

News 4 You from P4F

March 2019
Issue 1966

Partnerships 4 Families Early Childhood Iowa Area for Audubon, Carroll, Greene and Guthrie Counties

Early Childhood Iowa

An initiative to empower individuals and their communities to achieve desired results to improve the quality of life for children ages birth-5 years of age and their families.



In Every Edition

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What does the Data say?

Good Bad or Ugly, Data Exists! But what we do with the data is where we can make a difference. At the March ECTF meetings we will look at data as it relates to early childhood in our area. The first numbers we will look at is population data. Do we have more or less children 0-5 in our area than five years ago. We keep hearing numbers are down in programs but are the numbers down because of population or families not engaging in programming.

There have been many conversations regarding child care data recently. We will look at how the number of slots in our area correlates to the population.

Join us at the ECTF meetings listed on page 2 of the newsletter to share in the discussion.

Two data sources we will be using:

<https://www.iowadatacenter.org/>

<http://indicators.extension.iastate.edu/publications-public>

Keep Advocating

Who me???

Yes, You!!

We need you as an advocate for early childhood services in Iowa. Being an advocate does not mean you have to ask for something it may mean saying "Thank You" for a service that is already being provided and is necessary in the future.

You can be an advocate at the local, state or federal level.

Locally in your community advocate for fluoride in your water or a safe park for children.

At the state level educate your legislators about programs that support children and families or a need that is missing.

To learn more about how to be an advocate for children go to:

<https://www.cfpciowa.org/en/advocacy/>

Be sure to sign up for their updates. They have also started a Blog and are doing short webinars.



"Every child beginning at birth will be healthy and successful.'

Community Human Resource Coalitions

Community coalition meetings are intentional meetings of human service providers and community members 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, June & October at the ISU Extension meeting room in Audubon. Their next meeting is: **Wednesday April 10th at 11:30**.

Carroll County meets at noon on the third Wednesday of the month at ISU Extensions Meeting Room in Carroll. Their next meeting is: **Wednesday at Noon March 20th at Noon**.

Greene County meets on the first Tuesday of the month at noon at ISU Extension in Jefferson. They do take July & August off. Their next meeting is: **Tuesday March 5th at Noon**. No July or August Meetings A week later due to the holiday.

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 March 14th at noon**.

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

P4F Early Childhood Task Force

P4F invites early childhood service providers and advocates to our Early Childhood Task Force meetings this March.

We will be discussing the outcomes of our Circles of Control discussion from October and look at local data trends that relate to early childhood.

Audubon
Monday March 18th
4:00 PM
ISU Extension Audubon

Carroll
Wed March 20th-4:00 PM
Family Resource Center

Greene
Wed March 27th 1:00 PM
ISU Extension Jefferson

Guthrie
Tues March 26th 4:00 PM
ISU Extension Guthrie Center

Please extend this invitation to at least one other early childhood provider whose voice would be valuable to the conversation.

P4F Board Update

The P4F Board met in February and had a wonderful update from the HOPES programs along with an overview of Tool FF that guides the funding for family support. The next meeting will be either in March or April

All meetings are open to the public. Board minutes can be found on the P4F Website.

The next P4F Board meeting is scheduled for:

March 15, 2019 Or
April 19, 2019
At 10:30 AM or 1:00 PM
in Carroll at New Opportunities

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www.partnerships4families.org

Persons in the Spot Lite-Board Members

Let's take a pause-

Perhaps there is not just one person we need to recognize this month but many. Do you know that in the past 20 years there have been 70 persons who have served on the P4F Board?

We are grateful for each of them and the time they gave to leading P4F and advocating for the children in our area. Seventeen of those individuals served two six years or two terms.

If you know one of those board members, please thank them for the time they spent or are currently spending advocating for the early childhood programs and children. They come from all walks of life and have worked together for the children in our area.

We are happy to announce the two new members will be joining us in March Alisa Olsen a preschool teacher from Churdan and Todd Nelson Audubon County Boar of Supervisor.

Circles of Support

An exercise was conducted at the ECTF in each county in October to assist in determining areas where Partnerships 4 Families could provide support to our early childhood providers. The exercise began with two circles, a smaller circle within a larger circle. Participants were asked to name things they controlled in their work as early childhood providers. Those items were placed in the inner circle. Items placed in the outer circle were items they did not control. At our ECTF in March we will look at the following list to determine what we can do about the things we control.

As an Early Childhood Professional/Service Provider We Control	What can P4F or your program do about this?
Advocacy How we share information about EC Trainings we attend Our education on topics and initiatives Awareness of information to provide to families/children	
Quality of curriculum & information given to children/families Activities provided Educational resource for visits or classrooms	
Quality of visit or interaction with a child Support provided to children or families Communication with families How we share information & how we respond	
Environment/Nutrition if child care professionals Prevention of illness	
What is offered Rates, hours, policies Opportunities offered	
Screening tools, ASQ, QPPS & quality of them	
Work environment Leadership	
Initiatives promoted	
Attitude & Self Care Boundaries	