

# Iowa Community Empowerment Newsletter

October 2007  
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## Community Empowerment Turns “10”!

Iowa Community Empowerment was established by legislation and signed into law by Governor Terry Branstad during the 1998 legislative session. Throughout the Governor Vilsack administration, the Empowerment process continued to grow and benefit from the strong bi-partisan support under which it began. As Community Empowerment begins its tenth year under the leadership of its third governor, Governor Chester Culver, the initiative maintains its strength and purpose which is to empower individuals and their communities to achieve desired results for improving the quality of life for children prenatal through age five and their families.



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Community Empowerment promotes Iowa’s early childhood vision: *Every child, beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful.* It ensures that accountability measures are in place in every community in Iowa to demonstrate the capacity and commitment for achieving the state’s five results: Healthy Children, Children Ready to Succeed in School, Safe and Supportive Communities, Secure and Nurturing Families, and Secure and Nurturing Child Care Environments. By serving as a catalyst to integrate and coordinate an early care, health and education system of systems, this initiative is leading the way in providing a strong start for our youngest Iowans.

In order to celebrate the success of the first ten years, and to kick off the next ten, Community Empowerment will be hosting a birthday bash. You are cordially invited to a celebration event on the first evening of the Early Childhood Iowa Congress, November 13, 2007 at the Scheman Center in Ames. The event will begin at 4:00 p.m. with delicious appetizers graciously provided by Kaplan Early Learning Company and a slide show highlighting each of the 58 local Community Empowerment Areas. This social time will be followed by a program with words from distinguished guests, and families that have been positively impacted by the programs and services which are made possible by Empowerment.

For more information about this event, contact Debra Scrowther at the Office of Empowerment, [debra.scrowther@iowa.gov](mailto:debra.scrowther@iowa.gov) or 515-281-4537. We look forward to seeing you there!



**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 August 2007 - September 2007

## Links to Empowerment Web sites:

**State Empowerment site:**  
[www.empowerment.state.ia.us](http://www.empowerment.state.ia.us)

**Association for Iowa's Children:**  
[www.iowaschildren.org](http://www.iowaschildren.org)

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](http://www.bcempowerment.com)

**Black Hawk**  
[www.cedarvalleypromise.org](http://www.cedarvalleypromise.org)

**Buchanan Delaware Fayette**  
[www.bdfempowerment.org](http://www.bdfempowerment.org)

**Cedar** [www.empowercedarco.org](http://www.empowercedarco.org)

**Cerro Gordo, Hancock, Worth**  
[www.ghwempowerment.com](http://www.ghwempowerment.com)

**Dallas**  
[www.co.dallas.ia.us/Comm\\_Services/Empowerment.asp](http://www.co.dallas.ia.us/Comm_Services/Empowerment.asp)

**Des Moines/Louisa**  
[www.caringcommunityempowerment.org](http://www.caringcommunityempowerment.org)

**Dubuque**  
[www.empowerdubuque.org](http://www.empowerdubuque.org)

**Floyd, Chickasaw, Mitchell**  
[www.fmceempowerment.com](http://www.fmceempowerment.com)

**HAWC (Howard, Allamakee, Winneshiek, Clayton)**

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

**Hardin** [www.empowerhardin.com/](http://www.empowerhardin.com/)

**Henry** [www.healthylhenrycounty.org](http://www.healthylhenrycounty.org)

**Humboldt, Hamilton, Wright**  
[www.buildingfamilies.net](http://www.buildingfamilies.net)

**Jasper**  
<http://www.jaspercountvempowerment.org/>

**Johnson**  
<http://www.jcempowerment.org>

**Linn**  
[www.linncountycommunityempowerment.org](http://www.linncountycommunityempowerment.org)

**Madison \*NEW\***  
[www.madisoncountyhelp.org](http://www.madisoncountyhelp.org)

**Marshall**  
[www.youthandviolence.org](http://www.youthandviolence.org)

**Muscatine**  
[www.muscatineempowerment.org](http://www.muscatineempowerment.org)

**Pocahontas, Calhoun and Webster**  
[www.linking-families.com](http://www.linking-families.com)

**Polk** [www.hspa.org](http://www.hspa.org)

**Scott**  
[www.scottcountvempowerment.org](http://www.scottcountvempowerment.org)

**Story** [www.storycountyfamily.org](http://www.storycountyfamily.org)

**Warren**  
[www.warrenempowerment.org](http://www.warrenempowerment.org)

**Washington**  
[www.empowerwashington.org](http://www.empowerwashington.org)

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

## Early Care, Health and Education System Building Activities

- Interviews for DHS Professional Development Coordinator - July 2
- ECI Governance Retreat - July 5
- IAIEYC Breakfast with Sue Russell - July 6
- Family Support update with Child & Family Policy Center - July 6
- First Children's Finance/DHS Business Center planning, Mason City - July 9
- Department of Education preschool grant review - July 9
- Early ACCESS Partners survey preparation - July 10
- Early Childhood Advocacy/Economic Development planning - July 10
- ECI Parent Web site Support meeting - July 11
- Presentation to Council on Human Services - July 11
- Peer Reviewer Training planning - July 11
- Advances in Professional Development Webinar - July 11
- Healthcare Coverage for Kids Coalition - July 11
- DHS Regulatory Discussion - July 11
- Partnering with Parents planning meeting – July 11
- Reach Out & Read meeting - July 12
- Life Skills Progression Training - July 12
- Iowa Empowerment Board meeting - July 13
- Partnering with Parents, co-facilitating - July 16-27
- Early Childhood '09 Budget Offer meeting - July 16, 30,
- Meet with Business, Diversity Conference & ECI Congress - July 16
- ECI Results Accountability workgroup meeting - July 17
- Healthy Child Care Iowa planning - July 17
- Executive Branch Education Enterprise Planning Team - July 18
- Leadership in Action - July 18-19
- ECI Congress Keynote Planning with Karen Ponder - July 19
- ECI QSP School Readiness Issue Brief planning - July 19
- CCR&R Training Coordinators planning - July 19 & August 21
- Professional Development Steering Committee - July 19
- Family Support Outcomes meeting - July 23
- Family Support Coordination planning with HOPES - July 25 & August 8, 14
- Professional Development System meeting - July 26-27
- Education Buying Team - Priorities for Growth - July 30
- Forum for Youth Investment, Interview about Empowerment Structure - July 30
- Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems grant meeting, DC - July 30-Aug 1
- Child Care Legislative Interim Committee - July 31
- Empowerment Coordinator's Training planning meeting - July 31
- Fiscal Accountability Workgroup - August 2
- ECI Public Engagement meeting - August 2
- Peer Review planning meeting – August 2
- Home Visitor Safety, IA Association of Counties conference - August 8
- State Child Care Advisory Council Leadership group - August 9
- Family Support Peer Review Training - August 9
- PSA for Empowerment Informational Conference Call - August 10
- DIBELS/Data for School Readiness Discussion - August 13
- Quality Services & Programs workgroup, School Readiness subgroup - Aug 14
- Professional Development contract negotiation with DHR for family support scholarships – August 15
- Kaplan Early Learning Company re: 10-Year Celebration - August 15
- IGDIs Assessment Training - August 16
- ECI Governance & Administration workgroup meeting - August 16
- SCCAC Policy & Membership Orientation Planning - August 17
- Child & Family Policy Center Partners meeting - August 20
- TEACH Advisory Committee - August 23

