

Iowa Community Empowerment Newsletter

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Every Child Counts - 2008 Iowa Legislative Summary

Quality Early Care and Education

HF 2679 – Education Appropriations Bill

This appropriations bill addresses many issues:

- Provides \$15,000,000 for the Four-Year-Old Preschool Program through the Department of Education;
- Instructs Empowerment to study and report to the General Assembly on Family Friend and Neighbor Care;
- Reduces the percentage of carry forward dollars for Empowerment Areas from 30% to 20%; effective with FY 2009 ending balances;
- Instructs Empowerment to develop and implement a plan to strengthen fiscal accountability for CEA boards;
- Empowerment structure for technical assistance is addressed to include reps from agency staff, AEAs, community colleges, UNI and ISU Extension; (UNI is the new addition in this language).
- Empowerment shall consider if support services to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, prevent child injuries, develop health emergency protocols help with medication, and care for children with special health needs are being provided to child care facilities registered or licensed under chapter 237A; and
- Provides \$400,000 for Early Head Start

SF 2425 – Health and Human Services Appropriations Bill

This appropriations bill addresses many issues:

- 2% increase for child care providers beginning October 1, 2008;
- Increase in funding for Income Maintenance Workers;
- Funding of \$18.4 million to avoid child care assistance waiting list;
- Requires child care homes and child development homes to be located in a single-family residence;
- States if a child care record check is performed and the record indicates that the person has committed a transgression, the Department is required to perform an evaluation – even if the record check is withdrawn by the individual. This will hopefully keep the individual from providing unregistered care, also; and
- Codifies Early Childhood Iowa (ECI).

SF 2432 – Child Care Studies

\$30,000 to DHS for a child care study through a workgroup. The State Child Care Advisory Council shall serve as this workgroup to address implementation issues associated with a change in child care regulation to mandatory registration or voluntary or mandatory licensure. They shall also address professional development, ensuring articulation between programs, meeting the needs of both children and their parents, and enhancing community engagement. They shall cooperate with other early childhood stakeholders and the private sector. The workgroup is also charged to explore other issues, such as:

- Using the Internet to provide information to providers;
- Creating a database;
- Educating the public on the advantages of using a registered child care provider;
- Requiring a state and federal fingerprint criminal history check.

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.

\$50,000 for a study of ways to enhance access to health insurance by registered child development home providers. This study shall be conducted jointly with the collective bargaining organization representing registered providers. This organization shall provide matching funds.

Child Well-Being & Development

SF 2425 – Health and Human Services Appropriations Bill

- Funding for dental homes for children;
- Funding for mental health system for children;
- Funding for *hawk-i* and *hawk-i* expansion; and
- Funding for a post-natal tissue and fluid banking network.

SF 2174 – Income Tax Check-Off for the Child Abuse Prevention Program

Allows individuals to donate money to the child abuse prevention program when they file their Iowa income taxes.

HF 2539 – Health Care Reform

This bill contains many divisions and addresses several health issues. These are the areas pertaining to children:

- Intent language to ensure health care coverage for all Iowans, with the initial priority of covering all children eligible for Medicaid and *hawk-i*;
- Build upon current *hawk-i* program by creating a *hawk-i* expansion program to cover children between 250% and 300% of the federal poverty level (FPL) by July 1, 2009. If federal reauthorization of SCHIP provides sufficient federal allocation to Iowa and the authorization to cover children under 300% FPL, then the Department of Human Services is required to expand *hawk-i* to cover all eligible kids under 300% FPL. An appropriate cost sharing will be established for families with children above 200% FPL by January 1, 2011.
- Effective July 1, 2009, Medicaid is expandable to include infants whose families are at or below 300% FPL; and
- Twelve-month continuous eligibility is established for children on Medicaid.

HF 2212 – Smoke-Free Air Act

Prohibits smoking in public places, places of employment, and some outdoor spaces.

Child & Family Economic Success

SF 2418 – Earned Income Tax Credit and Volunteer or Free Income Tax Assistance Programs

Requires the Iowa Department of Human Services to ensure that education materials relating to the federal/state EITC and locations of free income tax assistance programs are provided to households receiving assistance or benefits under: *hawk-I*, FIP, Medicaid, Food Assistance, and any other appropriate program. This information shall be provided through mailings or the Internet.

SF 2430 – Microenterprise Development

Creates a community microenterprise development organization grant program and a microenterprise development advisory committee. Appropriates \$475,000 for the grants and 1 FTE for the Iowa Department of Economic Development. Not more than \$80,000 of this shall be used for the FTE.

SF 2430 – Individual Development Accounts (IDA)

\$150,000 for the program and \$50,000 of this will go to the Iowa Department of Human Rights for administering the program.

Update April 2008 – May 2008

Links to Empowerment Web sites:

State Empowerment site:

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.

