

Iowa Community Empowerment Newsletter

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2007 Legislature Invests in Children and Families

The 2007 Session of the 82nd General Assembly adjourned on April 29th. The legislature made notable efforts to positively impact young children and their families.

Here's a highlight of overall legislation.

[HF 877](#) creates a statewide voluntary preschool program for four-year-olds.

[SF 601](#)

- ❖ provides a \$1.7 million dollar increase to Shared Visions state-funded preschool program. This -is the first increase this program has received since 1996.
- ❖ establishes billing and payment standards for child care provided under the state child care assistance program administered by the department of human services. Providers will be paid within 10 business days of submitting a correct invoice to DHS.

[HF 396](#) expands the community empowerment preschool programming support to be provided through the appropriation beyond preschool services to also include other supportive services. The bill also expands the four-year old and five-year old age range addressed in the appropriation to also include three-year old children.

[SF 588](#)

- ❖ For transfer to the department of human services for implementation of early head start pilot projects addressing the comprehensive cognitive, social, emotional, and developmental needs of children from birth to age three, including prenatal support for qualified families. The investment of \$400,000 is the first time the legislature has appropriated state dollars to this federally funded program.
- ❖ For expansion of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004, as amended to January 1, 2007, birth through age three services due to increased numbers of children qualifying for those services. [SF 588](#) allocates \$1,721,400. This is the first time the state appropriated dollars to this federal program!
- ❖ Community Empowerment receives status quo funding in its school ready grants account.

[HF 909](#)

- ❖ provides \$16 million for the child care subsidy program. This should keep DHS from having to start a waiting list for child care assistance. Child Care Quality Rating System will take a net reduction of \$44,712 in FY 08;
- ❖ \$100,000 in additional funding to expand Community Partnerships Program under Juvenile Detention Fund and Clarifying language for TANF;
- ❖ Allocates \$525,000 to 1st Five (formerly known as ABCD II/Healthy Mental Development Initiative); which is \$200,000 more than received last year;

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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 April 2007 - May 2007

Links to Empowerment Web sites:

State: www.empowerment.state.ia.us

Local Empowerment web sites are also available on the state web site. Go to the Local Areas tab and click on Map.

Benton County

www.bcempowerment.com

Black Hawk

www.cedarvalleypromise.org

Buchanan Delaware Fayette

www.bdfempowerment.org

Cedar

www.empowercedarco.org

Cerro Gordo, Hancock, Worth

www.cghwempowerment.com

Des Moines/Louisia

www.caringcommunityempowerment.org

Dubuque

www.empowerdubuque.org

Floyd, Chickasaw, Mitchell

www.fmempowerment.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.jaspercountvempowerment.org/>

Johnson

<http://www.jcempowerment.org>

Linn

www.linncountycommunityempowerment.org

Marshall

www.youthandviolence.org

Muscatine

www.muscatineempowerment.org

Pocahontas, Calhoun and Webster

www.linking-families.com

Polk www.hspa.org

Scott:

www.scottcountvempowerment.org

Story

<http://www.storycountyfamily.org>

Washington

www.empowerwashington.org

Woodbury www.siouxlandship.org

Early Care, Health and Education System Building Activities

- PAT National Conference, St Louis - April 2-5
- ECI - Public Engagement Workgroup - April 5, May 3
- Early Childhood Education Summit, UNI - April 6
- ECI - Quality, Services & Programs Legislative Breakfast (Healthy Mental Development) - April 11
- ECI - State Agency Liaison Team - April 11
- Evidence Based Family Support conference post meeting - April 12
- Family Support Leadership Meeting - April 13
- ISU Parenting Web Conference - April 16
- Coordination with Children At Home Program - April 16
- DHS Family Support Programs coordination meeting - April 16
- Empowerment 10-Year Celebration planning - April 16
- ISU Parenting Web Conference - April 16
- ECI - Governance & Planning Workgroup - April 19, May 24
- Professional Development Competency Development/Alignment - April 20
- Family Support Coordination meeting - April 25
- Growing Up Poor presentation to SIEDA - April 27
- Comprehensive Family Support Council - April 27
- QRS Report planning - May 1
- Professional Development Systems planning - May 2
- ECI - Co-Chairs - May 3
- Fiscal Accountability Workgroup - May 3
- ECHE Congress Exec Committee - May 8
- Statewide Voluntary Preschool Rules Advisory Committee - May 9
- ECI - Quality, Services & Programs workgroup meeting - May 14
- State Child Care Advisory Council Exec Committee - May 10
- Business Advisory Committee - May 10
- Iowa Empowerment Board Site Visit, Scott County - May 10-11
- Iowa Empowerment Board Meeting - May 11
- EC Advocacy Opportunities presentation, Walnut Hills Methodist Church - May 12
- Empowerment Contacts/Coordinator's quarterly TA meeting - May 15
- Follow up to Business Advisory Committee meeting - May 16
- ISU Partnering with Parents planning meeting - May 18
- PAT, Washington DC visits & advocacy day - May 22
- Preschool Teacher Discussion w/DE/BOEE & Child Care - May 23
- Leadership in Action Program Launch - May 24
- TEACH Advisory Committee - May 24
- Professional Development funds planning meeting with DHS - May 30
- Professional Development System meeting, Dan Haggard - May 31, June 1

