

Questions/Comments:  
Kris Bell, (515) 281-4537  
Kris.bell@idom.state.ia.us



June 2001  
Volume 2, Issue 3

## Inside this Issue

- 1 2001 Legislative Session; Technical Assistance Applications Due
- 2 Empowerment Tool: Developing Board By-Laws
- 3 Promising Practice: Tots on 10
- 3 Meet State Empowerment Board Member: Matt Mohrfeld
- 3 Promising Practice: Connecting to Learn, A Celebration of Children
- 4 State Advisory Council Update
- 5 New Empowerment Team Members
- 5 Creating Healthy Communities for Kids Start Over Starting Now

Office of Empowerment  
Dept. of Management  
State Capitol Building  
Des Moines, IA 50319

## 2001 Legislative Session

The General Assembly adjourned on May 9. The Governor has 30 days to act on the appropriations bills that affect Community Empowerment.

The Human Services appropriations bill (House File 732) leaves the Early Childhood grant program funding at approximately \$6.3 million (same as the fiscal year 01 amount). The amounts granted to each Community Empowerment Area might vary from the 01 amount because the funds are distributed via a formula that is based on the number of FIP cases per county.

The Education appropriations bill (Senate File 535) appropriates \$14,664,000 (a 6 percent cut from the fiscal year 01 level) to the School Ready grant account and directs that funds appropriated in this bill and in Senate File 537 be distributed by giving 94 percent of the annualized fiscal year 01 amount to the first 31 Empowerment Areas that received school ready funding and 74.185 percent of the annualized fiscal year 01 amount to the 27 areas that first received school ready funding in fiscal year 01. A spreadsheet showing individual Empowerment Area grant amounts is available from the Empowerment Office.

The Tobacco Fund appropriations bill (Senate File 537) appropriates \$1.1 million to the school ready account (which restores the 6 percent cut in the Education bill).

As soon as the Governor takes action on these bills the Empowerment Office

will send contracts and budget forms to each area to initiate the grant payment process.

House File 662 has been signed by the Governor. This bill calls for the General Assembly to convene a summit meeting regarding Empowerment during the legislative interim to 1) assess the status of efforts to achieve full cooperation; 2) implement an approach to move toward a statewide equalization of public funding provided to empowerment areas; 3) identify other age groups and/or result areas that may be incorporated within or supported by community empowerment; and 4) consider other issues, concerns and opportunities for the community empowerment initiative.

As soon as details about the Summit are available, Community Empowerment Areas will be notified.

## Technical Assistance Applications Due

June 30 is the deadline for receiving applications for using technical assistance funds.

The application form is available at: [www.empowerment.state.ia.us](http://www.empowerment.state.ia.us).

If you have not yet submitted an application and have any questions, please contact Kris Bell (515) 281-4537 or Shanell Wagler (515) 281-4321 at the Office of Empowerment.

Any technical assistance funds not requested by a community empowerment board by June 30, will be rolled into funds to be utilized by those areas that are not yet at their annualized formula amount.

## Upcoming Events

### Empowerment Board Meeting Schedule for 2001

United Way of Central Iowa  
Des Moines  
July 13  
October 1

### Empowerment Advisory Council Meetings

Thursday, June 21, 2001  
Wednesday, September 19, 2001  
All meetings will be held in the West  
Des Moines Resource Center in  
West Des Moines

### Quarterly Contact/Coordinator Meetings

**Scheman Center, Ames**  
May 25 - 8:30 – Noon  
July 25 - 8:30 – Noon  
September 24 - 1:00 – 4:30

### Every Child Reads Training Writing Module (Please Note: updated schedule)

October 2, Johnston  
October 9, Storm Lake  
October 16, Atlantic  
October 18, Ottumwa  
October 23, Cedar Falls