Adair County

www.adairempowerment.org

Benton County

www.bcempowerment.com

Black Hawk

www.cedarvalleypromise.org

Buchanan Delaware Fayette

www.bdfempowerment.org

Cass Mills Montgomery

www.boost4families.org

Cedar

www.empowercedarco.org

Cerro Gordo, Hancock, Worth

www.empowermentforthekids.org

Dallas

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

Des Moines/Louisa

www.caringcommunityempowerment.org

Dubuque

www.empowerdubuque.org

Floyd, Chickasaw, Mitchell

www.fmempowerment.com

HAWC (Howard, Allamakee, Winneshiek, Clayton)

www.HAWC-Iowa.com

Hardin

www.empowerhardin.com/

Henry

www.healthymhenrycounty.org

Humboldt, Hamilton, Wright

www.buildingfamilies.net

Jasper

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

Johnson

<http://www.jcempowerment.org>

Linn

www.linncountycommunityempowerment.org

Madison

www.madisoncountyhelp.org

Marshall

www.youthandviolence.org

Muscatine

www.muscatineempowerment.org

PAK (Palo Alto, Kossuth)

www.pakempowerment.com

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

- Fiscal Accountability Workgroup meeting prep – April 3
- ECI Congress Planning leadership meeting – April 7
- Family Support Outcomes Workgroup – April 8 & May 13
- Family Support Credentialing Educational Forum, Washington – April 10
- First Children's Finance update meeting – April 10, May 12 & 21
- State Child Care Advisory Leadership committee – April 10
- Module 2 – Empowerment Coordinators Training Series – April 10 & 17
- Family Support Credentialing Educational Forum, Winterset – April 11
- ECI Congress Planning – April 11
- Character Counts Annual Banquet – April 11
- Home Visit Safety workshop, ISU Extension, Mt Pleasant – April 14
- Home Visit Safety workshop, Muscatine – April 14
- Board Orientation training with SWCC, Creston – April 14
- Family Support Credentialing Educational Forum, Halverson – April 15
- Professional Development activities meeting with Department of Ed – April 16
- Family Support 30-year Celebration Conference, U of IA – April 17-18
- Guest Speaker at ISU class, Programming for Early Care & Education – April 17
- Iowa Family Support Credentialing Process workshop, U of IA – April 18
- Prevent Child Abuse Iowa Conference, workshop presentations – April 21-22
- ECI Resources & Funding component group meeting – April 21
- Family Support Credentialing Educational Forum, Mason City – April 23
- ECI Governance & Administration component workgroup – April 25
- Family Support Credentialing Educational Forum, DHS Family Support Council – April 25
- Family Support coordination meeting with Department of Human Rights - April 28
- CPPC Conference, keynote speaker, Knoxville – April 29
- ECI, SAMHSA Project Review – April 30
- Iowa Family Support TA Network Mentor Training – April 30
- NGA Grant planning/implementation – May 1
- ECI Co-chairs – May 1
- Family Support Credentialing Educational Forum, Parkersburg – May 1
- Family Support Credentialing Educational Forum, Sac City – May 5
- CDA, Professional Development Systems meeting – May 5
- Smart Start Conference, Greensboro, North Carolina – May 5-9
- ISU Partnering with Parents, Co-facilitation – May 5-16
- Family Support Credentialing Educational Forum, Des Moines/Louisa – May 7
- Empowerment Coordinator Training, Module 3 – May 8 & 15
- Family Support Credentialing process with Head Start – May 8
- State Child Care Advisory Council – May 8
- Family Support Leadership workgroup – May 9
- Family Support Credentialing Educational Forum, Olewain – May 12
- Iowa Empowerment Board Meeting, Greenfield – May 16
- Virginia Grant Review, conference call – May 19
- Empowerment Contacts & Coordinators Quarterly TA meeting – May 21
- Operation Military Kids alignment meeting – May 22
- PW-PBS Leadership Team meeting – May 28

Upcoming Events Calendar at a Glance

Empowerment Coordinators Training Series

Remaining Sessions:
Module 4 – June 12 & 19

http://www.empowerment.state.ia.us/common/pdf/registration_form.pdf

Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholders

June 10, 2008
Urbandale Public Library
Urbandale
www.earlychildhoodiowa.org

Empowerment Coordinators/Contacts Meeting

September 17, 2008
Rising Sun Church of Christ
Pleasant Hill

Healthy Families Iowa Refresher Training

June 19, 2008
Lutheran Services in Iowa
Waterloo

Iowa Community Action Association Annual Conference “Charting a Course for Real Change”