Site Visits/Technical Assistance Activities

- Annual Report Review - NW Iowa - April 9
- Annual Report Review - Poweshiek - April 12
- Annual Report Review - Iowa County - May 22
- Board Meeting - Corner Counties - April 16
- Family Support TA to Union County - April 17
- Professional Boundaries training, Ottumwa - April 18
- HAWC Family Support On-sight Technical Assistance - April 19
- Partnerships 4 Families Board TA, Family Support - April 20
- Board meeting - BV, Crawford, Sac - April 25, May 23
- Family Support on-site TA, BV/Crawford/Sac - April 26
- Results Accountability with Tama Board - April 26

Upcoming Events Calendar at a Glance

Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholders

June 12, 2007
ChildServe
Johnston

Empowerment Coordinators/Contacts Meetings

June 13, 2007
State Historical Building
Des Moines

Partnering With Parents ONLINE

June 11 - November 30, 2007
www.extension.iastate.edu/pwp

Explosive Child Conference

June 15, 2007
Sheraton
West Des Moines
www.iffcmh.org/calendar.htm

Understanding Parent & Child Development

June 26-27, 2007
Ames, IA
www.extension.iastate.edu/pwp

HOPES – HFI Sponsored Family Support Worker and Supervisor Training Day

July 12, 2007
Urbandale Library
Urbandale, Iowa
JStockto@idph.state.ia.us

The Governor's Conference on Public Health

Barn Raising VI: Celebrating Healthy Communities

August 2-3, 2007
Drake University
Des Moines
www.idph.state.ia.us

- Designation Visit - Decatur County - April 26
- Empowerment 101, Decatur County - May 14
- Results Accountability with DM/Louisa Board - May 16
- Mahaska/Wapello TA - May 21
- Lee/Van Buren Family Support On-sight Technical Assistance - May 24

Linkages/Outreach Activities

- Youth Development Children's Cabinet Presentation Prep - April 3
- Meeting with Governor's Education Policy Staff - April 3
- IDPH Spring Conference - April 3-4
- Children's Cabinets and Councils Roundtable - April 4-5
- Born Learning Parent Advisory Committee - April 20
- HOPES Statewide Meeting - April 24, May 30
- Family Support Coordination meeting - April 25, May 23
- Head Start State Collaboration Office meeting - April 30
- State Agency Workgroup - Youth Development - April 10 & May 8
- Mentoring Conference - May 1
- ESPDT Conference - May 4
- Prevent Child Abuse Iowa State Conference - May 7-8
- Smart Start Conference - May 8-11
- CKF, Process Improvement Team - May 14
- Real Heroes Conference, Community of Promise presentation - May 17
- Council for Early ACCESS - May 18
- S-CHIP Reauthorization Advocacy Day - May 18
- CKF State Coalition - May 24

ECHE System Building Updates

The Quality Services & Programs component group of Early Childhood Iowa has finalized the following materials:

Issue Brief # 6: Maternal Depression - This issue brief highlights the following:

- a. Definition of maternal depression: Including risk factors and statistics
- b. Importance and proposed implementation of maternal depression screening
- c. Impact of untreated maternal depression
- d. Current and proposed programs and activities surrounding maternal depression.

Issue Brief # 7: Nutrition and Physical Activity - This issue brief provides an overview of the following:

- a. Importance of appropriate physical activity and nutrition for healthy development
- b. Current programs promoting optimal activity and nutrition in Iowa for all income levels
- c. Opportunities for improvement in policy and practice

Issue Brief # 8: Medical Home - This issue brief provides an overview of the following:

- a. Definition of a *Medical Home*, and startling facts about medical homes in Iowa
- b. Importance of a having a medical home
- c. Examples of how a medical home is significant for children and families
- d. Current activities in Iowa regarding the institution of medical homes

The full versions of each of these three materials can be accessed at <http://www.state.ia.us/earlychildhood/issuebriefs.html>





The next meeting of the Iowa Empowerment Board will be July 13, 2007 at The Workforce Center, 430 East Grand, Des Moines, Iowa.

Iowa Empowerment Board News May Meeting Highlights

The Iowa Empowerment Board conducted one of its two planned site visits for 2007. The board traveled to Scott County on May 10th and 11th to learn more about activities supporting young children in this empowerment area. The board enjoyed an informative reception where the Scott County Empowerment Board shared a video DVD that highlights activities happening in the area. The board also attended a Parent Education and Family Support – Fun Night event at the Bettendorf Family Museum. On Friday, May 11, 2007, prior to its board meeting, the Board visited two child care centers to observe different environments and settings. One was a private, for-profit center that is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and the other is supported by volunteers. They were able to meet with community members, local providers, parents and children.

The Board began their board meeting late morning on May 11th. Following the review of the agenda and approval of the March 9th minutes of the Board, Shanell Wagler presented an administrative and legislative update. Much of the conversation focused on highlights of the '06-'07 legislative session and its impacts on young children and their families. An additional section has been added to the Administrative Update that was shared. It now incorporates an update from the Family Support Coordinator – Janet Gartin.

Shanell reminded the board that this fall marks Empowerment's tenth year. A committee of the board has been formed and has met to move forward on suggestions for the 10 Year Celebration that will be held at a state-level on November 13th, 2007 at the Scheman Center in Ames Iowa. Karen Ponder from North Carolina's Partnership for Children has confirmed that she will present a congratulatory message of Iowa's increased commitment to early childhood over the last ten years.

The newly-developed Decatur Empowerment Board completed the necessary documentation/steps to apply for designation to become an empowerment area and receive funding. Gretchen Hageman provided an overview of the state team's review of the materials and the meeting with the new board. The Board supported the team's recommendation to designate this board with a 3-year unconditional designation.

