

Iowa Community Empowerment Newsletter

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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.



KIDS Program First to Earn the Iowa Family Support Credential

The Iowa Department of Management is pleased to announce that the KIDS program operated by the Prairie Lakes AEA has earned the honored distinction of being the first Iowa Family Support Credentialed program. Iowa is the only state in the nation to have such a rigorous credentialing process in place that ensures high quality services are delivered to families.

The Iowa Family Support Credential is based on the most up to date, evidence based practice standards in the family support field. The KIDS program diligently worked toward meeting all of the 104 standards over the course of more than a year with the assistance of a technical assistance mentor. A Peer Review was conducted by trained peers from eastern and central Iowa to validate the program's adherence to the standards. The Iowa Family Support Credential is valid for five years.

The KIDS Program provides family support and parent education services to over 400 children per year in seven rural Iowa counties: Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, Kossuth, O'Brien, Osceola, and Palo Alto. The program receives funding from Lakes Area Empowerment, Emmet Empowerment, Palo Alto-Kossuth Empowerment, Prevent Child Abuse Iowa and the Iowa Department of Education.

Betsy Moritz, former KIDS Program Director, had the following to say about her experience, *"The KIDS program, which began in 1990, has always been committed to the value and importance of supporting families and children and to providing high quality services. We believe that services must be responsive to each family's unique preferences, concerns, and expectations. When I made application for participation in the Family Support credentialing process, I felt it would support our commitment to best practices and continuous improvement and assist us to enhance, strengthen, and improve the KIDS program. I strongly believed that the credentialing process would recognize the excellent work of our Family Support Workers who daily give their best effort in challenging and difficult situations.*

The Peer Review process proved to be very rigorous! It provided a sound, comprehensive framework for us to internally examine the KIDS program and services. I'm happy to say that my hopes and goals for the process and its outcome were realized. The credentialing process affirmed what KIDS was doing well and challenged us to do better. It really made us think! And, it truly fit with our belief in continuous improvement. The award ceremony was exciting and emotional for all of us. I thought back to our first day in September of 1990 and am so proud of the KIDS staff throughout the years, all of whom contributed to this achievement. A special thanks to KIDS staff who have been directly involved in the process. The Iowa Family Support Credential honors the work they do."

Hats off to the KIDS Program on their outstanding achievement!



To add your CEA web site to this list, send a note to debra.scrowther@iowa.gov.