## Upcoming Events Calendar at a Glance

### Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholders

December 11, 2007  
Johnston Public Library  
Johnston

### Empowerment Coordinators/Contacts Meetings

December 12, 2007  
Rising Sun Church of Christ  
Pleasant Hill

### Partnering With Parents ONLINE

June 11 - November 30, 2007  
Another session begins online  
January 14, 2008

[www.extension.iastate.edu/pwp](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/pwp)

### IAEYC Annual Conference

#### PLAY...The Missing Link

October 12-13, 2007  
Polk County Convention Complex  
Des Moines

[info@iowaaeyc.org](mailto:info@iowaaeyc.org)

### Maternal Depression Screening and Referral Training Workshop

October 25, 2007  
Southwestern Community College  
Creston  
1-800-247-4023 ext. 449

### Family Support Nutrition Training

November 1, 2007  
Crossroads Church  
Norwalk  
Sherry, [ssmith@idph.state.ia.us](mailto:ssmith@idph.state.ia.us)

### Healthy Families America Training

November 5-9, 2007  
Cedar Rapids

[mary.odell@isiowa.org](mailto:mary.odell@isiowa.org)

*\*Family Support Scholarships are available through funding allocated to the Office of Empowerment for professional development activities. See*

[www.iowafadss.org](http://www.iowafadss.org) for more information

### 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Early Childhood Iowa Congress

November 13-14, 2007  
Scheman Center  
Ames

### Train the Trainer Maternal Depression Screening

December 7, 2007 &  
March 6, 2008  
Des Moines

[lisa-segre@uiowa.edu](mailto:lisa-segre@uiowa.edu)

- Empowerment orientation with Director Buck & Joe Walsh, IWD - August 27
- School Readiness content conference call - August 27
- Rule-making Process Class - August 28
- Professional Development Contract Negotiation with DHR for Cultural Competency - August 28
- Professional Development Contract Negotiation for Maternal Depression Screening - August 28

## Site Visits/Technical Assistance Activities

- Benton, Jones, Iowa County - Life Skills Progression Training - July 19
- Benton, Jones, Iowa County & YPN Staff Family Support Outcomes - July 19
- Corner Counties - TA with new coordinator - July 25
- Mahaska/Wapello, conference calls - July 24 & Aug 10
- Ringgold County Board meeting - August 2
- Lee/Van Buren Peer Review conference call – August 2
- Corner Counties Board work session - August 15
- Corner Counties Board meeting - August 20
- BV, Crawford, Sac Board meeting - August 22
- Dubuque County, Results Accountability Training - August 24
- Iowa County, Results Accountability Training - August 29
- Adair County Board meeting - August 29

## Linkages/Outreach Activities

- Covering Kids & Families, Process Improvement Collaborative - July 9
- Shalom Zone Back to School Health Fair - July 26
- Youth Development Steering Committee - August 1
- IDPH Barn Raising Conference - August 2-3
- McKinley Elementary Back to School Health Fair - August 8
- State Agency Workgroup, Youth Development - August 14
- Title V Grant Review, Kansas City - August 14-16
- Youth Development Steering Committee - August 29

## Family Support Activities

- Family Support update with Child & Family Policy Center - July 6
- Peer Reviewer Training planning - July 11
- Partnering with Parents planning meeting – July 11
- Life Skills Progression Training - July 12
- ISU - Partnering with Parents, co-facilitating module - July 16-27
- Family Support Outcomes meeting - July 23
- Family Support Coordination planning with HOPES - July 25 & August 8, 14
- Professional Development System meeting - July 26-27
- Peer Review planning meeting – August 2
- Home Visitor Safety, IA Association of Counties conference - August 8
- Family Support Peer Review Training - August 9
- QSP – School Readiness subgroup – August 14
- Professional Development contract negotiation with DHR for family support scholarships – August 15
- Benton, Jones, Iowa County sponsored - Life Skills Progression Training - July 19
- Benton, Jones, Iowa County & YPN Staff to discuss Family Support Outcomes - July 19
- Lee/Van Buren Peer Review conference call – August 2

# ECHE System Building Updates



**“Samantha’s” Story – Illustrating how 1<sup>st</sup> Five is making a difference:**  
 3 year old Samantha was seen for a well child exam at one of the participating 1<sup>st</sup> Five medical practices that provides comprehensive developmental screening. During the screening process, the physician identified significant speech and developmental delays. The medical staff referred Samantha to the 1<sup>st</sup> Five site care coordinator to link her to the local AEA and the University of Iowa for further testing. The 1<sup>st</sup> Five care coordinator linked the child and family to services and provided follow-up referral status to the medical practice. The referring physician expressed gratitude and relief to the care coordinator for the one-call easy referral process. Medical practices are more apt to provide comprehensive developmental assessments when effective referral processes are in place.

## Improving Children’s Healthy Mental Development through 1st Five’s Public-Private Partnerships

For more information, contact Sonni Vierling, 1<sup>st</sup> Five Program Coordinator [svierlin@idph.state.ia.us](mailto:svierlin@idph.state.ia.us), (515) 281-3108.