### Empowerment State Networking Conference

November 28-29, 2001  
Scheman Center, Ames

## EMPOWERMENT TOOL

### Questions to Consider in Developing Board By-Laws

- I. Name of the Organization
  - What do you wish to call your Community Empowerment Area and Board?
- II. Purpose
  - Why does the organization exist?
- III. Membership
 

*(Membership is referenced in the law creating the community empowerment boards and should be referenced in preparing this section.)*

  - Who can be a member? Individuals? Public and/or private agencies? Government?
  - What responsibilities or privileges will members have?
- IV. Governance
  - How will decisions be made?
  - Will a consensus decision-making process be used? How will disputes be addressed and consensus reached?
- V. Board of Directors
 

This section describes member term limits, how and by whom the board is elected, how it is organized, if there are officers, what their terms and duties are.
- VI. Officers
  - What are the officer positions, their duties, how they are selected and the length of their terms?
- VII. Committees
 

This section should include a description of any standing committees including who can serve, how they are selected, their duties, and whether or not there can be ad hoc committees.
- VIII. Meetings
  - When, where, and how often meetings will be held, and how special or ad hoc meetings will be called?
- IX. Quorum
  - What is a quorum? Who must make up the membership of a quorum?
- X. Amendments to By Laws
  - How are the by-laws changed? By consensus or super majority of some type?
  - Who must be involved and what kind of notice must be given and to whom?

*(Source: Family Matters: A Resource Guide for Family Resource Networks. West Virginia's Approach to Mobilizing Communities to Support Children, Youth and Families. Prepared by the Governor's Cabinet on Children and Families in cooperation with The Center on Effective Services for Children.)*

## Promising Practice: Tots on 10

*Thanks to Jake Moermond for submitting this news article.*

About the time the Iowa Lakes Decat/Empowerment Board was getting itself organized, a group of people from the community of Paullina in O'Brien County, were working with their economic development board, looking for ways to fill the need for good child care in their community.

Gradually things began to fall into place. A building once used as an automobile show and sales office was made available to the city to be used for economic development. It was decided that the building and parking lots would make an excellent child care facility.

Extensive remodeling was needed and it took real efforts by members of the whole community. Several meetings were held. They established various ways to raise the money to begin the work. The Lakes Area Decat and Empowerment Board granted some moneys, as did the city, contributions were also received from the public. Free work from the schools and carpenters and many, many hours of effort by the entire community made it possible for the school to open its doors this last fall. The facility has a baby room with cribs, counter space and all necessary baby care equipment as well as an equipped preschool room, modern-style children's restrooms, an office, and a large day-play room. There is also a kitchen that is capable of any type of meal preparation.

The facility is located on state highway 10, the community decided on Tots on 10 for its name. "I am quite proud of the Lakes Area Decat and Empowerment group, of their efforts to be part of this development. It is a true example of city, state, economic development, and community's effort to bring quality child care to those who need it," said Moermond.

## Meet State Empowerment Board Members

**Matt Mohrfeld, Vice Chair**



Matt Mohrfeld joined the State Empowerment Board during the fall of 1998. He's lived in Iowa, specifically Lee County, his entire life except for going to college in Ames at Iowa State University. For twenty-five years, he's owned and operated his own business, The Greenhouse and Flower Cottage in Fort Madison.

Matt has been very active in his community. He currently serves on the Lee/VanBuren Community Empowerment Board and is a member of the Chamber of Commerce and Farm Bureau.

Matt's community involvement has led him to participate in an elementary school mentoring project called, "It Takes a Village," serve on the Fort Madison High School Technology Plan Review Committee and sit on a Child Care Enhancement Task Force.

His positive outlook and fresh approaches serve him well on many government commissions and boards. The State Empowerment Team appreciates Matt and the value he adds to the State Empowerment Board.

## Promising Practice: Connecting to Learn, A Celebration of Children

*Thanks to John Calhoun for submitting this information.*

Woodbury County's Siouxland Human Investment Partnership (SHIP) hosted an early childhood event on April 7. The educational activity fair was titled, "Connecting to Learn, A Celebration of Children 0-8."

