

Iowa Community Empowerment Newsletter

October 2006
Volume 7, Issue 5

Questions/Comments:
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The Iowa Empowerment Board Visits Cedar Valley

On September 21 and 22, the Iowa Empowerment Board had the privilege of traveling to Cedar Valley. The Black Hawk Empowerment Board, otherwise known as Cedar Valley's Promise, was our host.

On Thursday evening the Board was invited to attend a reception showcasing the programs and providers supported by Cedar Valley's Promise. It was a relaxing evening of delicious hors d'oeuvres hand prepared and served by Child Care



Senators Bill Dotzler & Nancy Boettger at the reception

Resource & Referral staff and an

informative presentation highlighting the services available to the families and young children in Black Hawk County.



Mary Cameron, IEB Member visits with a provider at the reception

In addition to the presentation, there were over a dozen displays, offering the participants an opportunity to interact with the providers of the services.



Judy Jeffrey visits with a teacher at Roots & Wings

On Friday morning, the Iowa Empowerment Board boarded the "Trolley" and embarked on two site visits. Kim Young-Kent, Executive Director, Tri-County Child and Family Development Council provided a guided tour.

The first stop was *Roots & Wings* Child Development Center, operated by the Waterloo Community School District. Conveniently located next to an alternative high school, this NAEYC accredited, state of the art child care center exclusively provides care for



Peg Macek, IEB Member with a mom & her daughter

infants and toddlers of teen parents while they attend school.



Janet Lyons with a father and his daughter

The tour continued with a stop at Antioch Church in Waterloo where a parent event was taking place for *Project Hand in Hand*. This program offers Early Head Start and HOPES, and is an opportunity to reach the very young either in their own homes or a partnering center.

The morning we attended, the children, their parents and the Tri-County Child & Family educational specialists were creating breakfast. There were stations for making omelets, toast and Orange Julius shakes. It was a huge hit!



Making Omelets together

The Iowa Empowerment Board looks forward to continuing the practice of visiting local communities and observing Empowerment efforts at the local level.

Letters of interest are now being entertained for the 2007 year. See page 7 of this newsletter for more information.

For more information about Cedar Valley's Promise, visit www.cedarvalleypromise.org.

In this issue:

Cover Article	1
IEB Visits Cedar Valley	
Updates	2
ECHE System Building	
Empowerment	
Upcoming Events/Activities	
ECI Update	
Iowa Empowerment Board News	4
September Meeting Highlights	
Meet New TA Team Members	
Judy Knox	
Kristi Judkins	
IEB Seeking Nominations	
Request to Host 2007 IEB	
Local CEA News	7
Tools You Can Use	
For the Children - Children in Poverty	
Statewide Information	9
TEACH	
Iowa Child Care Resource & Referral	
Health News	12
HCCI Update	
New Guide to Childhood Illness	
Poster	
CPSC Update	
CCNC	
Oral Health Bureau Update	
Covering Kids & Families	

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.

Update August 2006 – September 2006

Links to Empowerment Web sites:

State: www.empowerment.state.ia.us

Benton County

www.bcempowerment.com

Black Hawk

www.cedarvalleyspromise.org

Buchanan Delaware Fayette

www.bdfempowerment.org

Cedar

www.empowercedarco.org

Cerro Gordo, Hancock, Worth

www.cghwempowerment.com

Dubuque

www.empowerdubuque.org

Floyd, Chickasaw, Mitchell

www.fmcempowerment.com

HAWC (Howard, Allamakee, Winneshiek, Clayton)

www.HAWC-Iowa.com

Hardin

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

Henry

www.healthyhenrycounty.org

Humboldt, Hamilton, Wright

www.buildingfamilies.net

Jasper

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

Johnson

<http://www.jcempowerment.org>

Linn

www.linncountycommunityempowerment.org

Marshall

www.youthandviolence.org

Pocahontas, Calhoun and Webster

www.linking-families.com

Polk www.hspa.org

Scott:

