

Iowa Community Empowerment Newsletter

August 2004
Volume 6, Issue 4

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

Welcome Jane Stockton to the State Empowerment Technical Assistance Team

New State Empowerment Board Chair Named

At the July 9, 2004 meeting of the Iowa Empowerment Board, Thomas Wilson was elected as Chair. He will begin his two-year term at the September meeting of the Board. Mr. Wilson is the current President/CEO of Family Resources, Inc. in Davenport, Iowa. He joined that agency in 1974 and since that time has served as Vice President, Assistant Executive Director, Director of Child Welfare Services, and as Coordinator of Residential Treatment. In addition to his work with Family Resources, Inc., he has been active with many community service endeavors including board member and past president for the Iowa Coalition of Family and Children's Services. Mr. Wilson holds a Masters of Social Work degree from the University of Iowa. Tom has served as a member of the IEB since May 2003. His strong social work background will bring valuable insight to the Board as he leads them forward toward their goals.



Jane Stockton joined the Department of Public Health on July 1, 2004. She is a Community Health Consultant with 5 counties, and is a member of IDPH's Leadership Connection, offering technical assistance to two specific programs. Jane will be working with the state empowerment team and HOPES-HFI. Jane is an RN and has worked in a variety of positions. Most recently, Jane was the coordinator of a 0-3 Early Childhood Education program for seven school districts in Illinois. Due to her husband's recent transfer, they relocated to Urbandale, IA in June. Jane and her husband have two sons, one who just graduated from college with a degree in electrical engineering, and the other who will be attending DMACC in Ankeny this fall. Jane's experiences will allow her to bring valuable insight to the state empowerment technical assistance team and local communities. Jane may be reached at (515) 281-3932 or by e-mail at jstockto@idph.state.ia.us.



**SAVE
THE
DATE!**

Attention Community Empowerment Area Board Members! You Are Invited!

The Iowa Community Empowerment State Technical Assistance Team invites CEA board members and individuals involved with the local CEA board's activities, to a half-day training. The Iowa Empowerment Board re-aligned the redesignation cycle in order to provide an opportunity for local CEA Boards to participate in training and technical assistance that would support future planning.

Purpose: To understand the local boards responsibilities and the revised redesignation process and self-evaluation for the next three year period.

Agenda Includes: Board structure and operation, using community indicators, and community planning and collaboration.

Targeted Audience: Community Empowerment area board members; coordinators/contact persons; and individuals supporting board activities

Mark your calendars and plan to join us from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm at the location and date, which is most convenient for you.

September 21	The Iris Restaurant, Mt Pleasant
September 23	SW Community College, Creston
September 28	Redeemer Lutheran Church, Waverly
September 30	Floyd Valley Hospital, Le Mars
October 19	United Way Campus, Des Moines

Registration is required by September 8, 2004.

Please contact the Office of Empowerment for a registration form:

Debra Scrowther, Iowa Department of Management;
Community Empowerment Office;
State Capitol, Room 12; Des Moines, IA 50319;
FAX: 515/281-4225 E-mail: debra.scrowther@iowa.gov
If questions, call (515) 281-4537.

***"The greatest use of life is to spend it for something that
will outlast it." - William James***

Administrative Update – June 2004 - July 2004

Upcoming Events

Iowa Empowerment Board 2004 Schedule

September 10, 2004
Blank Park Zoo

Early Childhood Iowa Core Stakeholders

August 17, 2004
United Way
September 14, 2004
Heartland AEA -Johnston

Empowerment Coordinators/Contacts Meetings

September 15, 2004
Heartland AEA - Johnston
December 8, 2004
ICN

Iowa Empowerment Board Fall Training

September 21, 2004
Mt Pleasant
September 23, 2004
Creston
September 28, 2004
Waverly
September 30, 2004
Le Mars
October 19, 2004
Des Moines

Iowa Early Care Health & Education Congress

November 16 & 17, 2004
Scheman Center, Ames

Day on the Hill

February 24, 2005
State Capitol Rotunda

July 2004 Board Meeting and Related Activities

The Iowa Empowerment Board met on July 9, 2004. The by-laws committee presented the revised by-laws for review of the entire Board. It was decided to table the motion to adopt them until the next meeting allowing more time for review and clarification of a proposed change.

