



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

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](#).

"If we don't stand up for children, then we don't stand for much."
-Marian Wright Edelman

State Information:

2015 Materials for ECI Day-on-the Hill available on-line [HERE](#)

The 2015 Early Childhood Day on the Hill event will be held on **Thursday, March 5th**! The keynote presentation will be given by Dr. Andrea McGuire, followed by regional and individual meetings with legislators.

Registration/Sign-in will begin at 9:00 AM at the Wallace Building.

With the exception of the "local story" template, all materials will be printed and available in folder at the event.



Prevent Child Abuse Iowa Conference

Date: April 13-15

The Child Abuse Prevention and Family Support Conference provides a diverse line-up of national-level speakers, in-depth workshops and networking opportunities designed to advance the skills of Iowa's family support and early childhood professionals. It is organized by Prevent Child Abuse Iowa in collaboration with the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program under the Iowa Department of Public Health.

Location: Des Moines Marriott Downtown, 700 Grand Ave., Des Moines

For more information or to register: [PCA Conference](#)

From the Iowa Department of Public Health: Iowa Not Awarded Competitive Grant

The Iowa Department of Public Health was notified on 2/19/15 that we were not awarded a competitive Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) grant. This was not the news we were expecting or wanted to hear. Iowa was held up as the model for other states. We were asked continuously to provide technical assistance to other states on how to implement a successful home visiting program. Our performance was second to none.

We believe that the review process was flawed. IDPH is in the process of appealing that decision and will follow every avenue available.

You may be wondering, so what exactly does this mean? How does this impact my community or our state? What does this mean in terms of home visiting services to vulnerable families? The following bullet points describe the loss - -

- \$6.6 million dollars annually in federal funds will be directed away from Iowa to other states
- Evidence-based home visiting services to 2,854 moms, dads and babies will abruptly end
- 247 jobs are impacted

This does not include funding, services and jobs in the seven additional communities where we had planned to expand this spring with the new funding award. It also does not include the infrastructure building projects that have benefitted all Iowa communities such as the professional development activities for home visitors.

IDPH's number one priority is to continue home visiting services to vulnerable families. If we are not successful in the appeal process we will begin the process of terminating existing contracts for services that are not for the direct provision of home visiting services in order to re-obligate those funds toward home visiting services to extend services for as long as possible. All non-essential expenditures have already been suspended at the contractor and state level.

Please be patient with us in the next few weeks as we may not have answers to your questions. We are struggling with many different moving parts. If you or your community partners would like to know how you might be able to advocate for the funding to be restored to Iowa, please let us know. We can include you to our **advocacy** updates which will include program updates too. If you are interested in keeping apprised of the situation but do not wish to know about any advocacy, you can let us know and we can add you to the **program** update distribution list. To join either list, contact PJ West to be added. Please be clear which distribution list – advocacy or program? PJ.West@idph.iowa.gov

Iowa Department of Human Services Announces New Service Area Managers

Mike McInroy has been appointed as the new Service Area Manager for the **Des Moines Service Area**. As of February 27, 2015, Mike is no longer "interim". Mike has a Master's degree in Social Work and over 17 years of experience with DHS. He has served as a Social Worker, Supervisor, Community Liaison, and most recently has been a Social Work Administrator in Des Moines. Mike also has experience working for private child welfare providers.

Matt Majeski has been appointed as the new Service Area Manager for the **Cedar Rapids Service Area**. Matt will assume his new duties on March 13, but will begin some transitioning now. Matt has a Master's degree in Psychology and over 9 years of experience with DHS. He has served as a Social Work Supervisor in both Minnesota and Iowa, and was most recently a Social Work Administrator in Waterloo.

Three New Videos Illustrate Family Guided Routines Based Intervention

Source: Iowa Department of Education and Florida State University - February 24, 2015

Early ACCESS in Iowa in collaboration with the Distance Mentoring Model at Florida State University recently published [three new videos](#) illustrating Family Guided Routines Based Intervention (FGRBI). The first two videos show what FGRBI looks like during early intervention home visits, and is narrated by providers and family members who reflect on a number of key strategies and themes. In the third video, a parent offers her perspective on the use of toy bags by home visitors.

- o [A Home Visit with Kris and Kiyah](#) (10:50)
- o [A Home Visit with Brandon's Family](#) (7:55)
- o [Parents Talk About the Toy Bag](#) (2:00)

Federal Information:

From the Federal Administration for Children and Families:

Childhood diseases like measles can cause children pain and discomfort. They can lead to doctor visits, hospitalization, and even death. Immunizations are the best way to protect young children from 14 serious diseases, including measles. As you are likely aware, there have been recent measles outbreaks in the U.S. The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) is reaching out to our partners in child care and Head Start to help prevent further cases by underscoring the importance of immunization.

Measles can be dangerous—especially for babies and young children. Measles spreads very easily, so it is important to protect against infection. To prevent measles, eligible children should be vaccinated with the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine. The measles vaccine has been used for years, and it is safe and effective.

ACF's Office of Head Start and Office of Child Care consider it critical that children in programs are vaccinated according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) immunization recommendations. Head Start programs are required to help children in their care become current with their vaccinations.

The CDC has provided guidance for early childhood programs that can be accessed at: <http://www.cdc.gov/measles/downloads/child-care-centers.pdf>. This document includes guidance for child care programs to follow State and local immunization requirements and also discusses what to do if a case of measles occurs in your program.

One of the most important contributions Early Head Start, Head Start, and child care programs can make is to reach out to parents. CDC has also provided sample materials and articles to share with parents in newsletters, web pages, or other publications.

- [Immunization Protects Us All\[1 page\]\(http://www.cdc.gov/measles/downloads/matte-immunization-protects.pdf\)](http://www.cdc.gov/measles/downloads/matte-immunization-protects.pdf) (279 words)
- [Five Important Reasons to Vaccinate Your Child \[2 pages\]\(http://www.cdc.gov/measles/downloads/matte-reasons-vaccinate.pdf\)](http://www.cdc.gov/measles/downloads/matte-reasons-vaccinate.pdf) (609 words)
- Easy-to-read vaccination schedules in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)

Other Information:

From the McCormick Institute:

How might brain science and public policy connect to build executive function skills in young children? Read the [new brief](#) from the Institute for Child Success. (Many articles are at this website.)

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

May 1

October 2

ECI Stakeholders Alliance

3 – 4 Hour meetings

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 17 (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