June 23-25, 2008
Embassy Suites
Des Moines
Lorie.Easter@iowa.gov

System Building Update: Iowa Receives NGA Grant



Site Visits/Technical Assistance Activities

- Clarke, Results-based Accountability – April 4
- Muscatine, Results-based Accountability – April 8
- Linn County board finance committee – April 15
- Interview with Harvard University: PIRC & Credentialing process – April 15
- Clinton, Jackson TA – April 15
- Poweshiek board meeting – April 17
- Pottawattamie Empowerment Planning meeting – April 18
- Wayne County board meeting – April 21
- Ida County board meeting – April 21
- Clinton, Jackson board retreat – April 28
- Linking Families & Communities, Board Development – May 2
- Decatur, New Coordinator TA – May 2, 2008
- Boone, Redesignation TA – May 2, 2008
- Ida County TA – May 5
- Poweshiek, Board Development training – May 15
- Iowa Empowerment Board Site Visit, Creston – May 15
- Cerro Gordo, Hancock, Worth board meeting TA – May 20

Annual Report Reviews

- Decatur – May 2
- Lakes Area – May 12

Linkages/Outreach Activities

- National PAT Conference, St Louis – March 31- April 3
- Child Health Data Systems Connections meeting, Salt Lake City – April 20-24
- IAIEYC Conference Planning – April 25
- MCH Leadership Institute, Tampa – April 26-30
- S3, Youth Development Afterschool alignment meeting – April 30
- Risky Business Conference workshop presentation – May 6
- National Prevent Child Abuse Conference, Wisconsin – May 19-22

Iowa was recently awarded a \$10,000 grant from the National Governor’s Association (NGA) to support an Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC). The project period for the grant is from May 1- October 31, 2008. The purpose, goal, and proposed activities of the grant are listed below:

Purpose: Iowa’s project will focus on system integration of early childhood system building at the local level through Iowa’s Community Empowerment Areas. An individual will be hired to provide consultation services for building local early care, health, and education system development at the local level.

Goal: Develop a coordinated Early Care, Health, and Education System in Iowa that furthers priorities established by the governor’s office and the Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholders group.

- **Activity 1:** Conduct five regional trainings, covering all 58 Iowa Community Empowerment Areas, related to system development and planning for children ages zero to five and their families.
- **Activity 2:** Create system development training materials for Early Childhood Iowa (ECI).
- **Activity 3:** Incorporate best practices from other state Early Childhood Advisory Councils into Iowa’s ECI Stakeholders group.

A Policy Retreat for Early Childhood Advisory Council Leadership will take place on June 19-20 in Denver, Colorado. Two members from the ECI Stakeholders group and one member from the governor’s office will be attending. This retreat will allow Iowa to build relationships and share best practices with ECAC leaders from other states and will give Iowa the opportunity to report on the success and lessons learned through the ECI Stakeholders group.



Iowa Empowerment Board News IEB Conducts Another Site Visit

The Iowa Empowerment Board conducted its May meeting in SW Iowa. The Board was hosted by the Union and Adair Empowerment Areas. During an evening event on May 15th, the Board met and heard thoughts from local board members about their participation with Community Empowerment. Also a celebration of quality child care providers was held recognizing home, center and preschool environments that have achieved a level in the Iowa Voluntary Quality Rating System (QRS) or that have become nationally accredited. Parents of children that are in those quality environments expressed their gratitude for having their children attend and for the support they receive from Community Empowerment. On Friday, the Board had presentations from providers and families that participate in family support programs.

During the Board's meeting, the Board adopted changes to the Administrative Rules that support First Years First. The Board also adopted changes to Tool FF and common assessment tools for family support funding. The Board brainstormed and discussed next steps for moving forward with fiscal accountability.

The Board is looking forward to its July 11th meeting where it will be hosted by the Polk County Empowerment Board.

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://openup.iowa.gov/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.

New
**Empowerment
 Tool LL –
 Board
 Membership
 Representation
 Requirements
 for Local CEA
 Boards**

On-line at:
http://www.empowerment.state.ia.us/common/pdf/kit_tools/tool_ll.pdf

**Legislative
 Language**

Iowa Code, Chapter 28.6 (1a): A majority of the members of a community board shall be elected officials and members of the public who are not employed by a provider of services to or for the community board. At least one member shall be a service consumer or the parent of a service consumer. Terms of office of community board members shall be not more than three years and the terms shall be staggered. The membership of a community empowerment area board shall include members with early care, education, health, human services, business, faith, and public interests.

Definitions

“education, health, human services” – Individuals that have knowledge in these areas do not need to be an employee of a State of Iowa department, e.g., Department of Human Services. *Iowa Administrative Code, 349—1.4(28) (definition of citizen)* says that Community Empowerment area boards cannot count these members as citizen representatives.

“consumer” – An individual or a family member who is or has been receiving services, or who is impacted by the community plan (Iowa Administrative Code 349—1.4(28)). The Iowa Empowerment Board further defines a consumer representative as a parent, grandparent or guardian of a child ages 0-5. A consumer representative is not a provider of service that receives funds, directly or indirectly, from the Community Empowerment area board. *Iowa Administrative Code, 349—1.4(28) (definition of citizen)* says that a Community Empowerment area board can count a consumer representative as a citizen representative.