The Iowa Empowerment Board adopted an Exception to Policy for School Ready Carry-Forward Funding. This policy is located on the empowerment website under the Iowa Board.

The Board received updates from two of its committees. Janet Gartin, Michael Bergan and John Dotson provided an update to the Board regarding the work of the Fiscal Accountability Workgroup. Minutes of this group's meetings are located on the empowerment website. During its recent work, the workgroup has updated the Fiscal Agent Agreement template as well as conducted a survey of local areas regarding fiscal issues. The group will continue to evaluate information from the survey as they work to develop a packet of materials to assist local boards and fiscal agents with fiscal issues.

The 2nd committee that reported to the board is the Business Advisory Committee. This committee moves forward with plans to support the private/public partnership to enhance the early childhood efforts in communities. The group hopes to have someone on board in July to coordinate the efforts and hopes to be able to being the grant process as early as fall 2007.

Finally, the board heard from members of Scott County that are working together to improve the well-being of children. Local school districts, chambers are working together with community empowerment to build a stronger local system to support the community. The Iowa Empowerment Board felt truly welcomed by members of Scott County and appreciate the efforts made to host the meeting.

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 Chester J. Culver 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.governor.iowa.gov/administration/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.

Cover Article Continued from Page 1

- ❖ includes language to support SCHIP: "if federal reauthorization of the state children's health insurance program provides sufficient federal allocations to the state and authorization to cover the following populations as an option under the state children's health insurance program, the department may expand coverage under the state children's health insurance program as follows: a. By eliminating the categorical exclusion of state employees from receiving state children's health insurance program benefits. b. By providing coverage for legal immigrant children and pregnant women not eligible under current federal guidelines. c. By covering children up to age twenty=one, or up to age twenty=three if the child is attending school."
- ❖ Maintenance of Effort appropriations to Department of Human Rights for administering the FaDSS program;
- ❖ Provides opportunities to individuals with disabilities directing the department of human services to implement the medicaid buy=in provision for individuals under 19 years of age with disabilities whose family's income is below 300% FPL; and
- ❖ Community Empowerment received status quo funding for its early childhood funding stream.

[HF 245](#) -- an act requiring invasive pneumococcal disease immunization for children enrolling in licensed child care centers.

[HF 907](#) – Community Empowerment received status quo funding from the Healthy Iowans Tobacco Trust. These funds are transferred into the School Ready funding stream.

[HF 906](#) requires children to have a dental screening as a condition of enrollment in elementary or high school.

[HF 158](#) requires that children receive a blood lead test by age six or prior to enrollment in elementary school. A parent or guardian of a child under age two is strongly encouraged to have the child tested for elevated blood lead levels by age two.

The Board Room Corner: *Third in a Series*

Submitted by Janet Gartin,
Family Support Coordinator

The intent of this series is to give an overview of Robert's Rules of Order (Part One) and then to offer subsequent articles that provide more in-depth information about a particular aspect of Parliamentary Procedure that many boards find challenging.

Stay Tuned: Fourth in the series will discuss secrets to success for the Chairperson!



Sources:

Riggs, Norm and Quinn, Tom.
[*Simplified Parliamentary Procedure*](#).
Iowa State University Extension,
December 1998.

Sylvester, Nancy. [*The Complete Idiot's Guide to Robert's Rules*](#). 2004.

An Agenda: The Order of Business

An agenda is a predetermined order of business to be covered in a specific meeting. Robert's Rules suggest the following order:

1. Reading and approval of minutes
2. Reports of officers and standing committees
3. Reports of special or ad hoc committees
4. Unfinished business
5. New business

Approval of the Minutes

Approval of the minutes if done correctly should only take a few minutes of your board meeting. Ideally, the minutes are prepared immediately after the previous meeting and distributed to members –either by regular mail or e-mail- before the next meeting. When the minutes are distributed in advance of the meeting there is no need to have the minutes read during the meeting and the members can quickly move to approve them.

Approval of the minutes could be this simple: The chair says “You have received the minutes of the last meeting. Are there any corrections to the minutes? (Pause) Hearing none, if there is no objection, the minutes are approved as printed and distributed to the members.”

Committee Reports

If everyone gets in the habit of putting all of the reports in writing and distributing them before the meeting, this part of the agenda could move along very quickly. Just as with the minutes, if all members have received the printed report in advance of the meeting, all the chair needs to do is to ask the committee chair, “Do you have any additions to the report as printed and distributed to the members?” Most of the time the answer is no, and then the meeting can move right along.

After a member gives a report, the chair should simply acknowledge receipt of the report by thanking the member who presented the report and moving on to the next agenda item.

Business is Unfinished Not Old

Unfinished business is just that – business that was started but that hasn't been finished. Business in this category is taken up in the order of the time to which it was postponed.

New Business

It is easy to determine what fits into this category. Basically, anything that the group can properly take up and that doesn't fit anywhere else fits in new business.

Tips on Agenda Preparation

Agenda preparation can be made easier by referring to two sets of past minutes: the minutes of the previous meeting and the minutes of the meeting held one year ago. The minutes of the previous meeting are very helpful in reminding you of any business that was begun at the last meeting but not yet concluded and should be included on the agenda for the next meeting. The minutes of the meeting one year ago will shed light on what annual items should be put on the agenda for this meeting.

Creating a template can be very helpful. All major word processing programs allow users to create templates, which they can store and pull up each time they are ready to create a new version of the document. Simply go to the “Help” section of your word processing program and put in “Create a Template.” It will instruct you how to create the template and you will find that you not only save a lot of time, but produce more accurate agendas.

