



Early Childhood Iowa Monday Musings June 6, 2016 Vol. 3, No. 21

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 lot of people are waiting for Martin Luther King or Mahatma Gandhi to come back - but they are gone. We are it. It is up to us. It is up to you." -Marian Wright Edelman (Born June 6, 1939)

State Information:

Early Childhood Iowa Senate File 2299 Signed into Law

Senate File 2299 was signed into law by Governor Branstad on May 27, 2016.

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](#)

ECI and Iowa AEYC Release On-Line Career Pathways Tool

The Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children (Iowa AEYC) and Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) announce the launch of a unique career pathway website designed to assist the Iowa early care and education workforce to make decisions regarding training and formal education needed to develop a dynamic career.

As a result of a **dsmHack** grant, five website developers, a website designer, and a database specialist joined together as a team to volunteer their time and expertise to develop the interactive website during the 48-hour hack-a-thon. dsmHack.org is a not-for-profit organization which centers its work on the idea of "Build.Learn.Give" to elevate and strengthen the Des Moines community by building technology solutions and relationships, learning new skills and thought processes, and giving time and skills. Using a grant application process, they select non-profits who need, but cannot afford, necessary technology solutions for their agency and those the agency serves. Iowa AEYC was one of ten selected non-profits selected to benefit from this opportunity. To learn more, visit <http://dsmHack.org>.

Iowa AEYC is a non-profit organization that represents over 1,100 members, works to improve teaching and learning, promotes leadership and professional development in early childhood education, supports accreditation and excellence in child care programs, and builds public awareness through advocacy and outreach. To learn more, visit www.iowaaeyc.org. The early care and education workforce in Iowa includes approximately 20,000 adults who earn among the lowest wages of any profession in Iowa. Low pay is a widespread issue that increases turnover and decreases quality in child care and other early childhood programs. The new website provides the workforce with needed information to move forward on a career pathway to increase their knowledge and skills, which can lead to increased wages.

Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) was founded on the premise that communities and state government can work together to improve the well-being of children ages birth - 5. ECI efforts unite agencies, organizations, and community partners to support, strengthen, and meet the needs of all young children and families in Iowa. Early Childhood Iowa Area Boards enable local citizens to lead collaborative efforts involving education, health, and human services programs. To learn more, visit <http://www.earlychildhoodiowa.org>.

Visit www.ecieducationpathway.org to learn more about a career in early care and education in Iowa.

Contact info@iowaaeyc.org with questions.

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.

DHS Proposes Rules to Support CCDF Changes

The following rule amendments have been published as Notices of Intended Action in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin last week to implement changes in child care regulations:

- ARC 2551C, On changes to Child Care resulting from the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG)
- ARC 2552C, Implements a new chapter 120, Child Care Homes,” outlining health, safety, and fire standards for providers
- ARC 2553C, Updates and revises chapter 110. Incorporates changes required by CCDBG
- ARC 2554C, Implements a required training in health and safety content areas for all staff within 3 months of employment.

Use this link to see noticed and adopted rule amendments in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/law/administrativeRules/bulletinSupplementListings>

Federal Information:

High Quality Early Care and Education is Child Maltreatment Prevention

By Shannon Rudisill, Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Early Childhood Development and Melissa Lim Brodowski, Senior Policy Analyst Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Early Childhood Development

This is a time to take stock of what we know, what we are doing, and what else we need to do. We know that very young children have the highest rates of [child maltreatment](#), and infants are the most likely to die from child abuse or neglect. Also, children under the age of five are the largest age group coming into [foster care](#). Prolonged stress and adverse experiences can weaken the [architecture of the developing brain](#) and can lead to lifelong problems in learning, behavior, and physical and mental health.

Early care and learning programs play an important role in providing services and supports to prevent child abuse and neglect, promote healthy development and resilience, and counterbalance the effects of adversity. There is a growing body of evidence that indicates [high quality early care and education programs](#) can reduce parental stress, promote child development, link families to services, and enrich the learning environment for disadvantaged children. Several [home visiting programs](#) have been found to improve outcomes in early childhood and prevent child maltreatment. A study of children who participated in [Early Head Start](#) (EHS) suggests that EHS may be effective in reducing child maltreatment, to include physical and sexual abuse, among low-income children. [Stability in child care placement](#) was also found to buffer some of the negative effects of household chaos. A forthcoming research brief from ACF's Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE) examines evidence related to safety, permanency, and well-being as benefits of early care and education for children in child welfare.