www.scottcountypowerment.org

Story

<http://www.storycountyfamily.org>

Washington

www.empowerwashington.org

Woodbury www.siouxlandship.org

Early Care, Health and Education System Building Activities

- '08 Early Childhood Offer meeting - August 1, 11, 16, 29, Sept 6 & 19
- ECI Co-chairs meeting - August 3
- ECI Resources & Funding component workgroup - August 3
- ECI Public Engagement component workgroup - August 3
- T.E.A.C.H. Executive Committee meeting - August 3
- T.E.A.C.H. Bidder's Conference - August 4
- Empowerment Professional Development Steering Committee - August 7, 22,31
- Title V Grant Review - Kansas City - August 8-10
- Early Care, Health & Education Congress leadership team - August 10
- 2006 Early Care, Health & Education Congress planning - August 11 & Sept 8
- ECI Quality, Services & Programs family support workgroup – August 14
- State Child Care Advisory Council Steering Committee - August 17
- Empowerment Coordinator's training planning meeting - August 17
- ECI - Governance component workgroup - August 17 & September 21
- Child Health Advocacy Team – August 17 & September 18
- Empowerment update with DHS - August 23
- HOPES Update meetings - August 23
- ECI Stakeholders facilitator's prep - August 31
- Prep for Quality Improvement proposal reviews - September 1
- EC Coordinated Leadership staff - September 7
- EC Discussion with DE, advocates, IEB - September 7
- Healthy Mental Development Initiative – September 7
- ECI - Policy & Fiscal Assessment - September 8
- ECI Stakeholders - September 12
- Empowerment Coordinator's Quarterly TA meeting - September 13
- First Round Quality Improvement proposal review - September 14
- Home Visitor Safety Training, Clear Lake - September 15
- Round 2 of Quality Improvement proposal reviews - September 18
- Pre-K event sponsored by Every Child Counts - September 20
- Iowa Empowerment Board reception hosted by Cedar Valley's Promise - September 21
- Iowa Empowerment Site Visits & Board Meeting, Cedar Falls - Sept 22
- Early Childhood Networking meeting, Reston, VA - September 25 & 26
- ECI - Quality, Services & Programs workgroup meeting - September 27
- State Child Care Advisory Council - September 28
- Iowa Community Business Advisory Council - September 29
- Maternal Depression Screening - September 29

Site Visits/Technical Assistance Activities

- Hardin - August 2 & 15
- Warren (Family Support Programs) - August 7
- Madison - August 8
- Iowa County - August 18
- Benton - August 18
- Emmet - August 21
- Decatur - August 28 & September 14
- Marion - September 27

Upcoming Events 2006 Calendar at a Glance

The Road to Recovery
October 10-11, 2006
Scheman Center, Ames
www.iowapsych.com

**2006 Children's Hospital of Iowa
Pediatric Symposium**
October 13-14, 2006
Center for Disabilities and
Development, Iowa City

IAEYC State Conference
October 13-14, 2006
Des Moines
rbancroft@mindspring.com

**Understanding Best Practices for
Family Support Programs**
October 27, 2006
Guttenberg
sedward24@aol.com

**Iowa Conference on Volunteer
Service**
October 31-November 1, 2006
Polk County Convention Complex,
Des Moines
www.RegOnline.com/96245

**Ready To Learn Provider Book
Clubs Train the Trainer**
November 2, 2006
IPTV, Johnston
dena@iptv.org

Healthy Families America Training
November 6-10, 2006
Bettendorf, IA
mary.odell@lsiowa.org

**Early Care Health & Education
Congress**
November 14 & 15, 2006
Scheman Center, Ames
www.empowerment.state.ia.us

Iowa Empowerment Board
November 14, 2006
Gateway Conference Center
Ames

Iowans Fit for Life Symposium
November 16, 2006
Stoney Creek Inn, Johnston

**Early Childhood Iowa
Core Stakeholders**
December 12, 2006
Location TBD
www.earlychildhoodiowa.org

**Empowerment
Coordinators/Contacts Meetings**
December 13, 2006
TBD

ECHE Day on the Hill
February 7, 2006
State Capitol Rotunda
Des Moines

**Iowa Early Learning Standards
Training Symposium**
March 9-11, 2007
Hotel Gateway, Ames

Linkages/Outreach Activities

- Promise Jobs Coordinators - August 3
- FaDSS Team - August 7, 21 & September 20
- FaDSS Training - August 8
- IA Collaboration for Youth Development - August 8
- Covering Kids & Families Press Conference - House of Mercy - August 9
- Back to School Health Fair - August 9
- DHS Liaison Meeting - August 14
- Back to School Health Fair - Gatchel Methodist Church - August 17
- High Scope curriculum training - August 17 & 18
- Meeting with Iowa Association of Business & Industry - August 21
- ABCD II Panel Meeting - August 24
- Early Childhood Healthy Policy planning - August 25
- SCRIPT Meeting - August 25
- SF 2410 Discussion - August 29
- Youth Program Quality Assessment Training - August 29 & 30
- The Common Wealth Fund ABCD II site visit - August 29 & 30
- Downtown Kiwanis presentation - September 13
- Iowa's Maternal and Child Health Advisory Council - September 14
- Iowa's Promise Informational meeting, ICN - September 19
- Iowa's Youth Civic Engagement Policy Forum - September 20
- Lakeshore Learning Materials Open House - September 26
- Iowa Reinvention Update - September 27

ECHE System Building Updates

On September 12th the Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) Stakeholders had their quarterly meeting at the West Des Moines Public Library. Their goal was to work on the ECI Report Card which is aligned with the Strategic Plan. The stakeholders were divided into five groups addressing the state result areas. Each group assessed the data and ranked each of the goals on a set of 6 criteria. After ranking each goal the group reached a consensus in determining the two priority goals in their particular group. The prioritized goals are contained within the minutes of the meeting which will be available on the ECI web site at the following link, <http://www.state.ia.us/earlychildhood/eci/stakeholder/index.html>.

Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats revolving around the priority goals were then identified. As a conclusion to the day the ECI Stakeholders were able to visit the work of each group and provide input and suggestions.

The "next steps" from this meeting will be for the ECI Co-chairs to compile all of the ideas from each of the groups and to discuss the information at their October Co-chairs meeting.



If you would like to learn more about the work of Early Childhood Iowa or if you would like to become involved with the work of the ECI Stakeholders, or one of the six component groups of ECI, please contact Jenny Untiedt at juntiedt@idph.state.ia.us or visit the Early Childhood Iowa Web site at www.earlychildhoodiowa.org.

The 5 State Result Areas are:

- ✦ Healthy Children
- ✦ Children Ready to Succeed in School
- ✦ Secure and Nurturing Families
- ✦ Safe and Supportive Communities
- ✦ Secure and Nurturing Childcare Environments



www.empowerment.state.ua.us

Iowa Empowerment Board News September Meeting Update

On Friday, September 22, 2006 the Iowa Empowerment Board (IEB) met in Cedar Falls. They were welcomed to Cedar Valley by the mayor of Cedar Falls, John Crews and the mayor of Waterloo, Tim Hurley.

Floyd Winter, board chair, opened the official meeting with a thank you to members of the Cedar Valley's Promise board for their hospitality. Three new citizen members of the IEB were welcomed: Peg Macek, Davenport, Ruth Krueger, Iowa Falls and Cathy Ryba, Treynor. Shanell Wagler, Empowerment Facilitator presented an administrative and legislative update and the IEB members turned in their Conflict of Interest forms. Next the Board adopted their strategic plan for 2006-2009; and an overview was given by Linette Bernard, BDF Empowerment Coordinator of the proposed Coordinator Training that is being developed with assistance from Empowerment coordinators and the state TA team.

Next Ms. Wagler gave an update on the process for the distribution of the professional development funds. A handout was provided to the Board with an overview of the initiatives that are moving forward.

In follow up to the July IEB meeting, the recommendations for the distribution of the quality improvement dollars were given based on the work of the review teams. The Board made the decision to fund each CEA that submitted a proposal at their eligible amount and to divide the remaining funds equally among those same areas.

An update on an early childhood advocacy meeting which was held between the Board of Education, IEB representative, and Every Child Counts was given. The goal of this meeting was to establish how these groups might be able to come together to better support preschool initiatives within the state. The participants felt that it was a good step in moving forward toward that goal.

The meeting concluded with a continued look at quality. A presentation was made by Tom Rendon and Kim Young-Kent on the work of Early Start and how it is supported in this local area.

The next meeting of the Iowa Empowerment Board will be November 14, 2006 in Ames, Iowa. This meeting will be in conjunction with the Early Care Health & Education Congress.

Meet New State TA Team Members:

Judy Knox



Judy Knox is employed with the Iowa Department of Education (DE) as an Early Childhood Special Education Consultant and as the DE representative on the State Empowerment Team.

She is a transplant from Arizona where she worked as the early childhood administrator for the Pendergast School District in Phoenix. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Education – Special Education from Arizona State University, a Master's in Counseling from University of Phoenix, a Master's in Educational Leadership from Northern Arizona University, and a Master of Arts in Education – Special Education with an emphasis on Infants and Young Children from Arizona State University.

Having grown up in Illinois, Judy happily returned to the Midwest to be closer to her daughter and son-in-law. She looks forward to seasons, snow, boots, ice scrapers, and no 115 degree days. We'll see how she feels about all this in a few months! Welcome Judy, to Iowa and Empowerment!

And, Kristi Judkins



Kristi Judkins began her state employment in 1983 when the agency was formerly known as Job Service of Iowa. She has worked in many aspects of the agency, but since 1997 has primarily been the liaison for the local Workforce Center partnering and connecting Business and Education and promoting the department's services and resources to area businesses.

Kristi has worked at the local and field level addressing the needs of community based organizations, transitioning job seekers, area businesses and employer networking groups, educators, students and out of school youth. Kristi recognizes that many aspects contribute to economic success and works to promote the value of an education with an emphasis on the development of established and transferable employability skills, understanding labor market information and career trends that includes knowing the current in-demand occupations and high growth industries, complex and varied needs of employers and businesses, and the need for user friendly services and resources.

