



Early Childhood Iowa  
Monday Musings  
March 16, 2015  
2015 Vol. 2, No. 11

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](#).

*"I never teach my pupils; I only attempt to provide the conditions in which they can learn"*  
-Albert Einstein

## State Information:

### Governor Appoints members to the ECI State Board/ Senators Appointed to the Board

Last Governor Branstad appointed the following citizens to the ECI State Board. Their appointment is effective May 1, 2015 and subject to approval by the Senate.

Ms. Betty Zan, Cedar Falls\*  
Ms. Brook Rosenberg, Des Moines\*  
Ms. Jean Stadlander, Manning\*  
Ms. Katherin Averill, Fort Dodge  
Mr. Michael Bunde, Denison\*  
Mr. Robert Ockerman, Adel\*  
Ms. Shaun Ward Taylor, Waukee  
Ms. Sigrid Lane, Waterloo\*  
Mr. Terry Harrmann, Des Moines (Completing an existing unexpired term)  
Ms. Leone Junck, Ogden\*  
\*Second Term

The following State Senators have been appointed as Ex-Officio members of the ECI State Board:

Senator Rita Hart, Wheatland  
Senator Jason Schultz, Schleswig

## **Iowa Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visitation (MIECHV) Update 03-13-15**

### **Federal and State Priorities**

IDPH has been given some clear direction from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA.) We have been told that we must:

1. Maintain home visiting services and full capacity
2. Maintain all home visiting staff
3. Maintain evaluation activities

In order to maintain home visiting services IDPH will need to implement what we have referred to as, "Plan B." This plan calls for a possible reduction, suspension or termination of infrastructure building contracts so funds may be redirected toward the core service of home visiting. We are in the process of reviewing each project to carefully consider impacts and unintended consequences. Please know that IDPH values all of our contractors and believe that each project provides an important and valued service.

### **MIECHV Reauthorization**

The goal is to get us through to September 30 when a new round of MIECHV funding will be available, dependent upon reauthorization occurring. House Majority Leader McCarthy released the legislative schedule for the rest of the month, and MIECHV reauthorization is scheduled for a floor vote in the House the week of **March 23-26**. We hope MIECHV will be reauthorized for two or more years at current funding levels, but final decisions have not been made. No timeline for Senate passage has yet been made public; authorization for the program expires on March 31. Congresswoman Ellmers (NC) is circulating a letter to her Republican colleagues in support of MIECHV reauthorization in the House. The deadline for signatures is Tuesday, March 17. Senator Grassley (IA) is also circulating a letter to his Republican colleagues in the Senate in support of MIECHV reauthorization. The deadline for signatures on his letter is mid-week next week. Senator Grassley is also working with Senators from the other impacted states on legislation to stabilize funding so this does not happen in the future.

### **Future Outlook**

HRSA is working on a change to the MIECHV formula that will prevent this cliff effect from occurring in the future and will restore funds to Iowa. While there were a few other states that suffered the same fate as Iowa, none of them were quite in the same dire position. Many had not spent down their funds and were late getting started with projects. They were also not on a three year grant cycle with funds ending on March 30, 2015. For Iowa it really was a "perfect storm."

### **MIECHV Contractor Communication**

IDPH is hoping to post a new notice of intent to award within the next week for our home visiting contracts. We will be in touch individually with our infrastructure building contractors within approximately the next week to ten days.

### **Home Visiting State Office**

IDPH is trimming our home visiting state office budget back to only grant required activities. This financial crisis has presented opportunities as well. We are hearing from other states that would like to partner to continue the work that we have started with our infrastructure building activities. We also have had other state partners reach out with creative solutions to keep our ship afloat.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

There are a few frequently asked questions that I would like to address in this update. Please help us with getting the correct information out to people.

**Question One:** Are you still having the Iowa Family Support and Prevent Child Abuse Iowa conference? How about the pre-conference or opening night reception?

