

Iowa Community Empowerment Newsletter

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Family Support Peer Review Process

We have exciting news! Iowa is on the verge of piloting a peer review evaluation process for family support programs. We have many family support programs operating in Iowa that do not have the opportunity to participate in an independent evaluation process. Many also have very little access to technical assistance for quality improvements. A peer review is a valid evaluation method and is proven to be beneficial to all parties involved.

The Family Support Leadership group endorsed the idea of establishing a peer review process. The Peer Review workgroup and Standards workgroup have been hard at work preparing for a peer review pilot. We were able to get permission from the Council on Accreditation to use their standards and evaluation process as a template for Iowa. We asked for three sites to volunteer and quickly had our three slots full! The peer reviewers for the pilot have been selected. They bring great expertise, years of experience and are well respected in the field of family support.

The onsite portion of the pilots will occur in the month of September. Currently the pilot sites are completing a self assessment in preparation for their visits. The peer reviewers will be interviewing the agency staff, community partners and consumers of services in addition to many other activities. The peer review will result in a written evaluation report which the pilot site will respond to by developing a quality improvement plan. The Office of Empowerment will provide technical assistance to the pilot sites as they develop and implement their quality improvement plan.

An important component of the pilot is discovering what worked well and what didn't. The input from the sites as well as the peer reviewers will be invaluable. We plan to use what we learn from the pilots to improve the process prior to state-wide implementation.

The pilot sites are:

- Lee/Van Buren Empowerment, Parents as Teachers operated by Community Action of Southeast Iowa
- Jones Empowerment, Parents as Teachers operated by the Young Parents Network
- Warren Empowerment, Caring Connections operated by the Warren County Public Health

For more information contact: Janet Gartin, 515-242-5895 or janet.gartin@iowa.gov

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 June 2007 - July 2007

Links to Empowerment Web sites:

State: www.empowerment.state.ia.us

Local Empowerment web sites are also available on the state web site. Go to the Local Areas tab and click on Map.

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

Dallas

www.co.dallas.ia.us/Comm_Services/Empowerment.asp

Des Moines/Louisia

www.caringcommunityempowerment.org

Dubuque

www.empowerdubuque.org

Floyd, Chickasaw, Mitchell

www.fmcempowerment.com

HAWC (Howard, Allamakee, Winneshiek, Clayton)

www.HAWC-Iowa.com

Hardin

www.empowerhardin.com/

Henry

www.healthylhenrycounty.org

Humboldt, Hamilton, Wright

www.buildingfamilies.net

Jasper

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

Johnson

<http://www.jcempowerment.org>

Linn

www.linncountycommunityempowerment.org

Marshall

www.youthandviolence.org

Muscatine

www.muscatineempowerment.org

Pocahontas, Calhoun and Webster

www.linking-families.com

Polk

www.hspa.org

Scott

www.scottcountyempowerment.org

Story

www.storycountyfamily.org

Warren

www.warrenempowerment.org

Washington

www.empowerwashington.org

Woodbury

www.siouxlandship.org

Early Care, Health and Education System Building Activities

- Professional Development System meeting, Dan Haggard - May 31, June 1
- Healthy Families America Refresher Training - June 5
- Empowerment Model of Government presentation at ISU - June 5
- Department of Ed Preschool ICN - June 5
- DHS Child Care Bureau Update - June 6
- Early Childhood Community Collaboration Conference, Ohio - June 6-8
- Fiscal Assessment Workgroup - June 6
- ECI Public Engagement workgroup - June 7
- Iowa Family Support Peer Review Team - June 8 & July 11
- ECI Stakeholders - June 12
- Empowerment Coordinator Training Series planning discussion - June 12
- Business Center Development Project planning (DHS) - June 13 & July 9
- Parent Information Resource Center board meeting - June 13
- Leadership in Action Program - June 14-15 & July 18-19
- State Child Care Advisory Council - June 14
- Family Support Collaborative, Greenfield - June 14
- Training for Service Intensity Project - June 15
- ECI Governance & Administration Workgroup - June 18
- Education Enterprise Planning Team - June 18 & July 18
- *hawk-i* Board meeting - June 18
- Family Support database review, Council Bluffs - June 19
- EC Diversity Conference planning - June 19
- Empowerment web site design meeting with IDPH - June 21
- QRS Oversight meeting - June 21
- Healthcare Coverage for Kids Coalition - June 21 & July 11
- Family Support Core Competencies and Standards - June 21 & July 23
- CCR&R Trainers meeting - June 25 & July 19
- PAT Born to Learn Training - June 25
- ECI Congress Planning - June 26 & July 19
- Professional Development Steering Committee meeting - June 26 & July 19
- QSP subcommittee on School Readiness - June 27 & July 19
- Professional Development coordinator interviews (DHS) - July 2
- ECI Governance Retreat - July 5
- IAAYC/TEACH breakfast with Sue Russell - July 6
- Family Support meeting with CFPC - July 6
- DE Preschool Grant Reviews - July 9
- Early ACCESS Partner Survey meeting - July 10
- EC Advocacy/Economic Development meeting with Maggie Tinsman - July 10
- Parent Web site support meeting - July 11
- Presentation to Council on Human Services - July 11
- DHS Regulatory Discussion - July 11
- Reach Out & Read meeting - July 12
- Life Skills Progression Training - July 12 & July 19
- Iowa Empowerment Board meeting - July 13
- Co-facilitate Partnering with Parents - July 16-27
- Diversity Conference planning with business partners - July 16
- ECI Results Accountability workgroup - July 17
- Healthy Child Care Iowa planning - July 17
- Family Support & HOPES coordination meeting - July 25
- Professional Development System meeting - July 26-27
- ECCS Planning Meeting, Washington, DC - July 30-August 1
- Barriers to Pre-natal Care meeting - July 31
- Child Care Legislative Interim Committee - July 31
- Empowerment Coordinator Training Series planning meeting - July 31