Kristi represents IWD on many local level committees that collaborate to increase opportunities and bring awareness and is also a member of inter-agency work groups and teams that focus on quality improvement, marketing and negotiations. Prior to working for the state she worked in the private sector and attended the University of Northern Iowa.

Kristi was born and raised on the south side of Des Moines and now resides in Ankeny with her husband Bill and two children, Nichole, 21, and Ryan, 17. She enjoys church, family, friendships and life long learning and professional development.

Welcome, Kristi!

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

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

Process for Hosting IEB in 2007 *Simplified*

**Letters of Interest Due
November 1**

Office of Community Empowerment Iowa Empowerment Board Request for Letters of Interest

At the May 19, 2006 meeting of the Iowa Empowerment Board (IEB), it was decided that two of the Board's six meetings in 2007 would once again be held in a local community empowerment area. These meetings will occur on the following Fridays, May 11, 2007 and September 7, 2007.

In an effort to simplify the process we are asking that local empowerment boards submit a *letter of interest* to host the IEB. One of the most significant changes you will notice from previous years is that the Thursday evening event will no longer be required. While the board appreciated the time to network with local program providers, this seemed to cause the local area the most stress in planning. If your area is chosen, and your board would like to host a Thursday evening event, you can work with the Office of Empowerment at that time to work out the details.

The letter of interest should include:

- One or two paragraphs explaining why you feel your site should be chosen including your preferred date selection - May 11, 2007 or September 7, 2007;
- Your intent to extend an invitation to the legislators in your area;
- And, be no more than **two pages** in length.

The following details will be worked out with the Office of Empowerment upon the acceptance of your CEA as one of the host sites:

- The location you've identified for the Iowa Empowerment Board meeting to be held on Friday from 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM. The location must be able to accommodate 65 persons;
- Lodging accommodation options within close proximity of the meeting site, which accept the state rate;
- Information on site visits (at most 3) to local empowerment-supported programs to be conducted the morning of the meeting (8:30 - 10:30 AM);

The costs incurred for the Iowa Empowerment Board meeting will be the responsibility of the Office of Empowerment.

Letters will be selected and approved by the Empowerment State Technical Assistance Team, and identified members of the Iowa Empowerment Board. Priority will be given to those areas that have their Annual Report submitted on time and are fully designated. If possible, one urban and one rural empowerment area will be chosen, with one representing a single county area and one representing multiple counties.

Once selected, the top two proposals will work with the Office of Empowerment to finalize the exact schedule and details.

Please submit the letter of your board's interest to host the IEB to:

Debra Scrowther
debra.scrowther@iowa.gov
Questions: 515-281-4537

Submittal Deadline: November 1, 2006

Tools You Can Use

The following information may be helpful as you work with families, programs and providers in your area:

Assisting Families in finding Quality Programs



A Guide For Parents Using NAEYC Standards to Find Quality Programs for Young Children

<http://www.rightchoiceforkids.org/docs/FamilyGuide.pdf>

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) has developed ten standards for early childhood programs which can help parents and families make the right choice when they are looking for a quality early learning environment. As families are introduced to these ten standards through this four-page resource they are given benchmarks based on the latest research as to what they should be seeing and requesting in quality environments.

Empowerment Tools: K(A) & K(B)

Struggling to find data? Don't forget about these resources available on line at <http://www.empowerment.state.ia.us/results.asp>.

Tool K(A) is the Empowerment Data Dictionary which lists the adopted state wide indicators.

Tool K(B) gives links to early childhood data in the following domains: health, child abuse, education, public safety and youth.

Iowa Quality Rating System On-Line

The QRS website is now available. On the website you will find information about the QRS, Environment Rating Scale training and assessment information, forms needed for QRS participation, frequently asked questions, and contact information for the QRS regional specialists. Please access the website at www.dhs.state.ia.us/iqrs

Profile of Latinos in Iowa



An updated profile of Iowa's Latino population, "Hispanic Heritage Month: Latinos in Iowa September 2006" is now available on the State Library's State Data Center Web site at <http://www.iowadatecenter.org/Publications/Profiles>.

The profile was jointly produced by the State Library of Iowa and the Iowa Division of Latino Affairs for National Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15 - October 15. The profile includes the latest demographic, social, and economic facts about Iowa's Latino population, including information about children, families, language, education, and employment.

Have you registered yet for the 2006 Early Care, Health & Education Congress?

Visit www.empowerment.state.ia.us for more information!



