



## Early Childhood Iowa Monday Musings October 17, 2016 Vol. 3, No. 35

Welcome to the ECI **Monday Musings**. It is a compilation of information, practical advice, training announcements, and/or success stories. **Monday Musings** is intended to disseminate information to Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholders in a timely fashion. (We may on occasion send out a separate email with information if it needs immediate attention or if for a specific audience.)

Please let us know if you have something you would like to contribute or have suggestions or comments at [jeffrey.anderson@iowa.gov](mailto:jeffrey.anderson@iowa.gov)

Back Issues of Monday Musing are available [here](#).

*"Children do not change, only policies do.*

*-Rae Pica*

### State Information:

#### DHS Releases New Communication Guides

*Registration & Licensing Standards and Procedures*

The Department of Human Services announces the release of new Iowa regulations!

- Comm 95 - Minimum Health & Safety Standards
- Comm 143 - Child Development Home Registration Guidelines
- Comm 204 - Center Licensing Standards & Procedures
- Chapter 109 - Center Licensing Rules
- Chapter 110 - Child Development Homes Registration Rules
- Chapter 120 - Child Care Home Rules
- Chapter 170 - Requirements for Child Care Assistance

Communication Guides are available on the CCR&R [website](#) and the DHS [Provider Portal](#).

Please contact your CCR&R [Child Care Consultant](#) with any questions you may have.

#### Iowa's Barriers to Prenatal Care Project

The findings in this summary are based on the Iowa Barriers to Prenatal Care project. Ongoing since 1991, the purpose of this project is to obtain brief, accurate information about women delivering babies in Iowa hospitals. Specifically, the project seeks to learn about women's experiences getting prenatal or delivery care during their current pregnancy. Other information is included which may be pertinent to health planners or those concerned with the systematic development of health care services.

This project is a cooperative venture of all of Iowa's maternity hospitals, the University of Northern Iowa Center for Social and Behavioral Research, and the Iowa Department of Public Health. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation funded the first three years of this project. The current funding is provided by the

Iowa Department of Public Health. The Director is Dr. Mary Losch, University of Northern Iowa Center for Social and Behavioral Research. The Coordinator for the project is Rodney Muilenburg.

To Look at State and County Information: [Iowa's Barriers to Prenatal Care Project](#)

## **Federal Information:**

### **Healthy Active Living Learning Collaborative**

#### **Call for Applications!**

One in four U.S. children under age 5 is either overweight or obese. These children experience greater school absenteeism, miss learning opportunities, and have increased medical costs. Early education centers have a chance to support national obesity prevention efforts through interventions and supportive policies that promote nutrition and physical activity. The National Center on Early Childhood Health and Wellness (NCECHW) is now accepting applications from programs to participate in a Learning Collaborative process. This professional development initiative will give 10 teams the chance to implement healthy active living interventions in their program.

#### About the Learning Collaborative

Participants will engage in two in-person trainings to build fundamental knowledge and skills. Activities will promote team building and peer-to-peer learning for healthy active living initiatives around several areas. These include staff wellness, nutrition education, physical activity, and family engagement.

In addition, quarterly virtual training and technical assistance will be offered between learning sessions. Teams will use an action planning process to improve program quality. The teams will participate in a final in-person session in order to document successes, best practices, barriers, and implementation strategies.

#### Who Should Apply?

Head Start, Early Head Start, child care, family child care, and preschool programs are eligible to apply. This training is open to programs with previous experience in implementing policies and practices related to healthy active living, as well as those programs seeking to begin this work in this area.

#### The Application Process

Selected programs will receive \$3,000 each to assist with the costs of facilitating activities that focus on programmatic and policy interventions. For more details about the award, please:

- Review the full Call for Application Guidelines: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/health/docs/ncechw-hal-learning-collab-application-overview.pdf>
- Complete the Online Application: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2016HALLearningCollabApplication>
- Download and complete the Budget Template: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/health/docs/ncechw-hal-learning-collab-budget-template.pdf>

## Important Dates and Deadlines

Applications are due no later than 4 p.m. EDT on Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2016. This includes the Online Application and completed Budget Template. Applicants will be notified of an award decision the week of Nov. 21, 2016. For all other dates, review the full Call for Application Guidelines.