In the first years of life, children rapidly develop the social and emotional capacities that prepare them to be self-confident, trusting, empathetic, intellectually inquisitive, competent in using language to communicate, and capable of relating well to others. Even very young children can develop skills that allow them to soothe themselves, share and play, and listen and follow directions. These developments, sometimes called infant mental health, social and emotional development, or healthy mental development, include the child’s ability to:

- Appropriately regulate and express emotions;
- Form close interpersonal relationships with other children and adults; and
- Explore and learn from their environments.

Primary care providers play a key role in supporting optimal healthy mental development in children. In fact, during children’s early years, primary care providers are the single most frequented helping professional families encounter. During the first five years of life, 90.7% of Iowa families take their child for a preventive health care visit. Yet further Iowa statistics show that for children enrolled in Medicaid, basic developmental screening occurs for less than 50% of children 0-12 months and less than 30% of children 1-2 years. A recent national study revealed that 12 to 16 percent of children experience developmental problems, but only a third of those children are identified before they enter school. This data tells us that although children are getting to the doctor, they are not receiving optimal developmental services.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Five Healthy Mental Development...focusing on the first five years

Iowa’s 1<sup>st</sup> Five Healthy Mental Development Initiative focuses on increasing comprehensive developmental screening for young children during a child’s first five years by building partnerships between physician practices and public service providers. The goal is to ultimately prevent the need for more intensive and expensive care at a later age. By using a standardized screening tool for all children, medical practices are able to identify children at risk for developmental concerns that would otherwise play out later in life if left untreated. This tool screens for social-emotional development, family stress, and parental depression.

Once a developmental or family concern is identified from the screening results, the medical provider makes a referral to the community-based child health agency care coordinator who then works closely with the family to locate and access resources. The care coordinator follows-up with the provider regarding the status of the initial referral. This public-private partnership model is a necessary step towards redesigning a child health system that addresses key risk factors influencing a child’s healthy development and offers a wrap-around approach to providing patient care.

1<sup>st</sup> Five is an Iowa Department of Public Health initiative appropriated by the state legislature to fund local projects leading this effort at the community level. Community Health Services of Marion County was awarded funding for the 1<sup>st</sup> Five Healthy Mental Development FY08 RFP. An additional RFP is currently underway and new sites are expected to be announced by October 15, 2007. The three existing sites serving Clayton, Dubuque, Jackson, Lee, Van Buren and Polk counties, continue to expand the number of medical practices integrating a standardized surveillance tool during well child exams. From FY 06-FY 07, the number of known medical practices screening for social/emotional development and family risk factors increased from two to 27. For FY08, it is estimated that an additional 38 more practices will be added, which could impact approximately 20,000 more children. This is in addition to the already estimated 22,000 children birth-five that could be impacted from the existing sites.

### FIVE Approach To Public-Private Partnerships



- Partner with Primary Care Practices to screen for social/emotional development, family stress, parental depression and autism during well-child visits,
- Establish a referral system to Title V Maternal/Child Health care coordinators,
- Link families to intervention services for children and families, and
- Follow-up with providers regarding status of referral.



## Iowa Empowerment Board News September Meeting & Site Visit Highlights

The Iowa Empowerment Board (IEB) was in Okoboji on September 6 & 7, 2007 for their site visit and September board meeting. This is the Lakes Empowerment Area, serving the counties of Clay, Dickinson, O'Brien and Osceola. On Thursday evening, the IEB visited the Lakes Art Center for the unveiling of artwork created by a nationally known artist for the Lakes Empowerment Area depicting its strong collaborations with local partners including Head Start and Child Care Resource & Referral. The Board also had an opportunity to visit with local child care and preschool center directors and home-based child care providers about how Empowerment has assisted them in achieving positive outcomes in their programs.



State board member John White learns more about the local dental project.

On Friday morning, a DVD was presented highlighting the stories of providers and families that have been impacted by the programs supported by Lakes Empowerment. There were also two parents that were able to share in person with those present. The IEB members and others in the audience appreciated hearing from the families themselves as to the impact of the local Community Empowerment Area. Among the distinguished guests in attendance at the morning event were Senator David Johnson, Representative Mike May and Representative Ro Foege.



Representative Mike May visits with local early childhood providers on Friday morning.

The Iowa Empowerment Board meeting was called to order by chairman, Floyd Winter at 10:00 a.m. The meeting began with introductions and a hearty thank you to members of the Lakes Empowerment area. Following the review of the agenda and approval of the July 13<sup>th</sup> minutes of the Board, Shanell Wagler presented an administrative and legislative update and referred to the handout provided. She reminded board members to turn in their conflict of interest forms and gave an update on the request for status quo funding for the FY'09 budget year. Shanell called on Walter Reed to give an update and invitation to the Early Childhood Diversity Summit to be held September 26, 2007 at Drake University in Des Moines. She also invited board members to participate in redesignation visits with local boards in October if their schedules would allow.



Cyndee Dather, Lakes Empowerment Coordinator, prepares the audience for the family stories they will view.

Debra Scrowther referred to the handout of the administrative rules for Empowerment and led the board through the proposed changes. After discussion it was decided to move forward with the Intent to File process. This process provides the opportunity for public comment before the rules are finalized and adopted.

Shanell Wagler next gave an update on the professional development projects that are being funded by Empowerment in FY'08. A handout was provided. Janet Gartin presented the work of the Fiscal Accountability Work Group, referring to the minutes of that group from August 2, 2007. Discussion followed with the request that the group continue their work and get more information from local empowerment boards.

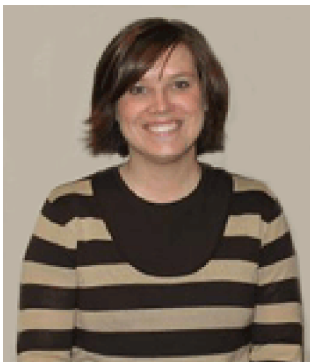
After a short break for lunch, the bylaws were presented with minor changes from the committee that had reviewed them. A vote will be held at the next meeting to adopt the revised bylaws. Just before the meeting adjourned, Debra Scrowther gave an update regarding the Empowerment 10-Year Celebration to be held in November.



