



## Early Childhood Iowa Monday Musings December 21, 2015 2015 Vol. 2, No. 47

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](#).

*“When people care for you they can straighten out your soul.”*  
-Langston Hughes

*Happy Holidays from the Early Childhood Iowa Office  
We wish the best to all you this Holiday Season. May it be  
a time of celebration with family and friends and time for  
personal renewal as you enter the New Year.*

*We want to thank all of you for your contributions and  
work you have done on behalf of Iowa’s youngest children  
and their families.*



*Looking back at 2015, it was a year of accomplishments and collaborative efforts to reach the ECI Vision ,  
“Every Child, beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful”.*

- The 2015 Early Childhood Day on the Hill event was held on Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup> with 160 participant advocates in attendance. The keynote presentation was given by Dr. Andrea McGuire. Dr. McGuire focused on brain development and the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences. Joanne Lane, ECI Board Chair presented the 2015 Child-at-Heart Award to: **Emilia Marroquin**, Community Outreach Assistant, Head Start, Storm Lake, Iowa and **Julee Albers**, Early Childhood Faculty Member, Northeast Iowa Community College
- The Iowa Department of Public Health was notified early in the year 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. Some of the funds were restored later in the year.
- Deb Weilage of Family Inc. was named Parent Educator of the Year at this year's national Parents as Teachers conference! Watch this [powerful video](#) showcasing the important work Deb and parent educators like her do, and what it means to the families they touch.
- 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.

- Child Care Resource and Referral and the ECI Public Engagement Component Group (Parent Engagement Work Group) collaborated to convene early childhood professionals from various agencies and child care providers in Iowa to create materials for parents who are looking to choose quality child care. The goal of this project was to take the most important Iowa regulations and best practices of child care and present them in a way that could be used by any agency to develop educational resources for parents. As professionals, we can use the new core knowledge document to narrow down topics to make selecting child care easier for parents. *To access them Core Knowledge document, the PowerPoint presentation and the videos go here on the ECI Website:* [Choosing Quality Child Care](#)
- With the re-authorization of the Child Care Development Block Grant, the Department of Human Services sought input from hundreds of stakeholders across the State in developing a new state child care plan to be submitted in 2016. DHS launched a Webpage – *Key Information about Child Care Reauthorization* , [DHS-CCDBG page](#) to provide information about the work on the state plan.
- The Iowa Association for Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health adopted the Michigan Association for Infant Mental Health (MI-AIMH) Endorsement. The intent of the MI-AIMH endorsement is to recognize the professional development of infant and family service providers within the diverse and rapidly expanding infant and family field.
- On May 1, 2015 Governor Branstad signed into law [House File 347](#): An act relating to the licensure of child care programs operated or contracted for by a school district or accredited nonpublic school and including effective date provisions. The Governor also signed appropriation bills for SFY 2016 at the same level as SFY 2015.
- The Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children Spring Leadership Summit featured Maury Sykes, author of [Doing the Right Thing for Children – Eight Qualities of Leadership](#). Attendees learned about the eight qualities he believes are important for a leader: human potential, knowledge, social justice, competence, fun and enjoyment, personal renewal, perseverance, and courage.
- The IA Dept. of Public Health sought public input for the FFY16 Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Block Grant concerning the priorities, needs, and proposed program activities for the Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Block Grant application for FFY16.
- Through a contract from the Early Childhood Iowa Office, Iowa AEYC worked with language specialists to translate the Iowa Early Learning Standards (IELS) into Spanish. There are no plans to print the standards at this time, but feel free to print all or parts of the standards as you like. The Spanish IELS are available on the ECI webpage at: [IELS Spanish Edition](#)
- Iowa communities and organizations have been developing creative responses to address The ACE Study findings. Together these responses are creating a system that is working to prevent ACEs and to mitigate and treat their effects among individuals, families and communities. Click on the links below to learn more about ACE-inspired work across the state. For more information: [Responding to ACES](#)

The next edition of *Monday Musings* will be on January 4, 2016

## State Information:

### Notice of Public Comment Period and Hearing for Iowa's Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) State Plan

The Iowa Department of Human Services, Division of Adult, Children and Family Services, is seeking input on the state's Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) State Plan for Federal Fiscal Years 2016 –2018. Federal regulations require the state to notify the public regarding the state's child care assistance program and the efforts to improve the quality of child care in Iowa.