Adair County

www.adairpowerment.org

Audubon, Carroll, Greene, Guthrie

www.partnerships4families.org/

Benton County

www.bcempowerment.com

Black Hawk

www.cedarvalleypromise.org

Boone

<http://booneempowerment.com/>

Bremer, Butler, Franklin, Grundy

www.together4families.org

Buchanan Delaware Fayette

www.bdfempowerment.org

Buena Vista, Crawford, Sac

www.BVCSEmpowerment.com

Cass Mills Montgomery www.boost4families.org

Cedar www.empowercedarco.org

Cerro Gordo, Hancock, Worth

www.empowermentforthekids.org

Cherokee, Lyon, Plymouth, Sioux

www.nwiowa.org/

Clinton, Jackson www.cj-empowerment.com

Dallas

www.co.dallas.ia.us/Comm_Services/Empowerment.asp

Des Moines/Louisa

www.caringcommunityempowerment.org

Dubuque

www.empowerdubuque.org

Floyd, Chickasaw, Mitchell

www.fmcempowerment.com

Fremont, Page

www.co.page.ia.us/offices/empowerment/index.htm

HAWC www.HAWC-Iowa.com

Hardin www.empowerhardin.com/

Henry www.healthyhenrycounty.org

Humboldt, Hamilton, Wright

www.buildingfamilies.net

Jasper <http://www.jaspercountyempowerment.org/>

Johnson

<http://www.jcempowerment.org>

Lee, VanBuren

www.childrenfirstempowerment.org

Linn

www.linncountycommunityempowerment.org

Madison www.madisoncountyhelp.org

Mahaska, Wapello

www.mahaskawapelloempowerment.org

Marshall www.youthandviolence.org

Muscatine

www.muscatineempowerment.org

Palo Alto, Kossuth

www.pakempowerment.com

Pocahontas, Calhoun and Webster

www.linking-families.com

Polk www.hspa.org

Pottawattamie

www.promisepartners.info

Scott

www.scottcountyempowerment.org

Story www.storycountyfamily.org

Tama

www.tamacounty.org/empowerment

Warren

www.warrenempowerment.org

Washington

www.washingtoncountyempowerment.org

Woodbury www.siouxlandship.org

Update April - May 2009

Early Care, Health and Education System Building Activities

- Early Childhood Leadership Meeting – March 31-April 2
- ECI State Agency Liaison meeting – April 1
- Fiscal Accountability Work Group – April 2 & May 7
- Coordination with DHR regarding Family Support scholarships – April 2
- FS Supervisor Certification Reception – April 2
- Senate Appropriations Committee – April 2
- First Years First Business Committee meeting – April 6, 14 & May 14
- Public Health Spring Conference – April 7 & 8
- First Years First meeting with Wellmark – April 8
- First Years First Marketing meeting – April 9
- ECI Congress Steering Committee meeting – April 9
- Presentation to Insight: Center for Community Economic Development – April 10
- ECI Congress Planning committee - April 13 & May 12
- FaDSS 20th Anniversary Celebration – April 13
- First Years First Administrative Rules Public Hearing – April 14
- ECI Resources & Funding component group – April 14
- First Years First meeting with Wellmark Foundation – April 15
- UEN meeting, share Early Childhood system work – April 15
- ECI Congress Executive Committee – April 16
- Professional Development steering committee meeting - April 16
- Prevent Child Abuse Iowa Conference – April 20 & 21
- CCR&R Roundhouse – April 20
- ECI Governance workgroup – April 21 & May 20
- Family Support Supervisory Curriculum Advisory group – April 22
- Empowerment Coordinator Training Series, Module 3 – April 23
- Credentialing Program Response review – April 23
- Family Support Leadership Group – April 24
- First Years First Admin Rules Review Committee – April 28
- SW Regional Coordinators meeting, Atlantic – April 28
- IEB Admin Rules Public Hearing – April 28
- FS Credentialing TA Mentors Meeting – April 29
- First Children's Finance contract update meeting – April 29
- HOPES Program Manager's Meeting – April 30
- Smart Start Conference, North Carolina – May 4-8
- TEACH Advisory committee – May 6
- ECI Public Engagement workgroup – May 7
- ECI Resources & Funding workgroup – May 7
- Iowa Empowerment Board new member orientation – May 8
- Iowa Empowerment Board meeting, Des Moines – May 8
- ECI Council – May 12
- IEB Rules Review Committee – May 12
- ECI Diversity committee meeting – May 13
- State Child Care Advisory Council – May 14
- Empowerment Design Lean Pre-event – May 18
- Prevent Institute, Part 2 – May 18-20
- Quarterly Empowerment Coordinator's TA meeting – May 20
- ECI Regional Meeting, Cedar Rapids – May 21
- PW-PBS Leadership Team – May 27
- Coordinator's Training Series, Module 2 – May 28

Upcoming Events Calendar at a Glance

Iowa Empowerment Board Meeting

July 10, 2009
Iowa Workforce Center
Des Moines

Empowerment Coordinators/Contacts Meeting

July 15, 2009
Rising Sun Church of Christ
Pleasant Hill

ECI Regional Meeting

July 9, 2009
Carroll, IA
jhodes@idph.state.ia.us

ECI Council (formerly ECI Stakeholders)

September 8, 2009
ChildServe, Johnston
www.earlychildhoodiowa.org

Visits/Technical Assistance Activities

- Buchanan, Delaware, Fayette technical assistance – April 7
- Decatur board meeting, Redesignation prep – April 7
- Wayne County – April 14
- Lakes host Results Accountability training, Spencer – April 14
- PAK, TA to Coordinator – April 15
- Mahaska, Wapello, TA to coordinator – April 15
- Wayne board TA – April 15
- Union board TA – April 16
- Dubuque TA – April 20
- Hardin County Board meeting – April 21 & May 19
- Hardin County board chair TA – April 30
- PAK, FS and general TA to board – April 27
- Mahaska, Wapello host Results Accountability training, Ottumwa – April 28
- Winterset board meeting – May 12
- Marshall board meeting, redesignation prep – May 18

Annual Report Reviews

- Lakes final review – April 7

System Building Update



Early Childhood Iowa System Framework

Early Childhood Iowa has developed a new document entitled *Early Childhood Iowa System Framework*. This framework supports and builds upon the efforts of local and state-level partners to coordinate, collaborate and integrate efforts that will lead to healthy and successful children. It is constructed around five achievable result areas: healthy children, children ready to succeed in school, safe and supportive communities, secure and nurturing families and secure and nurturing early care and education environments. This framework accompanies the already existing ECI Strategic Plan, which entails a thorough list of strategies identifying current needs of young children in Iowa.