Upcoming Events Calendar at a Glance

Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholders
September 11, 2007
ChildServe
Johnston

Empowerment Coordinators/Contacts Meetings
September 19, 2007
Rising Sun Church of Christ
Pleasant Hill

Partnering With Parents ONLINE
June 11 - November 30, 2007
www.extension.iastate.edu/pwp

The Governor's Conference on Public Health
Barn Raising VI: Celebrating Healthy Communities
August 2-3, 2007
Drake University
Des Moines
www.idph.state.ia.us

Healthy Families America Training
September 10-14, 2007
Des Moines
nancy.krause@lsiowa.org

Early Childhood Diversity Summit
September 26, 2007
Drake University Campus
Des Moines
michellesw@cfpciowa.org

Off to a Good Start
Framing Policy for Early Childhood Health Systems Integration
September 28, 2007
Iowa City
carrief@cfpciowa.org

IAEYC Annual Conference
PLAY...The Missing Link
October 12-13, 2007
Polk County Convention Complex
Des Moines
info@iowaaeyc.org

15th Annual Early Childhood Iowa Congress
November 13-14, 2007
Scheman Center
Ames

For more information or to register for Iowa's Early Childhood Diversity Summit, contact Michelle Stover Wright, michellesw@cfpciowa.org.

Site Visits/Technical Assistance Activities

- Jones County Board Retreat - June 7
- Annual Report Review - Winnebago - June 7
- Hardin County TA with new staff - June 7
- Understanding Evidence-based Practice - Cedar Valley's Promise - June 11
- Clinton/Jackson TA - June 13
- Annual Report Review - Pottawattamie County - June 25
- Family Support TA, Jones, Iowa & Benton Counties - July 19

Linkages/Outreach Activities

- Growing Up Poor, Department of Human Rights - June 1
- Process Improvement Collaboration meeting - June 4
- Prevent Child Abuse Iowa Grant Review - June 4 & 6
- Youth Development Regional Team Conference, Chicago - June 5-7
- Immunization Conference - June 7
- Rebalancing Healthcare in the Heartland - June 19
- Careers Conference for Educators - June 19-22
- Affordable Healthcare Commission meeting - June 20
- Health Enterprise Management Team - June 25, July 9 & July 30
- Youth Development Steering Committee - June 27
- Iowans Fit for Life Partnership meeting - June 28
- Shalom Zone Back to School Health Fair - July 26



ECHE System Building Updates

Early Childhood Iowa Governance Retreat

On Thursday July 5th, the Governance component group of Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) held a Governance Retreat at the West Des Moines Learning Resource Center. The purpose of this meeting was to brainstorm about the future of ECI and explore different governance structure options for ECI. Emily Hajek from the Governor's Office shared information regarding the Iowa Children's Cabinet and how it relates to the work of ECI. Michele Stover Wright provided an overview of the need for a strengthened governance structure and a comparison of what models other states are using. The afternoon was spent doing a Strength, Weakness, Opportunities, Threats (SWOT) analysis using other state models to determine what is currently missing or already in place in our current governance structure. The group ended the day by putting together a list of charges or next steps for the Governance component group to help them move forward in strengthening Iowa's governance structure.

Early Childhood Diversity Summit

Iowa is becoming more diverse and children are leading the way. On September 26, 2007 the Governance component group of Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) will be co-sponsoring with Department of Human Rights an Early Childhood Diversity Summit. The goal of this summit is to work toward strengthening the diversity of ECI and the entire early care, health, and education system and to help the early childhood workforce better understand the implications of working in a diverse environment. Efforts to realize this goal led to the planning of a summit to gather people around this issue, learn from each other, and identify next steps. The scope of the goal is wide including: hiring practices, staffing, early childhood program curriculums/strategies, and representing and influencing all levels of the early care, health and education system. Intended audiences for this summit are members of diverse/ethnic organizations, decision makers and policy makers; anyone interested in strengthening early childhood that can influence changes at the system level. The Governance group has already begun planning a follow-up session to this summit to discuss the outcomes during an ECI break out session at the 2007 Early Childhood Iowa Congress.



Iowa Empowerment Board News July Meeting Highlights

The July 13, 2007 meeting of the Iowa Empowerment Board was held in Des Moines at the Iowa Workforce Center. The meeting was called to order by board chair, Floyd Winter. After the agenda was reviewed and the minutes from the May 11, 2007 meeting were approved, Shanell Wagler presented the administrative update. A handout was provided.

The board approved the proposed revision of Empowerment Tools CC (A) & CC (B), the tools that guide the use of the school ready funds for preschool programming support for low-income families. Just before the board broke for lunch, Beth Jones gave an overview of the Covering Kids and Families program followed by an opportunity for questions and discussion.

