

Iowa Community Empowerment Newsletter

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Business Community Investment Advisory Council Final Report & Recommendations

Taken from Business Community Investment Advisory Council, Report to the Iowa Empowerment Board, December 31, 2006

The Business Community Investment Advisory Council was established by state law (House File 2769) in 2006 to “advise the Iowa Empowerment Board on the best means to leverage private investment in early care, health, and education services and provide options for creating model projects for public-private partnerships to support quality early care, health, and education programming in communities.”

The Council was charged with submitting a report to the Iowa Empowerment Board that addresses the following:

1. A strategy for blending funding for early care, health, and education services from the public sector and the private sector, including but not limited to the funding provided by businesses and the private sector;
2. A strategy for community empowerment areas to develop and implement local public-private partnership networks and apply for state and private funding and competitive grants;
3. A strategy for requiring local match funding for a community empowerment area to access that funding;
4. Accountability and evaluation measures; and
5. Provisions to ensure efficiency.

The Business Community Investment Advisory Council held three meetings, covering four days, to accomplish its charge. The Business Community Investment Advisory Council began its deliberations by examining current early care, health, and education services in Iowa and their effectiveness in ensuring that all children “beginning at birth, will be healthy and ready to learn.”

The Council concluded that businesses and other private sector entities should be vested stakeholders in ensuring that efficient and effective early childhood services are available for all young children. The Council found a direct relationship between effective early childhood services and economic benefits to business and society.

The Council identified important roles that business, employers, and the private sector can assume in supporting development of quality early childhood services and improving young children’s health and school readiness. They stressed the importance and value of all these business and private sector roles, although the Council’s charge primarily related to securing private sector investments. When business and the private sector become vested stakeholders through financial investment, this also increases their involvement in other activities and helps to strengthen the emphasis upon efficiency, accountability, results, and evaluation. The Council also emphasized that securing private sector investment and commitment depended upon developing a strong community and private sector education and marketing strategy to enlist business and private sector support.

The Council reviewed initiatives in other states to establish public-private investment partnerships for early childhood and also reviewed Vision Iowa and the Grow Iowa Values Funds for models. *(Continued. on page 5)*

In this issue:

Cover Article	1
Business Community Investment Advisory Council - Highlights of Final Report	
Updates	2
ECHE System Building Empowerment	
Upcoming Events/Activities	
ECI Update - 2007 ECHE Day on the Hill Activities	
Iowa Empowerment Board News	4
January Meeting Agenda Highlights	
IEB Seeking Nominations	
Local News	5
Rep. Foegen Receives Child at Heart Award	
BDF Empowerment Supports Preschools	
The Board Room Corner	
Statewide Information	8
Iowa AEYC/TEACH Iowa	
Iowa Child Care Resource & Referral	
Iowa Head Start	
Health News	12
Iowa Child and Family Household Health Survey	
HCCI Update	
Oral Health Bureau Update	
Delta Dental Funds Dentist Recruitment Project	
Covering Kids & Families	
Upcoming Opportunities	16

Disclaimer:
Many articles in this newsletter are submitted by various entities. The views and opinions contained within may or may not be those of Iowa Community Empowerment.

Update December 2006 January 2007

Links to Empowerment Web sites:

State: www.empowerment.state.ia.us

Benton County

www.bcempowerment.com

Black Hawk

www.cedarvalleypromise.org

Buchanan Delaware Fayette

www.bdfempowerment.org

Cedar

www.empowercedarco.org

Cerro Gordo, Hancock, Worth

www.cghwempowerment.com

Dubuque

www.empowerdubuque.org

Floyd, Chickasaw, Mitchell

www.fmcempowerment.com

HAWC (Howard, Allamakee, Winneshiek, Clayton)

www.HAWC-Iowa.com

Hardin

<http://www.empowerhardin.com/>

Henry

www.healthyhenrycounty.org

Humboldt, Hamilton, Wright

www.buildingfamilies.net

Jasper

<http://www.jaspercountypowerment.org/>

Johnson

<http://www.jcempowerment.org>

Linn

www.linncountycommunityempowerment.org

Marshall

www.youthandviolence.org

Pocahontas, Calhoun and Webster

www.linking-families.com

Polk www.hspa.org

Scott:

www.scottcountypowerment.org

Story

<http://www.storycountyfamily.org>

Washington

www.empowerwashington.org

Woodbury www.siouxlandship.org

Early Care, Health and Education System Building Activities

- Professional Development Steering Committee - Dec 1
- QRS - Dec 7, 14
- IAIEYC Board Meeting - Dec 9, Jan 20
- Kindergarten data meeting with DE - Dec 11
- ECI Stakeholders - Dec 11
- Off to a Good Start Health Conference - Dec 12
- Empowerment Contacts/Coordinators quarterly TA meeting - Dec 13
- State Child Care Advisory Council - Dec 14, Jan 11
- ECI Public Engagement component workgroup - Dec 7, Jan 12 & 24
- ECI - Quality, Services & Programs manual review committee - Dec 15
- Marketing Training with PCA Iowa, CPCC in Ft Dodge, Cedar Falls - Dec, Jan
- Business Community Investment Advisory Council - Dec 19
- Early Care, Health & Education Congress planning - Dec 8, Jan 4
- ECI - Governance component workgroup - Dec 21, Jan 25
- ECI Co-chairs meeting - Jan 4
- Presentation to United Way of Central Iowa Women's Leadership Connection Advocacy group - Jan 10
- ECI - Quality, Services & Programs workgroup meeting - Jan 10
- EC Lunch with business partners - Jan 11
- New Director Empowerment Orientation - Depart of Management - Jan 17
- Early Childhood Subcommittee - Jan 17, 18, & 25
- ECCS/Project THRIVE Child Care meeting, Washington, DC - Jan 18 & 19
- Health & Safety Issues in QRS meeting - Jan 22
- ECI - Resources & Funding workgroup - Jan 23
- Smart Start meeting on Models of Governance - Jan 25
- Iowa Business Council Presentation - Jan 29
- IEB Meeting, Des Moines - Jan 30

