

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.

What Is It That Children Should Know And Be Able To Do To Be School Ready?

Submitted by Penny Milburn, Early Childhood Specialist
Iowa State University Extension

Iowa's Early Learning Standards have been created to assist early childhood providers/teachers and other adults with information about supporting the learning and development of young children. The standards were created in response to President Bush's early childhood initiative, *Good Start, Grow Smart*, which stresses supporting learning so every child can reach his or her full potential.

Iowa's Early Learning Standards for **children ages 3 to 5** are complete and may be accessed at www.iowachildnetwork.org.

Children Birth to 3

A statewide committee has been working on developing Early Learning Standards for infants and toddlers. The team has developed a draft document that focuses on what infants and toddlers should know and be able to do, in addition to providing some guidance on care giving supports. Finally, the writing team has worked to revise the introduction of Iowa's Early Learning Standards to more specifically address infants and toddlers.

Public Comment Period

Between now and August 10 we would need your input. A web survey has been designed to address the content and alignment of the standards and benchmarks. Please review the standards and complete the web survey. You may view the infant and toddler standards document at www.iowachildnetwork.org. Please click on Early Learning Standards to view the page. To respond to the survey please visit each of the six areas by clicking on the *Area* link.

The writing committee looks forward to your responses. They will meet in September to finalize the standards.



Editor's Comment:

What is the difference between Iowa's Early Learning Standards, the Quality Preschool Program Standards, Iowa's Voluntary Quality Rating System and the Iowa Core Body of Knowledge? A crosswalk of these Iowa initiatives has been put together to assist you in sorting it all out. You can access this document on the Early Childhood Iowa web site, www.earlychildhoodiowa.org, and then click on *Iowa Early Childhood Initiatives*.

Update June 2005 – July 2005

Upcoming Events 2005 Calendar at a Glance

Iowa Empowerment Board

August 19, 2005

DED Board Room, Des Moines
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

September 9, 2005

Pottawattamie Co. Empowerment
Area, Council Bluffs
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

November 8, 2005

Scheman Center, Ames
4:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Empowerment Coordinators/Contacts Meetings

September 14, 2005

Heartland AEA, Johnston

December 14, 2005

Heartland AEA, Johnston

Early Childhood Iowa Core Stakeholders

September 13, 2005

Heartland AEA, Johnston

December 13, 2005

Heartland AEA, Johnston

Iowa Early Care Health & Education Congress

November 8 & 9, 2005
Scheman Center, Ames

Iowa Early Care Health & Education

Day on the Hill

February 7 & 8, 2006

Early Care, Health and Education System Building Activities

- Early Childhood Iowa Co-Chairs meeting – June 16
- Governor Vilsack Signs Early Childhood bill - June 6
- Public Engagement Workgroup – June 23
- Governance, Administration and Planning Workgroup – June 16, July 21
- Early Childhood Iowa Co-Chairs - June 16
- ECHE Congress Planning – June 10
- Quality Services & Programs Workgroup – July 6
- Quality Rating Systems Oversight Meetings - June 6, 21, July 5, 22
- Early Childhood Community College Alliance - June 7
- Conference call with Sharon Lynn Kagan - June 10
- '07 Budget Offer Meetings - June 15, July 13, 27
- Pre-K Now Conference Call - June 20
- Child Care Incentive Study planning - June 22
- Systems Outreach with ICCEEN - June 24
- Meeting with Healthy Families America - June 28
- Grandparent Advocacy planning - June 28
- HOPES - June 29
- Radio Iowa interview - June 30
- Iowa Empowerment Board meeting - July 8
- Systems Update with Principal Financial - July 13

Site Visits/Technical Assistance Activities

- Empowerment Director's Meeting - June 1
- TA to Story County - June 10
- Performance Measures training to Jones County board - June 21
- TA to Polk County - June 27
- Empowerment Annual Report Reviews:
 - Emmet - June 2
 - Cedar Valley's Promise - June 9
 - Madison - June
 - Corner Counties - June 22
 - Story County - June 22
 - Marshalltown - June 23
 - Jasper - June 24
 - Boone - June 24
 - Woodbury - June 27

Linkages/Outreach Activities

- State Child Care Advisory Council - June 9
- Early Childhood Development Workshop planning - June 20, July 7
- Iowa Family Policy Center - June 21
- Ready to Learn/IPTV planning meeting - June 23
- Youth Development/State of Promise Activities – June 14, 28, 29, July 12, 27
- Iowans for a Better Future, Education Goal Group - June 28
- ISU Extension New Staff Orientation for CC providers presentation - July 7
- Good Start, Grow Smart Conference, Kansas City - July 11-12
- Council on Human Services Budget Hearing - July 13

ECHE System Building Updates

Other Events and Activities

Partnering with Parents - Online Walking the Journey Together
June 6 - December 2, 2005
www.extension.iastate.edu/pwp

Iowa AEYC Conference
October 14-15, 2005
Des Moines
www.iowaaeyc.org

Swinging With Life's Ups & Downs
October 27 & 28, 2005
Four Points Sheraton Hotel
Des Moines
Toll-free: 877-255-3140
www.irccc.com

Community Partnerships Conference
November 2, 2005

Iowa Volunteer Conference
November 9 & 10, 2005
Ames, IA

The Impact of Couple and Marital Relationships on Parenting and Child Outcomes
December 2 & 9, 2005
Locations available at web site
www.extension.iastate.edu/marria
[ge](#)



www.lakeshorelearning.com
www.lakeshorelearningsolutions.com

Update on the work of Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholders

Check out the Early Childhood Iowa Website!

www.earlychildhoodiowa.org

This site provides an outlet for Iowa's Early Care, Health, and Education System Building Project. Visitors can access the Early Childhood Iowa Strategic Plan, Charter Documents, meeting minutes/agendas, important dates, and information about the activities of the Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholders and Component Groups. Keep checking back as the site continues to develop. Staff is diligently working on phase two which will include a parent component. Phase two is expected to launch at the beginning of next year.