The meeting re-convened with a report from Beth Govoni on the continuing activities to support the Business Advisory Committee. It was reported that a contracted staff person would be hired by early fall to begin implementation of the project. Judy Jeffrey, Iowa Department of Education Director, then shared an update on the newly created bureau of early childhood within the Department of Education and the process to award the grants for the new Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year Old Children legislated this session.

At each meeting, the Iowa Empowerment Board members focus on the issue of quality as it relates to early care, health and education services and programs for children and their families. At the July meeting, Janet Gartin presented "The Science of Early Childhood Development". Rich discussion followed the presentation. The power point will be available on the Empowerment web site.

The next meeting of the Iowa Empowerment Board will be September 7, 2007 at The Inn at Okoboji, 3301 Lakeshore Drive, Okoboji, Iowa.

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.

The Board Room Corner: **Fourth in a Series**

Submitted by Janet Gartin,
Family Support Coordinator

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



Secrets to Success for the Chairperson

Every effective chairperson has the following qualities: credibility, neutrality, judgment, and fairness. Chairs must establish their credibility early and reinforce that credibility often by taking actions that are perceived as fair and honest.

Board members will put up with a lot of faults in a chairperson but one thing they won't forgive is showing obvious partiality in a controversial issue. One way the chair can display neutrality is by never entering into the debate. If the chair can not stay neutral they are obligated to have someone who can stay neutral preside. While the chair cannot make a motion they may suggest a motion by stating, "Would you like to put that in the form of a motion?"

Being an effective chairperson is all about making the correct judgment calls. Don't hesitate to admit when you have made a mistake, but then take the steps to correct the mistake. Chairpersons should pay attention to their tone of voice and facial expressions when they recognize a member to speak. Even if the person is a thorn in your side, it is important to not display that irritation. Chairpersons should avoid calling some members by their first name and not others.

Presiding over a meeting is an important time to remember you have two ears and one mouth for a reason. The most crucial part of communication for a chairperson is listening, observing, and sensing the mood of the group. When a member is speaking make sure you give them your full attention. A way that chairs can reduce lengthy debates is to recognize alternate sides of the issue. After someone has spoken in favor of an issue, the chair can ask if someone would like to speak against the motion. Alternating between the affirmative and the negative can reduce the debate.

A good way to establish credibility with your members is to keep the meeting moving. People don't want to be in a meeting any longer than necessary. You don't want however to rush people as it will appear that you are trampling on member's rights. Don't be afraid to call a member out of order but take the time to explain to them why the comments were out of order and how the member can correct the situation.

Before every meeting the chair should review the by-laws and the agenda. They should try to anticipate what may come up at the meeting so they are more fully prepared to facilitate the meeting. Starting the meeting on time sets the tone for the meeting and shows your respect for the member's time. Remember the chair is a facilitator not a dictator.

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.

New Feature:



Notice: This information is designed for general educational purposes only and is not intended, nor should it be construed as or relied upon, as legal advice. Please consult your legal counsel or other employment advisor for specific legal advice.

Workforce Tip: Background and Reference Checks

Submitted by Kristi Judkins, Business Services Representative, IWD

Before making a conditional job offer, an employer may not ask previous employers, family members, or other sources, any questions about the job applicant that cannot be directly asked of the applicant. The employer may inquire about job-related issues, but should not make any inquiry related to age, sex, national origin, race, color, creed, religion, or physical or mental disability.

If an employer uses an outside firm to conduct background checks, the employer should make certain that this outside firm complies with all relevant discrimination laws. Such a firm is an agent of the employer, and the employer is responsible for the actions of its agent. The agent may not do anything through a contractual relationship that the employer may not do directly.

For example, the EEOC warns that an employer or its agent should not ask a previous employer or other sources about the following:

- How old is the candidate?
- Has the candidate ever filed a discrimination charge with any local, state or federal agency?
- Has the candidate ever filed a workers' compensation claim?
- Does the applicant have a disability or suffer from any illness?
- Any subject that the employer may not directly ask the applicant during the pre-offer stage.

A previous employer may be asked about:

- job functions and tasks performed by the applicant,
- the quality and quantity of work performed,
- how job functions were performed,
- overall attendance record, or
- other job-related issues that do not relate to disability.

If an applicant has a known disability and has indicated the ability to perform a job with a reasonable accommodation, a previous employer may be asked about accommodations made by that employer.

For more information on what can and cannot be asked during background and reference checks contact Iowa Workforce Development at 515-242-5985.



Linn County Family Child Care Professional achieves National Accreditation through National Association for Family Child Care

Written by: Kristi Tisl, Hawkeye Area Community Action Program



Provider & Child Education Services (PACES), a program funded by the Linn County Community Empowerment and operated by Hawkeye Area Community Action Program, Inc (HACAP), is proud to announce that Kim Wink of Cedar Rapids has earned National Accreditation through National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC), the only family child care accrediting body in the nation. Ms. Wink has operated her child care program, *Kimmy's Kids*, since 1988. Ms. Wink is the first accredited provider in Linn County, and only the ninth child care home provider in Iowa to receive this honor.

NAFCC Accreditation defines standards of quality for the profession of family child care. Family child care providers, who choose to become accredited as Kim has, recognize the importance of a child's early years and work to provide a standard of excellence that both nurtures and educates young minds.