The Board made the decision to continue to meet on a bi-monthly basis in 2005. New for the coming year, two of the meetings will be held in local empowerment sites. Watch for an Iowa Empowerment Board meeting coming to a location near you!

Michael Bergan, representing the nominating committee, reported on their process and recommendations for the Board's consideration. With a unanimous vote, the Board approved their recommendations. The new Chair of the Iowa Empowerment Board is Thomas Wilson (see article on page 1) and the new vice-chair is Terri Christoffersen. Terri lives in Toddville, (Linn County) and is an active community member, serving on a variety of community enhancement projects in the areas of business, health, young children, families, higher education and theatre. Terri has also served as a Community Empowerment Area Board Chair. Each will serve a two-year term and will officially begin their duties at the next meeting of the Board in September.

Early Care, Health and Education System Building Activities

- Iowa Medical Home Initiative – June 2 & July 20
- State Agency Liaison Group – June 9
- ABCDII Grant Meeting – June 14
- Iowa Learns Council (Team 1) – June 15
- ECHE Congress Planning Committee – June 17 & July 15
- Quality Services and Programs Work Group – June 18
- Data Work Group – June 22
- ECHE Public Engagement Work Group – June 23 & July 12
- Resources and Funding – Financing an Early Care, Health and Education System planning meeting – July 1
- Iowa Learns Council (Steering Committee) – July 1
- Early Childhood System Governance Planning Meeting – July 14
- Early Childhood System Core Stakeholders Co-Chair Meeting – July 15
- ABCDII Referral Design Team – July 21

Administrative Update – Continued June 2004 – July 2004

Other Events and Activities

Partnering with Parents Workshop

July 28 –29, 2004
Ames

Child Care Health Consultant Training Series

September 9 & 10, 2004
October 6, 7, & 8, 2004
November 4 & 5, 2004
(See page 9 for details)

Healthy Families America Training

August 16-20, 2004
(See page 9 for details)

Iowa AEYC Conference

October 8-9, 2004
Des Moines

Families, Workers & Neighbors: Discovering Our Hidden Assets

November 15, 2004
(See page 11 for details)

Site Visits/Technical Assistance Activities

- Taylor Empowerment Board Training – June 21
- State-wide Community Empowerment Data Work Group – April 6, May 4, May 19
- Pottawattamie Board Retreat – July 13
- Iowa Empowerment Board Meeting – July 9
- Muscatine Empowerment Board Training – July 20
- SCRIPT Conference Planning Meeting – July 27

Linkages/Outreach Activities

- Performance Measures Group – June 4, 18, July 2, 16
- DHS Child Care Bureau Chief – June 30
- Early Learning Standards Work Team –
- FaDSS Council – June 17
- MCH Advisory Council Meeting – June 17
- Title V Grantee Meeting – June 17
- Child Care Quality Rating System Executive Committee – July 8, 12, 22 & August 10
- Child Health Advocacy Team Meeting – June 21 & July 19
- Iowa Child Care and Early Education Network Board Meeting Presentation – July 22
- DHS Community Cares Task Force – July 14
- DHS Budget Public Hearings – July 7

Public input is important! To comment on the Quality Rating System for Iowa, visit www.iowachildnetwork.org after August 6 to complete a survey.

Quality Rating System for Iowa

A collaborative effort is underway to develop a proposed voluntary Quality Rating System (QRS) for child care in Iowa. A work group has developed an initial draft of criteria describing each of the levels of the rating for both child care centers and child development homes. There will be a number of ways input will be collected. First, parent input will be sought through focus groups convened across the state by the State Public Policy Group (SPPG). Secondly, in August, the SPPG will facilitate five meetings using various ICN sites to gather broad community input. The third way input will be solicited is through an on-line survey, for both child care professionals and parents. To find out more about the location of the focus groups, the ICN sites, or to offer your comments through a survey, visit www.iowachildnet.org after August 6, 2004.