This issue's highlighted project of Iowa's Early Care, Health, and Education System Building Project: **Iowa's Early Childhood Snapshot Project**

Iowa's Early Childhood Snapshot Project is an environmental scan of investments in efforts intended to improve the quality of life for expecting parents and children under the age of five and their families. The intent of this project is to capture a picture of what initiatives are serving this specific population in the State of Iowa. Iowa's Early Childhood Snapshot Project will be available as a resource for state and community projects, policy makers, early care, health, and education professionals, and the general public.



Find the Iowa's Early Childhood Snapshot Project at www.earlychildhoodiowa.org.

Lakeshore Learning Materials: A Resource in Supporting Every Child Reads

By Jason Daniel, Regional Manager

All Lakeshore materials are based on proven research findings, tested in the classroom and designed to support best practices for meeting the needs of every student. You will find that our products have versatility built right in, so teachers can address a variety of learning styles. Best of all, our materials can support any core program from Open Court and Nation's Choice to Success for All, Trophies and more. Lakeshore offers customized learning solutions for pre-k through elementary grades. Whether you want to customize items for a specific program or create specialized materials that support your entire curriculum, we can supply exactly what you need. You're sure to find the exact tools and resources for your students from independent to small group activities, take-home and parent involvement products. For questions, product demonstrations, or samples please contact me at your convenience so we can work together to meet the needs of your students, jdaniel@lakeshorelearning.com.



Iowa Empowerment Board News July Meeting Update

During their July 9th board meeting, the Iowa Empowerment Board (IEB) reviewed a proposal from the Results Accountability Workgroup regarding the board's statewide indicators. No decision was made but feedback was provided and a revised submittal will be presented at the board's September meeting.

As a result of legislation this past year, the program management functions of the Healthy Opportunities for Parents to Experience Success (HOPES) program was given to the Iowa Empowerment Board. As the first step in understanding their administrative role, the Board received an overview presentation on the HOPES program and the Healthy Families America model.

Another item of importance and in being responsive to legislation, the Iowa Empowerment Board adopted a tool and measures to assist local empowerment boards with school ready funds to support preschool programming for low-income families. This information will be available on the Empowerment website under *Tools* after August 1. You can view it in this newsletter, as well, on page 5.

The Iowa Empowerment Board adopted their FY 2006 Leadership Agenda. This document is a continuation of their 2005 agenda. During the next fiscal year, the board will be undergoing a process to update their Strategic Plan that will be effective beginning FY 2007.

Finally, the Iowa Empowerment Board adopted a document that reflects the responsibilities of being an Iowa Empowerment Board member. This document can also be found on the Empowerment website under Iowa Empowerment Board.

The Iowa Empowerment Board has three remaining meetings in 2005: August 19th, September 9th, and November 8th. For locations and times, please refer to the Empowerment website under *General Information, Meeting Schedules*.

Meet State Board Member: Judy McCoy Davis



Judy McCoy Davis was born and raised in Dubuque. She returned there after college to co-own and manage McCoy Goldsmiths & Jewelers; during this time she served as president of the Dubuque Chamber of Commerce, the Dubuque Advertising Federation, the Dubuque Chapter of the American Field Service, and Families of Northeast Iowa. She was appointed to the Iowa Task Force on Higher Education by the Iowa Legislative Council and the governor appointed her to two strategic planning committees for the Department of Economic Development, the Iowa Program for Economic Progress and the Iowa Future Growth Committee. She was also appointed to the U.S. Senate's National Advisory Council on Small Business.

Since moving to Des Moines in 1990 Judy has served as finance director and executive director for the Iowa Democratic Party and as the development director for the Family Health Foundation of Iowa. She took time off in the mid-90s to be with her husband when he was dying of cancer, then returned to school to get her MPA from Drake University. She is involved in numerous community organizations. Judy was one of the founders of the Des Moines Library Foundation and today she continues to serve as co-chair of the library capital campaign. She also serves as the chair of the United Way's Women's Leadership Early Childhood Investment Committee and is a member of the Making Connections School Readiness task force.

Judy has received the governor's volunteerism award three times. In 1982 she received the Eddy Award from the Dubuque Jaycees, one of three given to honor efforts to "keep the lights on in Dubuque" during a difficult period in that city's history. She was honored as one of Des Moines' Women of Influence in 2003. Judy works as a consultant with non-profit organizations in the areas of governance, development and governmental relations. She also enjoys freelance writing.

Welcome, Judy, to the Iowa Empowerment Board.

New Tool Available to Assist Local Empowerment Boards with School Ready Funds to Support Preschool Programming for Low-Income Families

Tool CC(A) was approved as guidance by the Iowa Empowerment Board at their meeting on July 8, 2005. You can find this resource, along with other valuable tools, on the Iowa Empowerment web site at www.empowerment.state.ia.us and click on *Empowerment Tools*.

School Ready Allocation The 2005 General Assembly included statutory requirements for the use of School Ready (SR) Funds in the Education Appropriations bill (HF 816). Of the amount appropriated for the School Ready funds, \$4,650,000 shall be used to assist low-income parents with preschool tuition. [Chapter 28.9(d)]

Definition of Low-Income Parents Families with income at or below 185% of the poverty level
2005 HHS Poverty Guidelines: <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/05poverty.shtml>

Criteria for Preschool Programs Eligible to Receive Funds Supporting Low-Income Parents SR funds may be used to support preschool services for low-income families, being mindful to not supplant other state and federal funds (e.g. use state administered child care assistance for eligible families).