The framework was developed with input from the various public and private stakeholder groups at the local and state level and will be updated annually to assess the emerging issues of the early childhood system. The framework belongs to all stakeholder groups and organizations who believe that working together collaboratively to coordinate common goals and outcomes will lead to greater success than is possible working in silos. It will guide activities and priorities of public and private stakeholders at the state and local level. To view a copy of the framework, visit the following link on the Early Childhood Iowa Web site: <http://www.state.ia.us/earlychildhood/docs/ECIframeworkMay09.pdf>.

LOCAL NEWS: Linn County Celebrates!

Linn County Community Empowerment is 10 Years Old! To celebrate this milestone the local Empowerment Board threw a Birthday Party and asked guests to bring us a birthday present. This might sound like a greedy request for an Empowerment Board but they had good intentions!

In June 2008 Linn County suffered the worst natural disaster in the history of Iowa. Over 10.5 square miles of the city of Cedar Rapids was submerged, 700 businesses damaged and 5,400 homes inundated with flood water. Estimates are that 19,000 residents were evacuated and 9,000 employees affected. The situation was also very grim in the town of Palo.

Child care providers and the children they serve were deeply impacted by the disaster. It is estimated that Linn County lost 16% of its licensed and registered child care capacity immediately after the flood. Almost 1-year later several child care providers have not yet reopened. Those that did re-open face an uphill battle to pay expenses and to re-enroll families during an economic downturn. The Linn County Empowerment Board saw an opportunity to support the local child care community.

With the help of the Empowerment-funded PACES program at HACAP the Board identified five (5) child care home providers that would benefit from community support. It was discovered that each home had lost their outdoor toys in the flood and there was just not enough money to replace them. The local Board and PACES joined forces and placed Linn County Empowerment on the Baby Registry list at ToysRUs store. Appropriate outdoor toys were selected and listed on the Baby Registry for others to purchase.

On the invitation to the Linn County Empowerment 10-Year Birthday Party guests were asked to check out the ToysRUs baby registry and bring a gift to the Party! The end result was the donation of over 65 Outdoor Toys to five child care home providers. A silver lining to the rain clouds!

Pictured left: Geri Pettitt, Linn County Empowerment Board member, and Chris Kivett-Berry, Linn County Empowerment Coordinator



Local CEA Budgeting Process

To learn more about the Empowerment budget and community plan priorities in your county, contact the Community Empowerment Coordinator for your CEA,

http://www.empowerment.state.ia.us/files/Contacts_list_3_25_2009.pdf

FY 2010 Empowerment Budget Process is Underway

Each year, when the legislative session ends and the allocations to the local Community Empowerment Area (CEA) Boards are determined, the process to approve budgets at the state level begins. Each CEA is required to make decisions on how they will spend every dollar allocated, as well as the funds carried forward from the previous year, through a locally determined process which is based on their community plan priorities. Once the CEA Board has approved the proposed budget it is submitted to the Office of Empowerment. Last year, a process was put into place to strengthen accountability and maintain consistency as a state team in reviewing and approving the 58 local budgets. FY 2010 will be the second year the process has been utilized. Feedback regarding the process last year was quite positive.

In order for the CEA boards to receive their first quarterly payments from the state, there are a few things that must be in place. One of the pieces is a fully signed contract including signatures of the local CEA board chairperson, the Iowa Empowerment Board chairperson, and the Department Directors from Human Services, Education and Management. As you can imagine it is no small task to get all those signatures in a timely manner. There also must be an approved budget for both Early Childhood and School Ready funds and a current signed fiscal agent agreement. The completion of these things can happen simultaneously.