Interested in applying for the Learning Collaborative but have questions? Join us for the a webinar best fits your schedule to learn more:

### Wednesday, Oct. 12 at 1 p.m. EDT

Registration link: <https://cc.readytalk.com/r/tsb787nxxou&eom>

### Thursday, Oct. 13 at 1 p.m. EDT

Registration link: <https://cc.readytalk.com/r/hv1y37ku7x4r&eom>

If you have any questions, please contact Florence Rivera, MPH, at [frivera@aap.org](mailto:frivera@aap.org) or 1-847-434-4790.

## Moving Toward More Effective Monitoring Strategies: Joint Policy Statement on Coordinated Efficiencies in Monitoring and Oversight of Early Care and Education Programs Released

On September 30, 2016, the final [CCDF regulations](#) were published in the Federal Register. Among the many important health, safety, and child development requirements contained in the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014, are provisions related to the frequency of inspections and competency and workload of inspectors. On September 29, 2016, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Agriculture (USDA) issued a [joint policy statement on Coordinated Efficiencies in Monitoring and Oversight of Early Care and Education programs](#).

The HHS and USDA [joint monitoring policy statement](#) aims to:

- Encourage states to align monitoring policies and procedures across funding streams where appropriate rather than monitoring exclusively by funding stream;
- Recommend efficiencies that could be achieved through coordination, collaboration, cross-training, differential monitoring, data sharing, and greater use of technology;
- Shift the current focus of monitoring from one of “compliance only” to “continuous quality improvement”;
- Increase access to CACFP to promote nutritious meals and snacks for children in early care and education settings;
- Recommend adoption of a core set of health and safety standards ([Caring for Our Children Basics: Health and Safety Foundations for Early Care and Education](#)) that apply across programs to support the alignment of monitoring policies and procedures;
- Share examples of best practices and resources to support states in creating a culture of safe, healthy and developmentally appropriate early childhood settings; and
- Ensure that results of monitoring visits are used to target technical assistance and other supports to promote changes in behavior and improve overall quality of service.

The joint policy statement includes 10 recommendations derived from feedback HHS and USDA heard through listening sessions with stakeholders across the country. The reauthorization of CCDBG, the

new Head Start Performance Standards and final CCDF regulations offer an opportunity to review current monitoring systems to better align standards and promote greater efficiencies in a more effective, uniform, and cost-effective approach to monitoring.

The final CCDF regulations offer guidance to implement the new law. The [joint policy statement](#) is offered to support both the law and the regulations. To assist states in rethinking monitoring approaches, HHS has developed [a new web page](#) with tools and resources to spur discussion, ideas, and innovation to promote more effective monitoring strategies that better support monitors, providers, and the children who will benefit.

## **A Message from Linda K. Smith, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Early Childhood Development, ACF:**

### **A New Vision for Child Care**



On September 23, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) published the final Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Rule. This rule was more than 18 years in the making, and it is gratifying to see it come out as one of the last official documents of this Administration’s early childhood agenda. For us at ACF it is the last and most complicated piece of the puzzle to solve. Child care has been what we fondly call a “patchwork of programs” that were, for the most part, disconnected from each other. It consists of for-profit and nonprofit centers, school-age and faith-based programs, and family child care homes. With no minimal health, safety, or teacher requirements in place, the quality of care has varied greatly and sometimes has even been dangerous.

We have known now for several decades that the earliest years matter the most, but as a Nation, we have failed to act on our own science. There are more than 11 million children younger than age 5 in some kind of nonparental child care each week. That’s *most* of the children in this age group. Most children enter child care before their first birthday (58%), and they spend an average of 39 hours per week in these settings. We all know the neuroscience, and suffice it to say, those 39 hours are critical to our Nation’s youngest children with regard to their brain development; learning; wellness; and later, academic achievement. The quality of child care does matter, and it matters most to children from our lowest income families. We also know that the most important indicator of high quality is the quality of adult-child interactions, which are heavily influenced by the quality of the training and professional development and the pay of the teachers—yes *teachers*—who work in the child care field.