Article submitted by Laurie
Nash, Empowerment
Coordinator, Johnson County
(With the permission of the author)

For the Children - Children in Poverty

By Deb VanderGaast, RN, Tipton Adaptive Daycare

Many of us never really see poverty and hunger. The poor population in America is wealthy compared to most people in developing countries. Our society has safety nets in place to ensure that children don't have to go hungry. These programs feed children while they are in school and daycare. Unfortunately, some children still go hungry when they go home.

There are children in our communities attending our schools and utilizing daycare services that part of the invisible homeless population. They live where they can because they don't have a home of their own. There are no homeless shelters in most rural areas, so they shuttle from place to place, staying with friends and family until their welcome is worn out. They may find affordable housing for short periods, but is often substandard and unsafe. It is easy for those of us in rural areas to pretend homelessness doesn't exist in our communities since we don't see the homeless living on our streets.

These children need to go to daycare and school so they can eat, learn and play, and so that their parents can work or look for work. They also need a safe, nurturing place to go during the daytime so they can escape for a few hours from whatever conditions they are forced to live in. They may also need to give some peace to those who have given them shelter so they don't wear out their welcome too fast.

These children often come to daycare and school without diapers, formula, shoes, coats and clean clothing. Their families may not always have a place to bathe, wash laundry or to prepare a nutritious meal. They may be tired because they may not have a quiet, comfortable and safe place to sleep, nor be able to go to bed at a reasonable time. These kids may not have anyone read to them because they don't have books. They often have few toys and clothes because they can only keep what they can carry from place to place. They are embarrassed when other kids tease them or adults pity them. They are ashamed when they don't have the nice things their peers have.

I have cared for children who come to daycare early so they can eat breakfast and beg me to feed them supper before they go home. They frequently comment that I have a lot of food, and may try to take food from my refrigerator and pantry. They are often amazed and mystified by the variety of foods they are given at daycare and school. They spend much of their day preoccupied with food.

These are children who go to bed hungry at night and when they can't go to school or daycare. Weekends must be horribly long for them. Imagine what life would be like for them if the childcare nutrition program, the school lunch program and child care assistance did not exist.

How many childcare providers have turned away children because they are dirty, street tough, have low reimbursement, or their parents are unreliable? How many teachers have been frustrated by children who are exhausted, hungry, and too distracted to learn? How many strangers have unfairly judged a child by their appearance and turned away in disgust? Can we truly say we love children if we only love the ones that look, act and talk like us, or that come from families like ours? It is easy for us to turn a blind eye to the children who need our compassion and understanding the most.

Many times poor choices made by the parents are contributing factors in the family's situation, but that is not the fault of the children. The children are the ones who suffer the most from their situations, and they are powerless to change it. They are the ones who need our nurturing, guidance and care the most. If we turn our backs to them, we miss out on an opportunity to truly make a difference in a child's life.

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

Submitted by Barb Merrill,
T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® IOWA
Program Manager



What is the CDA Credential?

A Child Development Associate is an individual who has successfully completed a CDA assessment and has been awarded the CDA Credential by the Council for Professional Recognition, 2460 16th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20009-3575; (800) 424-4310; <http://www.cdacouncil.org>. The CDA is a recognized part of the child care licensing/registration requirements in Iowa, is a way to earn points on the Quality Rating System, and is a part of the process of achieving some kinds of accreditation standards. CDAs have been awarded in our country since 1971 and over 150,000 credentials have been granted.

A Child Development Associate is able to meet the specific needs of children and works with parents and other adults to nurture children's physical, social, emotional, and intellectual growth in a child development framework.

The purpose of the CDA program is to enhance the quality of early care and education by defining, evaluating, and recognizing the competence of child care providers. The successful CDA meets the following competency goals:

1. To establish and maintain a safe, healthy learning environment.
2. To advance physical and intellectual competence.
3. To support social and emotional development and to provide positive guidance.
4. To establish positive and productive relationships with families.
5. To ensure a well-run, purposeful program responsive to participant needs.
6. To maintain a commitment to professionalism.

To be eligible to apply for a CDA, a candidate must meet and verify the following criteria:

- Be 18 years or older
- Have a high school diploma or equivalent
- Have 480 hours of experience working with young children within the past five years
- Have 120 hours of formal child care education and training within the past five years with a minimum of ten hours of content in each of eight competency areas:
 - Safe and healthy environments
 - Physical and intellectual development
 - Social and emotional development
 - Behavior
 - Child growth and development
 - Relationships with families
 - Program management
 - Professionalism

Formal child care education and training in our state is offered in a variety of ways. Several colleges (such as DMACC) have CDA courses for college credit. Other colleges (Southwestern and Scott Community Colleges) have a non-credit course specific to the CDA. Even other colleges may not have a specific program designed for the CDA, but have identified 3-5 courses in their Early Childhood Associate Degree program, when completed, fulfill the 120 hour education requirement.