Following is the process for the review and approval of the CEA budgets:

- Budget templates for the new fiscal year are sent to CEA no later than June 1st.
- CEA budgets are due to the Office of Empowerment by July 15. If the CEA does not send in a budget by July 15th, the 10 day review period will not be in affect and the budget will be reviewed after all other budgets are approved.
- The Office of Empowerment will do a technical review prior to the budget being sent to the review team. The technical review will happen in the first or second day upon receiving the budget from the CEA. The technical review will consist of a mathematical check and ensuring that the funding amounts for each category are correct.
- The State Empowerment TA team will review the CEA budget within 10 business days of submission*. If a resubmission is needed the CEA has 10 business days from the date of contact to complete necessary changes. Resubmission will be reviewed by the review team within 10 business days of receipt of the revised budget. If the budget is not approved upon the second submission, technical assistance will be provided to the CEA coordinator, a board member and the fiscal agent. Two technical assistance members will provide the TA.

The CEA Boards have reported that they appreciate the timely response in the approval process. In the end it allows contracts to be written in a timely fashion, ultimately meeting the end goal – getting services out to the children and families in the community who need them.

**The state technical assistance team will be divided into two review teams – Early Childhood and School Ready. The review team will review budgets in one week assignment intervals. Each budget will be reviewed by at least two persons. The TA team representative from the Department of Human Services will review all early childhood budgets. All school ready budgets will be reviewed by the TA team representative from the Department of Education and the Family Support Coordinator.*



Iowa Empowerment Board News

On May 8, 2009 the Iowa Empowerment Board (IEB) met at the Iowa Workforce Center in Des Moines for their regularly scheduled meeting. New board members were welcomed - citizen members: Dr. Amy Kimball, Winterset, Ms Patty Ritchie, Westside, and Mr. Daniel Vogeler, Columbus Junction; State Department Directors: Mr. Preston Daniels, Human Rights and Charles Krogmeier, Human Services; and Legislators: Representative Mary Mascher, Iowa City and Senator Brian Schoenjahn, Arlington.

After the approval of past minutes and the acceptance of the meeting's agenda, Shanell Wagler shared a handout and provided an administrative update. Teresa Hay McMahon then gave an overview of the upcoming Design Lean Event stating that will provide an opportunity to take a comprehensive look at Community Empowerment. This approach is applicable to any high quality process interested in improvement and efficiency. The event will be held June 15-19 in Des Moines.

Debra Scrowther provided a recap of the proposed changes to the Administrative Rules, Chapter 349 and reported that no public comment was received. The Iowa Empowerment approved the Notice to File the rules as published.

Gretchen Hageman and Sonni Vierling let the Board through a facilitated discussion of the 2009 legislative session. Judy McCoy Davis commended the legislature on their work during a difficult session. Implications of legislative changes to Empowerment, questions from the past session and strategies for next year were some of the topics. Jean Johnson moved into a discussion of the Board's Strategic Plan. Small groups were formed the action plan was reviewed. The groups reported back strategies that would make it a useable document to support the overall plan.

Finally, Tami Foley referred to the handout, "Tool U – Redistricting". The Board approved the revised guidance regarding CEA boundary changes. Marcus Johnson provided the Board an update of the work of the Fiscal Accountability Work Group.

The next meeting of the Iowa Empowerment Board will be July 10, 2009 at the Iowa Workforce Center, 430 East Grand in Des Moines.

Nominations Sought For Iowa Empowerment Board

Responsibilities of an IEB member can be found on the Empowerment web site, http://www.empowerment.state.ia.us/Common/pdf/ieb_responsibilities.pdf

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://openup.iowa.gov/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.

USCIS Reminds all U.S. Employers of Requirements to Use Revised Form I-9, Employment Eligibility Verification

Submitted by Kristi Judkins,
Business Service Representative
Iowa Workforce Development

WASHINGTON—U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) issued a reminder that the revised Form I-9, [Employment Eligibility Verification](#) (Rev. 02/02/09), goes into effect April 3, 2009 for all U.S. employers. The revision date is printed on the lower right-hand corner of the form.

The interim final rule, published Dec. 17, 2008 in the [Federal Register](#), revised the list of documents acceptable for the Employment Eligibility Verification (Form I-9) process. Employers may no longer use previous versions of the Form I-9.

