



Early Childhood Iowa Monday Musings February 9, 2015 2015 Vol. 2, No. 6

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

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

*“A child's life is like a piece of paper on which every person leaves a mark”
Chinese Proverb*

State Information:

RSVP for the 2015 ECI Day-on-the-Hill March, 5 2015 (RSVP by February 25, 2015)

The 2015 Early Childhood Day on the Hill event will be held on **Thursday, March 5th**! Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend. This year's event will focus on the importance of brain development in the first 2,000 days of life. The keynote presentation will be given by Dr. Andrea McGuire, followed by regional and individual meetings with legislators. More information will follow closer to the date.

To register for the 2015 ECI Day-on-the-Hill:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/66KDPRS>

For an outline of the 2015 ECI Day-on-the-Hill visit:
[Save the Date](#)

LAST CHANCE TO SIGN UP:

A Day-on-the-Hill preparation webinar is planned for February 10, 2015, 9:00 – 11:00 AM.

Materials will be presented and well as logistics for the day.

To sign up for the February 10 webinar:

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/608060769>



Iowa Department of Public Health Seeking Nominations for the Family Support Participant of the Year and the Family Support Professional of the Year. (Due February 18, 2015)

IDPH has some exciting news from the world of Iowa Family Support and they need your help!

This is our chance to recognize and honor the hard work of families and family support professionals in Iowa.

One family and one family support professional will be selected from all nominations received and will be recognized at the opening night reception of the **2015 Child Abuse Prevention and Family Support**

Conference (April 13, 2015). The person who has nominated said family or family support professional of the year will be notified via email early March if their nominee has been selected. The conference registration will be coming out soon!

Please see both nomination forms attached to this email and feel free to share with others in your agency, your program and as well as family support programs in your area! **Nominations are due no later than February 18, 2015 at 4 p.m** and should be returned via email to PJ West at pj.west@idph.iowa.gov. I have included an audio-photography-video consent and release form if needed.

Iowa Department of Education Seeking Reviewers

The Iowa Department of Education is seeking potential reviewers for FY16 Shared Visions Parent Support Applications submitted by various programs and organizations to provide quality educational support programs to parents of children with risk factors aged birth to five-years. Reviewers must have expertise in early childhood and knowledge of parent educational support programs. Experience in fiscal management may also be beneficial.

Please see the attached ***Reviewer Information Sheet*** for details and note there is a very brief interest survey with a completion date of March 6, 2015. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Amy Stegeman at amy.stegeman@iowa.gov.

Federal Information:

It's Your Time to Chime In

Let's face it; this week you were probably inundated with hundreds—if not thousands—of emails, calls, texts, and social media posts. You may have missed the fact that earlier this week, President Obama sent his 2016 Fiscal Year budget proposal to Congress.

This week's budget announcement is a big deal for teachers, parents, and students. In fact, if you're like the President and our team at the Department of Education, you probably believe that education is at the core of a successful and economically competitive America.

Secretary of Education Arne Duncan often says that budgets are more than numbers—that they reflect our values. In the coming weeks, *Secretary Duncan will testify before Congress on this year's budget proposal, but before he goes, he wants to hear from you.*

Tell Secretary Duncan what the budget means for you, so he can share that message when he testifies before Congress.

In a nutshell, President Obama's 2016 budget proposal reflects the belief that education is a priority and an important investment. The education request in the budget is larger than last year's request and will:

- Increase equity and opportunity for students;
- Expand high-quality early learning programs;
- Support teachers and school leaders; and
- Improve access and affordability to postsecondary education.

[Read the details of the President's budget proposal and how it will affect education.](#)

We know that at schools around the country, dollars are stretched thin, and that every penny in education makes a difference. That's why budgets are important. They reflect our belief that education is at the core of what makes our country great.

Other Information:

Save-the Children Action Network hosts Screening of A Path Appears (From E.J. Wallace, Manager of Mobilization, Iowa)

On Monday, February 16th at Drake University in Des Moines, Save the Children Action Network is partnering with the Drake University Sociology Program to host an [exciting event](#) in your community - a local screening of the PBS special, *A Path Appears*. This amazing documentary, featuring Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, makes a compelling case for why investing in kids is the best way to combat poverty.

We'll be showing a part of the film that tells the story of how helping an at-risk kid when they're young can have a huge impact. Following the film, you can take part in a discussion about what it's going to take to ensure that all kids, regardless of where they come from, get a fair shot at a health and productive life.

[Will you join me?](#)

Come learn about the challenges and opportunities around early learning programs in the United States with like minded people in your community. And hear how you can help advocate for more programs here in Iowa. If every kid was given the same opportunity to succeed, think of the future we could have!

The event details are:

Where: Drake University, Harvey Ingham Hall, Room 104

When: 7-8pm, Monday February 16th

I've seen this film and I can tell you it's amazing. You won't want to miss it!

[Hope to see you there!](#)

Family Engagement Webinar, February 12, 2015

Join the McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership for a free webinar! [Family Engagement and Marketing: An ECE Leader's Guide to Accomplishing Both](#)

New Report: "Two Generations Together"

[The National Head Start Association](#) (NHSA) looks forward to building on this momentum and has released a report highlighting the exceptional efforts of Head Start programs in designing effective two-generation solutions aimed at breaking the cycle of poverty and putting families on the path to self-sufficiency. The report, ["Two](#)



[Generations Together](#)” examines common mechanisms for funding, partnerships and research in an effort to disseminate strategies that will help other Head Start and early learning programs develop or enhance two-generation work of their own. NHSA released the report and recognized the featured Head Start programs last month during their [Two Generations Together Institute](#) last month.

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>

2015 ECI Meeting Calendar:

ECI State Board

10:00 – 1:00

April 3

June 5

September 4 November 6

ECI State Dept. Directors

8:30 – 9:30

February 6

March 6

May 1

August 7

October 2

December 4

ECI Stakeholders Alliance

3 – 4 Hour meetings

February 10 (9:00 AM Webinar)

March 5 (AM) Held in conjunction with the ECI Day on the Hill

May 12 (PM)

September 8 (AM)

December 8 (PM)

ECI Steering Committee

Time Varies

March 12 (9:00 – 4:00 PM)

April 2 (9:00 AM – Noon)

June 4 (9:00 AM – Noon)

August 4 (9:00 AM – 4:00 PM)

October 1 (9:00 AM – Noon)

November 5 (9:00 AM – Noon)

ECI Area Directors

All day

April 8

(June will be regional meetings)

September 16

(December will be regional meetings)

Early Childhood Iowa Day on the Hill

March 5, 2015