Kim has received technical assistance and funding support from the Provider & Child Education Services (PACES) program during the accreditation process. The Provider & Child Education Services program is a Linn County Community Empowerment Project that focuses on improving the quality and availability of child care in Linn County through the recruitment, training, and support of child care homes caring for young children (birth to 5 years of age). Kim Wink has been an active participant in the program for over four years.

When asked what she learned from the accreditation process, Kim replied, "It takes a lot of work but with my friends at HACAP we made it possible for my dream to come true. Hard work pays off in a lot of ways. I feel I can even more now help the children grow."

As of May 2007, there are 2,070 accredited programs nationwide. For more information regarding accreditation or NAFCC, please see their website at www.nafcc.org.

Local Nurse and US Navy Commander Takes Oral Hygiene 'On the Road'



070602-N-2296G-146 ISABELA, Philippines (June 2, 2007)-U.S. Navy Commander Joan Cooper with reserve Operational Health Support Unit Dallas, Texas, Det. H gets a rock star greeting from the children of Isabela City who want to see her big toothbrush as she demonstrates good oral hygiene. Cooper is part of a joint Philippines-United States Medical Civic Action Project (MEDCAP). Her job is to educate children on proper health care with her Filipino counterparts during the Cooperation Afloat Readiness Training (CARAT) exercise series. Carat is an annual series of bilateral maritime training exercises between the United States and six Southeast Asia nations designed to build relationships and enhance the operational readiness of the participating forces. U.S. Navy photo by MC1 (SS) Dave Gordon (RELEASED)

Joan Cooper is a Maternal Child Health Nurse with Family First Empowerment, Clarke County, and serves as a HCCI Nurse Consultant for Child Care Resource & Referral, Region 3.

Thank you Joan, for your service to children around the world!

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

Submitted by Barb Merrill, Executive
Director, Iowa AEYC/T.E.A.C.H.
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Bachelor's Degree Scholarship Model Announced

The T.E.A.C.H. program is pleased to announce the availability of scholarships for those wanting to work towards a bachelors' degree in early childhood education or an early childhood endorsement to an elementary education teaching license. Any teacher, provider, or director employed at a regulated child care or preschool program in Iowa is eligible if planning to attend an Iowa college. Please contact us at (515) 331-8000 or info@iowaaeyc.org for an application or additional information.

New Early Childhood College Directory

In partnership with the Iowa Head Start Association, T.E.A.C.H. and Iowa AEYC have updated the **early childhood college directory**, sharing information about the colleges in Iowa offering early childhood degrees and coursework. We are pleased to announce that you may find it now on line through Early Childhood Iowa:

<http://www.state.ia.us/earlychildhood/docs/CollegeResourceDirectoryJuly07.pdf>

Soon also to be on the Iowa AEYC and Iowa Head Start Association websites!



Walk a Mile Project

The Child and Family Policy Center (Every Child Counts) is working with seven Iowa community action agencies to do a Walk A Mile project in September. Walk A Mile is a national model out of Washington State that connects policymakers with their constituents who are struggling to get by and get ahead. The goals of Walk A Mile are...

- to enhance state legislators' understanding and recognition of the difficulties and challenges facing their low-income constituents;
- to enhance constituents' understanding of the political process and the challenges that policymakers face;
- to empower constituents to become more involved in politics and to become advocates for themselves; and
- to break down barriers and stereotypes that the two groups may have about each other, and to cultivate positive relationships.

Child and Family Policy Center and Iowa Community Action Association believe greater personal understanding between these two groups leads governments and communities to find genuine solutions to the problems of poverty.

For more information please contact Tiffany Smith

Phone: 515-280-9027 or E-mail: tiffany@cfpciowa.org.



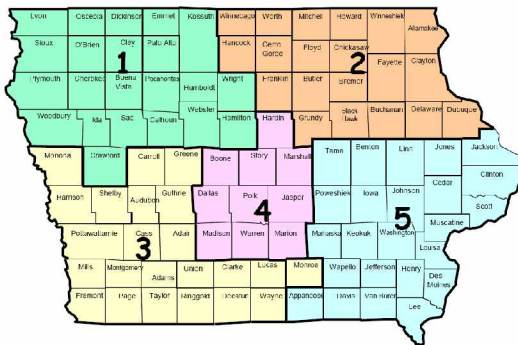
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Iowa Child Care Resource & Referral



Submitted by, Dick Sievers
Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc.



Region 1 Announces New Child Care Resources Director

Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc. is pleased to announce the appointment of Jackie Mulder as Director of their Child Care Resources Department. Child Care Resources includes services under the Child Care Resource & Referral, Child and Adult Care Food Program, Empowerment and related contracts.

Ms. Mulder has a Bachelors Degree in Organizational Management as well as an associates degree in accounting. Her most recent employment experience was at Village Northwest in Sheldon, Iowa where she served 8 years as Director of People Development.

“We’re excited to have Jackie with us, says Dick Sievers, Executive Director at Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc., She brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience that will help our Child Care Resources department and Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc. Jackie is a lifetime resident of Northwest Iowa which means she knows the people and the strengths they bring to Mid-Sioux and the people we serve.”