Local Lakes Empowerment Board members visit with Iowa Empowerment board members at breakfast on Friday morning.

The next meeting of the Iowa Empowerment Board will be January 11, 2008 at a location yet to be determined.

## Office of Empowerment Welcomes Staff Member to New Position



The Department of Management, Office of Empowerment is pleased to announce a new member to their staff. Beth Jones will be filling the position of Early Childhood Business Community Liaison in October 2007.

The Early Childhood Business Community Liaison is a new contracted position supported through legislation this past year. Primary roles of this position will be to facilitate the strategic planning process of the Early Childhood Business Committee of the Iowa Empowerment Board and provide technical assistance to applicants and communities regarding the granting process.

Beth will be familiar to many as she has been a member of the Empowerment state technical assistance team from the Department of Public Health where she has been employed since March 2001. While employed with IDPH, Beth served as the Project Coordinator for the Covering Kids and Families (CKF) program, a national health access initiative for low-income uninsured families. In addition to her work as the project coordinator for CKF, Beth was a child health consultant for local Maternal and Child Health agencies. Beth graduated from the University of Iowa and most recently received her Master's Degree in Public Administration from Drake University in December of 2006.

Please join us in welcoming Beth to the Office of Empowerment and stay tuned for more information coming soon regarding the opportunities for public private partnerships for early childhood in our state.

## Meet New State TA Team Member: Tami Foley



Tami Foley is the Department of Human Service's Community Empowerment Liaison and a member of the State Empowerment Technical Assistance Team. Tami began her employment with the State of Iowa in December 1999 in the Child Support Recovery Policy Unit. Before working for the State, Tami worked for Drake University Head Start for five years, first as a family advocate in the Norwalk Head Start Center and then as a nutrition assistant for the organization.

Tami has a Bachelor of Science degree from South Dakota State University in Home Economic Extension and completed considerable amounts of masters-level coursework at Iowa State University in the area of Family Studies.

With a child under age five, and a dog, Tami and her husband stay busy. When there is a free moment, Tami enjoys sewing and quilting. From year to year, you may even see some of Tami's work in the Fabric and Thread's Department at the Iowa State Fair.

**Attention Local CEA Boards:  
Letters of Interest are Requested to host 2008 Site Visits and IEB Meetings**

Once again, the Iowa Empowerment Board (IEB) has decided that two of the Board's six meetings in 2008 will be held in a local community empowerment area. These meetings will occur on the following Fridays, May 16, 2008 and September 12, 2008.

We are asking that local empowerment boards submit a *letter of interest* to host the IEB. The letter of interest should include:

- One or two paragraphs explaining why you feel your site should be chosen including your preferred date selection - May 16, 2008 or September 12, 2008;
- Your intent to extend an invitation to the legislators in your area;
- And, be no more than **two pages** in length.

**Deadline to submit  
November 1, 2007**

The following details will be worked out with the Office of Empowerment upon the acceptance of your CEA as one of the host sites:

- The location you've identified for the Iowa Empowerment Board meeting to be held on Friday from 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM. The location must be able to accommodate at least 65 persons;
- Lodging accommodation options within close proximity of the meeting site, which accept the state rate;
- Information on site visits (at most 3) to local empowerment-supported programs to be conducted the morning of the meeting (8:30 - 10:30 AM);
- The details of the Thursday evening event, should your CEA choose to make that part of the visit; and
- Your intent to extend an invitation to the legislators in your area.

The costs incurred for the Iowa Empowerment Board meeting will be the responsibility of the Office of Empowerment. The costs associated with the optional Thursday evening event will be the responsibility of the local CEA.

Letters will be selected and approved by the Empowerment State Technical Assistance Team, and identified members of the Iowa Empowerment Board. Priority will be given to those areas that have their Annual Report submitted on time and are fully designated. If possible, one urban and one rural empowerment area will be chosen, with one representing a single county area and one representing multiple counties.

Once selected, the top two proposals will work with the Office of Empowerment to finalize the exact schedule and details.

Please submit the letter of your board's interest to host the IEB to: Debra Scrowther, [debra.scrowther@iowa.gov](mailto:debra.scrowther@iowa.gov). For questions or clarification, please call, 515-281-4537.

Submittal Deadline: November 1, 2007

## **Governor Culver Visits Durant Community Schools Integrated Head Start Program**

## **Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program Off to a Great Start**

*Taken from September/October One Iowa Report, Office of the Governor & Lt. Governor*

Earlier this year, Governor Culver signed HF 877, which established the \$60 million Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program, designed to increase pre-school access for four year olds across Iowa. Fifty-two Iowa school districts received grants to establish programs during the current school year. We were happy to report that within 4 years, every school district in Iowa will be eligible for the program.

On September 14th, Governor Culver announced that even more school districts are eligible for program this year. Because overall enrollment was lower than initially projected, an additional 11 school districts will receive funding from this program.

One of this year's recipients was the Durant Community Schools' Integrated Head Start Program, and Governor Culver visited with students and faculty in Durant on September 6th. Durant has used the funds to expand their existing HeadStart and special education programs to give 20 students access to preschool.





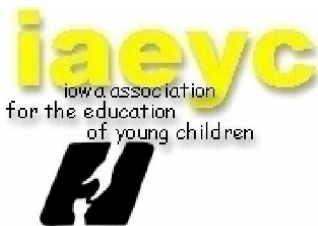
## New Feature:



**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.**

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

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[info@iowaaeyc.org](mailto:info@iowaaeyc.org)



## Workforce Tip: Federal and State of Iowa Minimum Wage Changes and Required Posters

Submitted by Kristi Judkins, Business Services Representative, IWD

### New Federal Minimum Wage Law Effective July 24, 2007

Effective July 24, 2007, the federal minimum wage for non-exempt employees will be \$5.85 per hour. The federal minimum wage will increase to \$6.55 per hour effective July 24, 2008; and to \$7.25 per hour effective July 24, 2009. The U.S. Department of Labor, which enforces the federal minimum wage, recently released a revised federal minimum wage poster reflecting the new minimum wage. A free copy of the new federal poster is available at [www.dol.gov/esa/regs/compliance/posters/flsa.htm](http://www.dol.gov/esa/regs/compliance/posters/flsa.htm).