“business” – An individual representing the required perspective of business on the Community Empowerment area board. *Iowa Administrative Code, 349—1.4(28) (definition of citizen)* says that a Community Empowerment area board can count a business representative as a citizen if the individual does not receive funds, directly or indirectly, from the Community Empowerment area board and is a resident of the empowerment area.

“faith” – An individual representing the required perspective of faith on the Community Empowerment area board. This individual does not need to be a member of the clergy. *Iowa Administrative Code, 349—1.4(28) (definition of citizen)* says that a Community Empowerment area board can count a faith representative as a citizen if the individual does not receive funds, directly or indirectly, from the Community Empowerment area board and is a resident of the empowerment area.

Rationale

Iowa law requires at least one member of a Community Empowerment area board represent each of the following perspectives: education, health, human services, consumer, business and faith. The law also requires fifty-one percent of the members of a Community Empowerment area board be citizen representatives or elected officials. These requirements ensure that Community Empowerment area boards are citizen-led boards and the general interests of children and families are primary in all decision making.

**Other
 Important
 Considerations**

Community Empowerment area boards must be conscientious of having too many members representing an organization or a specific field of expertise. When this happens, a local board may be out of balance with regards to perspectives representing the entire community.

Also, the community at large may believe that a local board with multiple service providers and individuals that represent health, human service and education has inherent conflicts of interest. When board membership is diverse, the board may be more comprehensive in thinking about the needs of children ages 0-5 and their families and making funding decisions.

A community board may have stricter membership requirements in their board by-laws and still be in compliance with Iowa law.

When a board member is also a service provider, he/she must not use their board position to influence other members to vote for funding their organization. Refer to Tool V, Conflict of Interest Information, http://www.empowerment.state.ia.us/tool_kit_tools.asp, for more information.

For information on meeting the citizen/elected majority membership requirement on the local board, see Tool EE within the Iowa Community Empowerment Toolkit, http://www.empowerment.state.ia.us/common/pdf/kit_tools/tool_ee.pdf

Operation: Military Kids

Ms. Chris D. Gleason, MPA, CHES
4-H Program Coordinator
AYDP State Military Liaison
Operation: Military Kids Project
Director



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

Supporting Military Families in Iowa: Facts and Resources

Iowa has a long history of proud military service. There are nearly 12,000 Iowans who are Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, or Marines serving in National Guard or Reserve components. Over 11,000 Iowa children and youth are dependents of these military members. This number does not include siblings, nieces, and nephews. Nor does this number include the many non-military children impacted by deployment of the caring adults in their lives – the teachers, the coaches, the mentors from their community who serve in the military.

Currently there are 1,753 Guard and Reserve personnel deployed from Iowa. In 2010, three thousand five hundred (3,500) Iowa National Guard Soldiers are scheduled to deploy. For many Military Families, this will be their third or fourth deployment.

Unlike many states, Iowa does not have any active military installations with the multitude of support services typically found on installations. Family Readiness Groups (FRGs) are unit based and Military Families often live far away from where their FRG meets. Many Military Families are geographically isolated – their family may have the only children attending that child care facility or school who have experienced deployment.

State, county, and local agencies and organizations need to develop support networks and access resources to help military children throughout the deployment cycle. Information, training, and resources to support military children are available through Iowa State University Extension 4-H Youth Development's Operation: Military Kids program. Contact Chris Gleason at cgleason@iastate.edu or call 515-294-1557, Chris Cook-Leitz at chrisc1@iastate.edu, or Victoria Birkenholtz at vbirkz@iastate.edu for more information or go to <http://www.operationmilitarykids.org/>

New Data Resource

www.icyd.org



Check It Out!

ICYD County Data Sheets Now Available

After about a year of work on behalf of the Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development (ICYD) Data Committee, the Data Sheets by County are up on the website! The Data Sheets are arranged by the ICYD Framework and compare the county data to the state data for each particular indicator.

Along with general population data, there is data in relation to the following indicators: Safe and Supportive Families; Safe and Supportive Schools; Safe and Supportive Neighborhoods/Communities; Health; Socially Competent; Success in School; and Prepared for Productive Adulthood. While much of this data focuses on children school age and above, there are some overlaps for the children birth to age five. This is also a great resource to share with your local partners.

To navigate to the County Data Sheets, go to Youth Development Data on the left side of the home page and click on County Data Sheets, you will see a table with all 99 counties and links to pdf documents. Click on the county you are interested in.