Jackie and her husband, Chuck, live in Hospers. They have three grown children who are all married and live in South Dakota, Minnesota, and Michigan.

Mid-Sioux’s Child Care Resources Division provides numerous services to parents, child care providers, pre-schools, child care centers and to communities in general. The agency serves a 22 county area in Northwest Iowa. In the past year nearly 900 childcare providers were active with the agency. Services provided by the agency included:

- Information and consultation on available child care options and cost factors.
- Help choosing quality childcare.
- Referrals to childcare providers.
- Information on childcare, child development, early childhood education and more.
- Advocacy and support in working with childcare providers.
- Information on childcare assistance and other family support services for income eligible families.

For more information please contact Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc. at 1-800-859-2025.

*~Kind words can be short and easy to speak but their echoes are truly endless.~
Mother Teresa*



Save the Date!

Prevent Child Abuse Iowa will host its 27th annual child abuse prevention conference on April 21-22, 2008 at the Sheraton West Des Moines. More information will be coming this fall to PCA Iowa's website at www.pcaiowa.org.

Prevent Child Abuse Iowa Receives Grant for Prison-Based, Dads Education Program

Prevent Child Abuse Iowa received notice on June 15 that it was approved for a \$15,000 grant to implement a new prison-based, dads education program called *Nurturing Fathers*. This grant, courtesy of Prevent Child Abuse America will provide training for six people to learn the curriculum and technical assistance throughout the next year to implement it.

Partnering with PCA Iowa on this project is Upper Des Moines Opportunity, Inc. (UDMO) and the Fort Dodge Correctional Facility. Since 2000, UDMO has provided parent education classes to dads housed at the correctional facility and PCA Iowa has supported this instruction since 2003.

Nurturing Fathers, written by Mark Perlman, is a subset of the *Nurturing Parenting* curricula series written by Stephen J. Bavolek. This curriculum addresses such topics as: the roots of fathering, fathering sons/fathering daughters, discipline without violence, playing with children, communication and problem solving and dealing with feelings. Studies of the curriculum show it is effective in improving parental attitudes and behaviors linked to child abuse and neglect.

Operation: Military Kids Receives Additional Grant

Reprinted with permission from the EXTENSION Connection, April 2007



Operation: Military Kids (OMK) has received an additional \$106, 668 in grant funding. Through this program, Iowa State University Extension provides education, outreach and support to youth of deployed military families. The new grant will benefit the 1,000 military kids in Iowa whose parents' tours in Iraq have been extended.

According to Chris Gleason, OMK project director, "This deployment extension struck an emotional blow to our military kids. ISU Extension 4-H Youth Development will use this extra grant money to design and implement a variety of fun experiences for military kids to help them cope with the extended deployment. In addition, our goal is that these fun experiences will help the military kids build skills in communication, leadership, citizenship and personal life management as they relate to dealing with deployment issues. "

Operation: Military Kids is a partnership between the U.S. Army's Child and Youth Services and USDA/4-H that works with children of the National Guard and Reserve soldiers. For more information on Operation: Military Kids in Iowa contact Chris Gleason, cgleason@iastate.edu.



Iowa Head Start



Iowa Head Start Association announces new Executive Director

The Iowa Head Start Association is pleased to announce the hiring of a new Executive Director. Delora Jespersen Hade began her duties on June 1, 2007. Delora may be familiar to some of you, as she was previously a technical assistance specialist with Region VII Head Start TA. She will continue with her current position as Instructor and co-chair of the Early Childhood Education program at Des Moines Area Community College as she assumes this new position.

With the executive director in place, IHSA expects to continue to make visible its commitment to the high quality, comprehensive services built around parent involvement and community collaboration that are the hallmarks of the Head Start program. Strategic priorities for the association for the next year include expanding opportunities for member engagement and, as consistent with the Head Start program performance standards, building on the principle of mobilizing parents to advocate for the community resources and services that help meet their needs. An expanded professional development schedule will provide Head Start staff with opportunities to enhance their skills in delivering quality services to children and families. The IHSA uses the professional development events to build community collaboration by including local, state and regional partners as presenters and participants. The professional development schedule is available on the IHSA website: www.iowaheadstart.org.

The mission of the Iowa Head Start Association is to enhance the capacity of its members to promote and advocate for a wide variety of quality services for all of Iowa's children and families. As executive director, Delora's role will be to oversee the management and implementation of the IHSA's goals in accordance with its mission. Please feel free to contact Delora at djhade@aol.com for more information about the Iowa Head Start Association.



**Deadline for nominations:
October 1**

Child At Heart Award

The Association for Iowa's Children is seeking nominations for the 3rd annual Child at Heart Award. Each of the state's 58 local Empowerment areas is eligible to nominate one person. We are looking for people who are champions for children, who have implemented innovative approaches to support children and families and have shown evidence of passion and motivation given to others to take leadership roles for children and families. The nominee's efforts can be local, regional or statewide. Contact your local Empowerment Area for details. Their contact information can be found at: <http://www.empowerment.state.ia.us/> click on local area and go to the map of the local empowerment areas. Deadline to apply is October 1, 2007.