Site Visits/Technical Assistance Activities

- Henry County - December 5
- Cedar County - December 7
- Jones County - December 21 & Jan 25
- Decatur County - January 22
- Bremer, Butler, Franklin, Grundy - Jan 23
- Buena Vista, Crawford, Sac - Jan 24
- Tama - Jan 25
- Adair County (and surrounding) preschool coordination meeting - Jan 25
- Redesignation Review - Allamakee, Clayton, Howard, Winneshiek - Dec 7
- Warren County Family Support meeting - Dec 12
- Warren County Provider Appreciation Event- Dec 12
- Annual Report Review - Buchanan, Delaware, Fayette - Dec 12
- Annual Report Review - Hardin County - Dec 14
- Annual Report Review - Decatur County - Dec 14
- Annual Report Review - Johnson County - Dec 15
- Annual Report Review - Polk County - Dec 20
- Annual Report Review - Linn County - Jan 5
- Annual Report Review - Wayne County - Jan 8
- Annual Report Review - Benton - Jan 11
- Annual Report Review - Jones County - Jan 11
- Annual Report Review - Clinton, Jackson - Jan 18
- Annual Report Review - Madison - Jan 18
- Annual Report Review - Story - Jan 18

Upcoming Events Calendar at a Glance

Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholders

February 13, 2007
Historical Building
Des Moines

Empowerment Coordinators/Contacts Meetings

February 14, 2007
West Des Moines Learning Resource
Center
West Des Moines

ECHE Day on the Hill

February 7, 2006
State Capitol Rotunda
Des Moines

New Directions for Public Health

April 3-4, 2007
Scheman Conference Center, Ames
www.idph.state.ia.us

Iowa Early Learning Standards

Training Symposium
March 9-11, 2007
Hotel Gateway, Ames

Healthy Families America Training

April 16-20
Grace Lutheran Church
Des Moines
nancy.krause@lsiowa.org

Love 'Em or Lose 'Em - Getting Good People to Stay

April 28, 2007
Kelly Conference Center,
Methodist Hospital, Des Moines
(see page 8 of this newsletter for details)

Prevent Child Abuse Iowa Conference

May 7-8, 2007
Four Points Sheraton West
West Des Moines
www.pcaiowa.org

2007 Kids First Conference

April 25-27, 2007
Gateway Center
Ames
<http://www.statelibraryofiaowa.org/ld/youth-services/kidsfirst/kidsfirst2007>

*"Quality Counts!" and
Iowa's Youngest Children
are COUNTING ON YOU!*

- Annual Report Review - Floyd, Mitchell, Chickasaw - Jan 22
- Annual Report Review - Henry - Jan 19
- Annual Report Review - Cedar County - Jan 25
- Annual Report Review - Washington - Jan 25

Linkages/Outreach Activities

- Brazelton's Touchpoints training, Council Bluffs - Dec 18 & 19
- DHS Liaison Meeting - Jan 8
- MCH Advisory Council - Jan 11
- Iowa Family Alliance Day on the Hill - Jan 16
- Zero to Three "State Partnerships for Prevention: Reducing the Risk of Maltreatment of Very Young Children" grant planning meeting - Jan 17
- Community of Promise Review - Jan 17
- Iowa Afterschool Alliance Presentation - Jan 18
- Moral Witness for Children - Jan 23
- Rural Development Block Grant Reviews - Jan 31



ECHE System Building Updates

2007 Day on the Hill

Quality Counts!

Iowa Early Care, Health, & Education Congress

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

The Day on the Hill will be one of the most visible opportunities for advocates to make their case for investing in Iowa's young children.

State Capitol and Wallace Building

Registration and set up for exhibits - 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Keynote Speaker (Dr. Andy McGuire) - 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

Advocacy 101 - 10:15 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Meet with legislators and visit exhibits - 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

In preparation for the event, each legislator will be receiving a list of who will be attending from each of their districts as well as an exhibitor listing. You are encouraged to make appointments with your legislators prior to arriving at the Capitol. If you are new to the Capitol or to the legislative process, a mentor system will be available to assist you.

It's Not Too Late to Register

If you would like to attend, please register to ensure materials will be available for all participants. A registration form can be found at the following link:

<http://www.state.ia.us/earlychildhood/docs/D.O.H.registration.pdf>. For questions about Day on the Hill please contact Jenny Hodges @ jhodges@idph.state.ia.us or Kelly Schulte @ kschulte@idph.state.ia.us.

Advocacy Resources

The Iowa Legislature General Assembly - www.legis.state.ia.us

Advocacy Toolkit - www.empowerment.state.ia.us/tool_kit.asp

Day on the Hill Packet - www.everychildcountsiowa.org/?Advocacy

NAEYC - www.naeyc.org/policy

Every Child Counts - www.everychildcountsiowa.org



www.empowerment.state.ia.us

Iowa Empowerment Board News January Meeting Agenda Highlights

The next scheduled meeting for the Iowa Empowerment Board will be Tuesday, January 30 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the Workforce Center in Des Moines.

The agenda includes the presentation of the final report and recommendations of the Business Community Investment Advisory Council. This council was established by state law (House File 2769) in 2006 to “advise the Iowa Empowerment Board on the best means to leverage private investment in early care, health, and education services and provide options for creating model projects for public-private partnerships to support quality early care, health, and education programming in communities.” The Iowa Empowerment Board will be discussing next steps of this process. The full report will be available on the Empowerment website, www.empowerment.state.ia.us, or for highlights refer to the article on page 1 of this newsletter.

In addition, Shanell Wagler will present an administrative and legislative update followed by an update of the Fiscal Accountability Workgroup’s first meeting which was held on November 30, 2006. The Iowa Empowerment Board (IEB) requested that this group be convened to discuss and make recommendations regarding local board fiscal accountability and the responsibilities of local fiscal agents.

The remainder of the meeting will be dedicated to the redesignation status of the 18 Community Empowerment Area (CEA) local boards that went through the process in the fall of 2006. Also up for review, will be the status of the three CEA boards that received a conditional one year designation last January.

The next meeting of the Iowa Empowerment Board will be March 9, 2007 at the Blank Park Zoo in Des Moines, IA.

Nominations Sought For Iowa Empowerment Board



The Iowa Empowerment Board consists of sixteen citizen members, six state agency directors, and six members of the general assembly. The state Empowerment Board currently is seeking candidates for citizen members. Citizen members are appointed by Governor Chester J. Culver and confirmed by the Iowa Senate. Interested candidates must complete a gubernatorial appointment resume in addition to seeking a letter of recommendation from their local empowerment board. The gubernatorial appointment resume can be found at <http://www.governor.iowa.gov/administration/boards/>

Citizen member selections are reflective of the state's congressional districts to ensure representation from across the state. An equally important criterion is that appointments reflect the ethnic, cultural, social, and economic diversity of our state. We encourage candidates from diverse populations to apply.