### Iowa Minimum Wage Law Effective April 1, 2007

Iowa has its own revised minimum wage law that increased as of April 1, 2007 to \$6.20 per hour. The Iowa minimum wage will increase to \$7.25 per hour as of January 1, 2008. **Covered employers must comply with both laws.** Information on Iowa's minimum wage and a free Iowa minimum wage poster can be found at [www.iowaworkforce.org](http://www.iowaworkforce.org)

Iowa Workforce Development will make a revised 7-1 poster containing the Iowa and federal minimum wage changes and other updates available by October 2007. Please check our website [www.iowaworkforce.org](http://www.iowaworkforce.org) for details or contact Craig Immerfall at Iowa Workforce Development, 515-242-5985.

\*\*\*\*\*

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® IOWA is a compensation and retention program for those who work in child care or preschool in Iowa. Through college scholarships for credentials and degrees in early childhood education, the quality of child care is improved in over two hundred child care programs around the state. A current T.E.A.C.H. contract for one or more employees indicates that a program has a commitment to quality. T.E.A.C.H. IOWA now serves fifteen providers working towards early childhood endorsements or bachelors' degrees, with additional participants starting in the months ahead. T.E.A.C.H. continues to support CDA credentials and associate degrees in early childhood education.

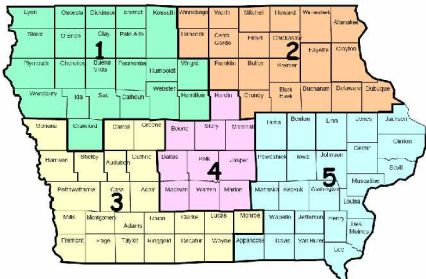
- ✓ Over 300 early care and education teachers, providers, and directors around the state actively participated in a T.E.A.C.H. contract this year. Who's eligible? Anyone who works in a regulated child care program with children or as an administrator in Iowa: Child development homes, centers, and preschools.
- ✓ Participants on T.E.A.C.H. completed 2100 college credits since July 2006, while continuing to provide full-time child care.
- ✓ An average of nearly 14 credits per year were completed by participants in 2006-07.
- ✓ The average grade point average of T.E.A.C.H. recipients in Iowa for courses completed this year is 3.6.
- ✓ Retention rates (in their child care program settings!) for our participants are 90-95%.
- ✓ Over 235 child care programs and preschools have sponsored at least one T.E.A.C.H. recipient during 2006-07.
- ✓ Since 2003, OVER 500 Iowa early care and education teachers, providers, and directors have been awarded a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship to work towards an early childhood degree or credential.
- ✓ Compensation increases of 6-7% per year are average after having completed one T.E.A.C.H. twelve month contract.

Call us for more information (800) 469-2392, [www.iowaaeyc.org](http://www.iowaaeyc.org), email [info@iowaaeyc.org](mailto:info@iowaaeyc.org).

# Iowa Child Care Resource & Referral



Submitted by, Glenna Thompsen  
Director Region 3



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



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## New Training Series Coming Soon..... *Beyond Business Basics*

Through continued learning, child care providers can maintain a quality child care and education business. Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) plays an essential role in coordinating and supporting educational opportunities. The Quality Rating System (QRS) has had a tremendous impact on the number of providers accessing training in order to meet their professional development requirements. In an effort to meet the demand, a series curriculum entitled *Beyond Business Basics* was created. *Beyond Business Basics* is currently offered in southwest Iowa and will soon roll out statewide. This training is NAC (National Administrator Credential) approved for recertification. Home providers must complete a prerequisite, *Business Basics*, before attending *Beyond Business Basics*.

*Beyond Business Basics* curriculum is divided into two parts. Each part consists of eight, two-hour classes for home and center businesses. The topics include: Professionalism and Communication Skills; Marketing your Business; Meeting Child Care Regulations in Iowa; Resolving Ethical Dilemmas; Insurance Liability and Minimizing Your Risks; PEACE: Policy Enhancement and Contract Enforcement; Financial Management of your Child Care Program; Committing to Quality; Dispelling the Myths of CACFP (Child and Adult Care Food Program); Hiring and Developing Quality Employees; Supervising and Evaluating Employees; Standards and Curriculum; Partnering with Parents; and Professional Development.

Check out <http://www.iowaccrr.org/> to link to your regional CCR&R website where you can find complete information about CCR&R services including upcoming statewide or local professional development opportunities.

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## PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE “It’s About Our Kids”

Everyone recognizes that the health, safety, education, and development of our children are critical to America’s future growth and prosperity. A recent Urban Institute study has shown that the federal level of domestic spending on children has declined by 23% from 1960 to the present and the aging of American society is placing new pressures on domestic spending that could further erode federal investments in children. The next President will set the tone regarding federal government leadership on children’s issues and the degree to which child policy plays a key role in federal domestic policy.

Organizations have come together with a goal of elevating child policy issues to the visibility and prominence they deserve during the Iowa Presidential caucuses. We asked all Presidential Candidates to provide written responses of 200 words or less to each of the survey questions below. We will publicize their unedited answers in both a written document and on a web site for Iowa caucus participant’s to better understand candidate views on these issues and to raise their visibility in the Iowa Presidential caucuses. In addition to the question itself, some background regarding the issues and its importance to children and family was provided.

The website [www.itsaboutourkids.org](http://www.itsaboutourkids.org) should be launched around **October 15<sup>th</sup>**. We will send an email to those on our membership list when the website is complete.