ECHE System Building Updates

Links to Empowerment

Web sites

State: www.empowerment.state.ia.us

Benton County

www.bcempowerment.com

Buchanan Delaware Fayette:

www.bdfempowerment.org

Cerro Gordo, Hancock, Worth:

www.cghwempowerment.com

Dubuque:

www.empowerdubuque.org

Floyd, Chickasaw, Mitchell:

www.fmcempowerment.com

HAWC (Howard, Allamakee,

Winneshiek):

www.HAWC-Iowa.com

Hardin

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

Humboldt, Hamilton, Wright

www.buildingfamilies.net

Jasper:

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

Johnson:

<http://www.jcempowerment.org>

Linn:

www.linnempowerment.homestead.com/homepage.html

Marshall:

www.youthandviolence.org

Pocahontas, Calhoun and

Webster:

www.linkin-families.com

Polk:

www.humanservicesplanningalliance.org

Scott:

www.scottcountypowerment.org/

g/

Story:

<http://www.storycountyfamily.org>

Washington:

www.empowerwashington.org

Woodbury:

www.siouxlandship.org

Send us your web site address and we'll include it in the next newsletter.

The State Agency Liaison Team

The State Agency Liaison Team includes management representatives from the Departments of Public Health, Human Services, Human Rights, and Education, Governor's policy staff, ISU Extension and Child Health Specialty Clinics. Their role is to provide leadership within state government to promote and implement system changes for early childhood supports and services based on the recommendations of the Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholders Group. The group also advises this stakeholders group on the development and implementation of Iowa's Early Care, Health and Education System.

The State Agency Liaison team members recently met. They felt it was very important that they are part of the system building at a level where they could see how decisions would affect their agency. They see this as a key point in moving towards an early care, health, and education system and being proactive to those system building efforts within their individual agencies.

During the recent meeting, the group expressed the need for the Stakeholders to produce an inventory (map) of what is currently happening in early childhood. This would help with knowing what is happening or to better align efforts. This product is currently in development.

From a governance perspective, the group identified the important benefits both directly and indirectly that impact their agencies. Being strategic about prioritization of the identified strategies is key to the next steps in system development.

Update on the Iowa Department of Public Health's Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) Building Grant

We are happy to announce that the Notice of Award was received this month and the second year in the planning phase of Iowa's Early Care, Health & Education system has been fully funded! Planning is already underway to move to the implementation phase next fiscal year.

Update on the work of Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholders

Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholders continue to meet to move the early care, health and education system building initiative forward. This groups serves as an advisory body to the ECCS Grant. Much work is being conducted through the system component workgroups.

Representatives from the Governance Component group are attending an Early Childhood Governance Workshop in North Carolina in August. The Quality Services and Programs Component group is working on bringing together leaders at the state and local level in the field of family support later this fall. At the August Stakeholders meeting, we are looking forward to hearing about the early childhood "financing the system" study in which Charlie Bruner, UEN, and the Resources and Funding Component group have been collaborating their efforts. Leslie Anderson, Smart Start Consultant from North Carolina, will be working with the Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholders to prioritize the goals and strategies of the early care, health, and education system. This is an exciting time for the future of children 0-5 years and those who serve them in Iowa!

Public input is needed on the Iowa Early Learning Standards. The deadline has been extended to October 1st. Go to www.iowachildnetwork.org and complete a survey. This feedback will be used to finalize the Standards for Iowa.

The work of the Writing Committee for the Iowa Early Learning Standards continues. In this update, we would like to share with you their progress. In order to make sure we are all thinking about the same "standards" these are the "child" standards that describe what children should know and be able to do.

As a part of the development of the Iowa Early Learning Standards, the process of seeking public input on the **draft** standards is in progress. Focus groups continue to be held throughout the state, thanks to our Head Start Association and Child Care Resource and Referral partners, as well as many others hosting these opportunities for input! In October, the information from the focus groups and surveys will be analyzed so that the Writing Committee can utilize the feedback to make any necessary changes to the standards.