The revised list improves the security and effectiveness of the Form I-9 process. The list specifies that expired documents are no longer acceptable forms of identification or employment authorization. Allowing for expired documents makes it more difficult for employers to verify an employee's identity and employment authorization and compromises the Form I-9 process.

USCIS also updated the [Handbook for Employers – Instructions for Completing Form I-9](#) to reflect the requirements of the revised Form I-9.

For more information on USCIS and its programs, or to obtain the revised Form I-9 and handbook, visit www.uscis.gov. Employers who do not have computer access can order Forms I-9 by calling the toll-free forms line at 1-800-870-3676.

USCIS forms and information on immigration laws, regulations, and procedures can also be requested by calling the National Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-800-375-5283.

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

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**T.E.A.C.H. Can Help You Get an Early Childhood
Endorsement**

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® IOWA (Teacher Education And Compensation Helps) assists childcare providers by providing scholarships so they can go to college and take courses toward a degree or credential in early childhood education. T.E.A.C.H. in Iowa is licensed through the Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children. Visit our website at www.iowaaeyc.org to learn more about T.E.A.C.H. or call (515) 331-8000 to speak to a T.E.A.C.H. representative. Under the Bachelor's Scholarship Program, T.E.A.C.H. will currently sponsor scholarships for recipients who want to get a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education, an Early Childhood Endorsement to a current teaching license, or a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education WITH the Early Childhood Endorsement.

The following are the Early Childhood Endorsements that T.E.A.C.H. can assist you with:

- Birth-Grade 3, including Special Education (Unified): Endorsement #100
- Prek-K: Endorsement #103
- Prek-Grade 3: Endorsement #106

Refer to the chart below to see which Early Childhood Endorsements and Early Childhood Education bachelor's degrees are currently being offered at Iowa's colleges and universities. You can get an Elementary Education degree with an Early Childhood Endorsement at the colleges that do not offer a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education. You will need to get in writing from your college or university that you will be working toward an EC Endorsement to be eligible for T.E.A.C.H. The colleges on the chart provide the coursework for a required endorsement for the four-year teaching license through the Department of Education's Board of Educational Examiners. Each college or university has different requirements for the Early Childhood Endorsements that they offer.

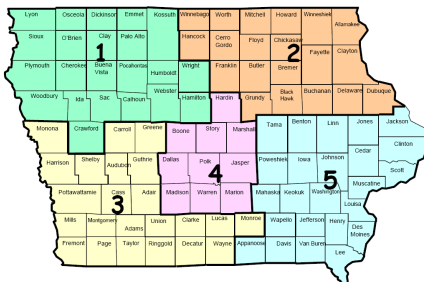
The following are some of the basic general requirements of an Early Childhood Endorsement. (Keep in mind that each college or university will have their own requirements).

- Specific college course requirements (Ex: In ECE, ECSE, Special Education, Psychology, Education, Communication, US History, Government, Biology and Natural Science, etc.).
- Specific number of clock hours of field experience.
- Practicum work in a school or agency setting at a specific age level(s).
- Student Teaching (Ex: 15 weeks at two placements).
- Certified in infant/child/adult CPR and First Aid.
- Have a minimum grade point average (Ex: 2.5).
- Successfully complete the Praxis Tests. Praxis I is also known as the Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST). You need to take this test to enter into most college's teacher education programs. This test measures basic skills in reading, writing, and mathematics. The Praxis II test measures general and subject specific knowledge and teaching skills. The Praxis II test is taken as part of the teacher licensing and certification process. These tests may also be referred to as CBASE (College Basic Academic Subjects Examination).
- Pass state and national criminal history background checks.

Contact Pam Ellis, T.E.A.C.H. Counseling Specialist, for more information regarding the Bachelor's Scholarship Program. Phone (515)331-8000, ext. 17 or pam@iowaaeyc.org Our website www.iowaaeyc.org also has T.E.A.C.H. application materials and additional information.

Iowa Child Care Resource & Referral

Submitted by, Cathy Wheatcraft
Region 4, Regional Director



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

Welcome to Child Care Revision in Process

In the Fall of 2008, funds were secured to revise the current “Welcome to Child Care” series for center-based child care providers. In November of the same year, a group of early childhood professionals from throughout the state met with Dawn Collins, DHS Professional Development Manager, and Tammy Bormann of Early Learning and Caring Resources, who is writing the revision.