You can also find the job responsibilities of an Iowa Empowerment Board member on our web site at the following link, http://www.empowerment.state.ia.us/Common/pdf/ieb_responsibilities.pdf

Please contact the Office of Empowerment if you need more information.

Child At Heart

The Association For Iowa's Children Presents Annual Child At Heart Award

Submitted by Cindy Duhrkopf



From left: Rhonda Boltz, Association For Iowa's Children, President; Representative Ro Foege; Chris Kivett-Berry, Linn County Empowerment Coordinator

The Association For Iowa's Children each year presents a Child at Heart Award to someone in Iowa who is a positive advocate for children in our state. This year the Association For Iowa's Children presented the award to Representative Ro Foege from Mt Vernon, Iowa, House District 29. Rep. Foege was jointly nominated by the Johnson and Linn County Community Empowerment Areas. Rep. Foege has been instrumental in sponsoring many pieces of legislation that support early childhood in Iowa. He advocated and worked diligently to support the original Empowerment authorizing legislation and has been an active member on the State Empowerment Board.

Other examples of legislation to which Rep. Foege has provided sponsorship in support of early childhood, include:

- the Iowa early intervention block grant program,
- the establishment of a children's environmental health & protection advisory council,
- the expansion of the requirements for child development home registration,
- the creation of a criminal offense for leaving an unattended or not properly supervised child in a motor vehicle,
- mandatory universal newborn and infant hearing screening,
- creation of a children's mental health initiative,
- comprehensive benefits included in the healthy and well kids in Iowa (hawk-I) program benefit package,
- provision for an appropriation to the Iowa department of public health for the child protection center grant program, and
- Legislative intent to fully fund newborn visitation services to make those services available statewide.

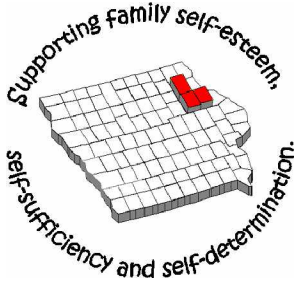
Rep Foege is a wonderful example of someone who is a "Child At Heart". We not only congratulate him as the recipient of this award, but also thank him for his commitment to the children of Iowa.

Continued from Cover:

Business Community Investment Advisory Council *(Continued. from page 1)*

They concluded that, to date, public sector investments have played the primary role in developing Iowa's early childhood system. Public investments also can be used to leverage private sector investments. These private sector investments can be used very effectively if they are strategically deployed. The Council identified guiding principles for developing public-private investment partnerships.

Employing these principles, the Council developed its recommendations for a public-private investment partnership that met the Council's charge for blending funding from the public and private sector at the state level, developing local public-private partnerships, requiring local match, incorporating accountability and evaluation measures, and insuring efficiency. The complete report and the Council's recommendations to the Iowa Empowerment Board can be found on the state Empowerment Web site, www.empowerment.state.ia.us, or by contacting the Office of Empowerment.



B-D-F Empowerment supports preschools

Submitted by Teri Orr

Thanks to the support of the B-D-F (Buchanan, Delaware, Fayette) Empowerment area the success of the Happy Hearts, Smiling Faces Preschool continues to be strong. This fall, the program received funding to support the program.

Happy Hearts, Smiling Faces Preschool, located in Kinderwood Childcare Center is a preschool program for 4 year olds and is funded by a grant from the Department of Education. Over the years, the amount of funding has been cut, and the program has lacked the ability to support itself financially. Support from Kinderwood and many in-kind services such as the Ed-Co school, Keystone AEA, and Art Fudge have enabled this program to continue to operate.



The focus of this 4 day a week, full day program is to prepare children for Kindergarten. It operates just as a Head Start program, but is funded by state dollars and is managed by Kinderwood Childcare Center. Children who qualify for the program are able to attend for free, although a sliding scale and tuition fees are also available.

The mission of B-D-F Empowerment is to support communities by demonstrating leadership and the process of collaboration to empower individuals and their community to improve the quality of life for children from birth to 5 years. It is an organization that has funded many programs, such as Parents as Teachers, preschool scholarships, professional development opportunities for early childhood teachers (centers and in-home), crisis child care, etc.



Having support for this preschool program is truly a blessing. It has such a high success rate of children being ready for school, that it is important to continue the program. Enhancing the budget has made the children of this community more successful for school and for life.

First in a Series:

The intent of this series is to give an overview of Robert's Rules of Order and then to offer subsequent articles that provide more in-depth information about a particular aspect of Parliamentary Procedure that many boards find challenging.

Stay Tuned: Second in the series will discuss leadership roles on the board!



The Board Room Corner

An Introduction to Robert's Rules of Order

Who is this Robert guy? And why do I need to follow his rules?

Parliamentary procedure is like the rules of the road for meetings. You need to know how fast you can go, who has the right of way at an intersection and where it is legal to make a U-turn. In a meeting, you need to know when you can introduce an item of business, who gets to speak first on an issue and when it is proper to end debate and move to a vote.

Parliamentary procedure is about helping the group come to a decision; it is not about helping any one individual get his or her way, and it is certainly not intended to prevent members from participating in the group. Parliamentary procedure also helps the group stay focused on a single issue until the members resolve it.

The main purposes of parliamentary procedure are:

- To expedite business
- To ensure legality
- To protect the rights of the minority

Key Points

- One thing at a time.** Only one motion is allowed on the floor at a time.
- One person at a time.** Only one person may talk at a time.

Voting Rights

Vote requirements are based on member's rights. The determination of what kind of vote is needed (such as majority, two thirds, and so on) is based on member's rights. If an action gives rights to the members, it requires a majority vote to pass. If an action takes away rights from members, it requires a two thirds vote to pass. Your bylaws may be more restrictive.

Everybody is equal. All voting members have equal rights. The majority rules but the minority has the right to be heard and to attempt to change the minds of the majority.

How Do You Determine If You Have Quorum?

To determine whether a quorum is present, you count the number of voting members in attendance. In other words, members who choose not to vote on an issue are still counted in the quorum.

For example, let's say that your board has 18 members and the bylaws indicate the quorum is a majority of the membership, which would be ten members. At a meeting there is a motion and the vote is 5 yes, 4 no, and 3 abstentions (meaning the members are present but not voting). Is there a quorum?