Join us for ***Partnering for Impact: Early Care and Education for Child Welfare-Involved Children and Families***, a digital dialogue hosted by the Children's Bureau on June 8 from 1:30-2pm eastern to hear highlights from the research, and strategies and lessons learned from Early Childhood – Child Welfare partnerships. To register, visit: https://events-na12.adobeconnect.com/content/connect/c1/1303271630/en/events/event/shared/default_template/event_registration.html?sco-id=1512633607

For more information about ACF's Early Childhood – Child Welfare Partnerships, visit: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ecd/interagency-projects/eccw-partnerships>

Creating a 21st Century Child Well-Being System

The [Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities](#) recently released their final report, *Within Our Reach: A National Strategy to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities*, presenting a comprehensive national strategy and recommendations for reducing fatalities resulting from child abuse and neglect.

Encouragingly, the report calls for a new 21st Century Child Welfare System. We absolutely need such a system to replace the current dysfunctional one that fails to get to the heart of families' problems and children's well-being, but we shouldn't stop there. We need a 21st Century Child ***Well-Being*** System – a system that includes child welfare and also offers a comprehensive and integrated system of services designed to proactively support families with young children to help them thrive. By addressing the needs of families *before* there is a crisis, we can work toward the goal of ultimately reducing the number of families that become involved with Child Protective Services.

Continue reading Matthew Melmed's [Huffington Post blog](#) on "Creating a 21st Century Child Well-Being System".

Benefits of Two-Generation Efforts in Early Learning

The U.S. Departments of Education and Health and Human Services has issued a [policy statement](#) that sets a vision and provides recommendations to states, local educational agencies, schools and public and private early childhood programs for implementing effective family engagement policies and practices to improve outcomes for children from birth through third grade. Strong family engagement in early learning systems is central—not supplemental—to promoting children's healthy intellectual, physical, and social-emotional development; preparing children for success in school; and supporting academic achievement in elementary school and beyond.

Other Information:

What is Systems Building? – (BUILD)

Since 2002, the BUILD Initiative has worked to promote a vision of a comprehensive early childhood system in which families can easily access high-quality early learning and development opportunities, regardless of their neighborhood, and agencies working with children and families can have the resources to meet the needs of our diverse young child and family population.

Today, we are thrilled to share with you a [video](#) that describes that vision and explains why systems building is so crucial for achieving equitable outcomes for our youngest children. Systems building is complex, but we all know that we must work at the program, practice, policy and systems levels to achieve our goals of young children thriving.

Using Community Assessment to Advance Cultural Competence and Racially Equitable Outcomes for Young Children and Their Families (BUILD Webinar)

The National Center on Early Childhood Quality Assurance and its partner, the BUILD Initiative, are excited to offer a webinar titled *Using Community Assessment to Advance Cultural Competence and Racially Equitable Outcomes for Young Children and Their Families*.

The webinar will focus on the components and development of community assessments and how State, Territory, and Tribal leaders and early childhood program directors can use community assessment data to identify and serve new and underserved populations and those in greatest need of early education services.

The webinar will draw on the Office of Head Start's *Five Steps to Community Assessment*, which provides a framework for a community assessment process and emphasizes that community assessments better position State, community, and program leaders to "make informed decisions about service area plans and delivery, develop strategic plans for the Agency, respond to new Federal regulations or initiatives, mobilize community resources and partnerships, and reach out to additional funders." Case studies will be discussed to show how this assessment framework can be used in different situations.

The webinar will be held on **June 10 from 2:00 to 3:15 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time**. It will be facilitated by BUILD Initiative faculty Sherri Killins, Aisha Ray, and Yvette Sanchez Fuentes. Each of these facilitators has extensive experience designing and implementing culturally and linguistically responsive and racially equitable programs, policies, and services.