The activity fair played a dual role. Parents were provided tools and an opportunity to learn about available community service providers, public and private organizations, government programs and other resources that are available for their children.



The children were able to share fun time with story tellers, music and theatre play, games, arts and crafts and the opportunity to earn a book.

Twenty-eight agencies were represented at a mall in Sioux City. Each agency had displays in addition to activity booths for the children.

Visits with Mother Goose, the Cat in the Hat and Raggedy Ann and Andy were highlights for many. Also, more than 600 books were given away to children.

Everyone had lots of fun. Both children and their parents were excited to learn and share time together.

*"Children learn in every waking hour, wherever they are, whatever they are doing."*  
Carnegie Task Force on Learning in the Primary Grades

## Links to Empowerment Web sites

State:

[www.empowerment.state.ia.us](http://www.empowerment.state.ia.us)

Woodbury:

[www.siouxlandship.org](http://www.siouxlandship.org)

HAWC:

[www.HAWC-Iowa.com](http://www.HAWC-Iowa.com)

Linn:

[www.linnempowerment.homest](http://www.linnempowerment.homest)

[ead.com/homepage.html](http://ead.com/homepage.html)

Polk:

[www.humanservicesplanningal](http://www.humanservicesplanningal)

[liance.org](http://liance.org)

Buchanan Delaware Fayette:

[www.bdfempowerment.org](http://www.bdfempowerment.org)

Scott:

[www.scottcountyempowerment.org/](http://www.scottcountyempowerment.org/)

Floyd, Chickasaw, Mitchell:

[www.fmccom.org](http://www.fmccom.org)

Cherokee, Lyon, Plymouth Sioux

[www.northwestiowa.org](http://www.northwestiowa.org)

Send us your web site address and we'll include it in the next newsletter.

## State Networking Conference

In case you forgot to add this to your calendar, this is a reminder. The Scheman Center in Ames will host the November 28-29, 2001 conference. Based on feedback from last year's event, we hope this will be more centrally located for attendees.

If you haven't submitted your application for Technical Assistance dollars, remember that this event would be a great training event for board members.

A team of local contact persons is assisting with the design and focus of the conference, but we welcome all comments. So, if you have a suggestion for a workshop or presenter, feel free to contact your regional contact person or Shanell Wagler at [shanell.wagler@idom.state.ia.us](mailto:shanell.wagler@idom.state.ia.us) or by phone at (515) 281-4321.

## Other Activities

**Success 4 Conference**  
*Improving Schools Through Successful Family Partnerships*  
Polk Co. Convention Complex  
June 13-14, 2001

**The Governor's Conference on Public Health: Barn Raising III**  
Drake University  
June 14-15, 2001

**Region VII State Child Care Meeting**  
**The Quest for Quality Child Care**  
Kansas City, MO  
July 18-20, 2001

**2001 Education Commission of the States' National Forum on Education Policy**  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
July 18-21, 2001

**Communities and Schools Stronger Together**  
Hotel Fort Des Moines, Des Moines  
October 23-24, 2001

## State Advisory Council - Update

The Iowa Empowerment Board created a state Advisory Council consisting of representatives who are actively involved in their local community empowerment initiative. The overriding purpose of this Advisory Council is to keep the state empowerment board grounded in the perspective of local empowerment. Thus, they serve as a "reality check" regarding the effectiveness of policy decisions and the

communications the state board is achieving in legislation.

Advisory Council members meet quarterly and are given specific assignments for their review/comment. Advisory Council members are better known for their individual interests and skills, and as such specific members may be asked to work on a focused objective.

The Advisory Council members represent a geographic balance of the state. It is important that Advisory Council members carry both a perspective of local empowerment as well as develop a statewide perspective to keep in mind the purpose of this evolving initiative. An ability to deal with ambiguity and keeping a larger context and perspective are important attributes for advisory committee members. Needless to say a positive trusting attitude as well as a win-win perspective is appreciated.