The purpose of the work group was to determine what needed changed within the current curriculum and what topics/activities needed to remain. A survey was distributed to child care centers electronically for feedback and 145 responses were received. The work group also discussed the possibility of a name change for the curriculum. Welcome to Child Care has the potential to reach all center-based staff and “welcome” gives the misperception that the series is only for new staff. Current ideas are being collected for the name change.

The work group decided to add another session to the series to bring more definition to the topics of understanding children, appropriate learning experiences, how to set up a classroom environment, and nutrition for young children. The health and safety module will continue to be taught by a nurse consultant with the support of the series’ instructor. The revised series will count as 12 contact hours, and may be used for two years of training credit for center staff.

Welcome to Child Care originated in the 1990’s through a collaborative work group representing Child Care Resource and Referral, Child Care Council, Inc., early childhood educators, and Polk County child care center directors. In June 2000, the Welcome to Child Care series was rewritten and enhanced to ensure better knowledge retention. The series consisted of five sessions: (1) Becoming an Early Childhood Professional, (2) Welcome to Your New Classroom, (3) Healthy and Safe Places for Children, (4) Understanding and Guiding Young Children, and (5) Reducing the Health Risks in Child Care. Writing for the revised curriculum began in January 2009. A Train the Trainer is planned for September 22. Registration information will be available at your local CCR&R office later this summer.



Submitted by Nancy Krause,
Director, Early Childhood
Lutheran Services in Iowa
nancy.krause@lsiowa.org or
515.271.7315

A Day in the Life of HOPES

HOPES (Healthy Opportunities for Parents to Experience Success) is a nationally accredited, research-based program of Healthy Families of America that's designed to assist parents in giving their children a healthy start in life through on-going home visits that promote positive parenting, improve child health and development and prevent abuse and neglect.

So what does HOPES really look like for Iowa families in your community? Alissa Burkamper, a family support worker for Lutheran Services in Iowa's (LSI) HOPES program in Muscatine, shares about her typical day with HOPES.

Usually, the day starts by planning for upcoming visits to families, Alissa said. She gathers curriculum for each family and pulls out activity materials geared to a family's specific goals.

"When I arrive at a home, I catch up with the family," she said. "We talk about how things are going and discuss any issues with the child right off the bat."

Alissa then presents an activity for the child and parent to do together, which promotes skill development and bonding. For example, on a recent visit she had a single mother hide tennis balls in the living room for her three-year-old daughter. Alissa and the child covered their eyes, counted to ten and then the child found them. Then the mom and child traded places.

"This taught skills such as counting, problem-solving and learning how to take turns," Alissa explained. "Later, the mom said to me 'This is something we could do while I wash dishes.'"

"For a single parent, being able to multi-task is critical," Alissa added. "We present activities that parents can realistically do with what they have available in their home."

A major component of a visit also involves talking about goals and child development curriculum, as well as conducting any assessments or screenings that need to be done. Screenings, Alissa said, are done with the family to make sure children are reaching developmental milestones, and workers also conduct screenings with parents for depression. Any delays or red flags are discussed with the family, and if necessary, a referral is made.

"Every six months we also do a re-assessment," said Alissa, "where we review all the needs and strengths of the families. This way, we are constantly able to work on what the family actually needs and tie their goals back to the most current assessment."

At the end of a visit, Alissa will refer a family to community resources; for example, heating assistance, Christmas baskets, or a scholarship application to a YMCA for a family with a wellness goal. Before leaving, she asks if the family needs any information or resources for the next visit.

During the week, she might also transport a family to a doctor's appointment or the WIC office. Alissa can also help families resolve an issue, such as speaking to a family's housing program about a miscommunication or a school on behalf of a teenage mother. Some months Alissa might work on planning a HOPES event for families, such as a Christmas party or summer picnic, to give them a time for fun with their children and a way to build support connections with others.

After each visit, Alissa and other HOPES workers do detailed case notes, which are later compiled in reports to local Empowerment boards. The HOPES workers also talk with families about topics specified by the Iowa Department of Public Health

(IDPH) and Empowerment, such as dental health, parents reading to children or lead poisoning prevention.

Each worker's caseload is created based on a points system to balance between families with more intensive needs and families who are progressing to fewer visits.