Who Should Attend?

The webinar is designed for State, Territory, and Tribal leaders and program directors responsible for the distribution of funds and continuous improvement of early childhood programs and services for children and families. This group may include early childhood policymakers and representatives of Child Care and Development Fund administrators, Head Start Collaboration offices, Head Start grantees, Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership grantees, child care resource and referral agencies, and State Advisory Councils.

How To Register

Select the link to register: <https://cc.readytalk.com/r/5bckmvlgvi05&eom>.

Welcome and Introduction

- “ Sharon Yandian, M.Ed., Division Director, State and National Technical Assistance Initiatives Division, Office of Head Start
- “ Leatha Chun, Child Care Program Specialist, Office of Child Care

Presenters

- “ Sherri Killins, Ed.D., Director of Systems Alignment and Integration, BUILD Initiative
- “ Aisha Ray, Ph.D., Distinguished Fellow, BUILD Initiative, and Professor Emeritus, Erikson Institute
- “ Yvette Sanchez Fuentes, President, National Alliance for Hispanic Families

The Building Blocks of High-Quality Early Childhood Education Programs

The Learning Policy Institute recently released a new research brief, [The Building Blocks of High-Quality Early Childhood Education Programs](#) (2016), which summarizes the research on high quality early childhood programs and professional standards for early education. The brief highlights key elements of quality and focuses on factors that contribute to meaningful teacher-child interactions. Access this resource at https://learningpolicyinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/LPI_ECE-quality-brief_WEB-022916.pdf

Emotions in Leadership

"We hide emotions to stay in control, look strong, and keep things at arm's length," observed Doug Sundheim, in his article "Good Leaders, Get Emotional," in [Harvard Business Review](#) (August 15, 2013). "But in reality, but doing so diminishes our control and weakens our capacity to lead because it hamstring us. We end up not saying what we mean or meaning what we say. We beat around the bush. And that never connects, compels or communicates powerfully.

"Yes, being too emotional in business can create problems. It clouds objective analysis, screws up negotiations, and leads to rash decisions. But in nearly two decades of working with leaders, I've found that showing too much emotion is far less of a problem than the opposite - showing too little.

"Emotions are critical to everything a leader must do: build trust, strengthen relationships, set a vision, focus energy, get people moving, make trade-offs or tough decisions, and learn from failure. Without genuine emotion these things always fall flat and stall. You need emotions on the front end to inform prioritization. You need it on the back end to motivate and inspire."

Family Engagement: The Home-School Connection (Preschool Development Grants Technical Assistance (PDG TA)

What do GPS and family engagement have in common? What are unique ways to link home and school? Attend the Family Engagement Community of Practice webinar on **Thursday, June 16 at 3:00 – 4:00 pm ET** to find out!

Mary P. Hall, Communication and Outreach Specialist for the Pennsylvania Key, will be our tour guide as we travel to Pennsylvania to hear about the state's unique GPS (Guiding Parents Smoothly) for families and other creative and exciting initiatives that build the home-school connection.

Mary works with state and local partners to support families in their most important role—as their child's first and primary educator! She has created several family-friendly resources used by school and early learning professionals and community partners to engage families around early learning.

Please register for this free webinar!

Call-in toll-free number (US/Canada)

1-877-668-4493

Access code: 664 905 577

Save the Date: Iowa AEYC Fall Early Care and Education Institute

Mark your calendar for September 30 and October 1, 2016 for the Early Care and Education Fall Institute. Registration materials will be available in early summer. Again this year, the Institute will be held at Prairie Meadows Events & Conference Center, Altoona, IA.

To view the Announcement: **[Early Care and Education Institute](#)**

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

September 9

November 4

ECI Stakeholders Alliance

3 – 4 Hour meetings

September 13 (AM)

December 13 (PM)

ECI Area Directors

September 13 (afternoon)

December 7 All day

ECI State Dept. Directors

8:30 – 10:30

October 7

ECI Steering Committee

Time Varies

August 4 (9:00 AM – 4:00 PM)

October 6 (9:00 AM – Noon)

November 3 (9:00 AM – Noon)