Your members will spend more time on items where they know they will be called to take action. It is helpful to label agenda items with, action, discussion, information labels.



***Congratulations,
Janet Everts!
Assistant Teacher,
Tri-County Child &
Family Development
Head Start***

Empowerment Sponsored Teacher Wins National Child Care Honor

Submitted by Jen Schwenneker & Nancy Dunn, CCR&R of NE Iowa

Janet Everts of Waterloo received the Terri Lynne Lokoff Child Care Foundation award sponsored by the makers of Children's Tylenol. Janet currently works in Waterloo as an assistant teacher for Tri-County Child and Family Development Head Start. Janet's program manager, Kristi Engstrom wrote, "Janet's knowledge and eagerness to help the children she serves is evident in her daily routines and activities in the classroom." Nationwide 54 teachers were honored at a ceremony held in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. Three teachers from the Des Moines area were also honored.

Throughout her entire career as a child care professional Janet benefited from the support of the Cedar Valley's Promise (CVP) empowerment community, Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) and the Child and Adult Care Food Program. With empowerment support she was one of the first CVP participants to receive the Child Development Specialist Apprenticeship Program certificate and receive her AAS through Hawkeye Community College. CVP continues to support Janet as she works on her Early Childhood BA at Upper Iowa University. Janet shares her expertise as a CCR&R instructor and maintains her membership in the National Head Start Association.

The Terri Lynne Lokoff Child Care Foundation is a non profit corporation founded in 1987 by Kay and Fred Lokoff to honor the memory of their daughter. Their focus is to "improve the quality of programs that care for and educate children from birth through age five and enlist and enlighten others to do the same." Early education teachers are selected because of their dedication to excellence and by being advocates for early care and education. The Foundation's mission is to improve the quality of care for all children, raise awareness of the need for affordable, quality child care, give teachers and providers the support that they need and deserve, and also to partner with businesses to make child care a priority.

Janet would like to thank everyone who has supported her over the years and she is very appreciative of the opportunity offered by The Terri Lynne Lokoff Child Care Foundation.



FIRST IN THE STATE! Murray Preschool Reaches Level 5 in the Quality Rating System

Submitted by Mary Jo Schade, Family First Empowerment, Clarke County

For the last six years, the Family First Empowerment Area has been funding the NAEYC Accredited Murray Preschool along with Shared Visions, Head Start and the Murray Community School District. At-risk students as well as private pay students are blended in this unique program. The preschool program that began in 1996 first became accredited in 2001.



The preschool teacher, Gerry Gilbert, who has a bachelor's degree in elementary education with a pre-kindergarten and reading endorsement, is shown at the left discussing a book with the children in her class that she had just finished reading.

Mrs. Gilbert is shown assisting a student with a math lesson - graphing. Her commitment to her students is evidenced through her presence at Early Childhood related classes, conferences, and workshops that are offered throughout our area, many of which are only offered in the evening or on weekends.



Mrs. Gilbert and her assistant Lisa Houghton are shown at left receiving their certificate from Dawn Powers. Dawn is the Quality Rating System Regional Specialist from Child Care Resource and Referral in Region 3.

Joan Cooper, Nurse Consultant for Child Care Resource and Referral in Clarke County is pictured at right with Gerry and Dawn. The Nurse Consultant assists preschools in meeting Quality Rating System standards with all playground and classroom health and safety requirements.





Access and Quality: Networking for Stronger Preschools *Submitted by Debra Schrader, Community Empowerment Coordinator, Adair County and Warren County*

Building strong networks for family support within an empowerment area is critical to meeting community needs. Adair, Madison, Union, Adams, and Partnerships 4 Families located in central and western Iowa are building their own network between empowerment areas to share ideas, improve efficiencies, and build consistency as they work towards access to safe and quality preschool experiences for all children.

Empowerment coordinators and contractors working with the preschool scholarship programs from 5 empowerment areas meet quarterly. One of the first tasks was to create a matrix to provide a visual overview of the number of preschools, existing preschool slots, criteria being used to award scholarships, transportation arrangements, supports for Head Start and Shared Visions programs, and quality standards being used to determine preschool eligibility.

One of the results of the quarterly sessions has been the development of agreements between empowerment areas concerning quality standards when a preschool serves youth from multiple empowerment areas. Several empowerment areas have made changes in scholarship applications or selected different student assessment tools after learning about the experiences of others. The sessions also provide an opportunity for increasing knowledge about topics of interest such as the Quality Rating System or the Department of Education's Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year Old Children.

Everyone agrees that access and quality are important when it comes to preschool experiences. The network provides a forum for honest dialogue about the challenges and possible solutions in working toward a common goal.

Part Two: Parenting Education: What do we need to know and be able to do to be effective?

**Submitted by Kim Greder,
Assistant Professor, Human
Development and Family Studies
Family Life Extension State
Specialist**



Parenting is the process of assuming major responsibility for the development, growth and nurturing of a child.

Who are parenting educators?

A parenting educator is a person or organization that provides education and services to parents. Parenting educators include professionals and paraprofessionals. Many hold degrees in such diverse fields as education, medicine, business, agriculture, family and consumer sciences, and social work, while others have no degree, experience or background in working with families. Many of these professionals lack education or training in areas that could be commonly identified as critical to supporting families, such as assessing parent needs and designing programs to meet those needs, parent-child interactions, adult education, child development, family systems and interaction, and activities that strengthen families.