The online survey also offers a mechanism to provide in-depth feedback for each of the standards and benchmarks per area. If you haven't had an opportunity to visit the web site, go to <http://www.iowachildnetwork.org/> and click on Early Learning Standards. In addition, please encourage your colleagues to complete the survey or attend a focus group! We have extended the timeline for completing the survey to October 1. As of Friday afternoon, July 23, the following number of surveys had been completed:

- Area 1 - Physical Well-Being and Motor Development = 28
- Area 2 - Approaches to Learning = 15
- Area 3 - Social and Emotional = 11
- Area 4 - Communication, Language and Literacy = 10
- Area 5 - Mathematics and Science = 8
- Area 6 - Social Studies = 8
- Area 7 - Creative Arts = 8

Organization has begun for a second Writing Committee that will focus on IELS for ages 0-3 years. If you or someone you know would like to be considered for this committee, please provide contact information along with additional information about the interested individual, to Dee Gethmann at 515-281-5502 or dee.gethmann@iowa.gov.

Family Support America



Annual Conference in Chicago

Technical Assistance Team members Shanell Wagler and Jo Hinrichs attended the national Family Support America conference in Chicago May 12 through May 14. It was a joy for Shanell and Jo to hear the Iowa Department of Public Health's previous medical advisor, Dr. Ed Schor, give an inspiring presentation on children's health and medical homes in the opening plenary session.

Numerous workshops focused on the challenge family support services have measuring performance and outcomes for families. Hearing these challenges reassured Shanell and Jo that Iowa Community Empowerment performance measures and the "common language" are right on track nationally, and in fact ahead of efforts in other states.

"Telling the Story" was featured at many workshops. Examples were shared on how to take the message from results and outcome measures to communities and using these to tell success stories in order to promote advocacy for children and families.

Family Support America has a library of excellent resources available that will help advance the Community Empowerment process at the state and community level. One resource has been recently released and is titled Standards for Prevention Programs: Building Success through Family Support and is currently available to print from the website at no fee. Go to www.familysupportamerica.org. It is on the home page under New Releases. Also, at the top of the home page, click on Publications and Products for ideas on many other great resources to purchase for Community Empowerment.

Open Meetings Law

Challenged with "Open" Meetings Law Requirements?

Iowa's open meeting laws and requirements can challenge the best of governmental boards. Help is available at the Iowa State Association of Counties (ISAC) at www.iowacounties.org. Scroll to Legal Information and find ISAC Deputy Director David Vestal's great resources available in several documents. The latest is titled "13 Issues Regarding the Open Meeting Law", known as the "Baker's Dozen".

The ISAC web site's Legal Information includes the Iowa's Attorney General Department's great "Sunshine Advisory" publication which focuses on open meeting laws and contains advice for governmental boards.

ISAC also publishes a magazine called The Iowa County. Each month's issue includes an article written by David Vestal titled "Legal Briefs". Many of the "Legal Briefs" contain information and guidance about Iowa's open meeting laws. These articles are available, too, in the Legal Information section of the ISAC website. The "Sunshine Advisory" is available as well on the Attorney General Department's web site: www.iowaAttorneyGeneral.org

For additional guidance regarding this topic, refer to Tool E in your Empowerment tool kit, http://www.empowerment.state.ia.us/EmpowermentTools/kit_tools/toolE.pdf or visit the Freedom of Information website at www.drake.edu/journalism/foi/foi2.html.

New Kindergarten Assessment Tool Announced

Children Ready to Succeed in School Moving to a New Assessment Tool in Kindergarten

At the Iowa Empowerment Board meeting in July, the Iowa Department of Education (DE) presented information about a new tool that DE is proposing to be used to measure the progress toward the result, "Children Ready to Succeed in School." Beginning in the fall of 2004, the DE will no longer be using the Kindergarten Perception Survey to measure the developmental gains in children. While the survey provided a perception of the students' skills upon entering kindergarten, the DE continued to explore alternative methods of assessment in order to provide more precise information of individual students.

After much study and discussion with experts in assessment, the DE is ready to move forward with a new assessment tool this fall called the "Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills" (DIBELS). This is a standardized, individually administered measure of early literacy development. By using the DIBELS, Iowa will be able to monitor the development of pre-reading and early reading skills that are indicators for early reading success. Kindergarten teachers will have access to individual student results and state and Community Empowerment Areas can aggregate the data.