Simply adding the yes and no votes gives you a total of 9, so if you only counted votes, there is no quorum. But there were at least 3 members present who did not vote, bringing the total number of members present to 12. In this case, there is a quorum and business can be legally transacted. However, if an hour into the meeting 3 members leave, you no longer have quorum and you must stop conducting business.

Without quorum the board is severely limited in the kinds of actions it can take. Permissible actions are as follows:

- Set time for another meeting
- End the meeting – using the motion to adjourn
- Take a short break – using the motion to recess
- Take measures to obtain a quorum. In other words go try to find your missing members so you can have a quorum.

Sources:

Riggs, Norm and Quinn, Tom. "Simplified Parliamentary Procedure." Iowa State University Extension, December 1998.

Sylvester, Nancy. "The Complete Idiot's Guide to Robert's Rules." 2004.

Iowa
AEYC/T.E.A.C.H.
Early Childhood®
IOWA Scholarship
Program

Submitted by Barb Merrill, Executive Director, Iowa AEYC/T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® IOWA Program Manager



Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children

New Year, New Beginnings! T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Iowa, beginning our fourth year of providing education and support to Iowa’s child care workforce, became part of the Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children organization effective January 1. Watch for our new address, phone numbers, and website within the next few weeks. T.E.A.C.H. is pleased to be supporting over two hundred child care providers and preschool teachers and directors from around the state who want to earn degrees and credentials in early childhood education, but we are always reaching out to potential scholarship recipients. If you know of someone who might be interested in this support, as they work to achieve accreditation, earn points on the QRS, provide higher quality services to young children, or just reach a personal professional goal, please direct them to us at (515) 261-4214 or teachiowa@childcareservices.org.

Leadership Seminar April 28, 2007 Love'em or Lose'em- Getting Good People to Stay

Talented, committed employees are the greatest asset an early childhood program has, and you need them to stay. You need them to be engaged, motivated and producing at their peak. They are critical to your success and the quality of your program. Research shows that managers have more power and influence than anyone else in engaging and retaining talent. This seminar is designed to teach you as a director or program manager how to engage and hang on to talented people at any age and at any stage in their careers. The seminar will provide 26 tested strategies you can use to engage and retain your best employees. Each of these strategies includes small, easy-to-implement ideas! The event is approved for NAC recertification.

Trainer: Gwen Simmons, Director of Affiliate Relations, NAEYC **Time:** 9:00 – 4:00 **Location:** Kelly Conference Room in the Education/Research Center at Iowa Methodist Hospital, 1200 Pleasant St, Des Moines, IA **Registration Fee:** Iowa AEYC Members \$ 70, non members \$ 85. Registrations must be received by April 18. Space is limited to 200 Refund of registration will be considered, with receipt of written request 10 days prior to the event, less a \$10 processing fee. Lunch and drinks will be provided.

Send this registration form and check payable to:
Iowa AEYC, 206 – 3rd Ave SE #2, Altoona, IA 50009

Name

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Phone (home) _____ (work) _____

Office use only

Ck# _____ Date _____ \$ _____ fr _____

Iowa Child Care Resource & Referral



Submitted by Cathy Wheatcraft,
Director, CCR&R Region 4

For more information contact one of the following Iowa CCR&R Infant Toddler Specialists:

Region 1: CCR&R of Northwest Iowa:
Melissa Tolzin
712-277-1180

mtolzin@mid-siouxopportunity.org

Region 2: CCR&R of Northeast Iowa:

Beth Hanisch
319-233-0804, Ext 223

beth.hanisch@episervices.org

Region 3: CCR&R of Southwest Iowa:

Jennifer Pitkin
712-322-2621

jpitkin@swiowachildcare.org

Region 4: CCR&R of Central Iowa:

Jennifer Schreck
515-246-3558

jschreck@orchardplace.org

Region 5: CCR&R of Southeast Iowa:

Kathy Yoke
563-324-1302, Ext 432

kyoke@iowatraining.org

Iowa Program for Infant Toddler Care Celebrates 5th Anniversary

It has been over five years since over 90 early childhood educators met in a downtown hotel in Des Moines to begin the first of two week long train the trainer sessions introducing the Program for Infant Toddler Care (PITC) to Iowa. Culminating three years of planning by the Infant Toddler Workgroup, an ad hoc workgroup of the Quality Committee of the State Child Care Advisory Council, PITC faculty from WestEd, an educational research and development non-profit in California were brought to Iowa to lead the development of a network of PITC trainers funded through Iowa's Federal CCDF Quality Infant/Toddler Earmark. Following California's lead, recognizing that PITC philosophy includes all aspects of a baby's care, "Caregivers" in IA PITC has recently been changed to "Care."

Recognizing the shortage of infant care available in Iowa, particularly quality care for babies, the Infant Toddler workgroup researched ways to improve both the capacity and quality of care for babies in Iowa. The result was the implementation of the Iowa Program for Infant Toddler Care, a network of certified trainers and Infant Toddler Specialists providing training and consultation to child care programs, parents and other caregivers of infants & toddlers as well as those working with the families of infants & toddlers.

PITC is based on a philosophy of care: "Good infant care is neither baby-sitting nor preschool. It is a special kind of care that resembles no other." The IA PITC program believes that quality infant toddler care begins with trained caregivers who get "in tune" with each infant they care for and learn from the baby what he or she needs through attentive reading of each baby's cues. The goal of PITC is to help providers develop a style of care that recognizes the crucial importance of giving tender, loving care in an environment set up to encourage exploration and learning. Six program policies set create a climate for care that reinforces PITC's relationship based approach: primary care, small groups, continuity of care, individualized care, cultural responsiveness, and inclusion of children with special needs.

In the first year, an Iowa PITC state coordinator was hired to plan and implement the Iowa PITC program with Infant Toddler Specialists employed by each of the five Iowa Child Care Resource & Referral regions. 94% of the trainers attending the first train the trainer became certified, a record according to PITC faculty in California where a 30-40% certification rate was expected. Key concepts for each PITC lesson were agreed upon statewide to ensure consistent content delivery.

PITC training consists of 40 training hours divided into four modules. Each module consists of five two-hour lessons. A fifth optional module, Beginning Together, focusing on inclusive care was added in 2005. Several PITC series in Spanish have been offered. In the PITC's first five years, 4840 child care providers in both home and center based programs participated in PITC training. 870 child care providers completed Modules I-IV.