What do parenting educators need to know and be able to do to be effective?

Over the past twenty years or so a variety of organizations through research and practice have identified core knowledge, skills and attitudes that are important for effectively facilitating parenting education. Despite the various descriptions and terms used to communicate the core competencies each of these organizations have identified, there are consistencies among the identified competencies including:

- ability to take stock of one's own professional competence, including acknowledging one's values and beliefs about parenting and how they influence their expectations and interactions with parents
- willingness to expand one's understanding of the field of parenting education by engaging in professional networks and organizations
- knowledge of various theories of child, family, and adult development
- knowledge of parenting in relation to the child's age/stage of development (e.g. infancy; adolescence) with specific focus on strategies oriented toward effective developmental outcomes
- ability to communicate with parents to determine effective and productive methods of parenting
- familiarity with and an appreciation for the diversity of family structures, cultures and values and their impact on parenting
- understanding of contemporary societal trends and the potential impact of parenting (e.g. internet, drugs, media, dating patterns)
- ability to assess needs, identify or develop programs based on needs, market programs, and evaluate the effectiveness and impact of programs
- ability to utilize a variety of teaching and learning strategies
- knowledge of and ability to connect families with appropriate community resources

The list above is not an "end all, be all" list of essential knowledge or skills. The list should be viewed as an attempt to get those professionals who identify themselves as parenting educators to explore the body of knowledge and skills that are necessary to be effective in their work, and to begin reflecting on their own knowledge and skills. The value of this list lies in the ability to initiate conversations among practitioners about the level of competencies of Iowa parenting educators and how to systematically move the state of Iowa forward in strengthening the competencies of all Iowa parenting education professionals.

**Iowa
AEYC/T.E.A.C.H.
Early Childhood®
IOWA**

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**Myths and Misconceptions about T.E.A.C.H. Early
Childhood ® IOWA**

Myth: “I want to take your T.E.A.C.H. classes.”

We do not provide the education! We work with accredited Iowa colleges and support you as you earn college credits towards credentials and degrees in early childhood education. We hope to be offering bachelors’ degree level scholarships by fall semester, call for more information.

Myth: “I don’t have the money up front to pay and wait for a reimbursement.”

T.E.A.C.H. has a charge approval agreement with the colleges. Once you are on an active T.E.A.C.H. contract, we will contact the college and they bill T.E.A.C.H. directly for the tuition. You do not have to pay up front! However, you do have to go and purchase your textbooks. For most recipients, the funds they get for one semester more than covers the costs of purchasing their textbooks for the next semester.

Myth: “As a director, I’m sure my center cannot afford this.”

The center that can be flexible with scheduling of release time typically receives a check from T.E.A.C.H. every semester for \$100-300 per scholarship recipient, after costs are covered in full. Some centers have earmarked this money to help with their costs towards the annual required raise or bonus. The required raise or bonus rewards a teacher after he/she completes a year of education, and helps to ensure that the better educated teacher stays in your program. How can we afford not to?

Myth: “If I do my CDA without college credit, you cannot help me.”

A limited T.E.A.C.H. scholarship provides support for the \$325 CDA credential application fee, and compensates child care providers and teachers with \$200 when they are awarded their credential. To be eligible for this scholarship, you must be working in a regulated child care or preschool, but you can complete your training hours through credit or non-credit offerings.

Myth: “My preschool is only part-day, so they won’t give me paid release time, so I am ineligible.”

T.E.A.C.H. IOWA now has a part-day preschool model for programs that offer part-day preschools or child care less than 30 hours a week. This model does not require the preschool program to give paid release time, as it is assumed that a part-time employee can take his/her courses at times other than when the children are present. You must be employed all the hours the preschool offers services to children to be eligible for this model.

Myth: “If I apply for T.E.A.C.H., my own children will not be eligible for other forms of financial aid.”

Not only will you, your spouse, and your college-age children be eligible for grants and other forms of financial aid, typically need-based financial aid increases for everyone if a greater number of members of your family are enrolled in college. T.E.A.C.H. IOWA does require that you apply for financial aid through a Free Application for Federal Student Aid, but does not require you to be awarded a grant to be eligible for T.E.A.C.H., and we discourage you from taking out student loans!

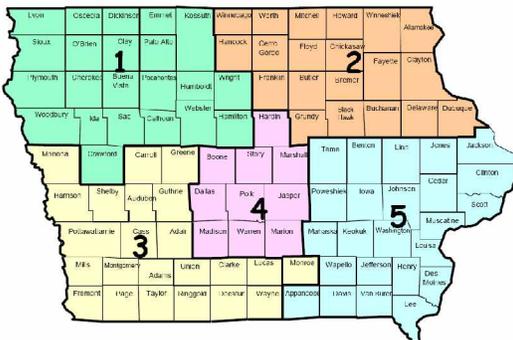
Myth: “I can’t succeed in college, I’m too old.”

Most of our recipients are non-traditional students ranging in age from 18 to 65, all are working full-time in our field. Experienced providers and teachers often have more success in college as they are more highly motivated to succeed, and understand the field and their needs. Do you know someone who can benefit from the support of a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship, and has always wanted to go to school? Encourage them to contact us!