Another way providers and teachers may earn their training hours for their CDA would be by individually compiling their training hours from approved, recognized training organizations such as Child Care Resource and Referral, Area Education Agencies, or ISU Extension. This method is a bit more complex, as the provider and her advisor need to ensure that the minimum of ten hours in each of the eight content areas has been met.

Questions?
Check the CDA website
at the Council for
Professional Recognition:
www.cdacouncil.org

Completing the education hours is just one step in the process, however. The candidate must also document their competence with five other steps:

- Prepare a professional resource file including six 300-500 word papers where the candidate prepares an autobiography and statements of his/her competence in the different areas of care, as well as other resources
- Parent opinion questionnaires are distributed and the results are confidentially submitted
- A formal observation report is done by an early childhood professional who meets a level of experience and education needed to be an advisor
- An oral interview conducted by a representative from the Council for Professional Recognition
- A written exam administered by the representative from the Council

The six steps help to ensure that many types of evaluation are completed, that the candidate is assessed not only caring for children, but from the parents of the children in his/her care, from her instructors, from her CDA advisor, from the Council representative, on verbal skills, written skills, child development knowledge, and preparedness.

The CDA is granted as an infant-toddler center staff CDA, a preschool CDA for those who work in centers and preschools, a family child care provider CDA, or a home visitor CDA. Initially, it is granted for a three-year period, with some simple renewal requirements such as completing one 3-credit course and belonging to a professional association, as well as several other steps. After the initial renewal, the CDA may be renewed for five year periods.

Hundreds of Iowans are seeking their CDA credentials this year, as basic-level education or to enhance their skills. Some CDA candidates have associate or bachelor's degrees in a field other than early childhood education and are looking for an early childhood credential to meet some position or regulation requirements. Others are using the CDA process as a first taste of experiencing college, without the requirement of committing to a full degree program. Others use the CDA to raise their level of professionalism for registration, licensing, Iowa's Quality Rating System, and accreditation.

Iowa's T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Program assists providers from regulated child care settings in Iowa to earn their CDA credential by offering a T.E.A.C.H.-model scholarship requiring commitment to their current child care program and offering a compensation increase (usually as a bonus) when the credential is earned. There are two ways T.E.A.C.H. can help:

- We can pay for the college credit courses and the materials and books required to achieve the 120 training hours as part of a T.E.A.C.H. nine-credit minimum scholarship contract, and/or
- We can provide support for the \$325 application fee for the assessment, and provide a bonus when the credential is earned.

Iowa Child Care Resource & Referral



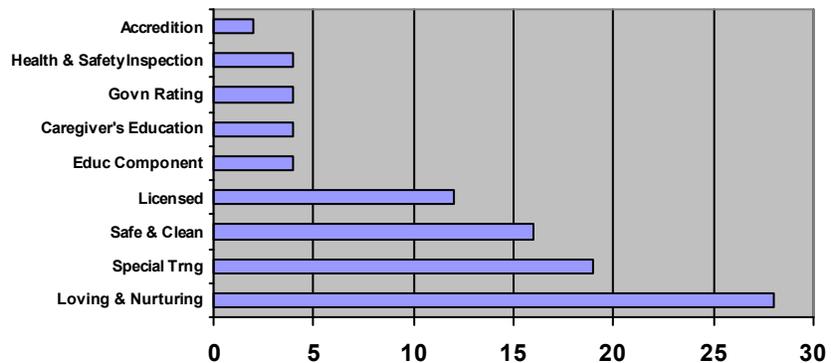
Submitted by MariLynn Pierce,
Director, CCR&R Region 2

CHILD CARE IN THE UNITED STATES --- PARENTS' PERCEPTIONS

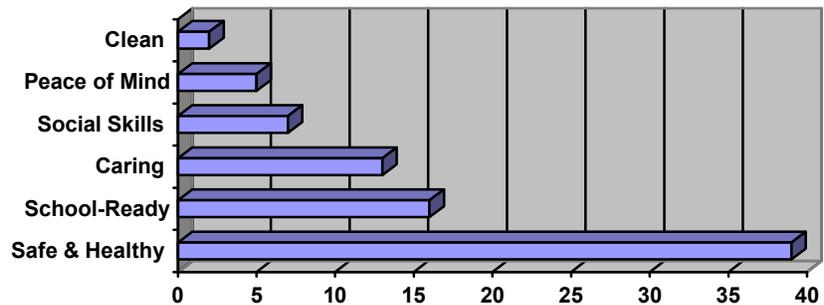
Now more than ever, there is a broad understanding that the events and experiences in a young child's life last forever *for all children, the early years truly last a life time.* A well-known fact, Iowa has one of the highest percentages in the nation of young children in childcare arrangements because both parents, or the only parent in the home, are working. These working parents are critical to the economic well-being of both their families and to our state. What are parents looking for in their child care provider and how are we assisting them?