In FY07, Iowa CCR&R has had the opportunity to expand PITC in each of the five Iowa CCR&R regions according to the unique needs of the region. All five regions have added additional PITC staff and a consultation component to enhance training and assist providers in implementing PITC philosophy of care in their programs.

"I knew I was a good child care provider when I started. Now, through IA PITC, I know that within me, I have what it takes to be an exceptional child care provider."

---Eastern Iowa Child Care Provider



New Study Shows Growth in Head Start/Empowerment Collaborations

Submitted by Tom Rendon, Coordinator, Iowa Head Start State Collaboration Office

A study of collaboration trends between Iowa's Community Empowerment Areas (CEAs) and Head Start agencies reveals continuous growth in connections and partnerships at a local level across the state. The study, conducted by the Iowa Head Start State Collaboration Office, analyzed local annual Community Empowerment reports and gleaned evidence of collaborative activities in six areas: Sharing Data, Supportive Services for Head Start Families, CEA-wide Projects, Expanding Services, Increasing Children Served and Launching Joint or New Programs.

In all parts of the state diverse funding from federal, state and local sources support a wide range of health, education and social services that benefit children and families. Strong collaboration and service integration at a local level remains an important activity to improve and expand these services, making these investments generate the highest possible return. The five key result areas driving community empowerment work (healthy children, children ready to succeed in school, safe and supportive communities, secure and nurturing families and secure and nurturing child care environments) encourage all parties to consider their work individually and together in light of these important results Iowa wants for its children.

Sharing Data

In the area of sharing data, at least 27 Empowerment Areas (47%) make reference to Head Start and Early Head Start information in their reports. Some of this is because Head Start and Early Head Start are part of CEA-defined performance indicators. In other cases, Head Start and Early Head Start share data from their community needs assessments. Such data sharing can be an important first step in deciding how agencies can come together to address identified needs. Sharing of data reflects a simple but important connection between groups.

Supportive Services for Head Start Families

Another type of collaboration between CEA and Head Start/Early Head Start is when CEA grant dollars fund services that support Head Start children and families such as transportation, teacher training, dental services, parent education, lead screening and program enrollment coordination. Sometimes these services are broadly available to families thereby benefiting Head Start or Early Head Start families. In other cases, these are targeted services that help Head Start better serve its enrollees.

CEA-wide Projects

Occasionally, CEAs embark on a CEA-wide initiative, campaign or special event and Head Start or Early Head Start participates in and benefits from these events. Examples include area-wide planning and

needs coordination, health fairs and nurse or family support programs. Such partnerships in CEA activities occurred in 21 CEAs (36%).

Expanding Services

CEA dollars have been useful in allowing Head Start to expand its program day or program year. Head Start Program Performance Standards do not require agencies to provide full-day or full-year services and often the level of federal support makes such service expansion impossible. Many families that work or go to school full-time benefit from expanded services.

Increasing Children Served

In the area of increasing enrollment beyond what is contractually required by the federal government, Head Start and Early Head Start have added additional children with services paid for by CEAs. Such arrangements happen in 12 CEAs (21%).

Iowa Head Start Continued...

Launching Joint or New Programs.

Perhaps the gold star of collaboration is joint or blended programs. Such efforts occurred in 6 CEAs in 2005. As CEAs look to expand services and establish new preschools and child care centers, Head Start or Early Head Start has been part of that expansion. Joint programs represent an advanced level of collaboration. It also provides unique benefits to children who are no longer segregated based on program eligibility. Instead, these joint programs tend to mirror the diverse populations of local public elementary schools into which the children will eventually transition.

These results should be read with some caution. The analysis is based only on annual reports from 2002-03; 2003-04 and 2004-05, so it does not reflect any activity that might have happened since July, 2005. It is also based only on activities reflected in the annual reports and activities where Head Start or Early Head Start is specifically mentioned. This may exclude some activities which were not mentioned in the reports or where Head Start was a partner but not referred to explicitly. However, these shortcomings would only serve to underestimate the numbers listed above. These results can be viewed as the minimum level of collaboration occurring between Community Empowerment and Head Start.

In summary, the report shows significant collaboration exists between Community Empowerment and Head Start/Early Head Start and the amount of collaboration has grown steadily for three years. All but nine CEA reflected some type of collaboration activity that could be categorized in the six areas mentioned above. Looking at the data from the Head Start side, all Head Start agencies had some form of collaboration with one or more CEAs. The data also show that opportunities to improve and expand collaborative activities remain, both in simple areas of sharing data and coordinating enrollment efforts to more complex initiatives such as opening new combined classrooms. To facilitate the development of such partnerships, CEA coordinators and Head Start agencies can use the services of the Head Start State Collaboration Office that can connect interested individuals with state and regional experts to address barriers such as cost allocation, differing eligibility and quality standards, and expanding the reach of comprehensive services. Such efforts will continue to support the positive trends in Head Start/Community Empowerment collaboration evident over the past three years.

For more information or assistance, contact Tom Rendon, Head Start State Collaboration Office, tom.rendon@iowa.gov or 515-242-6024.

Community Empowerment and Head Start Collaboration (as of June 2005)

Collaboration with Iowa's 58 local Community Empowerment Areas (CEAs) continues to grow and the dramatic increases of last year are holding. Specifically, analysis of activities in 2004-05 show:

- ◆ 21% (12 of 58) of CEAs were purchasing additional slots in Head Start preschools for over-income or wait-listed children (an increase of 1 CEA or 9% from 2003-04)
- ◆ 47% (27) of CEAs referenced Head Start data in their report (an increase of 2 CEAs or 8% from 2003-04)
- ◆ 47% (27) of CEAs provided a variety of services that supported Head Start children and families (e.g. transportation, literacy, referrals, staff training, oral health, lead screening, etc.), (an increase of 3 CEAs or 13% from 2003-04)
- ◆ 10% (6) of CEAs provided funding to expand the Head Start day or year (an increase of 2 CEAs or 50% from 2003-04)
- ◆ 36% (21) of CEAs reported Head Start as a partner in area-wide collaborations for children (an increase of 2 CEAs or 5% from 2003-04)
- ◆ 10% (6) of programs launched or maintained a joint classroom with Head Start (an increase of 2 CEAs or 50% from 2004-05)



The Iowa Child and Family Household Health Survey

A comprehensive statewide study of the access to care, health status and social environment of children in Iowa.