We are hoping that Advisory Council members will be actively involved in their local empowerment area. We also want members who will be active and attend the quarterly meetings. Since their appointment, the Council has provided input on the statewide indicators, the sample core functions of home visiting and parent support, funding formula, technical assistance needs, redesignation process and the strategic plan.

The Council last met on March 22. Minutes are found on the state empowerment web site.

State Advisory Council March 22, 2001





## New Empowerment Team Members!

The State Empowerment Team has two new members. Please help us welcome: Mary Schertz from the Department of Education and Janet Gartin from the Department of Human Rights. Mary Schertz will be filling in for Dee Gethmann while she is on maternity leave.

Both team members have a strong interest and background in the future of our young Iowans.

As you meet these two ladies, feel free to introduce yourself and get to know them.



## NEWEST MEMBER! – Brooke Gethmann

Yes, Brooke Gethmann finally arrived at 8:45 a.m. on Thursday, May 31, 2001. She weighed 8 pounds 7 oz, 19 ¼ inches long; black hair. We are glad to report that everyone is doing fine!



## Creating Healthy Communities for Kids Start Over, Starting Now

The State Empowerment Office has recently purchased a video entitled, **Creating Healthy Communities for Kids Start Over, Starting Now**. The video comes with a corresponding discussion guide. The video and guide book are published by the Search Institute.

The video introduces the national movement of building the 40 developmental assets. The guide will help you lead a group in a one-hour discussion about what they've seen in the video and learn together about what they can do to unite their community to become part of these important efforts on behalf of young people.

If you are interested in viewing the video/guidebook, you may contact Shanell Wagler at (515) 281-4321 or by e-mail at: [shanell.wagler@idom.state.ia.us](mailto:shanell.wagler@idom.state.ia.us).

## Understand and Use Community Indicators

As communities are preparing for the upcoming program year and evaluating their systems and processes, this information might provide helpful tips when determining the value of chosen indicators.

This excerpt is from "*Facilitating Community Change*," Authors of the book are: Darvin Ayre, Guffie Clough and Tyler Norris

In looking at sustainability of the change process for indicators, consider the following:

- ◆ Do the indicators accurately reflect the values articulated in the broad-based community vision?

- ◆ Has the diverse citizen base had the opportunity for substantive input as to the choice of indicators, in order to ensure ownership?
- ◆ Are the indicators understandable to the diverse community?
- ◆ Are they being effectively integrated in the implementation strategies of the change process?
- ◆ Are the indicators out in the community via the media and organizational networks?
- ◆ Are the major decision-making bodies in the community gearing up to use the indicators (for grant-making, city governmental accountability, economic development strategy and so on)?
- ◆ Will the indicators become an annually updated report card?
- ◆ Is it clear that the indicators are to hold the whole community accountable to the vision, not just the participants in the change process?

## Become an Infant/Toddler Trainer

WestEd training is coming to Iowa. The program is for infant and toddler caregivers that are willing to then go out and train practitioners in varying formats over a 3-year period.

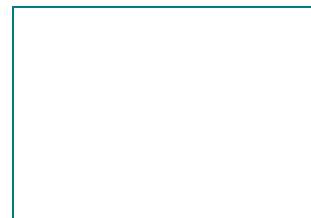
In exchange for attending the Train-the-Trainer Institutes (a \$1,500 value) at no charge, trainers agree to provide a minimum of 15 hours of training (per module) to practitioners during the year following their certification.

Trainers that are interested in participating in this 14 day training (7 days in 2001 and 7 days in 2002), should contact: Mary Doidge at (515) 964-6584 or Delora Jespersen Hade at (515) 292-1690. Information can also be obtained at this website:

[www.iowchildnetwork.org](http://www.iowchildnetwork.org)

June 2001

Office of Empowerment  
Dept. of Management  
State Capitol Building  
Des Moines, IA 50319



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED