Jenny Untiedt  
IDPH  
Covering Kids & Families



*Cover the Uninsured Week*, is an initiative managed by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and 18 of the country's most influential organizations. What began in 2003 as a weeklong series of events to raise awareness about this growing problem has become the largest campaign in history to address the issue of the number of uninsured in America. Americans are once again coming together for *Cover the Uninsured Week* to further the campaign's commitment to raise awareness about the issue - and to turn awareness into action.

This year Des Moines was one of nine cities to be chosen as a target market for the Cover the Uninsured Week activities and many other Iowa communities came together to join in the efforts of the campaign as well. From May 1-7, 2006, individuals and organizations from every sector of society joined together to tell our leaders that health care coverage for Americans must be their top priority. Iowa's events included a kick-off press conference, interfaith events, health screening and enrollment fairs, a business summit and a campus event. For more information on *Cover the Uninsured Week*, visit [www.covertheuninsuredweek.org](http://www.covertheuninsuredweek.org) or to view a calendar of the activities that took place in Des Moines, visit <http://www.idph.state.ia.us/coveringkids/common/pdf/calendar.pdf>.

*Iowa's Early Childhood Vision: Every child, beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful.*