Iowa Child Care Resource & Referral



Submitted by, Nancy Dunn,
Training Coordinator,
CCR&R Region 2



Training Coordinators Contact Information:

Region 1	
Melissa Totzin	712-277-1180 888-270-1180
Region 2	
Nancy Dunn	319-233-0804 800-475-0804
Region 3	
Carol Jensen	712-755-7381 800-945-9778
Region 4	
Carol Rainforth	515-246-3560 800-722-7619
Region 5	
Doris Matthews	563-324-1302 800-369-3778

CCR&R and DHS Develop ChildNet Instructors

Demand for quality child development homes launched the development of the CCR&R ChildNet Training Series over 20 years ago. This Spring CCR&R partnered with DHS to expand the pool of ChildNet series Instructors and provide support to current Instructors. CCR&R area offices statewide are now well equipped to deliver the ChildNet Training Series, a requirement of ChildNet Certification which is recognized as a step on Iowa's Quality Rating System.

The ChildNet Train the Trainer two-day event agenda opened with a CCR&R system overview followed by system information offered by DHS and the Iowa TEACH Program. Participants were energized by these presentations and recognized their value. "I liked the overview sequence, history to what is happening now to what to look for in the future and how to be part of that". One of the expectations of ChildNet Instructors is to be an ambassador for CCR&R to link their series participants with support and development services available to them.

Additionally participants were presented with an overview of each of the 10 ChildNet series modules. These presentations were delivered by a select group of current ChildNet Instructors who demonstrated best practice in their adult education delivery methods. "The modules were presented well in giving a nice variety of things the presenters do and use in their training. They had a really nice balance between teaching us about the modules and teaching us how to teach it".

Each participant was provided with materials to enhance their preparation and delivery experiences. A set of resource materials was also on display for participants to review. Local area CCR&R offices now have a model for materials that support their Instructor preparation and delivery of their ChildNet series. "Great bags, design of module materials with resources for each laid out terrifically!"

CCR&R staff also participated in the event. CCR&R Training Coordinators, Home Consultants and other area office staff work in partnership to plan and deliver the ChildNet series. These partnerships develop a delivery system that assures the provider participants are receiving the support they need as they are learning about quality child care.

Iowa now has over 80 ChildNet Instructors ready to deliver this series statewide. The CCR&R system now has a level of excitement brewing within each area office with these Instructors now poised to deliver the ChildNet series and make long lasting connections for years to come. This event affirmed the critical role ChildNet Instructors play in the professional development of Iowa's child care home providers.

The ChildNet Training Series for Child Development Home providers is one of three CCR&R sponsored foundational training series delivered statewide with the support of DHS funds. In recent years local Empowerment Areas have supported the ChildNet series to meet the demand within their local communities. The majority of Iowa's children in child care are cared for in home settings. It is critical these providers are introduced to the core competencies of quality child care offered through the ChildNet series. Child Care Resource & Referral appreciates the partnership of DHS and Local Empowerment areas as support is provided for the successful implementation of these ChildNet Training Series statewide.





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State Early Childhood Policies - Improving the Odds

Courtesy of the National Center for Children in Poverty

This is an excerpt from the full report.

Early childhood is a time of great opportunity. For young children, it is a time when they will learn to walk and talk and build the foundations for future development. For policymakers, it is a time to improve the odds that young children receive the health care, positive early learning experiences and nurturing parenting that will support their healthy development and school readiness. For more than 10 years, the National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP) has reported on state-level policy efforts to promote the well-being of young children and their families, particularly low-income children, with Map and Track: State Initiatives for Young Children and Families. NCCP continues this tradition with *Improving the Odds for Young Children*, a multi-faceted project that provides a unique picture of the policy choices states make to promote healthy development and school readiness. *Improving the Odds for Young Children* tracks policies to:

- Promote healthy development—access to health care for young children, their parents, and pregnant women; to nutrition programs; and to address mental health and other barriers parents of young children face.
- Promote high-quality early care and education—access to high-quality child care, responsive to the special needs of infants and toddlers; and access to pre-kindergarten for 3- and 4-year-olds.
- Promote effective parenting—to ensure that parents/mothers have time to build a relationship with their young children, especially infants, while maximizing family resources.

This three-part framework reflects the multiple supports young children need to thrive. Within each area, the policy choices identify key policy steps that states can take to improve the odds for early success. The policy choices are not a complete list of options for policymakers (see Methodology text box). Rather, they are a baseline intended to stimulate a dialogue, both within the states and nationally, about how to make more strategic, coherent investments in young children.

To download the report visit: http://nccp.org/publications/pdf/text_725.pdf

More Than 500 Register to Attend Child Abuse Prevention Conference



For the first time in its 26 year history, Prevent Child Abuse Iowa had to close registration for its annual Child Abuse Prevention Conference two weeks before the event when registration reached capacity. Over 500 people registered to attend the two-day conference, “Partnering to Protect Children,” held May 7-8. Attendees included social workers, public health nurses, child care representatives, family support workers, school personnel, clergy, volunteers, family advocates, foster parents, lawyers, representatives from CPPC and Empowerment sites, and many others who work in a variety of ways on behalf of Iowa’s children and families. We believe this broad audience illustrates the power of partnerships in our state, and the fact that protecting children is truly everyone’s business.

Prevent Child Abuse Iowa would like to thank the Office of Empowerment for its generous sponsorship of the event, allowing accredited HOPES sites to register at the reduced member rate. Next year’s conference is currently scheduled for April 21-22, 2008.



Statewide Voluntary Preschool for Four-Year-Olds Rolls Out in Iowa

Submitted by Tom Rendon & Judy Knox, Department of Education



On May 10, 2007, at a dramatic signing at the Dunlap Early Childhood Center in Des Moines, Iowa, Governor Chet Culver signed into a law a bill that provides statewide voluntary preschool for Four-Year-Olds. In the presence of a classroom of giggling and excited preschool children, the governor announced, "Iowa's children hold the keys to our future... The work we have done to improve education this year has laid a very solid foundation for our kids."