*Answer: yes, yes, and yes. Most of the expenses have already occurred for the conference. We will be making some slight adjustments that will lower some costs but the attendees should not notice a difference or a dip in quality or content.*

**Question Two:** Are we still going to be using the REDCap data system? Are ECI areas going to be expected to pick up the costs?

*Answer: Yes and no. The federal and state governments both require us to have a data reporting system. There is no expectation for ECI Areas to assume any costs for REDCap.*

**Question Three:** How does the federal reduction in funds impact coordinated intake?

*Answer: MIECHV home visiting targeted communities are still required to develop/participate in local coordinated intake systems. IDPH has partnered with the Iowa Department of Education, Early ACCESS to blend funds to support a single statewide system for parents and other referral partners to make connect families with needed resources such as Early ACCESS or family support programming.*

**Question Four:** Does the reduction in funds mean we aren't doing the competency assessment?

*Answer: No, we are required to keep this moving forward. Iowa has been approached by a few other states that would like to provide funding for this project.*

**Question Five:** How will this impact the delivery of technical assistance?

*Answer: IDPH only has funding for MIECHV grant required travel to local sites. We are still available by phone, email and will use technology to provide technical assistance. Travel to local sites will be greatly curtailed in the next six months. We are also actively searching for creative solutions to meet the needs of non-MIECHV family support contractors for onsite technical assistance and training.*

IDPH has made it a priority to keep our contractors well informed during this financial crisis. We will keep providing updates as information becomes available. I would like to express my gratitude for the many partners and friends of family support in Iowa. Your dedication, thoughtfulness and creativity are truly inspiring!

Janet Horras, IDPH

## **Doing the Right Thing for Children: Eight Qualities of Leadership**

### **Iowa AEYC's Spring Leadership Institute**

May 16, 2015

Altoona, Iowa

#### **Maurice Sykes, special guest and keynoter.**

We (Iowa AEYC) invite you and your colleagues to join us for the annual Spring Leadership Institute, bringing together early childhood leaders across the state for appropriate professional development.

**Registration is now open!** Please share the **attached form and information** about the day with your colleagues and distribution lists. [www.iowaaeyc.org](http://www.iowaaeyc.org)

**Iowa Chapter of NASW Annual Symposium and Awards Luncheon  
“Social Justice”**

April 16 and 17, 2015  
Holiday Inn Des Moines Northwest

**Keynote Speaker on Friday, April 17**

*Dr. Kenneth Hardy*

**“Treating the Invisible Wounds of Trauma:  
A Multicultural Perspective”**

For more information and registration go to: [NASW Symposium](#)

**Federal Information:**

**Head Start: 50 Years of Opportunities**

Fifty years ago our nation made a commitment to opening windows of opportunity for at risk children. Since the summer of 1965, more than 32 million children have benefitted from Head Start’s comprehensive services - they have become business women and men, professors, teachers, lawyers, elected officials, foundation Presidents, Grammy-winning musicians, poets, and parents. To honor [Head Start’s 50th anniversary](#), the National Head Start Association (NHSA) is leading a year-long celebration to celebrate our shared commitment to ensuring every child is given a foundation for future success, in school and in life. If you are a proud Head Start alumni, [identify yourself](#) and join us in celebrating the incredible difference Head Start is making in the lives of at-risk families across the country.

**Other Information:**

**WEBINAR: STEM-sational Learning: What to look for in Early Childhood Programming  
March 19, 2015**

If you’re a children’s or youth services librarian or early childhood professional this webinar is for you! In this [Hatch Early Learning](#)-sponsored webinar, Susan Gunnewig, Vice President of Product Development, draws from her extensive background in early childhood education to give you insights on the importance of STEM curriculum for our youngest learners.

To register: [Here](#)

**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>



Early Childhood Iowa  
Monday Musings  
January 5, 2015  
2015 Vol. 2, No. 1

**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

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)