SR funds are to be used to assist low-income families with accessibility to and availability of preschool programming in environments serving children 3 - 5 years of age meeting any of the following quality standards:

- Accreditation by the *National Association for the Education of Young Children* (NAEYC)
- Comprehensive child development services offered by *Shared Visions Preschool Programs* (The SR funds can be used on a per child basis to supplement funding that supports this program.)
- Comprehensive child development services offered by *Head Start Programs* (The SR funds can be used on a per child basis to supplement funding that supports this program.)
- Preschools or child care centers with an average score of 5 (with no score of 1) on the *Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale – Revised (ECERS-R)* completed by an outside evaluator who has established 85% inter-rater agreement within six months of the observation
- Programs completing *Iowa's Quality Preschool Program Standards* self-assessment, quality improvement plan and technical assistance
- Programs willing to complete any of the above quality standards within a reasonable time period determined in a contractual agreement between the CEA and provider

Use of Funds The funds designated to support preschool programming which serves families at or below 185% of poverty may be used in the following ways:

- Support to maintain, increase and improve the availability of quality preschool programming based on a per child basis (e.g. transportation)
- Scholarships distributed to programs to assist families meeting the definition of poverty

CEA should collaborate with local child care centers, preschool programs, Head Starts, Shared Visions grantees, Child Care Resource and Referral agencies, Iowa State University Extension, Area Education Agencies and school districts to ensure that children living in poverty have access to quality preschool programming in order to achieve the result, "*Children are ready to succeed in school.*"

Accountability System School Ready Budget for SFY 2006 Form:

- Document projected expenditures for FY 06 to support preschool programming for low income parents (Must be 18% of the CEA SR funds for FY06)

CEA Annual Report – Performance Measures:

- Document in the FY 06 Annual Report the preschool programs' performance measures through input, output, quality/efficiency and outcome data. (Due September 2006)

Contractual Agreements with Programs CEA Board will determine the contractual agreements at a local level with program providers.

Technical Assistance Contact:
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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, Winneshiek, Clayton)
www.HAWC-Iowa.com

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

Humboldt, Hamilton, Wright
www.buildingfamilies.net

Jasper
<http://www.jaspercountye empowerment.org/>

Johnson
<http://www.jcempowerment.org>

Linn
www.linncountycommunity empowerment.org

Marshall
www.youthandviolence.org

Pocahontas, Calhoun and Webster
www.linking-families.com

Polk www.hspa.org

Scott:
www.scottcountye empowerment.org

Story
<http://www.storycountyfamily.org>

Washington
www.empowerwashington.org

Woodbury www.siouxlandship.org

News from Hamilton, Humboldt, and Wright Counties



Legislative Forum

Have you been to the Day on the Hill to talk *Early Childhood* with your legislators? This year during the Day on the Hill, our Legislators asked Building Families to bring together persons who have experienced Empowerment Funded projects. "Let's Talk" was held last Saturday in Eagle Grove. The day began with the Executive Director giving statistics from Hamilton, Humboldt and Wright Counties, a picture of a typical family residing in our counties, and an overview of funding an infrastructure for Early Childhood and the economic rewards.



Legislators Stewart Iverson and George Eichhorn responded to the audience. They gained an understanding of what our projects are doing and how it is impacting the local community members.

Cindy Martinek, elementary principal from Belmont-Klemme demonstrated how the DECA assessment developed social and emotional skills that readied their four-year olds for school. Two parents gave breathtaking testimonials on how the in-home empowerment projects helped them overcome the methamphetamine habit and stay sober. Emily Bormann, Humboldt County Home Care Connection, read several letters from families.

Michelle Wood, program manager of the combined programs of HOPES, Families Forward, and Early Head Start, explained the collaborative efforts that many organizations are making to meet the needs of families and children.



Sheila Hansen from Every Child Counts gave a brief review of new legislation.

Our legislators asked that community members continue to keep them abreast of their needs.

Janet Jergens, Eagle Grove in-home childcare provider, spoke on the changes in her program after she participated in CCR&R training and receiving a mini-grant.

Association for Iowa's Children

For more information visit our website www.iowaschildren.com



For more information regarding the *Child At Heart Award* contact:

Cyndee Dather, Awards Chair
 1710 Gary Ave,
 Spirit Lake, IA 51360.
 712-336-2555.

Child At Heart Award

Submitted by Cindy Duhrkopf, President Association for Iowa's Children

Who is that one person you think of when you think of *early childhood* in your area? That is the type of person we are looking for with the *Child at Heart Award*. The Association for Iowa's Children would like to honor that person with the 2nd Annual *Child at Heart Award*. We are looking to honor nominees that have used innovative approaches to support children and families and/or are passionate motivators in a leadership role for children's issues. Local Empowerment Areas are eligible to nominate one person from their respective area. The guidelines and timeline for the process, along with the application form, can be found on the Association for Iowa's Children web site, www.iowaschildren.org.

As part of the nomination you must include a narrative that contains the following:

- § A description of how the nominee is a champion for children.
- § What innovative approaches to support children and families have been implemented?
- § A description of specific achievements and change accomplished through the nominee's efforts locally, regionally or statewide.
- § Evidence of passion and motivation given to others to take leadership roles for children and families

For information about the Award or the nomination process, contact Cyndee Dather, Awards Chair, at the address or phone listed to the left of this article.