"Other programs may be able to serve more families, but HOPES uses a holistic comprehensive approach for high-quality," said Alissa. "Our range of assessments and specific family goals make this a sound program that produces outcomes."

Once a week each family support worker goes through their caseload with a supervisor. Together they talk about each family and brainstorm solutions to any issues.

In the end, Alissa's favorite part of HOPES is seeing each day's work add up over the years.

"I enjoy the process of watching a pregnant woman deliver this baby and seeing him grow up to age three," she said. "All that time you're continuing to help the parent teach their child new skills and grow together. It's so great to say to a parent, 'Remember when you were so nervous about having a baby? And now you know what to do. You have really learned about your child and how to interact together.' Going through those early years with a family and watching that growth – that's the best."

For more information on this article, please contact Nancy Krause, Early Childhood Director Lutheran Services in Iowa at nancy.krause@lsiowa.org or 319-830-0824

*

Family Support Training Opportunity

For additional information, contact

Kristi Cooper, kcoop@iastate.edu or
Mary Crooks, mcrooks@iastate.edu
Family Life Extension Field Specialists,
Iowa State University

Fall '09 Strengthening Skills in Family Development and Parenting Education

Iowa State University Extension to Families plans to offer both the Family Development Certification Training and Partnering with Parents in eastern Iowa fall 2009. Individuals can register for the combined training (i.e., Strengthening Skills in Family Development and Parenting Education- 13 sessions), or just Family Development Certification Training (FDCT- 8 sessions) or just Partnering with Parents (PWP- 10 sessions).

This combined training focuses on core competencies identified for family support workers including those needed for parenting education. For specific information about the topics covered in the trainings, visit the URLs below.

Family Development Certification Training (FDCT)
http://www.extension.iastate.edu/homefamily/relationships/family_development.htm

Partner with Parents (PWP)
<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/pwp/topics.html>

Partnering With Parents

Submitted by Kimberly Greder
Associate Professor, Human
Development and Family Studies
Family Life Extension State Specialist

Statements by PWP participants confirm the assessments:

This course (PWP) gave me the confidence and knowledge I needed to go out into the field and work with parents applying the principles I learned."

The course (PWP) gave me a solid foundation and enabled me to explore my own beliefs, attitudes and behaviors regarding parenting education. And now when I am working with parents I can feel confident and secure to share my views and yet allow others to share theirs without imposing mine on them or making others feel that theirs aren't as valuable.

I have utilized the information concerning the priority parenting practices—caring for self, understand, nurture, motivate, guide and advocate. I use the ethical guidelines discussed in the course, consistently in my work with families. The social support considerations, as well as the nutrition information that was included in the curriculum have been helpful with some groups.

Effectiveness of Partnering with Parents: Training for Family Support Professionals

In response to the growing demand for parenting education and the need to ensure that family support professionals have basic knowledge and skills relevant to designing, implementing, and facilitating parenting education, Partnering with Parents (PWP) was developed by Iowa State University Extension in 2002. The training consists of a series of eleven modules, which are designed to strengthen the knowledge and skills of parenting educators who work with parents in one-to-one and group settings. Since 2002, over 500 professionals in Iowa and across the nation, representing an array of family support programs and students preparing to be family professionals, participated in PWP in a face-to-face setting or completely online.

In 2008, two studies evaluated the effectiveness of PWP. Findings revealed that PWP significantly increased core knowledge and skills critical for parenting education for those who completed the training. First, researchers examined the effectiveness of the online version of the training compared to the face to face version. Both versions deliver the eleven modules over a five month period and require between 70 and 80 hours to complete. Analysis revealed that all learners, regardless of delivery format, significantly increased their self-reported parenting education knowledge and skills as a result of completing the training. In addition, participants reported a paradigm shift in how they viewed themselves as parenting educators and a broadened understanding of parenting education.

