

Partnerships 4 Families Early Childhood Iowa

Cindy Duhrkopf, Area Director

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Legislation

Many of you may have heard that there is currently legislation moving through the House and Senate that would make changes to Early Childhood Iowa as we have known it for the past 27 years.

The bill recommending the changes is coming from the Governors Office. The first committee meetings on the bills were held the week of February 17th.

While nothing is final until bills are signed the ECI State Office is preparing ECI areas for the changes.

The most noticeable change is to move from 33 ECI areas to 7 Districts using the map that was created for the Behavioral Health Districts. With that changes Partnerships 4 Families as we know it would be divided into three Districts.

District 1 Carroll County
District 4 Audubon & Guthrie
District 5 Greene County

As we wait and see what will happen in the legislator meetings are being held to make transitions go smoothly should the change occur.

Reach out to me if you have questions. Cindy

Preschool in the Fall

It is that time of year when our local school districts are signing up children for Pre-K. If you know of a family with a child who will be 4 by September 15th have them reach out to their local elementary school building for information. Each school district has a slightly different process.

If you are looking for a three year old program in your area

Email us at:
p4fchildren@gmail.com
Or visit with other families with children your child's age.

Upcoming Meetings

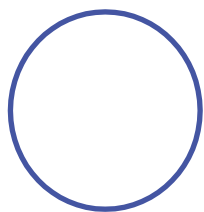
Partnerships 4 Families
Monday, April 14, 2024
11:00 AM at New Opportunities,
Carroll or via Zoom

Due to the many changes at the state level the Designation visit that was planned for this spring has been canceled.

April is....

Child Abuse Prevention month, take time out of your month to focus on some activity that will decrease the chances of any type of abuse to children.

The pinwheel is a sign of childhood and is displayed during the month.



Toddler Fest was started by the Greene County Librarians 18 years ago as a fun activity for families to have with their children who were toddler age 1-4. Make plans to attend if you are in the area.

The first three years of a child's life are the most important when setting the foundation for ongoing development. Starting supports and services early, improves a child's ability to develop and learn. The focus of Early ACCESS is to support parents to help their children learn and grow throughout their everyday activities and routines.



Watch for more details.

Head Start

If you know of someone who will be 3 or 4 by September 15, 2025 and might be eligible for Head Start preschool, have them give Magen a call at 712-830-9442 for Audubon, Carroll, and Coon Rapids Head Start programs, and Diane at 712-830-6990 for Jefferson or Panora..

Children attending will be provided nutritional snacks and meals, active learning experience, and health and dental services.

Head Start also offers an Early Head Start center based program in Carroll. Call 712-830-3028 for more information.

<https://www.newopp.org/services/head-start-early-head-start>

Notes from Cindy

I apologize if you see many of the same articles this month as in March. They are. With multiple things going on and time off to welcome a new grand daughter I am going to do a rinse and repeat on the news letter.

We are still waiting for legislation of the state board to make decisions on the future of ECI or at least to put things in writing that they are telling us about.

I would like to entertain the idea of having an area wide meeting the end of May or first part of June while some of our partners are still under contract. Please let me know what days might work for you.

Cindy

P4F Board

The P4F Board met briefly in March to receive highlights of pending legislation and information that has been released.

They will met briefly again in April to hear updates and access the funding available to the end of the year.

That meeting will be held on Monday April 14th, not the normal scheduled third Thursday. An agenda and Zoom link can be found on our website 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

DCAT & CPPC Coordinator Update

Many of you know Mollie Scott, the DCAT & CPPC Coordinator for Audubon, Carroll, Greene & Guthrie Cluster along with Crawford and Sac Cluster. As of February 1 her positions has gone part time. She will still have the same email address and will respond when she is able.

Community Coalition Meetings

Community coalition meetings are intentional meetings of community members and service providers gathering to network for the benefit of the people they serve. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Audubon County meets at 11:30 AM on the 2nd Wednesday of the month in January, April, July & October at the ISU Extension meeting room in Audubon. Their next meeting is **Wednesday April 9, 2025 at 11:30 AM**, Offered in person and via Zoom

Carroll County meets at noon on the third Wednesday of five times a year in Feb, April, June, Sept, Nov. Their next meeting is **Wednesday at Noon on April 16, 2025 @ noon at New Opportunities, Room D in Carroll** Offered in person and maybe via Zoom There is no December meeting as the website said.

Greene County meets on the first Tuesday of the month five times a year at noon at ISU Extension in Jefferson. The five months are Feb, April, June, Sept & Nov. Their next meeting is **Tuesday April 1, 2025 at noon**. Offered in person and via Zoom

Guthrie County meets at noon four times a year in March, June, September and December on the second Thursday of the month at the ISU Extension meeting room in Guthrie Center. Their next meeting is **Thursday June 12, 2025 at noon**. Offered in person and via Zoom

The meetings are offered in person and via Zoom. The Zoom link for all the above-mentioned meetings can be found on New Opportunities website at: <https://www.newopp.org/county-resources/coalitions>

**Partnerships 4 Families is the Early Childhood Iowa Area
Designated to serve Audubon, Carroll, Greene, and Guthrie Counties**

PO Box 672 Carroll, Iowa 51040

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