For additional information please contact,
Cindy Duhrkopf, Child at Heart Award Chair
PO Box 672
Carroll, IA 51401



Reach Out and Read: An investment in school success

Mary Ann Abrams, MD, MPH and Linda Plummer, MS

Reach Out and Read is a program developed by pediatricians and early childhood educators to prepare children for success in school by incorporating literacy as part of routine pediatric care. The program is designed to take advantage of the existing structure of pediatric primary care, in which parents of young children have regular, one-to-one, developmentally focused visits with pediatricians or family practice physicians during the first years of a child's life. *Reach Out and Read* builds upon the special relationship between physicians and parents of young children, to encourage parents to read aloud to their children daily. Research shows that being read to early and often creates a strong foundation for later learning and ultimate success in school.

Reach Out and Read focuses on children ages six months to five years. During this time, children routinely see their doctors for "well-child" visits ten times, receiving an age-appropriate and culturally sensitive book at each visit, and developmentally-appropriate advice on sharing books with their children. By reaching parents with children at this young age, *Reach Out and Read* reinforces the parents' role as the first and most important teacher, and gives parents the tools needed to help their children succeed.

One of the most compelling aspects of *Reach Out and Read* is its cost-to-benefit ratio. The average investment per child for books distributed through the program is only \$27.50 over five years. However the payoff is big. Multiple published studies indicate increased language skills in children participating in *Reach Out and Read*. Also, parents going through the *Reach Out and Read* program are between four and eight times more likely to read aloud to their child as a result of the program. According to the *Reach Out and Read* National Center, "Many children who ultimately fail in school start out with reading difficulties. This initial specific problem may lead to generalized school failure, truancy and dropping out, which in turn puts young adults at higher risk of early pregnancy, drug and alcohol use, and criminal activity." *Reach Out and Read* can be a simple and inexpensive early intervention for potential adolescent problems.

Reach Out and Read programs are located in more than 3,100 hospitals and clinics in 50 states, District of Columbia, Guam and Puerto Rico. Through these sites, more than 4.3 million new books are distributed annually. In Iowa, a Statewide *Reach Out and Read* Coalition was established in 2006. Through this Coalition there are currently 33 clinical locations serving more than 30,600 children each year. To reach more Iowa children who are at high risk for reading difficulty and school failure, the Coalition's key expansion priorities include bringing ROR to all of Iowa's Community Health Centers and Family Medicine and Pediatric residency training programs, as well as any other area interested in promoting early literacy. The Coalition is seeking practices interested in participating in the program. Current and future ROR sites can benefit from help in many ways – assisting with applications and managing the program, book donations, connecting to local funders who want to support literacy in their community, and helping create a literacy-rich waiting area. If you would like to know more about *Reach Out and Read* visit www.reachoutandread.org. If you would like to learn more about establishing a *Reach Out and Read* site in your area, please contact Dr. Mary Ann Abrams, ROR-Iowa Coalition Leader, at abramsma@ihs.org.

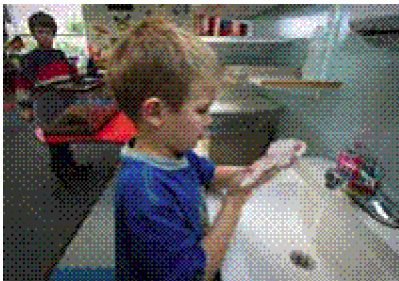
ROR's State Impact

- o 33 ROR clinical locations
- o 30,656 children participate annually
- o 41,098 new books distributed annually

Healthy Child Care Iowa (HCCI)



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Children and Ethanol-Based Hand Sanitizers (EBHS)

The Iowa Poison Control Center has received calls from 53 Iowans who have been exposed to EBHS's in the first five months of 2007. Many hand sanitizers contain 62 percent ethanol, and by comparison, most brands of hard liquor (whiskey, etc.) are 40-50 percent ethanol though a few are up to 75 percent ethanol. Many perfumes have high ethanol concentrations, ranging from 60 to 90 percent. EBHS's come in containers ranging from 0.5 to 32 ounces. Many "purse sized" EBHS's are from 2 to 6 ounces. The main poisoning concern regarding EBHS is from people drinking these products. Ingestion of an EBHS can lead to ethanol intoxication and have all the same signs and symptoms of ethanol intoxication that results from drinking beer, wine or mixed drinks. Some hand sanitizers use isopropyl alcohol instead of ethanol. These isopropyl hand sanitizers pose the same danger to children as the EBHS's.

How Much EBHS is Too Much?

Dermal - A single lick of a hand sanitizer that has been spread on the hands is unlikely to cause intoxication or produce symptoms more than irritation of the mouth and tongue. Ethanol intoxication by absorbing the ethanol through intact skin is highly unlikely. Repeated application of EBHS to non-intact skin (i.e. psoriasis, burns, abrasions) can lead to absorption of ethanol. However, it is likely that the irritant effects of the EBHS would lead to stopping the application of the EBHS before a significant amount of ethanol can be absorbed. **Ingestion** - If a typical 2 year old, weighing about 27 pounds, drank his mother's entire 2-ounce bottle of EBHS, he would have a theoretical blood ethanol level (BEL) of 445 mg/dL. The legal limit for drunk driving in Iowa is 80 mg/dL (0.08 g/dL). A single swallow of an EBHS in this child would produce a BEL of approximately 50 mg/dL. Symptoms of ethanol intoxication in children can begin at a level of 50 mg/dL.