The second study was a pilot study involving parenting educators who had never participated in PWP, past participants, and current participants. This study utilized an observation component (i.e., videotaped parenting education role plays), self-assessments, written activities and a questionnaire. Analysis of the self-assessments indicated that past and current PWP participants reported their competencies as strengthened after participation in the training compared to beforehand. In addition, participants who completed the training scored higher than parenting educators who had never participated in PWP (non PWP participants). The demographics and experience level of PWP participants and non-PWP participants were virtually the same, which suggests that the training strengthened participants' parenting education knowledge and skills. Furthermore, the self-assessment results were supported by the results of the role plays and written activities. In particular, those who completed PWP had higher scores on both compared to non-PWP participants. Finally, data analysis revealed that PWP participants believed key components of the program that made it effective included: a quality curriculum; community formation and networking with other parenting education professionals; instructor content knowledge, approachability and professionalism; and flexibility in training design (i.e., a variety of learning tools, options to attend other sites, asynchronous online learning activities).

In sum, Partnering with Parents has research-based evidence to support its effectiveness. Regardless of online or face-to-face delivery of the modules, family support professionals who participated in PWP significantly increased their self-reported knowledge and skills of parenting education after completing the program compared to before program participation. In addition, professionals who completed PWP demonstrated a higher level of knowledge and skills in facilitating parenting education via role plays and written activities compared to parenting educators who had never participated in PWP.

Future research: To further test the effectiveness of PWP, additional studies are needed including a study that would include random selection of participants.

To learn more about Partnering with Parents visit
www.extension.iastate.edu/pwp

Healthy Child Care Iowa (HCCI)



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Healthy Child Care Iowa (HCCI) maintains a list of products that have a warning or have been recalled in the last six months. The postings listed on the HCCI website are updated weekly.

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>.

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

- [Beds, Cribs, and Bedding](#) 1 new item
- [Child Clothing, Shoes, and Accessories](#) 2 new items
- [Equipment](#) no new items
- Food, Drug, Medicine hazards: <http://www.fda.gov/opacom/7alerts.html> food related recall/hazard warnings continue to be published. An advisory on child face paints was published May 12th
- [Furniture Related to Child Care and Early Education](#) no new items
- [Infant related products](#) no new items
- [Toys and Play Related Items](#) 3 new times

Counseling for Summer Fun:

- [There are so many insect repellents out there. What kind is best for my children?](#)
- [What's the best way to protect my child in the sun?](#)
- [Summer Safety Tips](#)
- [Fun in the Sun](#)
- [Fun in the Sun: Keep Your Family Safe \(Educational Brochure\)](#)

Asthma related documents:



Asthma Action Plan

Asthma Action Plan is a multi-color 1 page (8 1/2 x 11) form child care businesses may use when planning the care of a child with asthma.

[Download a copy of this item.](#)



Asthma Care Brochure

Asthma Care Brochure is a multi-color 2 page (8 1/2 x 11) document to help child care businesses complete the Asthma Action Plan.

[Download a copy of this item.](#)

Often child care businesses purchase equipment, materials and supplies from second-hand shops. Consumer Product Safety Commission is concerned that recalled products are sold in these shops. It is now against federal law for recalled products to be sold at second-hand stores. Please share the following CPSC booklet with your child care providers to help protect them and the children they serve.

CPSC Handbook for Resale Stores and Product Resellers [\[PDF\]](#)



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

New Dental Provider Type to Improve Access in Minnesota

By Tracy Rodgers, IDPH Oral Health Bureau

On May 16, Minnesota’s governor signed a bill into law creating a new dental provider type as a means to improve access to care for underserved Minnesotans. The bill was passed with overwhelming legislative support.

Two new types of practitioner are now recognized – a dental therapist and an advanced dental therapist. Figure 1.1 outlines the education, supervision, and scope of practice for each therapist level.

Training courses will begin this fall. The University of Minnesota (UM) will offer a four-year dental therapist program. The four-year program will not require participants to have prior dental experience. In addition, UM and the Minnesota state colleges system will offer a two-year master’s program to dental hygienists who have a baccalaureate degree in dental hygiene for the advanced dental therapist provider level.

The Minnesota Board of Dentistry will report to the state legislature in January 2014 regarding the dental therapists’ effect on delivery and access to services. In Iowa, stakeholders will be closely monitoring the impact of the therapist models in Minnesota. Although programs like I-Smile™ have advanced oral health in our state, there is still great need for affordable and accessible care, such as the early interceptive treatment that will be available through dental therapists in Minnesota. As we work to build a system that addresses equitable access to dental care for all Iowans, it will be important to use lessons learned in other states in developing our state policies.

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