Family Support Opportunity

Iowa Family Support Technical Assistance Mentors Needed

We are in need of additional Technical Assistance (TA) mentors for the Iowa Family Support Credentialing process. TA mentors work in partnership with programs that have applied and been accepted into the Credentialing process. The sole purpose of the TA mentor is to assist the program in preparing for a successful peer review in order to earn the Iowa Family Support Credential.

TA mentors need to have a bachelors degree or advanced degree in health, human services or education related field. They must also have experience in family support and parent education services. TA mentors must complete an application and successfully complete training prior to providing services. For more information, please contact Janet.Gartin@iowa.gov

Early Childhood Public-Private Partnerships

Beth Jones, Early Childhood Business Community Liaison



Look for the next bi-monthly tip on engaging business partners, Targeting Prospects: Step 3 in the August newsletter!

Bi-Monthly Tip on Engaging Business Partners: Targeting Prospects: Steps 1 and 2

There are several potential funders in your community. The goal is to narrow the search to those who are the most viable candidates. Here is a step by step process for developing and refining your prospect list.

Step 1: Compiles a broad list of companies that may be interested in supporting early childhood initiatives.

Include: previous donors, business partners, companies whose customer base overlaps with your target audience, companies headquartered or with facilities in your area and businesses in with which you have or can establish a close personal link.

Step 2: Research each company's business and giving interests in order to pare down your list to a manageable size.

For each company, you will want to gain a better understanding of whether a funder will be a good match by researching the following:

- What are the company's products and services?
- Who is its target audience?
- Who are its competitors?
- What current community causes/issues does it support?
- What is the approval process for decision making?
Who is the right contact?
- Who are the top executives?
- Who serves on the board or directors?
- Is there anything that might pose a real or perceived conflict of interest?



Prevent Child Abuse Iowa **Part 5 of 5**

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

IOWA RESOURCES

[Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault Rape Victim Advocacy Program](#)

[“If Your Child Has Been Sexually Abused” \(RVAP\)](#)

[Iowa Sexual Abuse Hotline Resource Guide](#)

[Four Oaks](#)

[Orchard Place](#)

Child Protection Centers:

[Mercy Medical Center](#) (Sioux City)

[Blank Children’s Hospital](#) (Des Moines)

[St. Luke’s Hospital](#) (Cedar Rapids)

[Mississippi Valley](#) (Moline, IL)

[Project Harmony](#) (Omaha, NE)

Preventing Child Sexual Abuse **Part 5: Perpetrators, Victims, and Reporting**

Experts currently estimate that 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys will experience some form of sexual abuse in their lifetimes. Most children who have been abused don’t tell for a variety of reasons: guilt that they “let” the abuse happen to them, love for the abuser, shame about how they feel, fear that someone they love might be hurt, or fear that they won’t be believed. Adults must understand the signs to look for in potential perpetrators or victims of child sexual abuse in order to intervene if they suspect a child is being abused.

Adult Perpetrators

Approximately 90% of child sexual abuse is committed by someone the child knows: a parent, caregiver, babysitter, neighbor, teacher, etc. They are often the people in our lives we and our children trust. Parents must understand that anyone could be a perpetrator of child sexual abuse; it crosses all racial, socio-economic, religious, and geographic boundaries. Instead of feeling paralyzed by these statistics, we should carefully consider the people we allow access to our children and understand the [signs of a potential perpetrator](#)*:

- Engages in [“grooming”](#) behaviors: giving expensive gifts, insisting on and managing to get uninterrupted alone time with children
- Prefers the company of children to same age peers
- Refuses to allow children to set their own body and privacy boundaries
- Is overly interested in the sexual activities and development of children/teens

These are only some of the warning signs. Sex offenders are also charming, upstanding, highly intelligent, and manipulative members of our communities. They may exhibit no obvious signs, which is why it is important to educate our children to tell about sexual abuse.

Juvenile Perpetrators

Adults are not the only potential perpetrators of sexual abuse. Some studies claim that between 30-50% of child sexual abuse is committed by juveniles (under the age of 18). Ideally, children who grow up sexually healthy with sensitive and approachable caregivers will not sexually abuse younger children. However, adults should be aware that older children can be the perpetrators of sexual abuse against younger children. Juveniles that show signs of abusive behavior or [sexual behavior problems](#) should get immediate help to prevent them from becoming adult offenders.

Victims

Children who have been sexually abused often show no physical signs. Behavioral indicators of abuse might include*:

- Fear of certain people or places
- Trouble sleeping, nightmares
- Persistent, unexplained stomach illness
- Mood swings, fear, rage, withdrawal
- Sexual acting out or having sexual knowledge beyond their age/developmental level
- Refusing to talk about a secret
- Having a new older friend

If you see a child demonstrating these behaviors, ask the child about them or ask questions of others in the child’s life. If you ever suspect a child is being sexually abused, report it!