The National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies (NACCRRRA) estimates nearly 12 million children under age 5 in American today are in some kind of non-parental child care setting every week. Recognizing this, NACCRRRA commissioned a national poll in February, 2006 of nearly 600 parents. Here are some of their perceptions and thoughts:

What Parents Associate With High-Quality



Parents Primarily Want From Their Child Care Arrangement



Iowa's Child Care Resource & Referral system, often in collaboration with local Empowerment Areas, is dedicated to:

- ~ assisting families in locating a child care arrangement that best meets their needs
- ~ offering accessible foundational training opportunities for child care providers
- ~ creating opportunities for providers to enhance the quality of care through technical assistance, consultation, and advanced levels of training
- ~ making critical data available for community planning to address the need for accessible child care

The full NACCRRRA survey report "Parents' Perception of Child Care in the United States" is on their website at www.naccrra.org.

News From:



Healthy Child Care Iowa (HCCI)

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Guide to Childhood Illness Poster

Healthy Child Care Iowa releases revised **Guide to Childhood Illness** poster. The large poster defines 20 common childhood illnesses and symptoms. Each illness is defined by:

- What you see
- What to do
- When child can return to child care or early education

Childhood illnesses that can be prevented by immunization are marked with a star ★. The poster prints in color on 11x17 inch paper. The poster contains resource contact information for families without a health care provider or health care coverage for their children.

This resource is available for download at the following link,
<http://www.idph.state.ia.us/hcci/products.asp>.

CPSC Update



U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

There are new hazards and recalls posted on the CPSC and the Food and Drug Administration websites. Products that pertain to early childhood and child care are reviewed on the Healthy Child Care Iowa webpage of the Iowa Department of Public Health website: www.idph.state.ia.us/hcci/recalls.asp. Please note the Iowa Department of Public Health has a new look to their website with larger print to make reading easier.

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.

The U.S Food and Drug Administration issued 20 recall/hazard warnings during June 2006. Most of these warnings *did not* apply to Iowa early childhood or child care. To review a full listing all of the FDA hazards/recalls go to: <http://www.fda.gov/opacom/7alerts.html>

Did you know...?

Child Care Nurse Consultants

Iowa has 30 community health nurses listed on a national registry of experts in early childhood health and safety? The nurses are child care nurse consultants from local community health agencies. Consumers may use the national registry to locate and contact a nurse consultant. The Web site <http://hccnsc.edc.org> contains the names, contact information, and areas of expertise. Child care nurse consultants assist child care businesses in:

- preventing injuries and communicable disease;
- caring for children with special health needs; and
- developing health and safety policy.

The child care nurse consultants are the community level segment of the Healthy Child Care Iowa campaign sponsored by the Iowa Department of Public Health since 1996. Healthy Child Care Iowa provides information and consultation services to Iowa's 1,500 licensed child care centers and 4,680 registered child development homes. For more information about Healthy Child Care Iowa visit www.idph.state.ia.us/hcci or contact Sally Clausen or Kim Tichy from the Bureau of Family Health at 1-800-383-3826.

News from IDPH Oral Health Bureau



By **Bob Russell,**
IDPH Dental Director



New Resource ~

An issue brief entitled *Access to Dental Care* has recently been produced through the work of the Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholders (Quality Services and Programs Component Group). The purpose of the issue brief is to inform policy makers about the importance of access to dental care for children, particularly for those children within low-income families.

The issue brief can be found at www.earlychildhoodiowa.org

The “I-Smile” Dental Home Project is Underway

Medical and dental providers throughout the State of Iowa will soon receive a letter informing them of the Iowa dental home project. In collaboration with the Iowa Department of Human Services, the Iowa Department of Public Health/ Oral Health Bureau is now in the process of informing and rallying support for this exciting new enterprise. The building of the I-Smile dental home has begun.

On May 12, 2005, the Iowa Legislature passed a bold Medicaid reform initiative called “IowaCare,” which was signed into law by Governor Vilsack. Included within the IowaCare legislation was the following mandate:

“ By July 1, 2008, every recipient of medical assistance who is a child twelve years of age or younger shall have a designated dental home and shall be provided with the dental screenings and preventive care identified in the oral health standards under the early and periodic screening, diagnostic, and treatment program.”