There are some cautions and limitations for using this tool. DIBELS isn't a comprehensive assessment but solely an indicator of literacy skills. Multiple assessment approaches will be needed at the local level to monitor the various aspects of children's development (i.e. motor, social-emotional, self-management). Local districts and empowerment areas are encouraged to use more comprehensive assessment procedures at the local level for the purpose of making decisions about teaching and learning. To learn more about DIBELS, you can go to <http://dibels.uoregon.edu/index.php>

The Iowa Empowerment Board will take action on adopting the DIBELS as a tool to track the statewide indicator that states, "Children entering kindergarten are ready for school" at the next Board meeting in September.

For questions or additional information about the DIBELS, please contact Penny Milburn at 515-727-0656 or pmilburn@iastate.edu.

New for 2005!

Community Empowerment Iowa Empowerment Board Meeting Site Invitation

At the July 9, 2004 meeting of the Iowa Empowerment Board, it was decided that two of the Board's six meetings in 2005 would be held in a local community empowerment area. These meetings will occur on Friday, May 6, 2005 and Friday, September 9, 2005. A process of invitation has been established to determine those sites and is as follows:

1. The State Community Empowerment Community Liaison will accept completed applications from interested areas until the deadline date. Submittals should be sent to:
Debra Scrowther, Community Empowerment Liaison
Iowa Department of Management
State Capitol Building, Room 12
Des Moines, IA 50319
debra.scrowther@iowa.gov
2. Submittals must identify the key reasons your site should be chosen. Creativity will be given priority. At a minimum, you must be able to provide the following:
 - A brief narrative explaining why your site should be chosen, including your date of preference;
 - Your ability to secure a meeting location to accommodate approximately 65 participants;
 - Options of lodging accommodations near by;
 - Information on a social event which you would organize for the evening before;
 - Information on field trip options (at least 4) to local empowerment-supported programs the afternoon of the meeting date.
3. Once selected, the top two applicants will work with the Community Empowerment Community Liaison to finalize the schedule and details.
4. Notice of this process, as well as the awardees, will be posted on the State Empowerment website.
5. Community Empowerment Areas wishing to apply are encouraged to submit an application of not more than three pages in length, along with 4 copies.

Application Deadline: October 1, 2004

Training Opportunities:

Child Care Health Consultant Training Series 2004 Fall 2004 Clive, Iowa

September 9 & 10, 2004
October 6, 7, & 8, 2004
November 4 & 5, 2004



Calling Registered Nurses: You still have time to apply to attend the fall 2004 Child Care Health Consultant Training Series! Public health surrounds us, and children in child care are often a key to the public health puzzle. Opportunities for educating child care providers abound. Consider how crucial a background in public health can be to a child care provider -- emergency plans, immunizations, care coordination, health insurance, infection control, private septic systems...the list goes on! For more information about the upcoming training, view the brochure online at http://www.idph.state.ia.us/common/pdf/conferences/fall04_cchctraining.pdf. Interested applicants should complete an electronic survey by August 6 on the Healthy Child Care Iowa website at <http://www.idph.state.ia.us/hcci/about.htm>.

All sessions will be held in Clive, Iowa at the Chase Suite Hotel, 11428 Forest Avenue, Clive, Iowa. Tel: 515-223-7700. The Chase Suite Hotel is located within walking distance of several restaurants.

Nursing CEUs: *The University of Iowa College of Nursing is an Iowa Board of Nursing approved provider, Number 1. Full time attendance for this program will be awarded nursing CEUs (to be determined by the University of Iowa).*

Healthy Families America



Healthy Families America (HFI) Training

Date: August 16 – 20, 2004.

**Location: Grace Lutheran Church,
3010 52nd Street**

Des Moines, Iowa 50310

The purpose of this training is to prepare staff members to fulfill their role in a family-centered support program that is strength-based. Through this training, participants will build their capacity as service providers and increase their understanding about:

basic components of the Healthy Families America Initiative;
implementation of services within the structure of the HFA critical elements;
techniques to provide family-centered and strength-based services;
fundamentals and processes of assessment;
principles of intensive home visitation;
importance of professional boundaries;
documentation of services provided to families;
attributes of staff critical for successful programming;
empowering supervision of staff and the team; and
the value of and methods for achieving quality program management and supervision.