The symptoms of ethanol intoxication in a child include irritability, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, unsteady gait, loss of muscle control and sleepiness. Severe ethanol intoxication can lead to coma, respiratory arrest and death. Children who are intoxicated with ethanol are particularly susceptible to dropping their blood sugar and can suffer the effects of low blood sugar (irritability, clouded thinking, seizure, coma, death).

Soap and Water versus Hand Sanitizers

Washing hands with soap and water for 20 seconds is the best way to remove dirt and germs from the hands and is preferred to the use of EBHS. However, EBHS are an excellent choice when there is no access to soap and water (such as field trips, etc.).

What to Do if My Child Drinks Some EBHS?

First is prevention: the same way a parent would not let their child play with a bottle of vodka or whiskey, they should not let their child play with an EBHS. EBHS should be kept out of reach of children in the same way that prescription drugs and other chemicals are.

If a child is exposed to an EBHS, call the Iowa Poison Control Center at **1-800-222-1222**. Nurse specialists will assess the situation and provide medical treatment advice. *Source: Iowa Poison Control Center,*
[www. *http://www.iowapoisson.com/*](http://www.iowapoisson.com/)





U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

CPSC Update

The U.S. government is charged with protecting the public from unreasonable risks of serious injury or death from consumer products, foods, and medicines. 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>.

Healthy Child Care Iowa maintains a list of products that have a warning or have been recalled in the last six months.

To view recalled product information, first select a product category from the following list.

- [Beds, Cribs, and Bedding](#) no new items listed
- [Child Clothing, Shoes, and Accessories](#) 4 new items listed.
- [Equipment \(including infant supplies/equipment\)](#) 5 new items listed ·
- [Food and Drug recalls](#) <http://www.fda.gov/opacom/7alerts.html>: 45 new items listed nationally
- [Furniture Related to Child Care and Early Education](#) no new items listed
- [Toys and Play Related Items](#) 14 new items listed.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission has safety publications in all of the following topic areas:

[All Terrain Vehicles Safety](#)
[Electrical Safety](#)
[Fire Safety](#)
[General Information](#)
[Holiday Safety](#)
[Home Heating Equipment](#)
[Household Products Safety](#)
[Indoor Air Quality](#)

[Outdoor Power Equipment Safety](#)
[Playground Safety](#)
[Poison Prevention](#)
[Pool & Spa Safety](#)
[Public Use Products](#)
[Recreational & Sports Safety](#)
[Reports](#)
[Toy Safety](#)

HCCI Child Care Nurse Consultant Training Opportunity

Healthy Child Care Iowa (HCCI) will offer the 6-day **Iowa Training Project for Child Care Nurse Consultant** this fall.

Please visit the HCCI website: <http://www.idph.state.ia.us/hcci/about.asp> for information.

- Dates: September 5, 6, and 7
October 23, 24, 25
- Location: Jordan Creek Towne Center, West Des Moines
- Tuition Fee: \$150 covers tuition and reference materials
- To apply: Visit the HCCI website and go to the “About Us” webpage. Click on the brochure icon to view the registration link.
All applicants are required to complete the online application.

2007 Back-to-School Health Fair

Covering Kids and Families (CKF) is in the midst of an exciting “Back to School Campaign.” With school just around the corner, families find already tight budgets stretched even more as school supply lists seem to lengthen every year. From kleenex to scissors to dry erase markers and sandwich bags – preparing a child for school involves having the correct materials, as well as having the proper health screens and immunizations. Costs for school can add up very quickly, especially if there is more than one child within a household. CKF – in partnership with the Healthcare Coverage for Kids Coalition is sponsoring a second annual back-to-school health fair. The event will take place on August 8th from 3:00 – 7:00 p.m. at McKinley Elementary School. This health fair will offer children free school physicals, school supplies, immunizations, dental screenings, vision tests, lead testing, as well as other important health information.

In addition to the McKinley Health Fair, CKF will also be doing *hawk-i* outreach at the Iowa State Fair from August 9th through the 19th. There will be *hawk-i* information and outreach staff as well as other health information at the Iowa Department of Public Health Booth in the Varied Industries building throughout the fair. CKF giveaways will include frisbees, pens, bookmarks, posters, magnets and *hawk-i* applications in an effort to educate families on *hawk-i* as being an available insurance option for working families. If you have any questions about the current activities of Covering Kids & Families, please contact Beth Jones at bjones@idph.state.ia.us or Jenny Hodges at jhodges@idph.state.ia.us.

Save the Date!



Leadership for a New Iowa: Two Days of Conversation, Communication, and Collaboration

November 13 & 14, 2007
Scheman Center, Ames

Keynote Speakers:

Karen Ponder, Early Childhood Consultant, North Carolina

Luis Hernandez, Early Childhood Education Specialist, Training & Technical Assistance Services at Western Kentucky University

15th Annual Early Childhood Iowa Congress

For more information call DMACC Continuing Education:
515-964-6685 or lmkiester@dmacc.edu

News from IDPH Oral Health Bureau



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



General Facts

- Most oral health problems are preventable. Solutions to these problems are cost effective.
- Poor oral health causes unnecessary suffering.
- Millions of Americans, including our most vulnerable populations, are unable to access any care and suffer the most.
- Oral health problems cause pain, impact our ability to eat, sleep, work or get a job, and concentrate in school. Poor oral health can complicate or is linked to diabetes, and may be linked to heart disease, pneumonia, stroke, and pre-term, low birth weight babies.
- Uninsured Americans with severe oral disease often end up in hospital emergency rooms, where the problem is addressed through painkillers and/or tooth extractions, both of which are only a temporary fix.
- Medicaid coverage for dental services for adults is not mandatory. Almost half of all states have emergency only coverage or no adult Medicaid dental coverage at all. Some states provide dental benefits or are considering dental benefits for pregnant women and those with disabilities.