Reporting

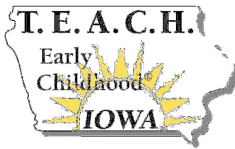
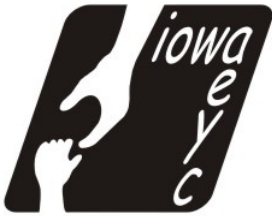
If a child discloses sexual abuse to you, believe them. Make the child feel safe and praise the child for telling you. It is a very brave thing for children to come forward and tell about sexual abuse. Also, it is important to make sure the perpetrator does not continue to have access to the child.

*From Stop It Now! www.stopitnow.org

You can report sexual abuse to the **Iowa Department of Human Services** by calling 1-800-362-2178, or contact your local police department. You can also call the **Iowa Sexual Abuse Hotline** at 1-800-284-7821 for 24-hour information and support.

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

Barb Merrill, Executive Director,
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 Moines, Iowa 50310
 (800) 469-2392
 (515) 331-8000
info@iowaaeyc.org



As an Empowerment partner, you can make a difference by helping the early childhood professionals in your area become aware of all the resources available to them. If you would like a member of the Iowa AEYC or T.E.A.C.H. staff to visit with your group or speak at a conference, call Barb Merrill at (515) 331-8000 (Ext. 11)

What is the CDA Credential?

A *Child Development Associate Credential* is the credential an individual earns after having successfully completed the CDA process and an assessment by the Council for Professional Recognition, 2460 16th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20009-3575; (800) 424-4310; www.cdacouncil.org. The CDA Credential, a recognized part of the child care licensing/registration requirements in Iowa and across the country, is a way to earn points on the Iowa's Quality Rating System, and is a part of the process of achieving some accreditation standards. CDA Credentials have been awarded in our country since 1971 and over 200,000 credentials have been granted.

Hundreds of Iowans are seeking their CDA Credentials this year, as basic-level education or to enhance their skills. Some CDA candidates have associate or bachelor's degrees in a field other than early childhood education and are looking for an early childhood credential to meet some position or regulation requirement. Others are using the CDA process as a first taste of experiencing college, without the requirement of committing to a full degree program. Some are required to earn their CDA Credential because of the standards set by their employing program. Others use the CDA Credential to raise their level of professionalism for registration, licensing, Iowa's Quality Rating System, the Quality Preschool Program Standards, Head Start Standards, and NAEYC accreditation.

The recipient of a Child Development Associate Credential is able to meet the specific needs of children and works with parents and other adults to nurture children's physical, social, emotional, and intellectual growth in a child development framework.

- A. **Competency goals:** The purpose of the CDA program is to enhance the quality of early care and education by defining, evaluating, and recognizing the competence of child care providers. The successful CDA candidate meets the following:
- I. To establish and maintain a safe, healthy learning environment.
 - II. To advance physical and intellectual competence.
 - III. To support social and emotional development and to provide positive guidance.
 - IV. To establish positive and productive relationships with families.
 - V. To ensure a well-run, purposeful program responsive to participant needs.
 - VI. To maintain a commitment to professionalism.
- B. **Criteria:** When the candidate has completed the preparation and is ready to apply for the CDA Credential, she/he must meet and verify the following:
- Be 18 years or older
 - Have a high school diploma or equivalent
 - Have 480 hours of experience working with young children within the past five years
 - Have 120 hours of formal child care education within the past five years with a minimum of ten hours of content in each of eight content areas:
 1. Planning a safe, healthy environment to invite learning
 2. Steps to advance children's physical and intellectual development
 3. Positive ways to support children's social and emotional development
 4. Strategies to establish productive relationships with families
 5. Strategies to manage an effective program operation
 6. Maintaining a commitment to professionalism
 7. Observing and recording children's behavior
 8. Principles of child development and learning

Formal child care education and training in our state is offered in a variety of ways. Several colleges have a specific CDA course for college credit. Other colleges have a non-credit course specific to the CDA requirements. In 2008, the Community College Early Childhood Alliance designated four 3-credit classes (12 credits) as the CDA courses for state-wide consistency:

- ECE 103—Introduction to Early Childhood Education
- ECE 133—Child Health, Safety & Nutrition
- ECE 243—Early Childhood Guidance

And one of the following:

- ECE 158—Early Childhood Curriculum I
- ECE 159—Early Childhood Curriculum II

What is the CDA Credential? *Continued*

ECE 221—Infant Toddler Care/Education
Optional wrap up one-credit class may be offered at some locations:
ECE 106—CDA Standards

Providers who wish to complete these courses as a pathway to the CDA Credential can contact their local community college or T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® IOWA for more information.

Another way providers and teachers may earn their training hours for their CDA Credential would be by individually compiling their training hours from approved, recognized training organizations such as Child Care Resource & Referral, Area Education Agencies, or ISU Extension. The provider and her/his advisor need to ensure that the minimum of ten hours in each of the eight content areas has been met.

C. **Document Competencies:** Completing the education hours is just one step in the process, however. The candidate must also document their competence with five other steps:

Preparation:

1. Prepare a professional resource file including six 300-500 word papers where the candidate prepares an autobiography and statements of her/his competence in the different areas of care, as well as other resources
2. Parent opinion questionnaires are distributed and the results are confidentially submitted
3. A formal observation report is done by an early childhood professional who meets a level of experience and education needed to be an advisor

Verification Visit:

4. A written exam administered by a representative from the Council for Professional Recognition
5. An oral interview conducted by the representative from the Council for Professional Recognition

The six steps help to ensure that many types of evaluation are completed, that the candidate is assessed not only caring for children, but from the parents of the children in her/his care, from her/his instructors, from her/his CDA advisor, from the Council representative, on verbal skills, written skills, child development knowledge, and preparedness.

D. **CDA Assessment Types:** The CDA Credential is granted as: a center based infant/toddler (birth up to 36 months old) CDA Credential **or** a center based preschool (3-5 years old) CDA Credential for those who work in centers and preschools, a family child care CDA Credential, or a home visitor CDA Credential. Non-English monolingual and bilingual options exist for the above listed credential types. Initially, it is granted for a three-year period, with some simple renewal requirements such as completing one 3-credit course and belonging to a professional association, as well as several other steps. After the initial renewal, the CDA may be renewed for five-year periods.

E. **The T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Program** assists providers from regulated child care/preschool settings in Iowa to earn their CDA Credential by offering a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship requiring commitment to their current child care program and offering a compensation increase (usually as a bonus) when the credential is earned. There are two ways T.E.A.C.H. can help:

- We can pay for the college credit courses and the materials and books required to achieve the 120 training hours as part of a T.E.A.C.H. nine-credit minimum scholarship contract,

and/or

- We can provide support for the \$325 application fee for the assessment, and provide a bonus when the credential is earned.

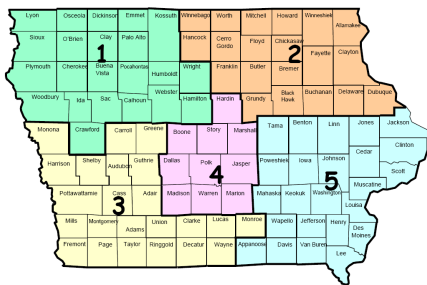
Questions?

Check the CDA website at the Council for Professional Recognition:
www.cdacouncil.org

For more information about the CDA in Iowa or an information/application packet (specify if you are interested in the scholarship for the community college classes or for the assessment fee) please call us at T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® IOWA (515) 331-8000, email us at info@iowaeyc.org, or go to our website at www.iowaeyc.org.

Iowa Child Care Resource & Referral

Submitted by, MariLynn Pierce
Director, Region 2



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

BEYOND BUSINESS BASICS

.... a new Child Care Resource & Referral Curriculum

Thanks to the pioneering efforts of Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) staff in Region 3 (SW Iowa), a 32 hour curriculum, designed to assist both center-based and home-based providers in acquiring a foundational understanding of good business practices, has been developed. Quality early care and education services, if they are to thrive, must be established on a foundation of sound business and program policies and procedures. Every program needs to know how to:

- Solve problems ethically
- Supervise and evaluate employees
- Partner with parents
- Promote their services
- Establish & manage a budget
- Access supportive services
- Minimize risks to the children, visitors and themselves; & much more.

Most early childhood people enter the profession because they like children, and want to make a positive impact in the children's lives. Most do not have education or experience in the business component of operating a child care home, center or preschool. As participants use the knowledge they gain throughout the *Beyond Business Basics* series, they will become more confident in their abilities as a business professional, as well as an early childhood professional.

During the February CCR&R Train the Trainer event, 69 staff and future trainers learned about the 16, 2 hour modules making up *Beyond Business Basics*. The first 8 modules are dedicated to business practices supporting higher QUALITY and the second 8 modules are dedicated to FINANCIAL aspects of business management. State-Wide Roll Out: immediately upon completion of trainer preparation, 11 complete series were initiated (a total of 352 hours of training) with 176 participants.

As this initial training is wrapping up; here are some comments from participants:

“Open discussions are great, I feel I learned a lot from other directors”

“Financial Management: going over Income vs Expenses – Wow, I needed that – so important!”

“Insurance – support materials were great”

“4 eight hour days worked great, but I'd be happy with even more!”

.... group finished the class with a respect for each other and they plan to continue to meet once a month on Tuesday afternoon and work together on issues that they might have.

(Note: many commented on the value of topic-driven, networking time)

Beyond Business Basics was made possible through a Professional Development grant from the State Office of Empowerment. Thank you!