The Iowa Department of Education is now drafting rules, developing an application form and process for school districts across the state to apply for and receive the new infusion of dollars that provides a predictable and sustainable source of funding for preschool. A time table for activities has been released:

- June 1: Statewide Voluntary Preschool for Four-Year-Olds Rules are available on the Department of Education website.
- June 1: Application and instructions are available for districts on the Department of Education website.
- June 5: Department of Education hosts an ICN session to review legislation and application process.
- June 15: Letters of Intent to Apply are due from school districts that plan to apply for the preschool grants.
- July 2: Applications for preschool grants are due.
- July 19: Grant applicants are notified of award decisions.

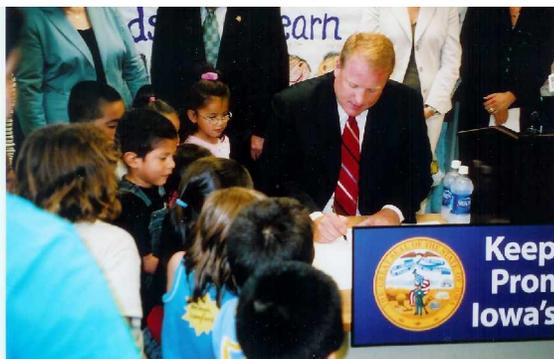
The Iowa Department of Education has also launched a new Website for the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children:

<http://www.iowa.gov/educate/content/view/940/1103/>. A quick link to the site can be found on the Department's homepage under "Latest News."

<http://www.iowa.gov/educate/>. Documents will be posted when they are ready for distribution. The Website's *Calendar* includes release dates of important documents.

The new preschool initiative opens the way for new collaborative partnerships between schools and community partners including Community Empowerment, Head Start, Shared Visions local preschools and child care providers, public health, human services, and Child Care Resource and Referral among others. District are required to engage a variety of stakeholders in community-wide planning to ensure new programs are integrated and supportive into existing early childhood services.

For more information about the new preschool bill, contact Dee Gethmann at the Iowa Department of Education (dee.gethmann@iowa.gov or 515-281-5502).



Healthy Child Care Iowa (HCCI)



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- [Art and Crafts Safety](#)
- [Bicycle Safety](#)
- [Child Safety](#)
- [Children's Furniture](#)
- [Clothing Safety](#)
- [Consumer Product Safety Review](#)
- [Crib Safety and SIDS Reduction](#)
- [Older Consumers Safety](#)



CPSC Update

The U.S. government is charged with protecting the public from unreasonable risks of serious injury or death from consumer products, foods, and medicines. 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 items listed
- [Child Clothing, Shoes, and Accessories](#) 4 new items listed.
- [Equipment \(including infant supplies/equipment\)](#) 5 new items listed ·
- [Food and Drug recalls](#) <http://www.fda.gov/opacom/7alerts.html>: 45 new items listed nationally
- [Furniture Related to Child Care and Early Education](#) no new items listed
- [Toys and Play Related Items](#) 14 new items listed.

Other items of particular interest for the **summer months** from the Consumer Product Safety Commission are available by calling: **Tel: 800-638-2772**.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission has safety publications in all of the following topic areas:

- | | |
|---|--|
| All Terrain Vehicles Safety | Outdoor Power Equipment Safety |
| Electrical Safety | Playground Safety |
| Fire Safety | Poison Prevention |
| General Information | Pool & Spa Safety |
| Holiday Safety | Public Use Products |
| Home Heating Equipment | Recreational & Sports Safety |
| Household Products Safety | Reports |
| Indoor Air Quality | Toy Safety |

National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety

Special Project and Pilot Study funds for 2008: Call for proposals

The purpose of the "Mini-grant" program of the **National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety (NCCRAHS)** is to support small-scale projects and pilot studies that address **prevention of childhood agricultural disease and injury**. Funds are allocated to support projects that: test innovative strategies; strengthen partnerships between safety professionals, agricultural organizations, and the media; and translate research findings into practical applications.

Individuals affiliated with community-based organizations, public or private institutions or units of local or state government, or tribal government throughout the United States are eligible to apply for funds.

Application deadline is July 14, 2007.

Funding level: \$15,000

For more information and to apply, see attached documents.

Contact: Marlene Stueland, Manager
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Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation
1000 North Oak Avenue
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715-389-3754 or 715-389-4999
Fax: 715-389-4996
email: stueland.marlene@mcrf.mfldclin.edu

SCHIP Reauthorization Update

The State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), has helped to reduce the number of uninsured children in America by one-third. SCHIP currently covers over four million children. Federal funding for SCHIP was authorized for 10 years (1997-2007) and must be reauthorized by October 1, 2007. The president's FY 2007 budget proposal would freeze federal SCHIP funding at the 2007 level (\$5 billion) for each of the next ten years. Unless the increasing costs of health care in America can also be frozen, the FY 2007 funding level will be insufficient to meet the growing demand for affordable and comprehensive children's health care coverage and the number of children receiving health care coverage through SCHIP nationwide will take a nose dive.

