



Early Childhood Iowa Monday Musings March 21, 2016 Vol. 3, No. 12

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](#).

“Too often we give our children answers to remember rather than problems to solve.”
-Roger Lewin

State Information:

Early Childhood Iowa Senate File 2299

Senate File 2299 was approved Senate Appropriations committee and placed on the appropriations calendar.

This bill relates to the early childhood Iowa initiative. The early childhood Iowa (ECI) initiative was created to empower individuals, communities, and the state to work together to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of early care, education, health, and human services systems provided to families with children from zero through age five. The ECI state board, ECI area boards, and other state and local government agencies provide support, leadership, and facilitation of the growth of individual, community, and state responsibility in addressing the desired results for improving the quality of life in this state for young children and their families.

To read more about the bill go to: [SF2299](#)

Iowa Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) State Plan

The Iowa Department of Human Services, Division of Adult, Children and Family Services submitted the State Plan to the Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Care on March 1, 2016 and are now awaiting federal approval. Click [Child Care Development Fund State Plan](#) to see the current plan.

ECI Equity Webinar (Save the Date -April 8, 2016)

Last November, the ECI Equity Advisory Committee hosted a one-day event, Early Childhood Iowa Racial Equity Summit, which was designed to promote racial, linguistic and cultural equity across the three ECI settings: Stakeholder Alliance, State Board and local ECI areas. The focus was identifying leadership and policy opportunities that would allow ECI to make a concrete commitment to move toward making racial equity a strategic priority and engaged diverse stakeholders to be part of the leadership and

decision making that is part of that commitment. The result was an exciting and ground-breaking conversation about race, ethnicity early childhood systems building. We want to continue that conversation with a special 90-minute webinar that will build on the work we have started and engage stakeholders, board members and local ECI boards and staff in taking the next steps toward living out a commitment toward racial equity. This webinar will bring you up-to-date on the key points of discussion from the summit, a chance to hear how the summit affected participants and what they are doing with what they learned, and a wider conversation about next step. The webinar is the next important step in carrying forward this important work.

A link to the Webinar will be sent in a future Monday Musings edition.

ECI Racial Equity Webinar: Continuing the Conversation
Friday, April 8, 10:30AM to Noon
Sponsored by ECI Equity Advisory Committee

Federal Information:

Current Wages, Despite Educational Attainment, Undermine Quality Care Goals

By Linda K. Smith, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Early Childhood Development

One of the top goals of the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014 is to increase the number and percentage of low income children in high quality care. What we know is that high quality care is related to the strength of the workforce, which means the education and training, the experience, and pay to attract and retain teachers and caregivers who can offer high quality care.

What we also know is that quality care costs more to provide (i.e., it costs more to attract and retain higher educated staff and to maintain low child:staff ratios, which studies show lead to higher quality/more effective interactions between children and adults). The challenge to expanding access to high quality care in every community is that parents already struggle to afford the cost of care. They simply can't pay more. And, yet, most children in early learning settings today, are in settings financed through parent fees. To promote high quality care across settings, with a well-educated and trained workforce, it is essential that we find an alternative way to finance our early learning system – the current system doesn't work. We need to close the gap between what parents can afford to pay and what it costs to ensure high quality teachers.

The [**National Survey of Early Care and Education**](#), a study funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, presents the first nationally representative portrait of ECE teachers and caregivers working in center and home-based settings, including a review based on their educational attainment, years of experience, and wages earned.

Earned Income Tax Credit Can Help Rural Families

Thanks to the hard work of Rural Americans, along with record investments in infrastructure under the Recovery Act and the 2014 Farm Bill, over the last seven years America was able to pull itself out of one

of the deepest economic recessions since the Great Depression. While we've seen wages rise and unemployment fall in rural areas over the last several years, workers in rural America still receive less hours and earn less pay than those in urban areas. Fortunately, for those who need help making ends meet, the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) can help.

To learn more: [EITC](#)

Other Information:

Iowa Child Abuse Prevention Conference

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. To learn more or to Register, **use the link above.**

Calling all Superheroes!

Grab a sidekick and your cape and join Prevent Child Abuse Iowa's third annual [Superheroes Pedaling for Prevention](#) bike rides! There will be a Family Ride and a Community Ride. Both rides will take place Saturday, May 14. For more information or to register go to the link above.

Iowa AEYC Spring Leadership Institute Registration is Open

IA AEYC is pleased to present the [registration booklet](#) (link) for the 2016 Iowa AEYC Spring Leadership Institute. This year's event will be held Saturday, May 7, from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Holiday Inn & Suite Northwest, 4800 Merle Hay Rd, Des Moines, IA 50322. The attached registration booklet contains a detailed agenda for the day focused on the subject of **STEM**. We will be joined by Dr. Douglas Clements, University of Denver, who will present a keynote address on the subject, "Why Math? The Importance of Mathematics in Early Childhood Education Programs."