In response to this legislation, The Iowa Department of Human Services partnered with the Iowa Department of Public Health, the Iowa Dental Association, the Iowa Dental Hygienists’ Association, Delta Dental of Iowa, and the University Of Iowa College Of Dentistry to develop a proposal that would fulfill the dental home mandate. The result is called the I-Smile Dental Home Project.

Phase I of the I-Smile project will focus on increasing the case management capacity of Iowa’s Title V system, a network of public health agencies responsible for coordinating and tracking preventive dental care for Medicaid children. These agencies will streamline communications between medical and dental practices and parents of Medicaid enrolled children, addressing issues such as patient compliance; caries risk assessment, referral linkage, preventive dental services, and patient education. Phase II, if approved by the legislature, will focus on an enhanced Medicaid rate managed through a private insurance carrier.

Phase I of I-Smile is now underway. Over the next year, Iowa’s Title V public agencies will be undergoing evaluation and infrastructure building. This will include adding dental hygiene staff, upgrading office and dental equipment, and developing enhanced care coordination systems.

The opportunities for becoming involved in Iowa’s dental home project and developing local partnerships with Iowa’s Title V agencies are enormous. New resources and community linkages will be needed to produce an effective oral health safety net for children. The ability for local empowerment boards and community health coalitions to significantly impact children’s oral health has never been better!

For more information and local agency contact information, please contact the IDPH Oral Health Bureau at (515) 281-3733.

Submitted by Jenny Untiedt
 IDPH
 Covering Kids & Families

For more information about the Iowa Covering Kids and Families Initiative, visit <http://www.idph.state.ia.us/coveringkids>.



2006 CKF Back-to-School Campaign

The Des Moines based Healthcare Coverage for Kids Coalition (HCKC) in collaboration with the Iowa *Covering Kids & Families* initiative (CKF) aim to increase enrollment for eligible, uninsured children in public health care coverage programs such as Medicaid and *hawk-i*. Activities at local health fairs and the Iowa State Fair, along with radio and television advertisements, were part of a national CKF *Back-to-School* campaign that took place in eight target markets.

“Research suggests that healthy children learn better in school and parents are more likely to allow their children to participate in sports activities if their children have health care coverage,” said Director of the Iowa Department of Public Health, Dr. Mary Mincer Hansen, R.N., Ph.D. “By providing low-cost or free health care coverage to families who qualify, Medicaid and *hawk-i* provide a lifeline for parents working hard to make ends meet.” *hawk-i*, short for Healthy and Well Kids in Iowa, is a public health care coverage program for children in Iowa, based on family income.

HCKC hosted a community health fair on August 9 at McKinley Elementary School. Physical exams, immunizations, blood lead testing, health insurance information, and free school supplies were provided for each child at the fair. Families were lined up outside the school an hour before the event! Over 500 school-aged children attended the McKinley health fair.

The success of the health fair attendance was due in part to the large Latino population in the area. Acknowledged as a need by the national campaign, Des Moines focused their initiative on outreach to minority populations. National data suggests that one of every five Latino children under age 18 lacks health insurance. McKinley Elementary School, highly attended by Latino families, served as an ideal location to provide health insurance outreach to this population.

Reaching a similar audience, HCKC again provided *hawk-i* outreach on August 17 at Shalom Zone, another community health fair in urban Des Moines. Over 1500 children flocked to Gatchel United Methodist Church, the location of the fair, to receive school supplies, physical exams, and other screenings. Health fairs such as these help to get children prepared for school, by equipping them with school supplies, well child visits, oral health services and health care coverage information. Outreach events such as health fairs also help to increase public knowledge about the value of health care coverage and options available to many Iowa families.

At the press conference, representatives from organizations such as the Des Moines Police Department, Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), and Des Moines Public Schools spoke of their commitment to get all children in Iowa insured. Special guests were past Olympian and Drake track coach, Natasha Kaiser-Brown, and local mother and Medicaid participant, Laurie Northway. Afterwards, children at the House of Mercy and the Evelyn Davis Academy were provided backpacks filled with school supplies.

The Iowa State Fair provided another avenue to provide *hawk-i* outreach. Partnering with the Iowa Department of Public Health, CKF staff distributed thousands of *hawk-i* cups, fans, bookmarks, magnets, and applications to the crowds in the Varied Industries Building. The State Fair was an opportunity for families to ask questions and become more familiar with the *hawk-i* program.

Sponsored by RWJF, the national CKF *Back-to-School* campaign selected Des Moines as one of eight target markets to do outreach to uninsured families. Iowa events did not only include those in Des Moines; many *hawk-i* outreach coordinators participated in the *Back-to-School* campaign in their local communities, from creating bulletin boards to distributing *hawk-i* applications at school registrations.

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