

News 4 You

Partnerships 4 Families

May 2011
Issue 167

All Preschools Dealing with Unknowns

All area school districts have been left with many unknowns regarding preschool funding. As of the last week of April the majority of them have begun enrollment with the assumption that some form of funding will be available. Families are encouraged to contact their local school district and fill out an application. School districts will notify families of their final arrangements once the legislative session is over and the Governor has signed the bill.

Private preschools are also enrolling children for next year, a list of all area preschools can be

found on the Partnerships 4 Families website. Tuition assistance for preschool families offered through Partnerships 4 Families is also still unknown. The funding for tuition assistance is in the same bill as the school district preschool funding. Partnerships 4 Families will notify preschools as soon as they have some indication of what they may be able to offer to families this coming fall.

Families are encouraged to enroll their children so that a slot is reserved for them. But final decisions can be made when more information is available.

Child Care Provider Appreciation Day, Friday May 6th

Child care organizations and parents across the globe are joining together the Friday before Mothers' Day, May 6th, to celebrate Provider Appreciation Day. Provider Appreciation Day is a special day to recognize child care providers,

teachers, school-age program staff, child care center directors and staff, and all those who work with children in a variety of ways and are responsible for their education and care. It is estimated that there are nearly 2.8 million child care providers in the United States and that nearly 12 million under age 5 are in their care.

Locally we appreciate our providers and all they do each and every day to enrich the lives of those they care for!!

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Alphabet Soup:

- HFA-Healthy Families America
- PAT-Parents as Teachers
- IDPH-Iowa Department of Public Health

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 quarterly at the ISU Extension. Their next meeting is: **Wednesday, June 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, May 18th at noon.**

Greene County meets on the first Tuesday of the month. Their next meeting is **Tuesday May 3rd 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. **June 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.

Following are the meeting times for April.

Audubon at 4:00 PM
Monday September 19th at the Audubon ISU Extension Meeting Room

Carroll at 4:00 PM Tuesday
September 20th at New Opportunities, Rm D

Greene at 4:00 PM
Thursday September 22nd at the GC Medical Center

Public Health Conference Room

Guthrie at 4:00 PM
Wednesday September 21st in Guthrie Center at the ISU Extension Meeting Room

The focus of the September ECTF will be on the new year and what it holds for our early childhood programs.

Youth has no age.

Pablo Picasso

DECAT

The Decategorization Governance Board meets quarterly at:

DHS Office Board Room
608 N. Court St.
Carroll, IA 51401

DCAT Coordinator:
Alayna Clancy
aclancy@dhs.state.ia.us

DCAT and CPPC
P.O. Box 278
608 N. Court St., Ste. C
Carroll, IA 51401
712-792-4391, Ext 239

Fax: 712-792-1516

Clancy covers Audubon, Carroll, Greene and Guthrie DCAT Area and the Crawford and Sac DCAT.

Early Childhood Task Force April Meetings

The Partnerships 4 Families Early Childhood Task Force meetings were held in April in all four of our counties. Attendance was good at all the meetings.

The focus of the meetings was to conduct a SWOT Analysis of our early childhood system.

SWOT stands for Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. There were many similarities among the counties, yet differences due to population or the local presence of a service. The information was shared with the P4F Board on April 15th. They will use the information in assisting them with funding decisions

this spring.

The most positive theme that came about in all four counties was the willingness of providers to network with each other for the benefit of a child or a family. This outcome is very hard to measure but is the cornerstone of what makes a strong early childhood system.

Partnerships 4 Families Board Update

The P4F Board met on April 15th, they discussed technology updates to the website and computer used by the area director. Upgrades will be made prior to the end of the fiscal year. It was also decided that P4F will remain with New Opportunities as their fiscal agent and employer of record for FY12.

Duhrkopf shared a summary of the Early Childhood Task Force meetings SWOT Analysis. (See ECTF article above) A summary of letters of intent were also shared with the Board. The May meeting will be moved to the 2nd Friday of the month to accommodate board members schedules.

The P4F Board next meeting is May 13, 2011 beginning at 10:30 AM.

All meetings are open to the public and held at the Coon Rapids Municipal Building.

Early Childhood Iowa

Another step will be taken to combine the old Early Childhood Iowa and Empowerment into one location. A website is being developed combining the old ECI website and the old Empowerment website. Stay tuned for the new link.

Also this month the Early

Childhood Iowa Office in the Department of Management announced the addition of Jeffery Anderson to the staff. His responsibilities will include the management of the federal systems grant that supports the work of ECI.

In July there will be four new ECI Areas, the one closest to our area will be Dallas, Adair, Madison and Warren Counties.

Look for more developments on the new Early Childhood Iowa, as we enter year two.

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Healthy Meals in a Hurry

Iowa State University Extension Nutrition and Health Program specialist Holly VanHeel will be offering a “hands on” program providing meal planning tips and preparation ideas for “Healthy Meals in a Hurry” this May in Carroll and Greene Counties.

This fun interactive program will send you home with samples, a cookbook and lots of information on time-saving tips for quick, healthy meals.

Carroll Classes

Date: Monday, May 16th, 2011

Time: 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm **OR** 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Attend 1 of 2 Repeated Sessions~

Place: St. John’s Lutheran Church; 801 E. 18th Street, Carroll

Cost: FREE

Contact: Please register by May 9th, 2011 by calling 712-794-5279

Greene Class

Date: Tuesday, May 17th, 2011

Time: 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Place: Greene County Extension Office, 104 W Washington, Jefferson

Cost: \$10

Contact: Greene County Extension Office at 515-386-8138

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



ISU Extensions in Greene and Audubon Counties

ISU Extension went through a system change over two years ago, locally the counties are still working to find the best way to serve their citizens with the new system.

Recently Greene and Audubon County Extension Councils hired Program Coordinators to serve their counties. This position will be responsible for setting up programming in all of Extensions areas of

expertise. For more information about their role in the county you are encouraged to visit with them.

Welcome!!

*Kate Hargens in Audubon,
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And

*Michael Cooley in Greene
mcooley@iastate.edu*

WELCOME