In addition, attendees will have the opportunity to choose from a variety of break-out sessions on such topics as:

- Strategies for Teaching Mathematics for Children Ages 3-5
- Farm to Early Childhood Education: Using Healthy Locally Grown Foods and Fitness to Impact Children's Futures
- Math and Science in the Iowa Early Learning Standards and Iowa Core, Birth through Grade 3
- Ramps and Pathways
- Project Approach and Outdoor Education: Infusing STEM into Curriculum
- STEM in Infant-Toddler Care Settings

Registration fees are \$75 for AEYC members; \$95 for non-members. We hope you can join us for this important event.

The Power of Thinking Like a Preschooler

For many adults, trying to remember what it was like to be a 4-year-old with any accuracy is difficult. Adults often have trouble understanding young children's needs and inner lives—but paying closer attention to the way they experience the world can be valuable. This article presents a transcript of a conversation with Erika Christakis, a child-development specialist at Yale University and author of *The Importance of Being Little: What Preschoolers Really Need From Grownups*. (*The Atlantic*)

Go here to read more: [The Power of Thinking Like a Preschooler](#)

BUILD Webinar: Poverty, Health Equity, and Young Children: Making the Link Between Early Childhood Systems Building and Poverty Policy (March 24, 2016)

This webinar is for those engaged in early childhood systems development, those focusing upon issues of equity and diversity in American society, and those advocating for policies to improve child well-being and to reduce child poverty. This webinar is one in a series of webinars provided by the Learning Collaborative on Health Equity and Young Children, a partnership of the Child and Family Policy Center and the BUILD Initiative.

To Register: [Poverty, Health Equity, and Young Children: Making the Link Between Early Childhood Systems Building and Poverty Policy](#)

BUILD Webinar: Introduction to the New and Improved Opportunities Exchange Website: The Central Resource for the Shared Services Learning Community (April 12, 2016)

Are you curious about Shared Services in early care and education and want to know more about how it works and who is involved? Are you already engaged in Shared Services and interested in finding tools and resources to help strengthen or expand your work? This webinar is designed to teach you how to find answers to those questions, and more.

To Register: [Introduction to the New and Improved Opportunities Exchange Website: The Central Resource for the Shared Services Learning Community](#)

Lessons from Flint: The Case for Investing in the Building Blocks of Communities of Color

Flint—a once-prosperous city and the birthplace of General Motors—has lost its industrial base over the past few decades, driving an economic decline that has reduced government investment in all forms of infrastructure, including support for the city’s schools. More than 40 percent of Flint residents, 56 percent of whom are African American, now live below the federal poverty level. While Flint’s lead poisoning epidemic may be unique, public divestment in poor communities of color is not: Far too often, people of color are relegated to living in the country’s most underinvested areas.

[Read More Here](#)

RAND Institute Report on Cincinnati

This week the RAND Corporation [released a report](#) conducted to inform people in Cincinnati about the potential payoffs to investments in preschool. They addressed two questions. (1) Do high-quality preschool programs produce favorable effects for participating children and their families, what are the magnitudes of the impacts, and how long do the beneficial effects last? (2) Is there evidence of a positive return on investment when public dollars are used to pay for such programs? Anyone looking for an assessment of research on large-scale public programs as it relates to these two questions will find it worth reading.

Watch all Five Episodes of *The Raising of America* FREE

In honor of [Week of the Young Child](#) (April 10-16), National Public Health Week and National Child Abuse Prevention Month, **watch all five episodes of *The Raising of America* FREE April 1 - 17** at www.raisingofamerica.org.

Help us spread the word!

WATCH #RaisingofAmerica FREE April 1 - 17 www.raisingofamerica.org

USE #RaisingofAmerica documentary to change the conversation

<http://raisingofamerica.org/sites/default/files/ActionToolkit.pdf>

CONNECT with #RaisingofAmerica partners using the documentaries because all kids deserve a strong start

<http://raisingofamerica.org/take-action/campaign-highlights>

This is a great opportunity to preview this pioneering series and consider how you can integrate it into your own organization's work like so many others are doing. Check out the many tools and resources at www.raisingofamerica.org.

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

April 1

June 3

September 9

November 4

ECI Stakeholders Alliance

3 – 4 Hour meetings

May 10 (PM)

September 13 (AM)

December 13 (PM)

ECI Area Directors

April 6 All day

(June will be regional meetings)

September 13 (afternoon)

December 7 All day

ECI State Dept. Directors

8:30 – 10:30

May 6

October 7

ECI Steering Committee

Time Varies

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)