SCHIP Summit Held in Des Moines

On May 18, First Focus and the Child and Family Policy Center co-hosted a Summit on SCHIP Reauthorization at Mercy College of Health Sciences in Des Moines. The key points of the day are these:

- Iowa is poised to move forward to cover more kids under our new legislation supported by Governor Culver
- Reauthorization of SCHIP is the children's issue of the year, maybe the decade, with the health care of millions of children on the table
- As ranking member of the Senate Finance Committee, Senator Grassley is the key Senator in securing federal funds and providing Congressional direction to cover more kids

Senator Grassley has scheduled two town hall meetings so far during the Memorial weekend recess in Clinton and Winneshiek counties on May 31 and June 4 respectively. Also, he will speak at a luncheon with the Davenport Kiwanis on May 31. If you or someone you know can attend any of these meetings contact Carrie Fitzgerald at carrief@cfpciowa.org for assistance with talking points. If you don't live in these areas or cannot attend, consider sending emails to Senator Grassley about SCHIP reauthorization and the need for the full **\$50 billion that Congress placed in the Budget Resolution**. Without the full \$50 billion, Iowa will likely continue to face shortfalls, as will many other states.

U.S. Senators John D. (Jay) Rockefeller IV (D-WV) and Olympia Snowe (R-ME) have joined forces to shepherd bipartisan legislation through Congress that will reauthorize SCHIP this year. The Rockefeller-Snowe SCHIP reauthorization bill will maintain coverage for those currently enrolled, while providing states the financial resources to reach out to the existing 6 million eligible children who are not enrolled. In addition, the bill supports state efforts to cover more children; improves the quality of care available through SCHIP; and guarantees that the number of Americans without health insurance does not increase. Both Senators serve on the Senate Finance Committee, the panel responsible for SCHIP reauthorization. Senator Charles Grassley (R-IA) serves as the ranking Republican on the Senate Finance Committee. A summary of the bill is available at the following web link. <http://www.senate.gov/~rockefeller/news/2007/pr033007a.html>

In mid-May the U.S. House and Senate reached an agreement on the Joint Budget Resolution that includes \$50 billion for SCHIP. It states, "The Conference Agreement rejects the inadequate funding level proposed by the President for children's health care and instead provides up to \$50 billion for expanding coverage and improving children's health through the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). There are an estimated six million children eligible but not enrolled in either SCHIP or Medicaid. These additional SCHIP funds will expand coverage to uninsured children and ensure states can maintain current caseloads."

As of April 2007 37,488 Iowa kids were enrolled in SCHIP through either Medicaid expansion or *hawk-i*. Iowa is expected to have a shortfall of funds for FY 2007, but Governor Culver and the Iowa General Assembly worked together to develop a funding plan to keep children enrolled in *hawk-i* until September 30, 2007. **Without reauthorization, Iowa decision makers will have to make difficult decisions on how to continue to cover the currently enrolled and eligible children or more Iowa children will be left uninsured.** *Issue Brief #12 SCHIP Reauthorization: What it Means for Iowa Families* further explains the impact on Iowa. <http://www.idph.state.ia.us/coveringkids/common/pdf/taskforce/issue12.pdf>

For more information about the Iowa Covering Kids and Families Initiative, visit

<http://www.idph.state.ia.us/coveringkids>.

News from IDPH Oral Health Bureau



**By Dr. Bob Russell,
IDPH Dental Director**



Dental Decay on the Rise in Preschool and Primary School Age Children

Children ages 2-5 are experiencing more dental decay, according to new information released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The National Center for Health Statistics compared trends in oral health in the United States between 1988-1994 and 1999 – 2004. According to the study, tooth decay in primary (baby) teeth increased from 24 percent to 28 percent between 1988 and 2004. The report further showed significant oral health disparities among racial and ethnic children--31% of Mexican American children ages 6 to 11 experienced decay in their permanent teeth compared to only 19 percent of non-Hispanic white children. The study further revealed that socio-economic factors also contributed to worsening dental disease rates in children.

Iowa has initiated efforts to address the rise in dental decay for our children. During the 2007 legislative session, the Iowa legislature has approved the state's first school enrollment dental screening bill. This legislation represents an effort to identify signs of dental disease before conditions worsen, leading to pain and serious problems. This policy will go into effect in 2008 and will provide a safety net for Iowa's children and families and assure that the silent epidemic of dental decay is exposed. Caregivers will be given the knowledge necessary to protect their children.

Another initiative, the I-Smile dental home project, continues to grow throughout the state. I-Smile is based upon a conceptual dental home, allowing a team approach to manage oral disease. Primary prevention and care coordination are the focus of the project, centered in Iowa's existing public health network.

Dental hygienists, serving as I-Smile oral health coordinators, are beginning to implement the project within Iowa's 24 Title V child health agencies. These coordinators are developing partnerships, establishing referral systems, providing training and education for healthcare professionals, ensuring completion of oral screenings and risk assessments, working within their agencies to develop oral health protocols, ensuring oral health care coordination, and providing gap-filling preventive services. Iowa's low-income and Medicaid-enrolled children will benefit from the multi-disciplinary approach to early prevention and treatment of dental disease—resulting in a dental home for children.

Combined with the school readiness dental screening measure, I-Smile will result in enhancements in dental prevention, education, and risk assessment necessary to decrease decay for many of our most vulnerable children at a young age.

However, the effort to assure good oral health and provide a dental home for young children must also include addressing the willingness of dentists to treat children under the age of three, as well as those with limited resources or enrolled on Medicaid. This barrier remains unresolved and will be critical to address in the next legislative session.

Dental disease is worsening for our youngest children nationally. We have an opportunity to improve conditions here in Iowa if we continue to press forward.

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