

Iowa Community Empowerment Newsletter

October 2004
Volume 5, Issue 5

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

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.

Governor Vilsack Addresses the Iowa Empowerment Board

What an honor and a privilege it was to have the Honorable Governor Thomas Vilsack address the audience at the September 10, 2004 meeting of the Iowa Empowerment Board. He began by offering his appreciation for the work of the Board and their direction of Community Empowerment in Iowa. The Governor thanked the Board for their strong commitment thus far to children birth to age 5, but also offered encouragement for the work ahead. He spoke about the need for a comprehensive plan for children birth through 6 years, and said that Iowa needs to be a state committed to early years and improving education.

The Governor presented the Iowa Learns Council recommendations and asked for the support of the board in sharing them with audiences whenever possible, just as he has promised to do within the next few months. Governor Vilsack shared his personal story and summed up his thoughts with this statement, "Children need a childhood."



To close out his time with the board, he presented a certificate of appreciation to Nancy Van Milligen, past chair of the Iowa Empowerment Board. He thanked Nancy for her direction of this board over the last two years, and also thanked her entire family for their commitment to Iowa.

Thank you, Governor Vilsack for being a champion for Iowa's children.

To learn more about the Iowa Learns Council's recommendations, or to view them in their entirety, go to <http://www.state.ia.us/iowalearns/reports.html>.



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

Administrative Update – August 2004 - September 2004

Upcoming Events

Iowa Empowerment Board 2004 Schedule

No meeting scheduled November

Early Childhood Iowa Core Stakeholders December 7, 2004

Empowerment Coordinators/Contacts Meetings December 8, 2004 - ICN

Iowa Empowerment Board Fall Training – Final Session 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

September 2004 Board Meeting and Related Activities

The Iowa Empowerment Board met on September 10, 2004. Governor Thomas Vilsack addressed the audience and presented the Iowa Learns Council's recommendations. (See article, page 1).

The changes in the board's by-laws were discussed and adopted. The current version is available on the Empowerment web site.

The Board adopted to modify the measurement for the indicator of children ready to succeed in school. Because the statewide kindergarten perception survey is no longer going to be conducted, the Iowa Empowerment Board will be utilizing results from the DIBELS Literacy assessments that are currently conducted in a number of school districts.

The 2005 Leadership Agenda of the Board was adopted. It is also available on the Empowerment web site.

Steve Scott from Prevent Child Abuse Iowa provided an update and overview of the recent data that has been collected around the issues of child abuse. To access the current stats or view their annual report, visit www.pcaiowa.org.

Early Care, Health and Education System Building Activities

- National Governance Meeting, North Carolina – August 2-4
- Public Engagement group – August 9 & September 7
- TA with System Building Coach – August 10, 16 & September 13
- Iowa Learns Council Presentation – August 11
- ABCDII Grant – August 16 & 31
- UEN Oversight Committee/Charlie Bruner – August 16
- ECHE Congress Planning – August 19, September 16
- Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholders – August 17 & September 14
- Early Childhood Iowa Co-chairs meeting – September 2

Site Visits/Technical Assistance Activities

- Conference Call, Cedar Valley's Promise – August 9
- CEA Board Training, Mt Pleasant – September 21
- CEA Board Training, Creston – September 23
- Clarke County Empowerment – September 23
- CEA Board Training, Waverly – September 28
- CEA Board Training, LeMars – September 30

“Great things are not done by impulse, but by a series of small things brought together.”- Vincent Van Gogh

Administrative Update – Continued August 2004 – September 2004

ECHE System Building Updates

Other Events and Activities

Iowa AEYC Conference
October 8-9, 2004
Des Moines

**2004 IA Respite & Crisis Care
Coalition Conference**
October 28 – 29, 2004
Des Moines

2004 Pediatric Care Conference
November 3, 2004
Pella

**Pottery For Prevention –
Prevent Child Abuse Iowa**
November 13, 2004
Raccoon River Park Nature Lodge
West Des Moines
515-244-2200

**Families, Workers & Neighbors:
Discovering Our Hidden Assets**
November 15, 2004
Ames

What's A Parent To Do?
November 30, 2004
December 7, 2004
National Satellite Series

**2005 National Smart Start
Conference**
January 23-27, 2005
Greensboro, North Carolina

Linkages/Outreach Activities

- Success4 Summer Institute – August 4
- Meeting with Office of Drug Control Policy – August 6
- '06 Budget meeting with Directors – August 9
- State Child Care Advisory Council – August 12
- PJ/FaDDS – August 5, 16, September 2, 16, 2
- ICN – Economic Development CDBG Grants – September 8
- Title V Block Grant Review, Kansas City – August 9-10
- MCH Advisory Council Meeting – June 17
- Title V Grantee Meeting – June 17
- Quality Rating System Executive Committee – August 8-10
- Every Child Counts Summit – August 18
- Quality Rating System Meeting – September 21

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

Planning is underway to apply for the implementation phase of the Department of Public Health's Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) Building Grant.