Survey reveals health of Iowa children

Do you have questions about the health of Iowa's children? If so, the 2005 Iowa Child and Family Household Health Survey (IHHS) released on Dec. 1, might have some answers for you. Now available online, the 2005 IHHS provides valuable population-based information about the health status, access to health care, early childhood issues, and social environment of children in Iowa families.

<http://ppc.uiowa.edu/health/ICHHS/iowachild2005/ichhs2005.htm>

The study was a collaborative effort of three maternal and child health partners, including Child Health Specialty Clinics, the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), and the University of Iowa Public Policy Center.

Building on the results and successes of the first IHHS survey, completed in 2000, the three partner organizations developed the 2005 IHHS to incorporate significant input from maternal/child health program staff. New questions relate to early childhood, nutrition, physical activity, tobacco use, gambling, asthma, mental health, drugs/alcohol, oral health, and child care. “

Although some of the health indicators are lower than in 2000, the 2005 survey indicates that the well-being of Iowa's children is generally good,” said Pete Damiano, professor at the University of Iowa Public Policy Center and College of Dentistry. “Over 90 percent have a regular source of medical care and there is a very low rate of children without health insurance.”

An Early Childhood Report on the early childhood data will be released the middle of February.

Concluded in the spring of 2006, the survey was based on telephone interviews to more than 3,200 Iowa families with children, with an over-sampling of minority families. The 180-question survey averaged 22 minutes to complete. Interviewers obtained a 77 percent response rate. The survey questions were answered by the adult most knowledgeable about the health and well-being of one randomly selected child in the household. The Iowa Department of Public Health worked closely with two of the state's universities to assure the quality of the survey results. The University of Iowa Public Policy Center guided the development of survey questions and analyzed the results. The University of Northern Iowa Center for Social and Behavioral Research provided trained interviewers to complete the data collection for the survey.

An Early Childhood Report on the early childhood data will be released the middle of February.

To learn more about the 2005 IHHS and view the results, visit <http://ppc.uiowa.edu/health/ICHHS/iowachild2005/ichhs2005.htm> or call Lucia Dhooze at 515-281-7613.



Healthy Child Care Iowa (HCCI)

Sally Clausen, ARNP, BSN
Healthy Child Care Iowa
Iowa Department of Public Health
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CPSC Update

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) in cooperation with the federal Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is working to prevent injuries to children and adults. The CPSC and FDA are charged with protecting the public from unreasonable risks of serious injury or death from consumer products, foods, and medicine. The IDPH receives all federal notices regarding consumer product hazards, warnings and recalls. Consumer products pertaining to Iowa early childhood care and education programs are listed on the IDPH webpage **Healthy Child Care Iowa**. Products that have a warning or have been recalled in the last six months are listed. You can find information on recalled products on the Consumer Product Safety Commission web site: <http://www.cpsc.gov> or on the Food and Drug Administration website: <http://www.fda.gov/opacom/7alerts.html>

- [Beds, Cribs, and Bedding](#) No new items
- [Child Clothing, Shoes, and Accessories](#) 2 items added to list in December
- [Equipment \(including infant supplies/equipment\)](#) 5 new items
- [Food, Drug, Medicine hazards and recalls](#) 17 items listed nationally no new items for Iowa go to <http://www.fda.gov/opacom/7alerts.html> to view national list.



U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

- [Furniture Related to Child Care and Early Education](#) 1 new item listed
- [Toys and Play Related Items](#) 6 new items listed.

New Link Added to HCCI webpage

The HCCI webpage (www.idph.state.ia.us/hcci) added a new link. HCCI now has information regarding respiratory illness and influenza.



Flu and Colds in Child Care, download materials

- ~Child Care Business Letter
- ~Flu vs Colds, chart for child care businesses
- ~Flu vs Colds, chart for parents
- ~Monty Moose or Jack the Germ stories
- ~Germ Fighter, lesson plan for child care and teachers
- ~Germ Fighter coloring pages 1 & 2

New Web Resource for Children’s Farm Safety

Take the time to check out this site. www.childagsafety.org



Brought to you by the Childhood Agricultural Safety Network (CASN), this site features new “Keep Kids Away from Tractors” resources; including three new ads (one in Spanish), Public Service Announcements by country music star Michael Peterson, and more to come. Please help us all keep kids away from tractors!

If you have any questions on the campaign, please contact Regina Fisher at 1-800-662-6900 or email at fisher.regina@mcrf.mfldelin.edu

News from IDPH Oral Health Bureau



**Dr. Bob Russell,
IDPH Dental Director**



School Readiness and Oral Health

The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry has issued a policy brief on the importance of a dental check-up prior to entering school and recommends all states seek legislation mandating a dental examination prior to students entering school. At least two states, Illinois and California, have recently enacted a school entrance dental examination requirement. The Iowa Department of Public Health has submitted a proposal to be considered during the 2007 legislative session, requesting a mandatory school readiness dental screening for all children entering Iowa's public schools.

IDPH surveys of third graders show projections that suggest we have a reason to be concerned. In a 2006 survey of 1,126 children, the untreated decay rate for all children seen was 13.2 percent. The rate was higher for uninsured children and those on Medicaid at 14.8 percent and 19.3 percent respectively. Even children from families with insurance are not immune to dental disease. The average untreated decay seen among these children was 12.6 percent for the same survey year.

While 13.2 percent of 1,126 children screened represent only 148 children seen with untreated decay; according to the Iowa Department of Education, there were 34,064 third graders enrolled the school year 2005-2006. The total enrollment for 2005-2006 was 483,105 children in Iowa's public schools K-12 that year. This would suggest the potential of nearly 4,496 third graders and up to 64,000 Iowa children going to Iowa's schools with untreated dental decay!

In 2000, the United States Surgeon General in the report, "Call to Action" listed oral disease as a "silent" epidemic resulting in severe and unnecessary suffering, lost school time, and costs. Without an early warning system of screening and detection, the level of dental disease suffered by Iowa's children will remain silent. We now have an opportunity to address this problem in Iowa.

IDPH's mandatory school entry screening proposal will utilize the I-Smile project's integrated dental home concept. Physicians, dental hygienists, and dentists would complete the mandatory screening to identify signs of dental disease and refer children for needed care. This would assure Iowa's children are ready to learn.

An issue brief entitled Access to Dental Care has recently been produced through the work of the Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholders (Quality Services and Programs Component Group). The purpose of the issue brief is to inform policy makers about the importance of access to dental care for children, particularly for those children within low-income families.

