

News 4 You

Partnerships 4 Families

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Early Childhood Iowa

On July 1, 2010 Community Empowerment will be no longer and Early Childhood Iowa will take its place. This transition will enhance the early childhood system in Iowa as the funding of empowerment combines with stakeholders group of the former Early Childhood Iowa.

There will not be drastic changes overnight. A marketing group will be working with the Office of Early Childhood Coordination to assess what changes need to be made and if a different logo should be adopted. Local areas will begin the change over at any time from being an empowerment area to an Early Childhood Iowa Area.

Over the next year single county Early Childhood Iowa Areas will be visiting with their neighboring counties to begin a merger process. P4F will not be going through this process since we already have four counties. Currently Adair, Boone and Dallas are the only counties that border us that will be affected by this change. All other counties that border our area are already multi county areas.

In September the Partnerships 4 Families Board will discuss if they will drop P4F and just use Early Childhood Iowa.

In the words of a sixteen year old, "Early Childhood Iowa sure tells me a lot better who you work with."

Summer Fun with a Child

It is that time of year!! Time to find a child and head outdoors to play!! Maybe you have a child of your own, a grandchild or just a neighbor child. Make a commitment to yourself this month to do some fun activities out doors with them. Following is a list of ideas: a nature walk, play

at a park, blow bubbles, sidewalk chalk, toss a ball around, collect a bag of odd and ends around the house and make something out of them, read a book under a shade tree, collect fire flies, go to the library, discover a new craft, go fishing, play in a sand

box, go looking for tad poles, find a caterpillar and watch its life cycle, go on a bike ride, make popsicles from juice, play tag, find more children and play Red Rover. The list is endless. Accept the challenge and go find a child to play with.

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Alphabet Soup:

- EC- Early Childhood
- HS—Head Start
- FY11—Fiscal Year 2011
- AR—Annual Report

Community Human Service Coalition Meetings

Community Coalition Meetings are intentional meetings of human service providers gathering to network for the benefit of the people they serve. Any one is welcome to attend.

Audubon County meets at 11:30 AM on the second Wednesday of the month at the ISU Extension Meeting Room Their next meeting is: **Wednesday, September 8th at 11:30.**

Carroll County meets at noon on the third Wednesday of the month at Charlie's in the Carrollton Center. Their next meeting is: **Wednesday, July 21st at noon.**

Greene County meets on the first Tuesday of the month at the Greene County ISU Extension meeting room. Their next meeting is **Tuesday Sept 7th at noon.**

Guthrie County meets at noon quarterly in March, June, September and December on the second Thursday of the month at the Guthrie County ISU Extension meeting room. **Sept 9th at Noon**

The success of the meetings is driven by the people attending and the connections that are developed.

P4F Early Childhood Task Force Meetings

Early Childhood Task Force meetings are intended to bring together early childhood providers four times a year for networking and program development. Information from the Early Childhood Task Force meetings provides local input to the Partnerships 4 Families Board decision making process.

Meeting times and location vary. The September meeting dates will be announced in August:

Audubon at 4:00
ISU Extension Audubon

Carroll at 4:00
Location to be determined

Greene at 4:00
GC Medical Center

Guthrie at 4:00

Location to be determined

The focus of the September ECTF will be on final funding for FY11 program changes and efforts for the coming year. Dates for Sept will be announced mid July

Please plan to attend and bring a co-worker, parent or other early childhood advocate with you.

Everything you can imagine is real.

-Picasso

DECAT

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If you have a question concerning DCAT please email or leave a phone message for Nim, she will respond when she is

available, she is only working part time in the position at this time.

Statewide Performance Measures for ECI Programs

Senate File 2088 gave direction to the Early Childhood Iowa State Board to adopt common performance measures and data reporting requirements, applicable statewide, for services, programs and activities provided by area boards. The data will be available to the public.

To address this legislation a work group was formed and developed performance

measures that any funded ECI program will have to measure. There is a list of options available that local areas directors and boards will select from to best fit the programs they fund.

In FY09 family support programs began this process and from that identical information from each program was collected allowing for a combined report. In FY11

this same type of format will be available for any program funded with ECI dollars.

Currently P4F programs are selecting the appropriate performance measures for their program, collection for the performance measurers will be in July.

For more information contact Cindy Duhrkopf, Area Director.

Partnerships 4 Families Board Update

The Partnerships 4 Families Board met on June 18th in Coon Rapids. Information was shared regarding the statewide performance measures, contracts, and year end information. Rod Rumelhart was bid a fond farewell as he is stepping down from the P4F Board to focus his

volunteer time on coaching youth sports.

The Board also acknowledged the work of Connie Riesselman to the Child Care Project. Election of Officers was held for FY11. Patricia Nielsen will remain as Chair. Sam Graves will be Vice Chair, Donna Sutton Secretary and Jean

Stadtlander Treasurer.

P4F meetings are open to the public. Meeting minutes are on the P4F website. The July 16th meeting will begin at 10:30. The public is encouraged to check with Duhrkopf prior to attending in case the meeting is canceled.

Summer Safety

Summer safety is an important part of summer. We need to keep our children safe from a number of weather and insect related elements.

The first is the sun. We love the summer sun but the long term affects can be detrimental to our skin and the hydration of our bodies. Be sure that

children have on sun screen and wear protective hats and clothing if they are going to be exposed to the sun for a long period of time. A rainy day umbrella may be one of the best defenses against the sun for infants when outside.

Also keep children safe near any source of water, constant

supervision is necessary.

Dumb any standing water regularly, if you have a pool or your children are playing in a neighbors pool be aware of the proper cleansing agents needed.

As for those pesky insects!! A fly swatter works best. (Or a child safe insect repellent is also a good defense.)

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New developments in the FDA tobacco control arena:

On June 22, 2010, rules that limit the sale, distribution, and marketing of cigarettes and smokeless tobacco become effective. Among other things, the regulations:

- Prohibit the sale of cigarettes or smokeless tobacco to people younger than 18.
- Prohibit the sale of cigarette packages with fewer than 20 cigarettes.
- Prohibit the sale of cigarettes and smokeless tobacco in vending machines, self-service displays, or other impersonal modes of sales, except in very limited situations.
- Prohibit free samples of cigarettes and limits distribution of smokeless tobacco products.
- Prohibit tobacco brand name sponsorship of any athletic, musical, or other social or cultural event, or any team or entry in those events.
- Prohibit gifts or other items in exchange for buying cigarettes or smokeless tobacco products.
- Require that audio ads use only words with no music or sound effects.
- Prohibit the sale or distribution of items, such as hats and tee shirts, with tobacco brands or logos.

Every child, beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful.



A Heartfelt Farwell

Budget cuts bring with them program cuts which can lead to personnel cuts. The most unfortunate cut of all is the personnel cut. Partnerships 4 Families will be losing a dedicated early childhood advocate as we say good bye to Connie Riesselman from the Child Care Project. Due to drastic cuts in the categories that fund the Child Care Project the P4F Board had to look at the current program and with regret had to make a cut that led to the

Child Care Project going from two people to one. The program will also be changing its focus to administrative support to child care centers and play areas. Trisha Christensen will remain with the project and use her prior experience as a center director to increase the quality of the care at the centers in our area.

We hope that Connie will be able to continue to use her skills with in our area. When one of our child care provider found out about the change

she wrote:

“You have been a blessing to me over the past seven years. You have always been there for me and I would not be where I am as a provider with out you.”

Connie, from the P4F Board, coordinator, area providers and all early childhood advocates in our area.

THANK YOU!!!!