This phase offers three years' opportunity to receive support toward Iowa's Early Care, Health and Education system.

If you have questions about this grant, contact Gretchen Hageman at ghageman@idph.state.ia.us.

Update on the work of Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholders

The Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholders met in both August and September. Both meetings allowed us to think about where we've been, where we are going and how to get from the planning stages to the implementation phase.

Highlights from the meetings include:

- Transitioning from planning to implementation;
- Guiding principles are adopted and being incorporated to the charter documents with hopes to finalize before the end of the year;
- Strategic plan is in the process of being finalized;
- ECI members will be asking for endorsements from many entities;
- Governor Vilsack is out there really sharing about his commitment and the commitment all Iowans need to make to early childhood efforts. He's supporting the Iowa Learns Council Recommendations that are found at: www.state.ia.us/iowalearns <<http://www.state.ia.us/iowalearns>>
- Working on a communication plan in order to gear up for legislative session and to work with business partners.



New Iowa Empowerment Board Member Meet Michael Blouin

Mike Blouin was named director of the Iowa Department of Economic Development by Governor Tom Vilsack and Lt. Governor Sally Pederson in January 2003. With over 30 years of public service and community development experience, Blouin brings a strong understanding of Iowa's economic needs and opportunities, and his appointment demonstrates the Vilsack administration's commitment to economic development in the state of Iowa.

Blouin most recently served as President & CEO of the Greater Des Moines Partnership. Under his leadership, the Greater Des Moines Partnership became the premier economic and community development organization serving Greater Des Moines, Iowa. From 1975 to 1979, Blouin was a member of Congress, U.S. House of Representatives for the 2nd District, State of Iowa. Blouin was a member of the Iowa State Senate and the Iowa House of Representatives for Dubuque, Iowa, from 1969 to 1975.

The "Chartbook"

A New Resource for Child Health and Development Indicators

The Commonwealth Fund and Child Trends have published "Early Child Development in Social Context: A Chartbook". The Chartbook will be a valuable resource for Empowerment areas and others interested in child health and development.

The chartbook includes indicators of child wellbeing grouped in to the following topic areas: Socioemotional Development; Intellectual Development; Child Health; Family Functioning; Parental Health; Health Care Receipt; Community/Neighborhood Factors; Child Care; Demographic Factors.

The topic area of Socioemotional Development includes the indicators of social competence, behavioral self-control, and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. Each indicator includes paragraphs about "Why is this important?" "What do the data show?" "Implications for policymakers and practitioners." and "Implications for parents." This is one more resource an Empowerment area could use as you continue to evaluate local indicators.

To view or download the Chartbook, click on the link below:
http://www.cmwf.org/usr_doc/chartbook_quick_download.pdf



Children's Mental Health News

Iowa Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health is a statewide family advocacy organization that assists families who have children and youth with mental health issues. Our mission is to ensure all these children and families receive coordinated, individualized, strength-based care and supports. We provide families with written informational materials, Information and Referral services, many different types of trainings, and legislative advocacy. Most of all, we offer families a non-judgmental support system. Families, professionals and others may access our services by calling our toll-free number (888) 400-6302, or visiting our website at www.iffcmh.org.

Real Collaboration, Real Results

By Tom Rendon



"Head Start seeing results as it moves classrooms into schools." It was the kind of headlines community partners dream about. After hard work establishing creative successes, somebody was paying attention. But behind that attention was the hard facts that the partnership had received results.

Last August, the Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier ran the story that extolled the virtues of a Head Start-Waterloo Community Schools partnership. (To read the whole story, visit

http://www.wcfcourier.com/articles/2004/08/22/news/top_news/76081c9e44ab140586256ef8000f435f.txt)

It is not unusual to find Head Start classrooms in elementary schools in the area, or even elsewhere in the state. What is less typical is to find new and recently renovated buildings designed for such classrooms; and for school districts to recognize their need for high quality preschool classrooms if they are going to address the new demands of No Child Left Behind.

