

News 4 You

Partnerships 4 Families

February 2011
Issue 164

Early Childhood Task Force Meetings

The Partnerships 4 Families (P4F) Early Childhood Task Force (ECTF) Meetings will be held in February and April. Dates can be found on the P4F Web site or on page two of this newsletter for the February meetings.

The P4F ECTF meetings are open to the public. Early childhood providers are encouraged to attend. Information regarding upcoming programs, current legislation, early childhood system building or Early Childhood Iowa Area will be discussed. The ECTF's are sub committees of the P4F Board.

The focus at the February meetings will be Advocacy for children 0-5, current legislation, training for early childhood professionals and discussion regarding the Levels of Excellence for an Early Childhood Iowa Area. There will also be opportunity for persons attending to provide an update on their program.

The meetings will be canceled if there is no school in that particular community that day.

*See you at the
ECTF in February!*

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UPDATE: Carroll County H.O.P.E.S. Feb 15

Carroll County H.O.P.E.S. has had the unfortunate experience of having to cancel their awards presentation twice due to winter weather. A new date has been set February 14th at 2:00 in the Atrium at St Anthony Medical Center.

We hope that you will come out to support them and hear of their great work. The Iowa Family Support Credential is an honor that few have received in the State of Iowa

We hope you are able to

join the staff of St Anthony Carroll County Public Health when they receive their award on February 14th.



Alphabet Soup:

- HF-House File
- HSB-House Study Bill
- SF-Senate File
- LEGIS-Legislature
- SSB-Senate Study Bill

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, April 13th 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, February 20th at noon.**

Greene County meets on the first Tuesday of the month. Their next meeting is **Tuesday February 5th 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. **March 10th 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 February.

Audubon at 4:00 PM
Monday February 7th at the Audubon ISU Extension Meeting Room

Carroll at 4:00 PM
Thursday February 3rd
New Opportunities, Rm D

Greene at 4:00 PM
Tuesday February 1st at the GC Medical Center Public

Health Conference Room
Guthrie at 4:00 PM
Tuesday February 8th at the Guthrie County Public Health

The focus of the February ECTF will be a legislative session, Day on the Hill and the new Levels of Excellence.

The past is a ghost, the future a dream, and all we ever have is now.

Bill Cosby

DECAT

The Decategorization Governance Board will be holding a quarterly meeting on January 31, 2011 at 1 PM
DHS Office Board Room
608 N. Court St.
Carroll, IA 51401

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

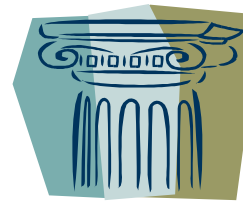
Early Childhood Day on the Hill and Congress

The Early Childhood Iowa Congress Planning Committee is pleased to announce that Governor Terry Branstad and Lt. Governor Reynolds will be our special guests at this year's event. The Governor will formally welcome Congress participants on February 10 at the opening session beginning at 8:30 am by highlighting his

his priorities for young children and how they connect with the entire early care, health and education system.

The Early Childhood Day on the Hill will be February 9th and will begin with a kick off at the Botanical Center. Early Childhood Advocates will move to the Capital after lunch to meet with their legislators.

The Early Childhood Congress will begin with Governor Branstad's remarks and continue with a day of information and learning for early childhood advocates.



Partnerships 4 Families Board Update

Due to winter weather on January 21st the P4F Board was unable to meet. Agenda items will be pushed to the February 18th meeting. To accommodate the agenda items and an overview from the H.O.P.E.S. program, the meeting will begin at 10:00 AM (this is a change from the normal meeting time).

The P4F Board will welcome a new member in February. Everett Grasty a new County Board of Supervisor from Guthrie County will be joining the P4F Board. Grasty lives in Stuart. We look forward to having a Board of Supervisor from Guthrie County.

The P4F Board next meeting is February 18, 2011 beginning at 10:00 AM.

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

Quitline Iowa

New Year Resolution, how about Quitline Iowa!

Quitline Iowa is a **FREE** service to all Iowans that are interested in quitting the use of tobacco products.

When Iowans call the Quitline, counselors help them understand the

underlying reasons for smoking and how to break the habits that make it so difficult to quit. Together, these insights can more than double one's chances of successfully quitting tobacco use. Since 2008, nearly 54,300 Iowans have called 1-800-QUIT-NOW to work with quit

coaches to develop and execute personalized, long-term plans for quitting tobacco use.

For more information, call 1-800-784-8669 (1-800-QUIT-NOW) or visit www.quitlineiowa.org.

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Families Together Available in 2011

The ISU Extension 2011 Families Together series provides parents and others an opportunity to improve both their life and that of their children. In February, Holly VanHeel, ISU Extension Nutrition & Health Program Specialist will present the first of two Small Steps to Health & Wealth classes. The second Small Steps class will be taught in March by Ruth Freeman, ISUE Family Resource Management Specialist. Small changes in health and finance practices are easier to maintain than big changes. Studies show that as one area improves, the other area improves. Participants will set health and finance goals and identify small steps to reach those goals, identify obstacles and how to overcome them and monitor progress.

The Building a Strong Foundation in Reading class will be held in April with Kim Brantner, ISUE Program Specialist. Reading can be a fun family activity for everyone! Learn how you can prepare your child for school. Children learn social and language skills when you are reading books. You can be your child's most important teacher.

Persons living in Carroll, Greene, Guthrie or Audubon counties are encouraged to contact their local ISU Extension office for more information.

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



Build our Future, A Project of Iowa AEYC

Iowa AEYC is pleased to announce their newest project that is in collaboration with Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service. *Build our Future* project goal is to offer trained, competent AmeriCorps members to support rural child care and Head Start programs in Iowa who are serving low income children. Ten members will be placed in programs when their year of service starts in September of 2011.

Three rural hubs in Iowa are currently being considered for placement of the AmeriCorps members. One of the hubs includes Crawford, Carroll, Greene, Boone and Dallas counties. For more information about the project persons can go to: <http://www.iowaaeyc.org/ameri-corps.cfm> or contact Ashley Blake at IAEYC: Ashley@iowaaeyc.org