Sponsored by: Lutheran Services in Iowa
For more information: Nancy Krause at (515) 271-7315 or
nancy.krause@lsiowa.org



Covering Kids and Families and **hawk-i** are working in collaboration to coordinate an exciting upcoming event! Congressman Leonard Boswell is going to be leading six round table discussions throughout the state of Iowa. The topics of discussion will include **hawk-i**, health care coverage and various child health issues.

Boswell Roundtable

The schedule of Round Table Discussions is as follows:

<u>Monday, August 2nd</u>	<u>Tuesday, August 3rd</u>	<u>Thursday, August 5th</u>
9-10 Grundy Co. 11-12 Tama Co. 1:30-2:30 Benton Co. 3:30-4:30 Iowa Co.	10-11 Newton	10-11 Des Moines

All child health advocates, county representatives and any persons interested in discussing and voicing opinions regarding **hawk-i** and child health issues are encouraged to attend.

For more information regarding specific location sites, please contact Angie Doyle-Scar at (515) 242-5980 or adoyle@idph.state.ia.us

Families, Workers & Neighbors: Discovering Our Hidden Assets

November 15, 2004

8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Scheman Center, Iowa State University, Ames

Keynote speaker, Dr. Julianne Malveaux will present "The Unfinished Business of Economic Justice". Dr. Malveaux, an economist, author and commentator, is the President and CEO of the multimedia production company, Last Word Productions, Inc. Her observations on issues such as race, culture, gender, and their economic impacts, are helping to shape public views in 21st century America.

Capstone speaker, GregAlan Williams will present "Step Up! Speak Up!". In 1992 millions around the world watched this Emmy Award winning actor rescue a brutally beaten motorist at the riot-torn intersection of Florence and Normandy in Los Angeles. Undoubtedly, however, the many audiences who hear GregAlan Williams each year have experienced the acclaimed author, extraordinary speaker, and teacher at his very best.

With over 30 workshops and exhibitors, this event is being sponsored by Friends of Iowa Civil Rights, Inc, with help from Iowa State University Extension to Communities and American Republic Insurance. For more information or registration materials, visit www.iowadiversity.org/conference/index.html.



DEALING WITH BULLIES AND CHILDREN WHO ARE OUT OF CONTROL

What's A Parent To Do? Helping Families Deal With Bullying and With Kids Who Are Out Of Control

www.extension.iastate.edu/parent

2-part National satellite series

5:30-8:30pm

What's a parent to do? will share research and practical suggestions relating to social and emotional development in children and youth, with a specific focus on bullying.

Studies reveal that aggressive behavior problems are prevalent in approximately 10% of preschool and elementary age children. In socio-economically disadvantaged children, this figure is close to 25% (Rimm-Kaufman et al., 2000; Webster-Stratton, 1998). Without early intervention, these behaviors become risk factors for academic problems, school drop out and anti-social behaviors (Snyder, 2001; Trembray et al., 1996). Preventing and reducing aggressive behaviors early on is a cost-effective means to preventing early conduct problems from becoming more serious issues. Strengthening children's capacity to manage their emotions and behaviors and make meaningful friendships help position children for school success (Webster-Stratton & Reid, 2004) and prevent aggressive behavior problems.

Bullying is a form of aggressive behavior and affects children every day - as victims, victimizers, or bystanders- and can have long-term effects. Approximately 15% of students are either bullied regularly or are initiators of bullying behavior (Olweus, 1993). Children who are bullied have lower self-esteem and greater incidents of depression, and loneliness that affects them, as they become teens and adults. Even as young as kindergarten, children are bullied, and can develop negative feelings about school and themselves. As children get older and experience bullying they may become even more fearful and feel bad about themselves – this may lead to dropping out of school. Children who bully are more likely to engage in criminal behavior, have lower grades, and drop out of school – all of which affect the child's later life.

Go to www.extension.iastate.edu/parent to find a location nearest you and to register for the series locally. If you have a satellite dish and would like to serve as a local downlink site, you can register your site at the URL above.