News from IDPH Oral Health Bureau



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



I-Smile at the 2008 Iowa Dental Association Annual Session

*Submitted by Shaela Meister, Oral Health Program Planner
Oral Health Bureau - Iowa Department of Public Health*

With the I-Smile Dental Home Initiative now in full swing, the Oral Health Bureau selected the 2008 Iowa Dental Association’s Annual Session as an excellent opportunity to further promote the program. The event was held May 3rd through May 5th at the Polk County Convention Center in Des Moines, Iowa, and it provided the chance for the Iowa Department of Public Health’s registered dental hygienists to directly connect with the many dentists and other dental professionals from around the state.

To assist the staff with their promotional efforts, an interactive exhibit was constructed. The bureau’s new I-Smile display made its debut at the conference and provided a proper backdrop for the overall theme of the exhibit. Pens and paper with the I-Smile logo were given out while general information about the benefits of the I-Smile program and the importance of assisting all children with access to proper dental care were highlighted at the bureau’s exhibit.

Dentists and other professionals were also asked to complete a short survey on how to best target information about I-Smile to families. Seventy-eight professionals from the dental field participated in the survey and were entered into a drawing to win fluoride varnish supplies or toothbrushing teaching aids. Results from the survey show that parents need more awareness on the adverse effect that sugary foods and sodas have on the health of their child’s mouth, and I-Smile brochures detailing this concern and other child oral health facts would be the best tool to use in their offices. Approximately seventy-five percent of the total responses indicated that they were also interested in learning more about the program from their local I-Smile Coordinator at the present time or possibly in the future.

The Oral Health Bureau looks forward to continuing its promotion of the I-Smile program at future events.

Please contact the bureau at 1-866-528-4020 for additional information on I-Smile Dental Home Initiative.

Cover the Uninsured Week Town Hall Meeting

Cover the Uninsured Week 2008 took place April 27 – May 3, 2008. On April 29th of this week, the Healthcare Coverage for Kids Coalition (HCKC), in conjunction with Healthy Polk 2010 hosted a town hall meeting at Des Moines Botanical Center focusing on *Access to Healthcare for all Children in Polk County*. Carrie Fitzgerald with the Child & Family Policy Center facilitated the meeting. She provided the 47 attendees with results from the 2008 Legislative session and the status of Iowa in relation to children’s healthcare coverage. The group split into smaller discussion groups for the last portion of the meeting to come up with a list of current successes, barriers, and next steps in relation to insuring all children in Polk County. The results from the meeting will be used to further the work of HCKC.

McKinley Health Fair Save-the-Date!

Covering Kids and Families (CKF) in partnership with the Healthcare Coverage for Kids Coalition will be holding a third annual back-to-school health fair. The event will take place on August 6th 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. If you would like to volunteer or donate school supplies or other items for this event, please contact Laura DeBoer ldeboer@idph.state.ia.us or Jenny Hodges jhodges@idph.state.ia.us.



Healthy Child Care Iowa (HCCI)



Sally Clausen, ARNP, BSN
Healthy Child Care Iowa
Iowa Department of Public Health
sclausen@idph.state.ia.us

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/7/alerts.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 listings

[Child Clothing, Shoes, and Accessories](#) 1 new listing

[Equipment \(including infant supplies/equipment\)](#) 4 new listings

FOOD or DRUG listings pertaining to child care go to:

<http://www.fda.gov/opacom/7/alerts.html>.

[Furniture Related to Child Care and Early Education](#) 1 new listing

[Toys and Play Related Items](#) 2 new listings

(lead poisoning continues to be a concern)

New reports from CPSC

· [New Report Shows Increase In Pool and Spa Drownings \(Español\)](#)

· [Window Falls Prompts CPSC to Issue Warning \(Español\)](#)

· [Know the Steps to Safety When Using Escalators \(Español\)](#)

· [First Issue of "The Safety Review," CPSC's new e-newsletter \(pdf\)](#)

· [Draft Executive Summary: Import Safety Strategy - Comments Requested](#)

[Sign Up for Email Announcements \(Español\)](#)

Get free recall and safety news by email as part of CPSC's "Drive for 1 Million" campaign.

New Web Site!



AUTISM SPEAKS™
It's time to listen.

<http://www.autismspeaks.org/index.php>

Autism Speaks: Helping Individuals with Autism and Their Families Today

Autism Speaks' Family Services department is dedicated to empowering individuals and families impacted by autism. We help families maximize their child's developmental potential and improve their quality of life. We promote and advocate for best practices in treatment, education and all services—from early intervention to adult care.

This web site is intended for parents and professionals to learn about the early signs of autism and general information. Among the many resources on the site, is a video glossary. It contains over one hundred video clips and is available to you free of charge. Whether you are a parent, family member, friend, physician, clinician, childcare provider, or educator, it can help you see the subtle differences between typical and delayed development in young children and spot the early red flags for Autism.

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