The issue brief can be found at www.earlychildhoodiowa.org

Delta Dental Funds University Of Iowa Position To Recruit Dentists To Rural Iowa

ANKENY, Iowa – January 19, 2007– Delta Dental of Iowa has awarded a \$150,000, three-year grant to the College of Dentistry at the University of Iowa to help retain dentists in rural Iowa, where 79 of Iowa’s 99 counties are considered dental shortage areas. The grant will fund a new Iowa Practice Opportunities Coordinator position to manage recruitment of dentists to rural, underserved communities throughout the state and help match Iowa’s dental graduates with open practice sites. Debra Hoyle of Iowa City was recently hired as the opportunities coordinator.

“Recruiting dentists to Iowa communities currently relies on individual dentists, dental practice brokers or economic development and community leaders. The College is in a unique position to coordinate the linkage between dental students, practicing alumni and Iowa communities,” said Dr. David Johnsen, dean of the College of Dentistry. “We anticipate this new position will assist in retaining Iowa dental graduates and placing them in high need areas of the state. The College is very grateful to Delta Dental for funding this position to address access to care issues.”

The Iowa practice opportunities coordinator will work with Iowa communities’ chambers of commerce, the Iowa Departments of Economic Development and Public Health, the Iowa Dental Association and the University of Iowa Dental Alumni Association to identify communities seeking a dentist and facilitate placement.

“Delta Dental of Iowa is pleased to collaborate with the College of Dentistry on this important project to meet the growing needs of Iowa’s underserved and aging populations,” said Dr. Ed Schooley, vice president and dental director. “We recognize both the public health impact and the economic impact a dental practice can have in a rural community.”

Delta Dental’s three-year commitment to the university position is funded by the not-for-profit company’s Public Benefit Program, which in 2006 provided more than \$475,000 in grants to Iowa oral healthcare projects. The mission of the Public Benefit Program is to meet the oral healthcare needs of Iowa’s underserved population through prevention, education, access to care and research oriented programs.

Delta Dental’s grant to the College of Dentistry is in addition to the company’s annual Loan Repayment Program, which provides dental education debt replacement for dentists who commit to serve Medicaid-eligible patients in rural Iowa communities. Dentists in the Delta Dental Loan Repayment Program have performed more than 25,000 treatments for more than 11,000 Medicaid patients since the company’s repayment program began in 2002.

Background:

- Iowa’s dental workforce is aging. Approximately 50 percent of Iowa’s practicing dentists are over age 50.
- 79 of Iowa’s 99 counties are dental shortage areas; 12 of the 79 counties are considered critical shortage areas.
- The Iowa population is aging and in general, people are retaining their teeth longer, creating a high level of demand for dental services.
- The predicted dental workforce shortage will adversely affect the access to oral health care for economically disadvantaged populations, residents of rural communities and people who already face barriers to care.
- A dental practice in Iowa is estimated to have an average economic impact of \$1.3 million, or \$1.6 billion statewide
- Iowa communities interested in recruiting a dentist should contact the College of Dentistry at 319-335-9865.



From left: Dr. Jed Hand, executive associate dean, College of Dentistry; Suzanne Heckenlaible, community relations manager, Delta Dental of Iowa; Dr. Ed Schooley, vice president and dental director, Delta Dental of Iowa; Debra Hoyle, coordinator; Dr. David Johnsen, dean, College of Dentistry; Dr. Bob Russell, state dental director, Iowa Department of Public Health

Delta Dental of Iowa supports a number of community benefit programs as part of its not-for-profit mission to improve the oral health of Iowans. In 2006, the company contributed more than \$475,000 to oral health projects in Iowa, benefiting underserved children and the elderly. Delta Dental of Iowa, the largest and most experienced provider of dental benefits in the state, is a member of the Delta Dental Plans Association, a national organization of not-for-profit Delta Dental member companies. The national association is the largest dental benefits carrier in the nation, providing coverage to more than 47 million people in nearly 81,000 employer groups.

CONTACT:

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319-335-7146, or
Cindy Deppe
Delta Dental of Iowa
515-261-5536

Submitted by Jenny Untiedt
IDPH
Covering Kids & Families

For more information about the Iowa Covering Kids and Families Initiative, visit <http://www.idph.state.ia.us/coveringkids>.

Focus On Health Literacy

Health Literacy was officially defined by the Institute of Medicine as “...the capacity to obtain, process, and understand basic health information and services needed to make appropriate health decisions”¹. Low health literacy levels are reaching epidemic levels in America, affecting approximately 38% of Iowans² and half of all Americans. Anyone can fall victim to low health literacy, it does not discriminate along the lines of age, race, education or income. It costs the health care system billions of dollars every year³. Low health literacy is a barrier to enrollment in Medicaid and *hawk-i*, but it also has an impact on those who *are* able to access health care. Low health literacy often results in medication errors, missed appointments, adverse medical outcomes, and has even been attributed to producing Malpractice lawsuits. People with low health literacy are more likely to be in poor health, less likely to be screened and therefore more likely to reach the healthcare system in the later or last stages of their diseases⁴.

Accessing and navigating the healthcare system currently requires a high level of health literacy, which leaves many people in the dark. People living in poverty are more likely to have poor reading and comprehension skills. Many read at less than a fifth grade level, and although their verbal skills could be much higher, they may comprehend written material at a level several grades lower. Considering that many people in this population are eligible for public services such as Medicaid, it is baffling that most health related materials (the Medicaid application, for example) are written at the tenth grade level or higher⁵. As greater numbers of immigrants choose Iowa as their home it is increasingly important that public service opportunities aren't hidden behind a wall of complex technical terms and jargon.

The Iowa Covering Kids and Families state coalition has been granted funding from the Wellmark Foundation for a one-year health literacy project titled *Iowa Covering Kids and Families: Access through Health Literacy*. The goals for the year include developing resources that are designed to be understood by families and individuals with a low level of health literacy, creating resources for students and families to encourage the development of health literacy skills, and providing health literacy training for key stakeholders. By working to increase health literacy among all Iowans, it will be possible to both increase participation in Medicaid and *hawk-i* and to increase the positive returns all Iowans deserve and expect from their interactions with the healthcare system.

To explore the move towards clearer and more culturally competent government materials, go to www.plainlanguage.gov. For information about Iowa's health literacy project “Plain & Simple”, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/health_literacy.

¹ Institute of Medicine. “Health Literacy: A Prescription to End Confusion”. 2004.