New Resource to Support the Open Meetings Law

Governor Vilsack Announces Electronic Calendar Of Public Meetings

Governor Tom Vilsack in May announced the unveiling of a public meeting calendar at the State of Iowa homepage, www.iowa.gov. The new calendar provides information about public meetings and events being held by many state government agencies. The calendar posts meeting details, locations, times, and agendas. Users can search by keyword or by state agency.

“State government has a responsibility to make it as easy as possible for Iowans to stay informed about what’s going on at the state level,” said Governor Vilsack. “We have created a one-stop shop for finding meeting information so Iowans have an opportunity to stay involved in what state government does.”

To find information about public meetings and events, go to www.iowa.gov. Select *Public Meeting Calendar* at the top of the State of Iowa homepage.

Can Our Local Board Pay Indirect Costs?

Indirect Cost Rate Principles

Submitted by Janet Gartin, Iowa Department of Human Rights/Empowerment Liaison

Occasionally the Office of Empowerment is asked questions by local empowerment areas about indirect cost rates that a local provider may charge. The questions are typically, “What is an indirect cost rate?” followed with, “Can our local empowerment area pay that?” This article will answer those questions and more!

What are Indirect Costs? - -

Indirect costs are those that have been incurred for common objectives benefiting all programs and cannot be readily identified or assignable to a particular final cost in a program (OMB circular A-122). Indirect costs relate to central management and administrative functions that are necessary and beneficial to all programs administered by the organization.

Purpose of the Indirect Cost Rate (ICR) - -

An indirect cost rate provides a systematic and accurate method for charges that result in an equitable distribution of indirect costs. Without an approved indirect cost rate, agencies directly charge grants and contracts for costs such as executive director, accounting staff, space, etc. The problem with direct charging is that the costs are based on budget estimates or arbitrary allocations based on the availability of funds. Establishing an indirect cost rate is in compliance with federal cost principles and is a strongly encouraged practice for agencies that administer a variety of Federal, State and local programs. An ICR is typically utilized by agencies managing multiple contracts, as well as local, state and federal government.

Who Negotiates and Approves Indirect Cost Rates? - -

An agency’s indirect rate is established and approved by the federal agency from who they receive the greatest portion of their funding. If the greatest source of funding is from a state agency, then the state agency approves the indirect cost rate. After a rate is established it will be accepted by all federal and state agencies. An indirect cost proposal’s compliance is verified by the agency’s annual audit. Once a rate is established an agency must apply the indirect cost rate to all programs and contracts.

What Does the Rate Accomplish? - -

- An indirect cost rate provides a better system for cost accounting and minimizes future audit risks.
- An indirect cost rate ensures that the agency will meet OMB circular A-133 requirements.
- An indirect cost rate eases accounting burdens through cost pooling and eliminates arbitrary direct charging of management and administrative costs.
- An indirect cost rate encourages all funding sources to pay their fair share as determined by the established cost rate.
- An indirect cost rate develops actual costs, which are essential for assessing results and performance.

Sources: OMB circular A-122, A-133, A-138



Every Child Counts

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For a list of your federal and state legislators, visit:

<http://www4.legis.state.ia.us/find-leg/>

To find out about individual state legislators, you can go to:

<http://www.legis.state.ia.us/asp/Legislators/LegislatorInfo.aspx>

Every Child Counts is Available for Your Next Meeting!

Every Child Counts continues to grow, with over eight hundred members within the first few months! Our network has developed because of your work. Members have been responsible for arranging community meetings and inviting Every Child Counts to speak about this exciting opportunity in Iowa.

Our goal is to recruit three thousand members within the first three years. In order to reach our goal, we continue to need the support and guidance of our members. If you have community members you think would be interested in hearing more about Every Child Counts, we are available to schedule speaking engagements. Please feel free to contact Sheila Hansen, shansen@cfpciowa.org, or Kelli Soyer, ksoyer@cfpciowa.org, or at 515/280-9027

The following information is provided by the organization, Charity Lobbying in the Public Interest located in Washington, DC.

Feel free to substitute the word "advocate" for lobbying, if the lobbying word makes you uncomfortable!

To download a pdf version of this document click on the following link:

http://www.clpi.org/10_reasons.pdf

1. You can make a difference.

It takes one person to initiate change. Gerry Jensen was a single mother struggling to raise her son in Toledo, Ohio, without the help of a workable child support system. She put an ad in a local newspaper to see if there were other moms who wanted to join her in working for change. There were. Over time, they built the Association for Child Support Enforcement, or ACES, which has helped change child support laws not just in Ohio, but across the country. One person—a single mother—made a difference.

2. People working together can make a difference.

Families of Alzheimer's patients working together, through the Alzheimer's Association, convinced the government to invest resources into research for a cure. Other individuals formed Mothers Against Drunk Driving and convinced dozens of states to toughen up their drunk driving laws. As a result, the numbers of drunk driving deaths are lower. Additionally, many people find healing from tragedy by telling their stories and working to prevent it from happening to others.

3. People can change laws.

Many of us think that ordinary individuals can't make a difference. It *is* hard to change laws and policies. But it can be done. It has been done, over and over again in our history, in the face of great obstacles. People lost their lives fighting racist "Jim Crow" laws. They won. Women didn't even have the power of the vote—as we all do today—when they started their struggle for suffrage. Our history is full of stories of people and groups that fought great odds to make great changes: child labor laws, public schools, clean air and water laws, social security. These changes weren't easy to achieve. Some took decades. They all took the active involvement—the lobbying—of thousands of people who felt something needed to be changed.

4. Lobbying is a democratic tradition.

The act of telling our policymakers how to write and change our laws is at the very heart of our democratic system. It is an alternative to what has occurred in many other countries: tyranny or revolution. Lobbying has helped keep America's democracy evolving over more than two centuries.

5. Lobbying helps find real solutions.

Services provided directly to people in need, such as soup kitchens, emergency health clinics, and homeless shelters, are essential. But sometimes they are not enough. Many food pantries, for example, needed new laws to enable caterers and restaurants to donate excess food so the kitchens could feed more people. Family service organizations working to place abused children into safe homes needed changes in the judicial system so kids did not have to wait for years for a secure place to grow up. Through advocacy, both changes were implemented. People thinking creatively and asking their elected officials for support can generate innovative solutions that overcome the root-cause of a problem.

6. Lobbying is easy.

Many of us think lobbying is some mysterious rite that takes years to master. It isn't. You can learn how to lobby—whom to call, when, what to say—in minutes. While there are a few simple reporting rules your organization needs to follow, it isn't complicated. Countless numbers of people have learned how. Lobbying is easier and more effective when many committed people work together. One person does not

have to do everything or know everything.

7. Policymakers need your expertise.

Few institutions are closer to the real problems of people than nonprofits and community groups. They see problems first-hand. They know the needs. They see what works and what doesn't. They can make problems *real* to policymakers. They *care* about the problems. Their passion and perspectives need to be heard. Every professional lobbyist will tell you that personal stories are powerful tools for change. People and policymakers can learn from your story.

8. Lobbying helps people.

Some people become concerned that lobbying detracts from their mission, but quite the opposite is true. Everything that goes into a lobbying campaign—the research, the strategy planning, the phone calls and visits—will help fulfill your goal whether it be finding a cure for cancer, beautifying the local park, or helping some other cause that helps people. You may not personally provide a direct service, but through your advocacy work, you enable thousands of others to do so.

9. The views of local nonprofits are important.

Increasingly, the federal government has been allowing local governments to decide how to spend federal money and make more decisions than in the past. This change gives local nonprofits even more responsibility to tell local policymakers what is needed and what will work. And because more decisions are being made locally, your lobbying can have an immediate, concrete impact on people in need.

10. Lobbying advances your cause and builds public trust.

Building public trust is essential to nonprofit organizations and lobbying helps you gain it by increasing your organization's visibility. Just as raising funds and recruiting volunteers are important to achieving your organization's mission so is lobbying. You miss out on an important opportunity to advance your cause if you don't think as much about relationships with local, state, and federal government.

For more information regarding lobbying and the do's and don't for non-profits visit: <http://www.afj.org/nonprofit/index.html>

~"Great things are not done by impulse, but by a series of small things brought together." Vincent Van Gogh



Iowa Child Care and
Early Education Network

Network Position Available to Support T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® IOWA

Taking steps toward...



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

Iowa Child Care & Early Education Network News

Child Care Counseling Specialist

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood IOWA seeks a Counseling Specialist to support child care providers as they seek associate degree in early childhood education from Des Moines Area Community College. Applicant must possess BA/BS in Early Childhood Ed or related field, experience in child care, and adult education/counseling. Computer proficiency and excellent communication skills required. Required to meet eligibility to serve as an adjunct instructor of early childhood education at DMACC as well. Flexible hours, nights and Saturdays required, reliable transportation a must. Send letter of application, resume, and references before July 24 to bmerrill@iowachildnetwork.org or to Iowa Child Care and Early Education Network, 218 Sixth Avenue Suite 710, Des Moines, IA 50309-4093.

Iowa Program for Infant & Toddler Caregivers (IA PITC)

By **Beth Walling, State Program Manager of IA PITC**

The state infant and toddler initiative, IA PITC, was launched four years ago because the quality of care for our youngest was found to be mediocre to poor. In addition, there was a lack of undergraduate as well as professional development opportunities focusing on the special care required of babies and toddlers.

The IA PITC system has certified faculty from 10 higher education institutions around the state. The faculty is teaching the concepts in their undergraduate courses.

However, there are still many Iowa colleges and universities which do not have infant courses within their early childhood degree programs. In fact, Des Moines Area Community College is the only Iowa school which offers Modules I – IV for college credit. DMACC has two full-time PITC certified faculty on staff and four adjuncts who are also certified. This fall, Kirkwood Community College will offer a new infant course taught by PITC certified instructors.

A goal of the IA PITC system is to encourage other community colleges and four-year institutions to create infant courses within their degree programs. An important step in that direction is to have PITC certified staff on faculty who embed the curriculum and materials in existing courses.

Another objective has been to train early childhood professionals across disciplines, so that children and their families are best served. Toward that end, the IA PITC just completed its first comprehensive training series through Heartland AEA 11. This six-day series was modified and offered to teachers seeking recertification. Drake University offered graduate credit for interested participants, and Heartland coordinated CEUs. Most of the teachers who attended were special education consultants from around the state. Since little professional development focusing on birth to three exists, some of the teachers drove considerable distances to participate. Replicating this model through other Area Education Agencies and community colleges or four-year institutions is a goal for next summer.

If we are to be successful in improving the quality of care for Iowa's youngest, it will take multiple strategies and the commitment of everyone who touches their lives. Empowerment councils interested in supporting similar models around the state should contact Beth Walling, State Program Manager of IA PITC, at bwalling@iowachildnetwork.org or 515-883-1206.



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

Barb Merrill, Apprenticeship/TEACH Program Coordinator



Supporting T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Iowa

Because of the specific emphasis in legislation to support professional development activities with area education agencies and community colleges, I'd like to take the opportunity to share with Community Empowerment area boards the wonderful investment option of supporting TEACH scholarships.

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® IOWA has successfully completed two years of investing in over 150 child care center staff, preschool teachers, and child development home providers as they attend college!

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),
- 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.

Providers who are part of the T.E.A.C.H. project 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. Four Community Empowerment areas (Dallas, Floyd-Mitchell-Chickasaw, Polk, Scott) are also contracting with T.E.A.C.H. to provide an investment in the professional development of thirty additional providers for the 2004-05 school year.

It is estimated that there are over 20,000 people providing child care in Iowa. Many 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 per recipient, 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.

An Empowerment Board could choose to support one provider for one year (\$2000), one provider for the four years it might take for her to earn an associate degree (\$8000), ten providers for one year (\$20,000), or any combination that meets your area's needs.

The T.E.A.C.H. IOWA program works with local partners such as Empowerment staff, Child Care Resource and Referral, and Community College early childhood faculty to identify interested providers, counsel them into early childhood education programs at the community college of their choice, and provide the contracts to

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call (515) 883-1206 ext. 129
or check our website at
www.iowachildnetwork.org

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, only providers working in a program trying to achieve accreditation, etc., if you see a particular unmet need in their region.

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.

Currently, 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. Licensed center directors are eligible. 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.

We look forward to working with you in the year ahead.

**You're invited to
participate!**

**in building a system for
Professional Development
for Iowa's ECHE Teachers
and Providers**

**Thursday, October 13
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Renaissance Savery Hotel
Des Moines**

Iowa AEYC Pre-Conference Day

"Defining an Early Childhood Professional Development System for Iowa's Child Care and Early Education Providers"

Join Susan Russell, president of Child Care Services Association, the Early Childhood Iowa Professional Development component workgroup, the Iowa Child Care and Early Education Network, T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® IOWA advisory team, and IAEYC as we move towards a system of professional development for Iowa's child care and early education teachers and providers. We'll share what's happening at the state and national level to promote education and professional development as well as workforce and compensation issues. You'll have an opportunity to strategize in small group sessions and decide what will work for Iowa. Don't miss this opportunity to have a voice in the development of a system that will work for our field. Susan Russell developed the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® and the Child Care WAGES® projects that have been successful in increasing the education, compensation, and retention of participants. Sue is also the current treasurer of the board of NAEYC. We welcome her to Iowa! Register through the Iowa Child Care and Early Education Network or through your IAEYC conference registration.



IOWA AEYC ANNUAL STATEWIDE CONFERENCE

the early childhood conference for professionals

The Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children is pleased to invite you to our annual statewide conference. We are excited to bring attendees many new events this year. New this year is a model classroom based on the Iowa Early Learning Standards. Stop in and take a tour or participate in a session. We have special tracks this year from the Regents' Center for Early Developmental Education, PITC Module III and a track for Child Development Home Providers. You won't want to miss the Thursday pre-conference *Defining an Early Childhood Professional Development System for Iowa's Child Care and Early Education Providers*. On Saturday you will have an opportunity to share your knowledge as you learn from others when you participate in the Round Table discussions. **Kathy Poelker** will be our keynote on Friday. Kathy is an award winning children's recording artist and composer. Explore the powerful gift of music and its connections to child development and current brain research.

While at the conference be sure to check out the exhibit hall, marketplace tables and the awareness area. For a glimpse of some of the areas child care centers, join us Friday morning for one of the tours. And don't forget the workshops. We have over 100 workshops scheduled over the two-day event. We hope you check out our web site at www.iowaaeyc.org for continued conference information and the opportunity to register for the conference by credit card. Registration materials will be mailed to all Iowa AEYC members. For additional information contact Rhonda Bancroft at 800/469-2392 or 515/967-9940 or email: rbancroft@mindspring.com.



National Association for the Education of Young Children

promoting excellence in early childhood education

For more information on support in considering accreditation or to request a presentation on accreditation, please contact Dee Stolze, chair, Accreditation Facilitation Committee, Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children, at (515) 289-1608 or mdstolze@juno.com.

Support for National Accreditation Offered

NAEYC policy with respect to the NAEYC Academy for Early Childhood Program Accreditation states, "NAEYC Accreditation shall be accessible by ALL early childhood programs." Due to the recent increase in the fees associated with NAEYC Accreditation, they are offering support for currently accredited programs. "Accreditation Scholarships" will be awarded primarily on the basis of financial need and can be used to subsidize and support the fees associated with the filing of Annual Reports and the required Validation Visit. To download the application, visit www.naeyc.org/accreditation/pdf/accreditation_scholarship_program.pdf.

Iowa AEYC offers grants to centers seeking accreditation or re-accreditation for 50% of the total cost of the application and validation fees. For more information or to download the application, visit www.iowaaeyc.org/accreditationgrant.pdf.

Accreditation Resource Materials have been added to the Early Childhood Resource Collection at the Disability Resource Library. Direct all inquiries and orders to, 1-800-272-7713. Materials, if available, can be shipped immediately or reserved in advance.

For an online catalog of current titles visit the Center for Disabilities and Development website:
<http://www.healthcare.uiowa.edu/cdd/multiple/drl/drl.asp>.

Iowa Head Start



Excellent Resource Just Released:

Iowa Head Start Association 2004 Annual Report

For the first time the report aggregates information according to the state result areas, showing the contribution Head Start makes in helping the state reach its early childhood goals. Other data in the report illustrate the comprehensive nature of Head Start services, including early childhood education, health and disabilities services, parent services and other programs that address the whole child. Copies of the report are now available on the Iowa Head Start Association website, www.iowaheadstart.org.