Following are the questions we asked the Candidates:

**The following organizations participated in the process.**

**Iowa Child Policy Coalition**

**Participants:**

Child and Family Policy Center  
Child Care Resource and Referral  
Coalition for Family and Children's  
Services in Iowa  
Every Child Counts  
Every Child Matters  
Iowa Afterschool Alliance  
Iowa Association for the Education of  
Young Children  
Iowa Association of School Boards  
Iowa Community Action Agency  
Association  
Iowa Conference of the United  
Methodist Church  
Iowa Foster and Adoptive Parents  
Association  
Iowa Head Start Association  
Iowa Human Needs Advocates  
The Joan & Lyle Middleton Center for  
Children's Rights at the Drake University  
Law School  
National Association of Social Workers -  
Iowa Chapter  
Orchard Place  
Prevent Child Abuse Iowa  
RESULTS  
State Public Policy Group  
Urban Education Network  
Visiting Nurse Services  
Women for Change

**1. High Quality Child Care**

*Question: As President, what role should the federal government play to ensure that every child, regardless of income or background, has access to high-quality child care?*

**2. Preschool**

*Question: As President, what role should the federal government play in expanding preschool programming, both specifically for low-income and disadvantaged children and more generally to provide opportunities for all children?*

**3. Afterschool**

*Question: As President, what role should the federal government play to promote afterschool programs and services that provide learning activities and connect children and teens with caring adults?*

**4. Child Health Care**

*Question: As President, what role should the federal government play to assure that all children receive and have access to primary and preventive health services inclusive of mental health care and oral health care?*

**5. Children with Disabilities**

*Question: As President, what role should the federal government play to support children with disabilities and ensure their quality of life?*

**6. Child Abuse and Neglect**

*Question: As President, what role should the federal government play in reducing child abuse and neglect and making improvements in the child welfare system to assure that children receive quality services?*

**7. Family Economic Security and Success**

*Question: As President, what role should the federal government play in reducing child poverty and ensuring that working families have sufficient resources to care for their children and invest in their future success?*

**8. Immigration Policy**

*Question: As President, what role should the federal government play regarding immigration policy and providing for immigrant children and their health, education, and other needs?*

**9. Ensuring Equal Opportunity**

*Question: As President, what role should the federal government play in assuring equal opportunity and closing current gaps in child outcomes by race, ethnicity, language, and culture?*

To view the candidates' responses, check out [www.itsaboutourkids.org](http://www.itsaboutourkids.org) after October 15<sup>th</sup>.



**Stay Tuned for Part 2:  
Responding to Children's  
Sexual Behaviors**

**Save the Date!**

*Prevent Child Abuse Iowa will host its 27<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.pcaiowa.org).*

## **Preventing Child Sexual Abuse Part 1: Understanding Healthy Sexual Development**

*Written by Amber Russell and Christy Thies, Prevent Child Abuse Iowa*

An estimated 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men will be or have been victimized by child sexual abuse. The horrors of sexual abuse are often visible in the media where the spotlight is either on punishment for the offender or the traumatic effects on the victim. What can parents and professionals do to prevent this trauma from ever affecting a child? In this first part of a multi-part series, we at Prevent Child Abuse Iowa encourage you to consider the many ways sexual abuse can be prevented.

Sexual predators exploit children's lack of knowledge about sexuality, touching, and body boundaries in order to commit sexual abuse. Since the 1970s, social service providers have been conducting children's presentations in schools to teach children about good and bad touch. Prevention, however, needs to start before the school age years and at home. Although children's sexual behaviors often make parents feel uncomfortable or embarrassed, knowing what behaviors are normal and responding sensitively and age-appropriately will help parents raise sexually healthy and safe children. Normal sexual behaviors include:

Birth to 2 years old:

- Explore their body parts, including their genitals. This exploring feels good and is calming. Children this age do not have the same sexual feelings as adults.
- Begin to understand that there are different societal expectations for males and females.

3 to 4 years old:

- Are curious about babies.
- Will play house or doctor or engage in other sexual play with friends or siblings that are close in age and developmental level to explore body differences.
- Are interested in differences between adults and children's bodies.
- Can understand privacy.
- May increase genital touching as a soothing behavior.

5 to 7 years old:

- Learn about sexuality outside the family.
- Continue to touch genitals. They can understand that this is a natural but private behavior.
- Have questions about sexuality, often informed by what they hear from others.
- May increase use of sexual language to see its effects on others.

For more information about normal sexual development of children, please visit the following websites:

[What is Normal Childhood Sexual Development?](#) (Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States)

[Healthy Sexual Development Fact Sheet](#) (Stop It Now! Minnesota)

[Understanding Children's Sexual Behaviors](#) (Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota)

# Culture and Parenting

By Kimberly Greder, Associate Professor, Human Development and Family Studies and Family Life Extension State Specialist Iowa State University

(Adapted from Greder, K., & Allen, W.D. (2007). *Parenting issues in culturally diverse families*. In B.S. Trask and R. Hamon (Eds.). *Cultural Diversity and Families: A Family Science Perspective*. Sage Publishing.)



Parenting is the process of assuming major responsibility for the development, growth and nurturing of a child.

## Assumptions, Principles, and Strategies for Working with Culturally Diverse Families

As Iowa becomes increasingly diverse, it is critical that we understand and respect cultural influences on parenting, and identify ways to support families in meeting their goals respective of their cultural contexts. We need to be aware of families' values, beliefs, concerns, priorities, and goals regarding parenting and to tailor education and support to meet the needs and resources of families.

A first step in doing this is to become aware of how our own cultural heritage (e.g., ethnicity, race, religion, socioeconomic status) and individual characteristics (e.g., values, beliefs, temperament) influence how we perceive parenting (e.g., assumptions, expectations, goals, roles, etc.) and our interactions with families. Understanding ourselves and how we perceive parenting helps us to be more open to understanding others' parenting practices, and find common ground with families. Gaining this knowledge helps us adjust our own behavior, as well as shape the organizations we represent. Below are assumptions held by the author of this article regarding parenting.

### Assumptions:

1. Parents are the primary socializing agents in the lives of children.
2. Social and cultural contexts influence both parenting and the parent-child relationship
3. All parents have strengths and weaknesses (as do their families).
4. All parents need support and encouragement. (Good parenting is a rewarding but a difficult process.)
5. Most parents are motivated by the desire to improve the prospects for their children's lives.
6. Most parents have needs that if met could improve their parenting; however parents do not have equal access to the resources to fill such needs.
7. On their own, demographic characteristics (such as ethnicity, socioeconomic status, or religion) are poor predictors of a person's parenting ability or capability.
8. Parenting skills can be learned and improved.