CHILDREN'S ORAL HEALTH: ISSUE BRIEF

According to the U.S. Surgeon General, tooth decay and diseases of the mouth are the most widespread illnesses affecting America's children. Untreated oral disease is a community responsibility, one that can be addressed through community-based preventive interventions and education, and improved access to dental care. Tooth decay is the number one most common childhood disease. Caused by a bacterial infection, it is more common than asthma, and is almost entirely preventable. Children with untreated tooth decay may endure great pain and have a hard time concentrating in school, eating, speaking, and sleeping. Children with untreated oral disease grow up to be adults with chronic untreated oral disease. Untreated oral disease affects employability and overall health, creating a costly burden on our healthcare system that can be prevented.

Strategies To Decrease The Oral Disease Burden And Save Unnecessary Costs To The Health Care System:

- Support evidence-based, scientifically-proven oral disease prevention measures:
 - school based or school linked dental sealant programs, and
 - community water fluoridation.
- Support strong state oral health programs that coordinate monitoring of disease and community preventive interventions
- Broaden dental insurance coverage for children, adults on Medicaid, elderly, and special populations and address fiscal, administrative, and social barriers to access to care
- Develop accessible (school-based or school-linked and community) oral health services
- Educate consumers about how to manage oral disease and break the cycle of transmission
- Collaborate with medical and other healthcare providers to integrate oral health with general health
- Expand practice acts to allow allied health professionals to provide disease prevention services to those without access to routine care

Statistics

- **Access To Prevention:** Over one-third of the U.S. population has no access to community water fluoridation. Almost two-thirds of U.S. children have not received even a single preventive dental sealant.
- **Access to Dental Care:** One-in-five children does not have access to dental care. Less than one-third of children covered by Medicaid receive a dental visit in any given year. Over 45% of adults do not visit a dentist in any given year.
- **Disparities:** For every child who lacks medical coverage, 2.6 lack dental coverage. Untreated tooth decay is more common in children of minority populations. Just 22% of low-income children are protected by dental sealants. Poor adults and elderly have a higher percentage of untreated tooth decay. Members of racial and ethnic groups experience a higher level of oral health problems.
- **Unmet Needs:** Three times as many parents report that their child has an unmet need for dental care as for medical care. One in five persons 65 years and older have untreated tooth decay and 1 in 8 have decay on root surfaces..
- **Special Needs:** One-in-four parents of a child with special healthcare needs claims that their child is in need of dental care. People with disabilities are at greater risk for oral diseases and are less likely to be treated.



IOWA AEYC ANNUAL STATEWIDE CONFERENCE OCTOBER 12-13, 2007 - DES MOINES, IOWA *the early childhood conference for professionals*

Play..... the Missing Link

The *Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children* is pleased to invite you and providers, teachers, and other early childhood professionals from your area to our annual statewide conference. Over **one hundred workshops** will be presented over the two-day event. In addition to the workshops, participants will enjoy nationally known keynote speakers, dozens of exhibits, tours of early childhood programs, an infant and toddler equipment display sponsored by Kaplan Early Learning Company, NAC-approved sessions, and opportunities to network with professionals from around the state.

Friday Keynote: Pamela Phelps

Play: the Missing Link

Pam's breakout sessions: *I Am What I Imagine Myself to Be: Understanding the Power of Dramatic Play* and *How Children Become Literate and Successful in School*

Saturday Keynote: Daniel Gartrell

Misbehavior or Mistaken Behavior

Dan's breakout session: *Guidance with Boys*

Break-out workshops of interest will include many topics related to developmentally appropriate play, leadership and management, curriculum, guidance, health and safety, state early childhood initiatives, and much more!

Special Event: Science Center of Iowa is sponsoring a special event Friday afternoon and evening for conference participants! On-site (nearby the Convention Center) at the Science Center of Iowa, we'll enjoy a welcome reception including refreshments, science-related workshops presented by Science Center of Iowa staff, and a guided tour of the exceptional facility including their on-site preschool, the fall traveling science exhibition, and you may want to experience the BIG picture Friday evening and see a film in the Blank IMAX Dome Theater! The event is co-sponsored by Lakeshore.

Special all-day optional pre-conferences on October 11 will include *New Staff Orientation training for Center Directors*, sponsored by ISU Extension; *Outdoor Learning Environments* sponsored by the University of Northern Iowa's National Program for Playground Safety; and *All About Curriculum*, sponsored by the Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children and the Iowa Department of Education. Contact Iowa AEYC for more information about these events.

For additional information and registration forms, contact Rhonda Bancroft at 515/331-8000 ext. 12. Registration discounts are available to Iowa AEYC members and students. Empowerment areas wishing to purchase conference registrations for the teachers and providers from your area are encouraged to email rhonda@iowaaeyc.org.