Iowa's draft CCDF State Plan will be available for review and comment from December 18, 2015 – January 7, 2016. **The plan will be available after 1:00 p.m. on December 18<sup>th</sup> on the DHS website at [www.dhs.iowa.gov](http://www.dhs.iowa.gov).** A link to the plan will be posted on the home page under the slide show. Comments will be accepted by email or US postal mail until 4:30 p.m., Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup>.

A **public hearing** will also occur on **January 7<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.** The meeting will be held at the Iowa Association of Community College Trustees offices located at 855 E. Court Ave., Des Moines, Iowa. You may also attend the public hearing via webinar by registering at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6063536512298101249>. Comment provided in person or via webinar on that day must also be submitted in written form. Oral comment is limited to 5 minutes per person.

Comments must be submitted either by email to [kshacke@dhs.state.ia.us](mailto:kshacke@dhs.state.ia.us) or in writing to Kim Shackelford, Iowa Dept. of Human Services, Division of ACFS-Child Care Bureau, Hoover State Office Bldg., 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, 1305 E Walnut, Des Moines, IA 50319-0114.

### The Early Childhood Day on the Hill event is coming!

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend. Day on the Hill will be held on **Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2016 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.** in the Capitol rotunda. The focus of this year's event will be on the importance of high quality child care. Please consider sending an invitation to your state legislators now! (See Attached Flyer)

Don't know who your legislators are? Find out by visiting <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators>. Get to know your legislators by signing up for newsletters, attending community forums and simply reaching out to them. They want to hear from you! Don't wait until you get to the Capitol. Begin building a relationship today!

### Planner/Consultant Sought

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children are looking to hire a planner/consultant to help them conduct and complete the child reunification plan project in the state of Iowa before October 2018.

If you know anyone who might be interested and would be highly qualified for the position please let Samantha Brear at Iowa Homeland Security know. There is no specific deadline but they IHS trying to bring someone on as soon as possible. Please email Samantha at, [Samantha.brear@iowa.gov](mailto:Samantha.brear@iowa.gov) with your resume if you are interested.

Anyone with specific questions can contact Sharon Hawa-703 837 6269 or [shawa@ncmec.org](mailto:shawa@ncmec.org).

## Federal Information:

### **Bridging the Word Gap Challenge**

HRSA is launching the **Bridging the Word Gap Challenge**, a prize competition to spur the development of a technologically-based intervention that drives parents and caregivers to talk, and engage in more back-and-forth interactions, with their young children (ages 0-4). The innovative solution will promote the early language environment and address the word gap issue. Prizes of up to **\$300,000!** In addition to cash prizes, participants will receive mentoring and matching opportunities for Phases 2 and 3 of the competition. Submissions will be accepted through December 31<sup>st</sup>. Visit [www.wordgapchallenge.hrsa.gov](http://www.wordgapchallenge.hrsa.gov) for further details.

## Other Information:

### **Connections Matter Train-the-Presenter Workshop in Des Moines**

A CARING RELATIONSHIP CAN GIVE A CHILD A GREAT START. IT CAN HELP SOMEONE WITH A HISTORY OF TRAUMA HEAL. IT CAN IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF A NEIGHBOR AND THE WELL-BEING OF A FAMILY. Connections Matter is a community effort. We want everyone to know that fostering caring connections with the children, families and adults in your life matters to developing healthy brains, supportive relationships, and thriving communities.

Connections Matter Train-the-Presenter Workshop in Des Moines  
Tuesday, January 12, 1-4 p.m. (In case of weather, reschedule date is Jan. 21)  
Polk County River Place  
2309 Euclid Ave., Des Moines  
REGISTER at [www.connectionsmatter.org/training](http://www.connectionsmatter.org/training). Cost is \$25

#### Objectives:

- Develop understanding that fostering caring relationships with the children, families and adults in life matters to developing healthy brains, supportive relationships, and thriving communities.
- Learn how to deliver a 20-minute and 50-minute presentation utilizing the Connections Matter curriculum.