### Principles and strategies related to service:

1. The work we do for families should focus on understanding the family's concerns, assessing the family's strengths, and identifying the resources that can augment the family's ability to meet its needs.
2. We should attempt to support parents' abilities to identify and utilize resources rather than simply provide services.
  - The family's cultural construction(s) of family functioning is vital to successful development and implementation of any intervention.
  - The family's informal systems of social support should be strengthened and used in favor of professional services, when possible.
3. Professional support and resources need to be flexible, individualized, and responsive to the changing needs of families.
  - Consider the ecological and psychosocial contexts in which families live (e.g., neighborhood characteristics, economic stresses, perceived racism, extended family involvement, etc.) as important factors that can potentially affect service delivery and effectiveness.
  - Those doing the primary parenting should optimally be the ultimate decision-makers regarding the type and quantity of support they need and use.
4. Successful working relationships are built on mutual trust, respect, honesty, and open communication.
  - The most important tool we have is our *relationship* with parents.
5. We are responsible for the quality of our work with parents and families.
  - Regardless of organizational constraints or the family's problems and actions, we must treat families with respect and dignity.

***Principles and strategies related to cultural competence:***

1. Cultural competence is a lifelong process.
  - Start by understanding how our own culture affects our work.
  - All family work is cross-cultural.
  - It is critical to recognize and learn from our mistakes in cross-cultural encounters.
2. Understanding our own culture is a prerequisite to understanding other cultural perspectives.
  - Unacknowledged cultural biases can obscure our recognizing strengths and values of members from other groups.
  - Explore and learn to appreciate different worldviews.
3. Constantly seek out reliable information about other cultures.
  - Avoid relying on stereotypes or commonly held beliefs that have no factual basis, even if they are widely held.
  - Remember, there is at least as much diversity within groups as between groups due to factors such as differences in level of acculturation, generation, SES status (current or past), migration experience, educational level, and national origin.
  - Keep an open mind; let families of other cultures teach you about their culture and parenting practices.
4. Balance is key when working in multicultural environments.
  - Always be aware of the probability of cultural similarities in addition to cultural differences. Ethnic minority families need to successfully achieve normative family developmental goals (e.g., preparing young children for school) while also accomplishing group specific objectives (e.g., socializing children about race and ethnicity).
  - Be aware of families' attempts to balance mainstream values with their own cultural values and norms.
  - Be aware of the extent to which families adhere to mainstream developmental goals, are able to navigate formal social support systems, and have assimilated or acculturated to mainstream culture.
  - Try not to judge, but to understand.
5. Historical relationships between groups can present cross-cultural barriers unless acknowledged and managed.
  - Be aware of how we perceive members of other groups, and how they perceive us. Cultural mistrust can hinder our ability to work effectively.
  - Cultivate an attitude of openness by being respectful and collaborative, and by managing 'intercultural anxiety'.



**Earn a Parenting Education Certificate of Completion!**

*Partnering with Parents*, offered by Iowa State University Extension, helps people gain in-depth knowledge and skill in effectively planning, delivering, and evaluating parenting education. People can participate in the full series (11 modules) and earn a Parenting Education Certificate of Completion, as well as undergraduate or graduate credit. Or people can pick and choose module topics that are of most interest to them. Individuals who have successfully completed the *Family Development Certification Training*, only need to complete 7 of the 11 modules in order to earn a Parenting Education Certificate of Completion. (see <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/pwp/ISUcoursecredits.html>)

*Partnering with Parents* is offered face to face in Iowa, as well as completely online. On January 8, 2008, the training series will start in Ames. Individuals can also participate in the full online version beginning January 14, 2008. <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/pwp/index.html>

\*Scholarship funds to reimburse registration fees for *Partnering with Parents*, as well as other identified family support training programs, are available through funding allocated to the Office of Empowerment for professional development activities. See [www.iowafadss.org](http://www.iowafadss.org) for more information.

## Healthy Child Care Iowa (HCCI)



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## Lead in Toys, Jewelry, and Other Products for Children

*By Rita Gergely, Chief, Bureau of Lead Poisoning Prevention, Division of Environmental Health, Iowa Department of Public Health*

In the past three months, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has recalled more than 3 million toys because some of the paint used on the toys contained excessive levels of lead in the paint. Parents, child care providers, and others who want more information about these toys should go to the following web page: [www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/Recalls/default.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/Recalls/default.htm). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention put together this web page, which lists recalls of lead-contaminated products by categories (toys, crafts, clothing, etc.). The information for each recall includes the dates during which the specific toys were sold and a link to the CPSC web site. The information on the CPSC web site tells consumers what to do regarding each specific product.

While some of the recalled products were sold as early as 2001 and 2002, most of the recalled toys and jewelry were sold in the last two to three years. No cases of lead poisoning have been directly linked to the recalled toys. Several cases of lead poisoning have been linked to the recalled jewelry, including one in which a child died after ingesting a charm from a shoe. Children are more likely to be lead-poisoned by these products if they put them in their mouths or chew on them. If the paint on the products has deteriorated, children could also be poisoned by getting the paint chips on their hands and putting their hands in their mouths.

There is no reliable quick method to test toys and jewelry for lead. There have been reports of people using portable x-ray fluorescence analyzers (XRF) and color-change test kits on toys and jewelry, but these are NOT reliable methods for detecting lead in these products. The only reliable method is laboratory analysis of the materials in the product.

Although the presence of lead in any products intended for children is a concern, the greatest risk of lead poisoning for Iowa children continues to be lead-based paint in houses built before 1960. Parents who are concerned about lead poisoning in their children should contact the Bureau of Lead Poisoning Prevention at 800-972-2026 for additional information. Parents should also get their children tested for lead poisoning if they have not already been tested. This year, the Iowa Legislature passed a law requiring all children to show proof of a blood-lead test before entering school, so this is another reason for parents to have their children tested for lead poisoning. The Bureau of Lead Poisoning Prevention hopes that children will be tested beginning at the age of 12 months because the damage is actually done at a younger age, and the exposure tends to be higher at a younger age.



## U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission



**Check it  
Out!**

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

# News from IDPH Oral Health Bureau



By Dr. Bob Russell,  
IDPH Dental Director



## I-Smile Priorities for 2008

Background:

The need to assure good oral health for children is a legislative issue in Iowa

The I-Smile dental home project is a collaborative effort by the Oral Health Bureau within the Iowa Department of Public Health, the Department of Human Services, the Iowa Dental Association, the Iowa Dental Hygienists' Association, Delta Dental of Iowa, and the University of Iowa College of Dentistry.