The new CCDF regulations will finally put a foundation under child care and will begin the difficult task of building an early care and education (ECE) system. Without a foundation, we cannot reasonably expect to have a *real* system. Although minimal, the new requirements for training, health and safety, regular monitoring, and background clearances will establish that floor on which we can build.

The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) law, which was reauthorized in 2014, recognizes the need for a new vision of child care in the United States. In the new vision all children have access to high-quality child care, and parents face fewer barriers in seeking help to find and pay for child care. This law puts the country on the path to true child care reform. We are grateful to Senators Mikulski and Burr for their leadership on the CCDBG reauthorization, as the changes brought to CCDBG and this regulation will benefit all children and families who rely on child care, not just the 1.4 million children who are part of the CCDF program.

Last month, ACF issued the new Head Start Program Performance Standards. We were fortunate to have both the child care and Head Start regulations being drafted at the same time. This process has allowed us to align the two regulations whenever permitted by legislation. It also creates a pathway for the improvement of child care from the newly established foundation toward a level of quality more consistent with Head Start. This effort in turn will lead to all children in America having access to higher levels of safe, healthy, and developmentally appropriate care. No matter what door a child walks in through—whether child care, Head Start, or prekindergarten—their experience should be high-quality, their social-emotional development fostered, and their learning stimulated.

Office of Child Care (OCC) policy staff members deserve big congratulations for their impressive work on this groundbreaking regulation. The regulatory changes reflect the best research about the importance of quality ECE, build on State innovations, and improve the health and safety for children in child care.

Over the next few months you will learn more about implementing the new rule. OCC will provide information; our Regional Offices will work with States; and our new Technical Assistance Centers will help States and communities. The changes in this law and regulation will benefit all children and families who rely on child care, not only the 1.4 million children who receive a CCDF program subsidy each month. Criminal background checks for child care staff, accessible consumer information and education for parents and caregivers, and increased investment in improving child care quality are key components of the law and regulation that are positive for all children and families.

As we were preparing a briefing on the impact of the new child care rule for Tribal grantees, I was thinking about my start in child care on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation. I was reminded of the “Circle of Life” that I learned about while living there. In many ways this rule completes a circle of my professional life that began when I opened that brand new day care center in a trailer in Lame Deer, Montana. We have learned a lot since then, and we are finally on the path to helping child care take its rightful and substantial place in the early education landscape. After all, child care *is* the biggest early learning program in the country.

### **FY 2015 TANF Financial Data: How States Spent Their Funds**

The Administration for Children and Families’ Office of Family Assistance (OFA) released the *fiscal year (FY) 2015 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) financial data*. This year’s financial data reflects the addition of new expenditure categories and changes to the accounting method, offering more insight into how States actually spend their funds.

- In FY 2015 combined Federal TANF and State maintenance-of-effort (MOE) expenditures and transfers totaled \$31.3 billion. Across the United States in FY 2015:
  - 24.6% of TANF and MOE funds was spent on basic assistance
  - 6.5% was spent on work, education, and training activities
  - 16.8% was used for child care (including funds transferred to the Child Care and Development Fund).
- A total of 26 States spent fewer than half of their TANF and MOE funds on the combination of basic assistance; work, education, and training activities; and child care. [\*OFA’s interactive map\*](#) shows the distribution of this spending by State.

See the full blog by Susan Golonka, Acting Director, OFA, at [\*The Family Room Blog\*](#).

If you are interested in knowing how each of the 50 States and the District of Columbia spent their TANF and MOE funds, OFA has posted individual *State pie charts* reflecting the 2015 data.

## Other Information:



### **Child Care Cliff Effect: a barrier to self-sufficiency**

**You are invited to the next OpportUNITY Summit:**

**Tuesday, October 25  
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm  
Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden.**

Our next OpportUNITY Summit will focus on the **Child Care Cliff Effect**. This issue adversely impacts families striving for self-sufficiency by limiting access to quality child care.

National expert, Christine Johnson-Staub from CLASP, and state experts from the Iowa Policy Project, will share how the Child Care Cliff Effect impacts families, child care providers and businesses.

Attend this OpportUNITY Summit to help us remove the **Child Care Cliff Effect** as a barrier out of poverty and give families access to quality child care.

### **Protective Factors Framework Training**

Prevent Child Abuse Iowa is excited to announce the Protective Factors Framework Training. The training produced by the National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds' (Alliance) offers a comprehensive suite of training materials that supports implementation of the Strengthening Families™ Protective Factors Framework in multiple settings. The curriculum content includes materials on partnering with parents and concrete examples of everyday actions that research has shown to be effective in strengthening families.

### **The Core Content of the Curriculum**

- Seven courses, each designed to be about two hours in length
- An introduction to the Framework (also useful as a stand-alone orientation)
- A course on each of the five protective factors in the Strengthening Families™ Protective Factors Framework
- A wrap-up course that moves participants from knowledge to action
- Real-life parent stories that document the power of building protective factors
- Videos sharing everyday actions that state systems and private organizations have taken to implement the Framework
- A list of key sources, references and websites to support the content of each course

This two day training is offered free of charge and open to direct service workers, administration, CPPC members, Iowa Child Abuse Prevention Council Members and community volunteers interested in strengthening families. Please register at the link with your preferred training site. A flyer is attached for promotion among your networks. (Sessions will be limited to 30 participants, other sessions may be opened if this number is exceeded.)

December 1-2

Waterloo Public Library

9:15 am – 4 pm

<https://ctfalliance.wufoo.com/forms/strengthening-families-pff-training-waterloo/>

December 7-8

Indianola YMCA

9 am – 4 pm

<https://ctfalliance.wufoo.com/forms/zfb01ka0876i7y/>

### **Kids' Share 2016**

First Focus released ***Kids' Share 2016: Report on Federal Expenditures on Children Through 2015 and Future Projections***, its tenth annual analysis of federal spending and tax investments in children and families. The report projects that absent any policy change, the budget for children will continue to decline.

### **What is KinderNature?**

[KinderNature.org](http://KinderNature.org) contains nature-based outdoor inquiry activities and includes correlation to the Iowa Early Learning Standards 2012. All activities were reviewed by the Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children for being developmentally appropriate and incorporating a variety of learning styles. Many activities will meet Head Start Performance Standards. Did we say activities — over 300 activities! [Click here](#) to sign up to receive KinderNature email updates and blog posts! A new page has been added to the site to support Growing Up WILD! Be sure to visit and check out the book search for Pre-K to 2nd grade and adult books related to learning in and about the outdoors!

## **New Report: The First 1,000 Days: Nourishing America’s Future**

*The First 1,000 Days: Nourishing America’s Future*, a new report from 1,000 Days, examines the nutritional health of America’s mothers, infants and toddlers and highlights a set of “wins” to ensure that every child in the U.S. can have a healthy first 1,000 days.

## **Building Communications Capacity: How to improve outreach to Latinos**

U.S. Latinos are a large, diverse, and fast-growing population. For service providers, effectively reaching and communicating with them is essential. [The Child Trends Hispanic Institute](#), in collaboration with [the Crimsonbridge Foundation](#), has assembled a new guidebook to help service providers and educators find the most effective ways to reach their audience. Join us for a related webinar on **Tuesday, Oct 18th**, from **2 - 3 p.m. ET**. Learn how to create an evidence-based, strategic communication plan with a clear series of steps: getting to know your audience, setting objectives, messaging, outreach strategy, tactical execution, and data collection. [Register here](#).

Read more here: [Reaching and Engaging with Hispanics](#)

**For more information about Early Childhood Iowa, visit our website:**

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

**To join the ECI Stakeholders, please complete the commitment survey at:**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FSXR5F2>

## **2016 ECI Meeting Calendar:**

### **ECI State Board**

10:00 – 1:00

November 4

### **ECI State Dept. Directors**

8:30 – 10:30

October 7

### **ECI Stakeholders Alliance**

3 – 4 Hour meetings

December 13 (PM)

### **ECI Steering Committee**

Time Varies

November 3 (9:00 AM – Noon)

### **ECI Area Directors**

December 7 All day