Trained presenters will receive PowerPoint slides with notes and takeaway materials to hand out.

- Learn about other resources to support awareness efforts.

Target Audience: Professionals and Community Members

Speakers: Lisa Cushatt, LMSW, Program Manager, Central Iowa ACEs 360

Sarah Welch, Communications Director, Prevent Child Abuse Iowa

Lana Herteen, MA, LMHC, Community Child Advocate, Blank Children's Hospital

*The speakers indicated they have no financial relationships to disclose relevant to the content of this CME activity*

## **Child Abuse Prevention Conference Update**

The [2016 Child Abuse Prevention Conference](#) will take place April 25-27 in downtown Des Moines. Hotel rooms at a discounted rate are now available to reserve with the Des Moines Marriott Downtown. Registration will be launched by late January.

## **School Mobility: Implications for Children's Development**

More than one-fifth of children in the United States are living in [poverty](#). Children growing up in poverty face numerous adversities that can negatively affect their learning and development, starting at a very early age. For example, these children are less likely to have access to books and to hear rich vocabulary; and are more likely to be exposed to violence in their neighborhoods, attend low-quality, under-resourced schools, have stressed parents, live in crowded and/or noisy homes, and have unstable home environments. All of these stressful life experiences can compromise children's learning, as well as their cognitive and social-emotional development.

Moving from school to school can adversely affect child outcomes. NIEER researcher Allison Friedman-Krauss examines the issue in NIEER's latest blog [post](#).

## **Children with Disabilities Benefit from Classroom Inclusion**

A study of 670 preschool-aged children enrolled in 83 early childhood special education classrooms in Ohio finds that the secret to boosting the language skills of preschoolers with disabilities may be to put them in classrooms with typically developing peers. Researchers found that the average language skills of a child's classmates in the fall significantly predicted the child's language skills in the spring – especially for children with disabilities. The results support inclusion policies in schools that aim to have students with disabilities in the same classrooms alongside their typically developing peers. ([The Ohio State University](#))

## **Fostering Early Brain Development**

### **New videos for your organization**

These new short videos from Child Trends offer powerful messages for parents and providers working with young children. They feature Dr. Dana Suskind summarizing research on topics such as why the first three years of life are so important, what we know about early brain development, how to help low-income parents, and more. We'd be happy to have you post them on your website. Just send us a note at [staff@childtrends.org](mailto:staff@childtrends.org).

Watch them [here](#).

## **Will You Be Cooking over the Holidays with Little Helpers?**

The latest free edition of "Baby Talk" connects you with 10 tips for cooking with young children--and [more...](#)

## **Preschoolers' Math Skills Improve with PBS KIDS Content & Family Engagement**

New research demonstrates that PBS KIDS content helps narrow the math achievement gap for children from low-income families and better prepares them for kindergarten. WestEd, a national nonprofit research, development, and service agency, released the findings of a study that measured the impact of PBS KIDS content and family involvement on preschool children's math learning. Study findings suggest that PBS KIDS resources, coupled with family engagement, can help narrow the math achievement gap for children from low-income families and better prepare them for kindergarten.

(WestEd) [Learn More 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>

**2016 ECI Meeting Calendar:**

**ECI State Board**

10:00 – 1:00

January 8

April 1

June 3

September 9

November 4

**ECI State Dept. Directors**

8:30 – 10:30

May 6

October 7

**ECI Stakeholders Alliance**

3 – 4 Hour meetings

February 23 (TBD)

May 10 (PM)

September 13 (AM)

December 13 (PM)

**ECI Steering Committee**

Time Varies

January 7 (9:00 AM – Noon)

March 3 (9:00 – 4:00 PM)

April 7 (9:00 AM – Noon)

June 2 (9:00 AM – Noon)

August 4 (9:00 AM – 4:00 PM)

October 6 (9:00 AM – Noon)

November 3 (9:00 AM – Noon)

**ECI Area Directors**

April 6 All day

(June will be regional meetings)

September 13 (afternoon)

December 7 All day

**Early Childhood Iowa Day on the Hill**

February 23, 2016