Presenters:

November 30th: Dr. David Osher, Managing Director, American Institutes for Research, www.air.org/

Dr. Osher's focus is on school and community support networks for children and families. His work involves universal, early, and intensive interventions that address risk factors, build protective features, and support healthy child development. Dr. Osher's published books include *Safe, Supportive, and Successful Schools Step By Step*; *Safeguarding Our Children: An Action Guide*; *Early Warning, Timely Response: A Guide to Safe Schools*; *Wraparound: Stories from the Field*; and *Teaching and Working with Children Who Have Emotional and Behavioral Challenges*.

December 7th: Dr. Charles A. Smith, Professor and Extension Specialist Family Studies and Human Services, Kansas State University www.ksu.edu/humec/fshs/faculty/extension/csmith.html

Dr. Smith is a noted educator, storyteller, and author who makes a real difference in the lives of children and families through development of



practical, community education. His published works include Raising Courageous Kids: Eight Steps to Practical Heroism, publication date is August 2004; First Steps to Mighty Hearts: The Origins of Courage in Young Children, expected publication by December 2004; Everyday Heroes; the National Extension Parent Education Model (NEPEM); and the WonderWise Parent Web site.

For more information, contact:

Kimberly Greder, Assistant Professor, Human Development and Family Studies

Family Life Extension State Specialist, Iowa State University

kgreder@iastate.edu, 515-294-5906



**IOWA AEYC ANNUAL STATEWIDE CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 8 - 9, 2004
DES MOINES, IOWA**

the early childhood conference for professionals

Here is what attendees had to say about our 2003 conference,

"Best variety of any conference to date!"

"Awesome!"

"A well done conference."

This year we have increased the number of workshop sessions by 44%.



Faith-based Outreach Update

*Covering Kids and Families has been working in collaboration with the Health Care Coverage for Kids Coalition to provide faith-based outreach. Our combined goals include informing families of the faith-based community about the availability of low-cost and free health care coverage through **hawk-i** and Medicaid. We have been developing partnerships with the faith-based community to achieve our outreach efforts.*

[SHOUT \(Student Health Outreach\) Project](#)

In February 2004 the Health Care Coverage for Kids Coalition (HCKC) collaborated with Confirmation students from Visitation Catholic Church to form a SHOUT (Student Health Outreach) project. SHOUT is student-run and strives to ensure access to health care coverage for all children.

The Confirmation students were educated on the importance of health care coverage and how they could help decrease the number of uninsured children in Polk County. Through brainstorming sessions with HCKC staff, the students and their teacher, several outreach project ideas were developed.

Approximately 20 of the 30 students decided to hand out **hawk-i** brochures after their individual masses and distribute them to their schools, neighbors, friends and family. Several students chose to also participate in outreach efforts at three local grocery stores. These stores included La Tapatia, La Favorita, and Dahl's. Grocery bags were stuffed with **hawk-i** brochures and a **hawk-i** information table was set up.

The SHOUT project at Visitation was very successful with over 1000 **hawk-i** brochures distributed. The majority of the students stated they would like to participate in a SHOUT project again, while all students provided valuable feedback that will help better future outreach efforts.

Future Faith-based Outreach Ideas Include:

- Distribute **hawk-i** fliers at church events, services, and meetings.
- Insert **hawk-i** fliers into mailings and church bulletins
- Hand out **hawk-i** fliers and **hawk-i** applications in church congregation areas
- Print an announcement about **hawk-i** in the weekly church bulletin
- Download the **hawk-i** newsletter insert from www.idph.state.ia.us/coveringkids/common/pdf/newsletter.pdf and place into the church newsletter or bulletin
- Include health care coverage in a sermon/homily or in adult small group discussion classes
- Distribute health care coverage information at events such as: health fairs, holiday bazaars, ice cream socials, family dinners and spiritual breakfasts

Where can I get more information?

Visit our webpage at www.idph.state.ia.us/coveringkids, **hawk-i** materials can be ordered by using the **hawk-i** Materials Request Form that is found at www.hawk-i.org. This article is the second in a series on faith-based outreach.