I-Smile goal: to ensure that all children, from the age of 1, receive age-appropriate comprehensive dental care.

The I-Smile project is envisioned as a conceptual dental home, using a team approach to manage oral disease. Primary prevention and care coordination are a large focus. Dentists serve as the providers of treatment and definitive evaluation. Additional health professionals such as dental hygienists, physicians, nurse practitioners, registered nurses, physician assistants, and dietitians are part of a larger network, providing oral screenings, education, anticipatory guidance, and preventive services as needed.

I-Smile components:

- Improving the dental support system for families through the state's Title V maternal and child health (MCH) network;
- Improving the dental Medicaid program;
- Implementing recruitment and retention strategies of oral health professionals; and
- Investigating the integration of dental services into rural hospitals

To date, funding has been provided for the first component. There are 24 I-Smile Oral Health Coordinators working within Iowa's local Title V system. Each coordinator serves as the local oral health prevention expert and liaison between public health agencies, families, health care providers, and dental offices to ensure completion of care.

Currently, each coordinator is responsible for implementing the following I-Smile strategies based on a local needs assessment:

- ❖ Partnerships and planning
  - participate in community health planning and needs assessments
  - develop partnerships with local public health, dental and medical providers, local boards of health, WIC, Head Start, migrant and community health centers, Iowa's hospital health systems, and other programs
  - establish an I-Smile referral network
- ❖ Local board of health linkage
  - assist in assessment, policy development, and assurance of local oral health initiatives
- ❖ CH agency staff training
  - provide training and oversight of agency staff involved with oral health services
  - assure consistent oral health education for families
- ❖ Agency oral health protocols
  - work with child health agency staff, particularly EPSDT care coordinators, to develop oral health protocols
- ❖ Care coordination
  - ensure appropriate oral health care coordination is completed for children and families
  - improve data tracking systems
  - Education for healthcare professionals
  - train non-dental healthcare providers, such as physicians and nurses, to



**For more information,  
contact the Oral Health  
Bureau at 1-866-528-4020.**

- ❖ provide screenings, fluoride varnish applications, and education
- ❖ Oral screening and risk assessment
  - ensure completion of periodic screenings, risk assessments, and referrals to dentists for children age 12 and under
- ❖ Preventive oral health services
  - ensure provision of fluoride varnish applications, prophylaxes, and/or sealants as gap-filling services

Although critical, these activities alone will not be sufficient to build a comprehensive dental home system. Additional state and local public health infrastructure is needed to assure dental homes for children beginning at age 1.

Recommendations:

- Enhance the dental Medicaid program to increase reimbursement for dentists
- Promote oral health and the I-Smile project throughout the state, specifically the need for regular care by the age of 1
- Reimburse physicians for provision of oral screenings to Medicaid-enrolled children 3 and under
- Advocate that insurance companies, including those carrying *hawk-i*, reimburse physicians for screenings and fluoride varnish applications



## **2007 Back-to-School Health Fair**

The Healthcare Coverage for Kids Coalition (HCKC) from Polk County in collaboration with the Iowa *Covering Kids & Families* initiative (CKF) partnered to hold their second annual Back-to-School Health Fair at McKinley Elementary on August 8, 2007. Children were provided with free school physicals, dental screenings, lead tests, school supplies and *hawk-i* and Medicaid information. A total of 500 kids received school supplies (250 of the 500 received free backpacks), 250 received physicals, 49 received lead tests, and 129 received dental screenings, 86 of which had never been to a dentist. A tentative date has been set for August 6, 2008 for the third annual health fair to be held. For more information on the national *Back-to-School* campaign and to find out what back-to-school activities took place nationally, visit <http://coveringkidsandfamilies.org/>.

In addition to the health fair, CKF staff members were available to provide *hawk-i* materials and information to families and other interested partners each day at the Iowa State Fair. Partnering with the Iowa Department of Public Health, CKF staff gave away thousands of materials promoting the *hawk-i* program including: pens, frisbees, backpacks, posters, fans, brochures, magnets and bookmarks.

# 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Early Childhood Iowa Congress



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

The New Iowa is being born every day in the minds and bodies of those just entering our state, as well as those just entering our world, developing rapidly as infants, toddlers and preschoolers. How do we accept the awesome responsibility to care and nurture every single one to be healthy and successful? It will take leadership.

For fifteen years the Iowa Early Care, Health and Education Congress has been reminding early childhood leaders in our state that the pathway to our vision of healthy and successful children is paved with collaboration. In 2007, the Congress formally became part of Early Childhood Iowa (ECI). True to its purpose, the Congress will build knowledge and learning essential for collaboration. It will articulate a compelling vision and practical strategies that generate results for children and families. It will provide opportunities to reconnect with colleagues and build new friendships. And it will also build the leadership skills needed to promote ECI's strategic plan goals.

The Early Childhood Iowa Congress is *the* leadership meeting for early childhood professionals in our state. Join us for the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Early Childhood Iowa Congress to be held November 13 & 14, 2007 at the Scheman Center in Ames. This year's theme is *Leadership for a New Iowa: Two Days of Conversation, Communication, and Collaboration*. In addition to the wealth of information that will be shared in the breakout sessions, the messages of this year's keynote speakers will challenge us in that leadership.

As one of the founders and past President of North Carolina's Smart Start, *Karen Ponder* will discuss some of the struggles of building a comprehensive system of early care, health & education in a state that, 15 years ago, was one of the worst in the nation when it came to results for children. She will discuss the eight successful strategies that turned their statistics around and offer insight as Iowa continues to move forward in building a comprehensive system for children in our state.

Luis Hernandez, Early Childhood Education Specialist, Training and Technical Assistance Services, Western Kentucky University, will discuss working with new immigrant families and their children, including the economic and political reasons of immigration; the impact on family life; the strength and resilience of language and culture, and the opportunities and contributions of new populations. He will also look at personal reflections on our own historical journey in the American landscape and a leadership vision that supports healthy Iowa communities for all families.

To receive a brochure or registration form, contact Lois Kiester, [lmkiester@dmacc.edu](mailto:lmkiester@dmacc.edu).



**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](mailto:rhonda@iowaaeyc.org).



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