As Tri-County Head Start director Kim Young-Kent says in the article, "It wasn't really partnering, it was us renting space. Nothing like we do now."

The partnership works like this. The school district provides the teacher. She or he is hired by and an employee of the district. Head Start pays the salary. The district provides the room and any facilities support, and most equipment needs, as it would all the other rooms in the building. Head Start provides the assistant teacher and the family services mandated by Head Start performance standards. The bottom line results:

- + 100 percent of lead teachers have a BA degree and an early childhood education endorsement (versus only 57 percent in across Tri-counties programs or 53 percent in Iowa Head Start programs)
- + Better retention of teachers who enjoy public school pay scale and benefits.
- + Results on cognitive development tests are higher than elsewhere in the Tri-County programs.

"Here's the bottom line," says Young-Kent. "It may not be the cheapest way to go but we know more of our kids, from families at or below federal poverty level, are at the same level as their peers. More children are school ready."

The partnership has also led to new alignment among all early childhood programs in the district. They all use Creative Curriculum and its Child Development Continuum, including its Shared Visions and Title One classrooms. And that alignment led Cedar Valley Promise, the Community Empowerment Area serving Waterloo, to establish regular training on Creative Curriculum and the Devereux Early Childhood Assessment Program (DECA), a socio-emotional assessment for young children.

Focusing on key results encouraged these partnerships that proved successful for all the partners. And the proof was in the results. Here are the two take-away lessons inspired by Waterloo's example: first, examine how early childhood programs can be more effectively integrated with elementary schools without losing their special emphases and skills, without simply re-creating a kindergarten class for 4 year-olds. And where such partnerships exist or can be fostered, explore what support (such as training, child care collaboration, referrals and dollars) from the wider community is possible to ensure their success.

Tom Rendon, Iowa Head Start State Collaboration Office Coordinator, is responsible to assist in partnership development with and among Head Start programs in the state. For additional information, contact Tom at tom.rendon@iowa.gov.

New Regular Feature

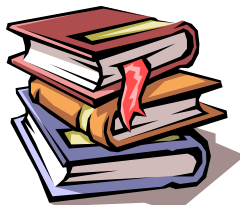


Oral Health and Early Childhood

Over the past year, a group of dedicated professionals from Head Start, Early Head Start, community health, the Iowa Dental Hygienists Association and the Oral Health Bureau of the Iowa Department of Public Health have been gathering to implement a plan to address oral health issues among young children, especially those from families of low income. The plan includes the following outcomes: 1) Developing new sources of financing to support oral health initiatives; 2) Creating and rolling out a new parent curriculum on oral health; 3) Developing and implementing new strategies to ensure the participation of oral health professional on Head Start Health Services Advisory Committees; 4) Establishing closer connections at a local level among Head Start, community health, WIC and others to forge a common understanding of what is needed to provide more thorough oral health services for young children; 5) developing and disseminating oral health information to target audiences including child care professionals and community Empowerment.

In its efforts to create closer connection among Head Start and other health and oral health professionals, a series of information sheets has been developed. Over the next several issues of the Empowerment Newsletter, we hope to provide these information sheets to you. They present the best and most current thinking around a series of oral health issues. In the inaugural information sheet, we present a handy summary of Early & Periodic Screening, Diagnosis & Treatment (EPSDT) Periodicity Schedule or those expected services available to children receiving Medicaid. It also includes some new information about the importance of baby teeth. Watch for it in the next issue of the Iowa Community Empowerment newsletter.

If you have any questions about these information sheets, contact Tom Rendon (Tom.Rendon@iowa.gov <<mailto:Tom.Rendon@iowa.gov>> or 515-242-6024) at the Iowa Head Start State Collaboration Office.



EARLY CHILDHOOD RESOURCE LIBRARY

A lending library for early
childhood professionals and
parents in Iowa

A New Resource Available in Iowa

The Early Childhood Resource Library is a brand new resource for all individuals who are involved in professional development or parent training for early care and education. Materials come in a variety of formats – books, videos, and training curricula. The materials are available by mail or you can visit the library to check out items in person.

Materials address five topics: Inclusion; Family – Professional Collaboration; Early Care and Development; Diversity; and Teams.

The library's hours are 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. Monday through Friday. You can also contact the library via voice mail and e-mail.

Materials may be accessed by the name of the material or by the catalogue number. To view the catalogue, go to the CDD home page at <http://uihealthcare.com/cdd>. Click on "Information Resources"; Click on "Disability Resource Library"; Click on "Early Childhood Resource Library"

Materials may be checked out for three weeks with the ability to renew them. It will be the responsibility of the user to pay postage for the return of the materials.

Location: Room 311, Center for Disabilities & Development
Iowa City, IA 52242-1011
Phone: 319/356-1345; 1/800-272-7713
TTY: 1/877-686-0032
Fax: 319/356-1343
E-mail: disability-library@uiowa.edu
Internet: <http://www.uihealthcare.com/cdd>
Mail: Send library returns and correspondence to:
Disability Resource Library, Center for Disabilities and Development
100 Hawkins Drive, Room 311, Iowa City, IA 52242-1011

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



Every Child Counts

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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,

Winnebago):

www.HAWC-Iowa.com

Hardin

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

Humboldt, Hamilton, Wright

www.buildingfamilies.net

Jasper:

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

Johnson:

<http://www.jcempowerment.org>

Linn:

www.linnempowerment.homestead.com/homepage.html

Marshall:

www.youthandviolence.org

Pocahontas, Calhoun and

Webster:

www.linking-families.com

Polk:

www.humanservicesplanningalliance.org

Scott:

www.scottcountyempowerment.org/

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.

Every Child Counts – What's Next?

From Sheila Hansen and Kelli Soyer

On behalf of Every Child Counts and the Association for Iowa's Children, we would like to thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to join us at the Advocacy Summit held at the Botanical Center in Des Moines August 18th. Your presence helped reinforce our belief in the importance of creating a voice for Iowa's children and the sense that there is a readiness for such a voice to be heard.

We are continuing our community outreach efforts, meeting with over twenty-five different groups across the state, with at least that many planned through the end of the year. Many of these upcoming events are a result of the connections made with you at the Advocacy Summit. Every Child Counts now has a network of nearly five hundred people, like you, who have committed to speaking out on children's issues in their communities. We are developing resource materials for child advocacy and will produce our first newsletter by the end of this month.

Throughout the next few months as well as during the 2005 General Assembly, Every Child Counts will be providing Action Alerts that will keep you informed of activities related to our three policy areas as well. We will be developing a more specific agenda around these three priority areas in the next few weeks and we will get that information to you as soon as possible.

We will be meeting with legislators and legislative candidates as we travel around the state and invite you to help us in this process. We will also be working on establishing champions in the corporate community, the law enforcement community, and the pediatric community, in particular, to make the case for investments in early childhood.

Again, we solicit your help with our efforts. If you know of people we should talk with to hear our message, please let us know.

We are anticipating a challenging few months ahead and look forward to working with you on behalf of Iowa's children in the coming year!! Please contact us for any questions or suggestions you may have as we proceed with our work.

Note: Every Child Counts now has available "A Policy Guide to Children's Issues." This guide highlights children's issues and has some sample questions to ask elected officials and those running for political office. If you are interested in a copy of the guide, please contact us and we will get it to you.

2003 Vital Statistics

2003 Vital Statistics of Iowa in Brief is now complete and has been posted to the web. You may find it under "recent additions" on the IDPH home page or through the bureau of health statistics web page. Hard copies are also available.

http://www.idph.state.ia.us/common/pdf/health_statistics/vital_stats_2003_brief.pdf



For more information please visit our website

**www.iowaschildren.com or
contact John Calhoun
calhounj@aea12.k12.ia.us**

ASSOCIATION FOR IOWA'S CHILDREN

The Association for Iowa's Children has been formed to assist in developing a one-voice message for Iowa's Children. The Association has been formed through the cooperation of Empowerment Areas across the state of Iowa. Membership eligibility is currently focused on the Empowerment Coordinators of Iowa's 58 Empowerment Areas. The focus of the association is to provide professional development and support for Empowerment Areas. The intent of this association is to work for the health, education and safety of all Iowa children by providing a united front to address the issues of these children. The association intends to file papers with the State to incorporate.

Early childhood advocacy is a priority for the association. Coordinators plan on partnering with other child based organizations to promote awareness of early childhood issues. A long term goal of the association is to partner with other associations to form a children's covenant that would be organized as a 501(C)4 and would therefore be eligible to lobby for children's issues on a much larger scale.

The Association has developed a "Child at Heart" award to be awarded annually to a person that exhibits exemplary leadership regarding the promotion of early childhood development and awareness.

The Association co-sponsored with Every Child Counts "The Advocacy Summit" held on August 18th in Des Moines. This meeting was consistent with the Association's goal of advocacy for Early Childhood.

A committee of Empowerment coordinators representing each region of the State has been formed to develop the operating structure of the association and will be reporting their results at the next Empowerment contacts meeting in September. John Calhoun, association coordinator from Sioux City, reports "the Association is an excellent opportunity to achieve two significant objectives. The first is to advocate for early childhood and the second is to share information that will help Empowerment areas be successful. We can share programming, contracts, by-laws etc."

Vision:

Every Child, beginning at birth will be healthy and successful

Purpose Statement:

To support and implement an early care, health and education system that incorporates streamlined access, planning and funding with emphasis on community control and decision-making.

Actions/Strategies/Recommendations:

1. Early care, health and education funds should flow through a single system.
2. Provide adequate resources for the coordination of the early care, health and education system at the community level.
3. Additional resources are required to provide quality, accessible and affordable early care, health and education services for all children 0 to 5.

Training Opportunities:



The Commission is seeking wide participation by people of various interests in the yearlong planning and design effort. Iowans who cannot attend are encouraged to join the e-mail mailing list or submit ideas in writing at khiatt@dhs.state.ia.us or:

MH/MR/DD/BI Commission
Department of Human Services,
BDPS, 5th floor
1305 East Walnut Street
Des Moines, IA 50319-0114

**State Library of Iowa
Hosting workshop with Jane
Kitson a.k.a. Mother Goose**

Healthy Families America (HFI) Training

Date: October 25-27, 2004 – NEW TRAINING

Date: November 8-12, 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:

Sponsored by: Lutheran Services in Iowa

For more information: Mary Odell, 563-262-3771, or mary.odell@lsiowa.org

Community Connectedness: helping build your Neighborhood Network!

This workshop is intended to assist Community Partnership sites, Prevention Councils, and Family Violence Response teams strengthen and build neighborhood and community connections. There is no cost to attend. Space is limited to 50 people at each location.

Register by calling: Sherry Rindels-Larsen at 1-800-CHILDREN before October 5

Presenters: Linda Bigley, ISU Extension and Lois Smidt, Beyond Welfare, Inc.

October 12, 9 am to 3 pm, Fort Dodge Public Library, 424 Central Av, Fort Dodge

October 14, 9 am to 3 pm, Iowa City Public Library, 123 S Linn St, Iowa City

2004 Conference on Children with Disabilities

Help create a system of services and supports for Iowa's children with Serious Emotional Disturbance, Mental Retardation, Developmental Disability, or Brain Injury and their families. We seek your input on what is needed in this system design. The day will have a national speaker on Designing Children's Systems and small focus groups to collect participant suggestions.

October 21, 2004, 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM

Drake University Olmstead Center, Des Moines, Iowa 50311

For More Information: 515-242-5994 or bflores1@dhs.state.ia.us

Free Registration & Lunch Provided

Sponsored by: Iowa's Mental Health, Mental Retardation, Developmental Disability, and Brain Injury (MH/MR/DD/BI) Commission

Who should participate?

- Families of children with serious emotional disturbance, mental retardation, developmental disability, brain injury
- Youth with serious emotional disturbance, mental retardation, developmental disability, brain injury
- Individuals that work with children with disabilities or their families at area education agencies, in local school districts, in child care settings, as providers of disabilities services, as advocates, as policy makers, as state or county administrators of disability services
- Others interested in developing a system of care for children with mental or developmental disabilities in Iowa

Let's Make Language Learning Fun

October 25 Best Western North, Merle Hay Road, Des Moines

October 26 North Iowa Area Community College, Mason City

Jane is a national early childhood educational consultant and published author from Atlanta, Georgia who has trained over 60,000 librarians, teachers and speech and language pathologists. Her interactive hands-on sessions are filled with ready-to-implement activities that work right now.

Registration is \$10.00 that includes morning coffee break, lunch and the four hour workshop by Jane. Registration begins at 9:30 with the workshop running from 10:00-3:00 p.m.

For more information and a registration form, visit

<http://www.silo.lib.ia.us/news/news/News-2004/kitson04.pdf>

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

Empowerment Options with the Iowa Program for Infant & Toddler Caregivers (IA PITC) Trainings

By: Beth Walling, State Coordinator

"Taking steps toward...



...raising the quality of care for Iowa's infants and toddlers."

Wouldn't it be great if all of the adults taking care of Iowa's infants and toddlers were able to help our children reach their full potential in life? And wouldn't it be wonderful if these same adults had the information and skills that could lead to earlier special needs identification and intervention? Many, many providers have shared with us that they appreciate having the knowledge and support which was gained in the PITC trainings. It makes sense for all of us to approach this specialized care with the same philosophy.

The Iowa Child Care & Early Education NetWork, the Iowa Dept. of Education, and the Iowa Dept. of Human Services invested in the development of the IA PITC system so that all providers in the state have access to these free trainings. Community Empowerment partnerships with IA PITC and the Iowa Child Care Resource & Referral agencies make perfect sense as we all strive to ensure that "Every child, beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful."

Some support options for Community Empowerment Areas include:

1. Increase community awareness of the IA PITC trainings by funding advertisements in local newspapers, shoppers, etc. (prices will vary)
2. Support provider participation in a training plan program (40 hours of training) = \$200.00 per participant.
3. Support provider participation by paying for their own child care expenses (prices will vary).
4. Fund a 40 hour training series = \$2,700.00 Trainer expenses
5. Fund a MV training series = \$600.00 Trainer expenses
6. Purchase training/resource materials for a center or home provider's library to use in conjunction with the trainings (videos, books, etc.) =
Module I \$199.00 (plus S & H) Module II \$269.00
Module III \$209.00 Module IV \$159.00
7. Support the training of a new trainer = approximately \$6,500.00 for direct costs (regional needs vary)
8. Support the training of a new trainer by reimbursing their time off to attend the institutes (costs vary).

For information on PITC please go to:

www.iaeceprofdev.org/training_resources/PITC.html

Contact the State Coordinator or the Regional Infant Toddler Specialists who may assist in answering any questions or arrange for community-based trainings to occur:

State Coordinator	Beth Walling	515-883-1206 #131
Region 1 (NW Iowa)	Kari Daale	800-859-2025/712-786-2001
Region 2 (NE Iowa)	Tiffany Luck	800-475-0804/319-233-0804
Region 3 (SW Iowa)	Debra Lawson	800-945-9778/712-755-7381
Region 4 (central Iowa)	Carrie Trujillo	800-722-7619/515-286-3536
Region 5 (SE Iowa)	Barbara Newcomb	800-369-3778/319-324-1302



Covering Kids and Families Back-to-School 2004!

Every summer *Covering Kids and Families* hosts Back-to-School Campaigns across the nation, encouraging parents to understand the value of health insurance for their children during the upcoming school year. The events continually break records on the number of events held and the number of participants who attend. As in the past, this summer's campaign was no different. The campaign reached thousands of children and produced record numbers.

The 2004 Back-to-School Campaign resulted in more than 2,100 *Covering Kids and Families* outreach activities and enrollment events taking place around the country. This is up from the 1,000 events held during the 2003 Back-to-School Campaign.

In Iowa, *Covering Kids and Families* grantees and volunteers hosted a wide range of Back-to-School activities and distributed *hawk-i* information at all of the events. The activities included: exhibit booths at county fairs, health fairs and local malls, school registration booths, free and reduced price sports physicals, head start and elementary school registration packets, and back-to-school physical clinics.

The Shalom Zone Back-to-School Fair in Des Moines was very successful with over 1,300 people attending. In addition, 625 medical services were provided, 880 school supply bags were distributed, 800 door prizes were given away and 22 agencies were present to display their information. The free medical services included school physicals, immunizations, lead screenings, eye exams and oral checks. The event was a great success, providing school supplies to children in need and providing their families with valuable health information.

Up-coming Legislative Roundtables

Date: October 12, 2004

Time: 7:00 – 8:30 PM

Participants: Danny Carroll, Neal Schuerer, Eric Palmer, and Tom Rielly

Topic: Education and Human Services

Location: the "mini theatre" at Grinnell Middle School

(Directions-From the Hwy 6 and Hwy 146 intersection in Grinnell, take Hwy 6 East to East Street. Turn South on East. The Middle School is several blocks south on the east side of the street.)

Hosted by: Poweshiek County Empowerment Area and the Grinnell-Newburg Parent Teacher Organization.

This will be a moderated forum open to the public.

IAEYC Annual Conference

Date: October 8, 2004

Time: 10:30 – 11:15 AM

Date: October 9, 2004

Time: 10:30 – 11:00 AM

Participants invited: Candidates for the U.S Senate and House of Representatives from Iowa

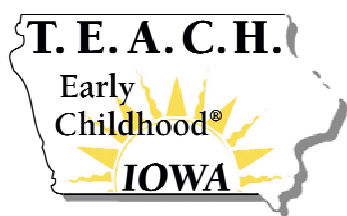
Topic: Early Care & Education issues

In Poweshiek County

On Thursday, Oct 14th at 9:00 AM, the Poweshiek County Empowerment Area, the JPT Decategorization Project, and Poweshiek County Healthy Choices Coalition will host an informal continental breakfast for human service providers who provide services in Poweshiek County. The 3 current legislators/senators have confirmed they will attend. Their opponents have been asked, with no reply to date. It will be an informal time of letting the candidates know about current projects in Poweshiek County. There will also be a brief question and answer session. For more information, contact Kala Shipley at kshipley@dhs.state.ia.us

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® IOWA Scholarship Program Completes Successful First Year

By: Barb Merrill,
Apprenticeship/TEACH Program
Coordinator



T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® began in 1990 in North Carolina, with a mere \$23,000 to fund 21 scholarships. Now the program has expanded to 25 states, with nearly \$30 million in scholarships helping over 20,000 recipients attend college while they provide child care.

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® IOWA has successfully completed the first year of investing in over one hundred child care center staff, preschool teachers, and child development home providers as they attend college! These providers are working full-time in child care and attending one of Iowa's community colleges, working towards an associate degree in early childhood education or their Child Development Associate Credential. T.E.A.C.H. scholarships are funded with public/private partnerships through the Iowa Child Care and Early Education Network, primarily by the Iowa Department of Human Services with federal funding through the Child Care and Development Block Grant Quality improvement initiative. Three Community Empowerment areas are also contracting with T.E.A.C.H. to provide an investment in the professional development of thirty additional providers for the 2004-2005 school year.

Why is T.E.A.C.H. so successful? T.E.A.C.H. requires a combination of four "ingredients", not simply funding to assist with tuition payments. The T.E.A.C.H. model requires education (college credit in the field of early childhood education), scholarship (to help pay for tuition, books, travel, and release time from caregiving responsibilities), compensation (a raise or bonus after a recipient completes each year of education), and a commitment (retention will be improved, as recipients are required to commit to staying with their child care program). Providers (and their supervisors if center staff) sign contracts with T.E.A.C.H. IOWA to ensure all four requirements are met.

Iowa's T.E.A.C.H. scholarships will support C.D.A./A.A./A.S./A.A.S degree requirements in early childhood education, covering up to 80% of tuition costs for nine to fifteen credit hours per year at a participating Iowa community college, stipends for books and travel expenses, and support release time or substitute expenses for the child care program. Recipients **MUST** be currently employed thirty hours per week or more in a licensed center or a registered child development home. All participants will sign a contract making a commitment to remain in their sponsoring program for a minimum of 12 months following the contract period. Sponsoring child care centers and programs also agree to support the participant. Participants will receive a raise or a bonus after fulfilling each annual contract.

Another scholarship model will assist providers who have already completed their CDA education requirements with the CDA credentialing fee. Applications are now available on the Network's website, www.iowachildnetwork.org. There are no application deadlines for the project; applications will be accepted as long as funds are available.

What is Apprenticeship?

Child Care Apprenticeship sites are registered through the U.S. Department of Labor. An apprentice completes 4000 hours of on-the-job training, supervised by an experienced mentor or journey person, as well as 288 hours of course work (roughly 20 credit hours of early childhood education classes). This usually can be completed in a two year period, as a person is employed at a licensed center/preschool or registered child development home. Several registered apprenticeship sites have been successfully operating in Iowa for the past three years. The Network, with funding from the Iowa Department of Human Services and support from U.S. Department of Labor staff, is actively recruiting additional sites to become registered. Participants in registered Child Care Apprenticeship programs are encouraged to apply for T.E.A.C.H. scholarship funding to assist them in completing the college credit portion of the project, and apprentices are prioritized for T.E.A.C.H. funding.

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

How can Empowerment help?

For more information, contact Barb Merrill, Apprenticeship/T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® IOWA Program Coordinator
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E-mail your questions to bmerrill@iowachildnetwork.org, or call (515) 883-1206 ext. 129.

Iowa Child Care and Early Education staff will be presenting at the Iowa Early Care, Health and Education Congress on November 16-17, and we are pleased to attend local Empowerment Board meetings or early childhood education classes or conferences to answer questions about the projects.

It is estimated that there are over 20,000 people providing child care in Iowa. More scholarships have been requested than can be provided with current funding.

We encourage local Empowerment groups to consider funding additional T.E.A.C.H. scholarships for providers in their own communities, through the Iowa Child Care and Early Education Network. At a cost of \$ 2000 per year, T.E.A.C.H IOWA will support the tuition, books, travel, release time, and bonus/raise of one teacher or provider to attend up to 15 credits of early childhood education at their local community college. The provider/teacher (and employer when applicant is employed in a center/preschool program) would also be asked to make a small financial commitment. This commitment ensures that the provider and center intends to follow through with the requirements of the program. Through bonuses and reimbursements for travel and release time, this small financial commitment is more than re-paid to the program and the provider recipient. The T.E.A.C.H. IOWA program can help to identify interested providers, counsel them into early childhood education programs at the community college of their choice, and provide the contracts to ensure follow through with the release time, compensation and commitment that is required by the project. In another option, \$ 500 per person would support a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship to pay the assessment fee for the CDA credential, as well as a bonus upon earning the credential for the provider. An Empowerment area could choose to add additional eligibility criteria for their recipients, such as only child development home providers who are caring for infants, etc., if they see a particular unmet need in their region.

Empowerment could also choose to sponsor a child care program, or several programs, to become a registered Apprenticeship site. This might involve providing funding for quality improvements, assisting with tuition costs, providing stipends for the center to allow the mentor/journeyperson and apprentice to meet regularly for consultation, and other identified needs.

Injury Prevention in Child Care – Pilot Project Northwest Iowa

Data reports from the visits are available upon request from Kim Schroeder, RN, RCCHC at kschroeder@mid-siouxopportunity.org or by phone at 712-786-3493

The Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) agency at Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc. received funding to conduct an Injury Prevention in Child Care – Pilot Project. The project had support from the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), Iowa Department of Public Health, and Healthy Child Care Iowa (HCCI). The project was developed and directed by Kim Schroeder, RN, the Regional Child Care Health Consultant for Northwest Iowa.

Eight Child Care Health Consultants (CCHC) from CCRR Region 1 in Northwest Iowa, completed site visits to 113 child care facilities, including registered Child Development Homes, and licensed Child Care Centers. Visits were made from during state fiscal year 2003. During the visits, CCHCs completed a checklist, focusing on identifying safety hazards in the child care facility. The checklist includes equipment that was unsafe or had been recalled by the Consumer Product Safety Commission. Child care providers also completed a survey about where they purchase new equipment, how do they receive second-hand equipment, and how they hear about recalled products.

The pilot project is now being modified for statewide use as part of the Health and Safety Assessment Tools used by child care health consultants.

What was learned from the pilot project:

- Child care playground surfacing material was often too shallow, inappropriate for type of structure, or not used due to the high cost of buying and installing surfacing material. In the Webster County area, the Kiwanis supplied child care providers with sand, delivered and installed free of charge. As a result, Webster County had fewer child care facilities with inadequate or no fall surfacing material.
- Child care providers hesitated or refused to replace recalled or broken equipment due to lack of funding to purchase new equipment. This was most commonly noted with high chairs and infant cribs – equipment that is necessary for providing infant care. Some areas had local funding sources to help providers purchase replacement items. Child care providers were very willing to replace equipment when this funding was available.
- Child care providers often did not want to destroy older equipment, even after they were told that the equipment was unsafe. Providers wanted to put equipment in storage, “just in case” they might need to use it later. The Child Care Health Consultants worked with providers to help providers understand that recalled or broken equipment should be discarded or destroyed and not used again.
- Some providers wanted to keep old equipment because it was a family heirloom, or it was the crib or high chair that they used for their own children. The Child Care Health Consultants informed child care providers about liability issues related to using recalled or broken equipment.

To summarize the major findings of this project:

- Unsafe Cribs – Providers replaced 21 out of 37 unsafe cribs –lack of funding was most frequently cited as cause for not replacing cribs.
- Portable-Cribs/Playpens – Providers agreed to remove, destroy or repair 27 out of 32 unsafe portable cribs and playpens.
- SIDS –Soft Bedding – 10 facilities used soft bedding in infant cribs – all 10 removed the soft bedding.
- Infant Swings – 18 out of 19 unsafe infant swings were repaired, destroyed, or providers agreed to repair or remove the infant swings.
- High Chairs – Providers agreed to repair or destroy 47 out of 67 unsafe high chairs.
- Mini-blind Cords – 156 unsafe, looped mini-blind cords were found. Child care providers received repair kits for 76 of the mini-blinds, while 37 were repaired on-site before the CCHC left the facility. In all, providers agreed to repair or replace 143 mini-blind cords.