First Year Head Start Impact Study Results Show Program Has Strong, Positive Impact On Children

Submitted by Tom Rendon, Iowa Head Start State Collaboration Office

The Society for Research in Child Development has presented a summary of the first-year findings of the Head Start Impact Study. Here is their summary of the findings:

Statistically significant effects of Head Start were consistently positive.

Evaluators tested 30 outcomes for each of the two groups targeted (3-year-olds and 4-year-olds who had entered Head Start that year). For each of the groups, the number of statistically significant effects found exceeded what one would expect by chance. When statistically significant effects occurred, they were without exception positive (increases in “good” outcomes, decreases in “bad” outcomes). These effects included: better skills in aspects of pre-reading and pre-writing, more access to dental care, better overall physical health, less hyperactivity, fewer behavior problems, and better parenting (more frequent reading to children and lower rates of corporal punishment). No impact of Head Start was found for either of the two age groups on oral comprehension, phonological awareness, early math, aggressive or withdrawn behaviors, social skills, or parental safety practices.

The positive effects of 9 months of Head Start were seen in multiple aspects of child development (cognitive, social, emotional and health) as well as in parenting practices.

The positive effects found did not cluster within a single aspect of children’s development, but occurred across several areas. Research in child development suggests that when positive effects of early childhood programs accumulate across important health and developmental areas, success in the longer term is also more likely.

Head Start narrowed the gap in specific aspects of pre-reading ability between children in poverty and U.S. children as a whole by 45%.

Head Start reduced, by almost half, the achievement gap in pre-reading skills between Head Start children and the national average for all 3- and 4-year olds. The specific skill showing this effect was children’s ability to recognize letters. Few 9-month educational interventions have narrowed the gap between low-income children and U.S. children as a whole to this degree.

The positive effects of Head Start on children are comparable to or larger than those of other large-scale social programs.

The effects of 9 months of Head Start on children’s pre-reading and pre-writing skills are comparable to or larger than the effects of child care quality, welfare reform, wage-supplement programs, or reductions in classroom size on similar outcomes. In addition, unlike these other social programs, Head Start improved children’s health. It is particularly impressive that Head Start produced these effects when many of the children in the study who were randomly assigned to the no-Head-Start group nevertheless were enrolled in child care centers.

It is too early to draw conclusions about differences in effects of Head Start on three- vs. four-year-olds.

The evaluation showed a larger number of statistically significant positive effects on 3-year-olds than 4-year-olds. This may be for a variety of reasons. For example, demographic differences between these two groups in this study’s sample may be responsible for the differences in effects. From the data in the report, it is not possible to determine why this difference occurred; future reports may shed light on this issue. Future reports will also look at children who started Head Start as 3-year-olds and remained in the program for two years.

Head Start’s Performance Standards across multiple areas may explain the range of positive effects.

The Head Start Performance Standards require comprehensive services, across education, child health and nutrition, mental health and social services, and parent involvement. For example, Head Start staff must assist parents in accessing: regular health care, as well as immunizations; well child care; screenings for health, vision, hearing, and behavioral problems; and regular preventive dental care. Parents become involved not only in classroom observation, but also in governance of the program. As the current report shows, classroom quality in Head Start is substantially better than that in other preschool and child care settings for low-income children. Head Start teachers in the study were also more likely than non-Head Start center teachers to report using a curriculum. Future work will look more specifically at the bases of these findings.

For a full copy of the Impact Study, go to http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/hs/impact_study/reports/first.

News from IDPH Oral Health Bureau



By Bob Russell,
IDPH Dental Director



IDPH Oral Health Bureau Seeks To Empower Communities In Addressing Access To Dental Care Community Activities to Improve Access to Dental Care

Oral health is a significant issue for many Iowa children, especially those at high risk for developing disease because of socioeconomic and other factors. When dental problems do occur, they often remain untreated because of lack of access to dental services.

Like many states, Iowa is experiencing a shortage of dentists. Currently 72 of Iowa's 99 counties qualify as a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA). The designation process to identify these areas is currently being updated and it appears that there is potential that additional counties may qualify. With many of Iowa's dentists nearing retirement, this problem will worsen in the coming decade. These issues make prevention an even more critical priority-especially for young children.

Throughout the state there are many communities actively addressing access to care. The Iowa Department of Public Health's Access to Baby and Child Dentistry (ABCD) program is proving to be the most promising program in Iowa for building infrastructure at the local level. Through the ABCD program, Title V child health agencies receive limited funding to increase access to dental care for Medicaid-enrolled and other low-income children by building community infrastructure and outreach activities. In 2003, a HRSA (Health Resources Service Administration) grant provided funding to develop an "enhanced" version of the ABCD program (ABCD-E) to address the following principles; collaboration with community partners, coalition-building, development of education system, and development of care coordination system. The following four ABCD-E projects are examples of collaborative community efforts used to meet the challenge of addressing oral health access in unique and interesting methods:

Black Hawk County Health Department, Contact: Rhonda Bottke Phone: (319)-291-2413, Email: rbottke@cfu.net

This Waterloo-based public health department reconvened the Cedar Valley Oral Health Initiative (CVOHI). This group was originally established in 2001 out of a common concern for unmet oral health needs in the Cedar Valley. The CVOHI was in place but was lacking in leadership and momentum to carry out activities that had been determined through a strategic plan. Through the assistance of ABCD-E funding, a facilitator was hired. This individual has assisted the task force to meet more regularly and to complete action steps of the strategic plan. The group has been successful in identifying oral health resources and developing a system of coordination, providing additional oral health services in a central location, developing an oral health plan for the general public, and creating an education plan for professionals and caretakers. There are ongoing efforts to continue collaboration between EPSDT care coordination staff, local dental offices, Head Start nursing staff, Healthy Child Care Iowa nurse consultants and CVHOI. This project serves Black Hawk, Bremer, Buchanan, and Grundy Counties.

Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc., Contact: Cindy Harpenau Phone: (712)-786-3417, Email: charpenau@mid-siouxopportunity.org

Realizing the number of steadily increasing Hispanic families in their area, Mid Sioux Opportunity chose to address the language barrier problems their community was experiencing. A Spanish interpreter was hired to assist with the oral health educational services at schools and aid with dental care coordination visits for families. In addition, a dental hygienist presented oral health information to community groups. Although acquiring a bilingual staff person with dental expertise has been a challenge, feedback has been very positive. Oral health education outreach continues by the dental hygienist. This project serves Cherokee, Ida, Lyon, Plymouth, and Sioux counties.

More Local Examples...

Scott County Health Department, Contact: Tammy Uskavitch

Phone: (563)-336-3131, Email: tuskavitch@davchc.com

Finding dental homes for Scott County children was accomplished by this eastern agency through the development of a Volunteer Care Network (VCN). The VCN is a group of volunteer dentists who have signed agreements to provide treatment to uninsured or underinsured clients needing dental care. The patients are referred by and provided care coordination through the community health center. Mobilization of community partners was gained by asking dentists to participate in the design of the project. Activities accomplished include recruiting volunteer dentists for United Way's Success by 6 Give Kids a Smile Day, orienting Empowerment boards to goals and objectives, and providing outreach to low-income families at childcare/preschool settings. Administrative staff continues to build infrastructure by participating in monthly meetings and related activities of local health initiatives.

Unity Health System, Contact: Jeannine Gothard

Phone: (563)-263-0122, Email: jgothar@unityiowa.org

Unity chose to focus on outreach and education by providing dental continuing education programs for area dentists, hygienists, and assistants. Unity's goals were to build partnerships with area dental practices, increase awareness of public health resources in the community, and gaining cooperative agreements with area dentists to accept referrals of clients. The courses were scheduled at convenient times and locations and used an incentive of continuing education credits to gain participation. Attendance at the meeting continues to grow and dentists that have not yet participated have called to inquire. Some dentists have even agreed to participate with a dental clinic servicing low-income children in Muscatine. Continuation of partnering with community groups and gaining dentist to accept referrals are ongoing efforts. This project covers Muscatine and Louisa counties.

For more information on additional community activities to address access to dental care please contact the Oral Health Bureau within the Iowa Department of Public Health at (515)-281-3733.

Healthy Child Care Iowa

**Sally Clausen, ARNP, BSN
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HCCI Update

The IDPH has early childhood consumer product safety commission product recalls/hazard warnings posted on their website:

<http://www.idph.state.ia.us/hcci/recalls.asp>. The recalls listed fall into five categories:

[Beds and Cribs](#)

[Child Clothing and Shoes](#)

[Equipment \(including infant supplies/equipment\)](#)

[Furniture Related to Child Care and Early Education](#)

[Toys and Play Related Items](#)

Consumers may also visit the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) website to view a complete listing of all recalls: www.cpsc.gov. Early childhood providers are often tempted to purchase second-hand equipment for their business. Providers need to make certain they are not using recalled products or products that have had a hazard warning published.

Consumers may also report unsafe products or products that were involved in an injury. To report unsafe products use the toll-free number for the Consumer Product Safety Commission: 1-800-638-2772 or send an e-mail to info@cpsc.gov

To receive a direct email from CPSC about product recalls subscribe at: <http://www.cpsc.gov/nsn/nsn.html>



Submitted by Lindsay Miller
IDPH
Covering Kids & Families

Cover the Uninsured Week a Success!

Cover the Uninsured Week was an enormous success in Iowa. Numerous events and activities took place around the state. Several proclamations were signed declaring May 1-8, 2005 *Cover the Uninsured Week* in Iowa. Activities included:

- The mayor of Iowa City declared May 1-8, 2005 *Cover the Uninsured Week* in Iowa City. A proclamation was given at the Iowa City, city council meeting.
- *Cover the Uninsured Week* literature and posters were given to local hospitals, where they were featured in display cases. Sign up assistance was also provided over the noon hour every day during the week.
- A special *Cover the Uninsured Week* booth and car seat safety check was held in the Siouxland Community Health Center parking lot.
- *Cover the Uninsured Week* materials were displayed at “Pride Parade,” a local festival in Council Bluffs.
- *Cover the Uninsured Week* information was displayed at physician offices, dental offices, pharmacies, WIC clinics, public libraries, churches, schools and child care centers.
- 1,500 *hawk-i* brochures were distributed to all American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) soccer players in Dubuque County.
- The Knoxville city mayor signed a proclamation declaring May 1-8, 2005 *Cover the Uninsured Week* in Knoxville.
- A very successful Town Hall Meeting sponsored by former Governor Terry Branstad and Des Moines University was held in Polk County. Former Governor Robert Ray moderated the meeting and a distinguished guest panel was present. Panel members included: Dr. Steve Eckstat, Free Clinics of Iowa; Ted Boesen, Iowa/Nebraska Primary Care Association; Susan Hunsacker, Broadlawns Medical Center; Jim Donoghue, Healthcare Coverage for Kids Coalition; and Rachel Lewis, Neighborhood Health Initiative.
- Radio and television interviews were conducted, *hawk-i* billboards were put up and local public health departments filled their windows with *Cover the Uninsured Week* information.
- Governor Vilsack signed a proclamation declaring May 1-8 *Cover the Uninsured Week* in Iowa.

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