² Reder S. Adult literacy estimates. Portland, Ore: Portland State University; 1996. Available at: <http://www.casas.org/lit/litcode/Search.cfm> Accessed 10/10/06.

³ Nielsen-Bohlman, Lynn, Allison M. Panzer, David A. Kindig, Eds. A Prescription to End Confusion. The National Academies Press, Washington D.C. 2004.

⁴ The Harvard School of Public Health: Health Literacy Studies Web Site. Available at:

<http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/healthliteracy>. Accessed 11/20/06.

⁵ MAXIMUX. “The Health Literacy Style Manual” Reston, VA. 2005.

Upcoming Opportunities:

“Partnering to Protect Children”

26th Annual Child Abuse Prevention Conference

May 7-8, 2007

Hosted by Prevent Child Abuse Iowa
Sheraton West Des Moines

For more information visit:
www.pcaiowa.org
or contact Amber Russell
arussell@pcaiowa.org;
1.800.CHILDREN

Workshops

- Nurturing Healthy Sexual Development™ Train-the-Trainer
- The Iowa Principles and Practices for Charitable Non-Profit Excellence
- Understanding and Responding to the Sexual Behaviors of Children
- Strengthening Family Resiliency
- Home Visit Safety for Professionals
- Dealing with Difficult People
- Lessons in Collaboration
- Grooming Behaviors of Online Predators
- Internet Safety panel
- Growing Up Poor: The Impact of Childhood Poverty
- Working Effectively with DHS to Help Kids and Families: What Every Helper Needs to Know
- Court Teams for Change

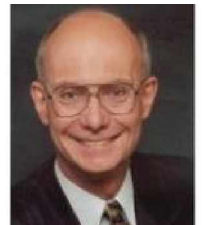
Workshops are also being finalized to address cultural awareness, ethics, and family mental health.

Prevent Child Abuse Iowa continues to stress the message that protecting children is everyone’s business. In order for “everyone” to protect children, we must all work together in coordinated efforts to maximize time, resources, and knowledge. Whether you are primarily involved in working directly with families, coordinating volunteers in communities, managing a program or organization, or raising money to support your work, you will find a workshop at the 26th annual child abuse prevention conference that addresses the issues we all face in “Partnering to Protect Children.”



Michael Winer will give the opening keynote address on “Creating Community Buy-In Through Effective Partnerships.” Michael has more than 25 years of national experience in working with a wide variety of organizations throughout the country. He works with all organizations, partnerships, and communities that want to grow the resources they have into results they can achieve. In addition to the opening keynote, he will present two workshops on “Building Public Awareness” and “Another %&#@ Meeting.”

Greg Risberg will give the concluding keynote address, “You Make a Difference.” In the stress of day-to-day living, it’s easy to get discouraged and wonder whether our efforts make any real difference. With insight, warmth, and humor, Greg reminds you of your significance. Greg will also present a workshop on “How to Stay Energized in a Changing World.”



Peggy North-Jones, a family educational consultant with the Parents as Teachers National Center and a Certified Family Life Educator will present several workshops, including:



- “Issues in Supervision: Supporting the Development of Reflection in Parent Educators”
- “Empowering Those Who Work with Children and Families in Today’s World—What You Need to Be a Wizard”
- “Why Doesn’t Everyone See the World the Way I Do? Understanding Differences in Temperament”

Kids @ Your Library



Saroj Ghoting

State Library of Iowa to Host Kids First 2007 Conference

Every two years, the State Library of Iowa hosts librarians at the conference that is totally committed to providing information about service children in Iowa's public and school libraries. Everyone is welcome to attend the conference. The 2007 Kids First Conference to be held at the Gateway Center in Ames, Iowa.

This year a new aspect of the conference will be a pre-conference on Wednesday, April 25 featuring, Saroj Ghoting. Saroj Ghoting has been instrumental in the development of the Association of Library Services for Children's program "Every Child Read to Read @ Your Library." This program provided training for librarians to work with parents to implement reading strategies with their children. Now, Saroj has been working on implementing these reading strategies from the "Every Child Ready to Read" program into library storytimes. In Iowa, she will be presenting an all-day pre-conference on "Early Literacy Storytimes @ Your Library." We are excited to get Saroj to come to Iowa to help us with our Early Literacy Initiatives. Check out Saroj's Web site at: <http://www.earlylit.net/>.

On Thursday, April 26, Steven Layne will be the keynote speaker talking about "Motivating Kids to Read." Dr. Steven L. Layne, serves as a full-time associate professor of education and literature at Judson College in Elgin, IL. His vast array of experience working at multiple grade levels in public schools allows him a unique camaraderie with teachers and librarians and his award-winning books for children and teens add another appealing element to his dynamic presentations.

He is a frequent keynote speaker at large conferences and gatherings of literacy educators and librarians throughout the world. In addition, Steven continues to do a few school appearances each year as a guest author and provides in-service for schools throughout the nations. Check out his Web site at: <http://www.stevelayne.com/webapps/v1.5/index.jsp>.

Nancy Carlson will be the luncheon speaker on Thursday, April 26. Nancy is an accomplished children's book author and illustrator who has published more than 50 books. She is one of the few people who knew even back in kindergarten what she wanted to do for a living: "Make pictures and tell stories." Nancy has a Web site at: <http://www.nancycarlson.com/>

On Friday, April 27, RoseMary Honnold will be the keynote speaker. RoseMary is best known for her two books, "101+ Teen Programs That Work" and "More Teen Programs That Work." RoseMary is a practicing teen librarian and is the creator of the "See YA Around" Web site and has written articles for the Voice of Youth Advocates library journal and the Young Adult Library Services Association's online newsletter. Look for more information about working with teens in libraries at: <http://www.cplrmh.com/>.

The teen author speaker on Friday, April 27 lunch will be Deb Caletti, author of "The Queen of Everything." Her book, "Honey, Baby, Sweetheart" which was nominated for a National Book Award has received many honors, including the PHBA Best Book Award. "Wild Roses," based on a painting by van Gogh, was released in October. In 2007, Simon and Schuster will release her latest book, "The Nature of Jade." See more about Deb at her Web site: <http://www.debcaletti.com/>.

Located at the State Library of Iowa's Web site is information about registering for the conference, lodging and schedule updates. <http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/ld/youth-services/kidsfirst/kidsfirst2007>

Iowa's Early Childhood Vision: Every child, beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful.