

# Partnerships 4 Families News 4 You

November 2023  
Issue 2019



## Upcoming Events

P4F Board Update

P4F Board Member

P4F Early Childhood Task Force

Community Meetings

## Area Directors Note

As promised, I have returned from a month of play, enjoying the outside, visiting with the grand kids and grand dog. October was wonderful but now it is November and time to focus on what is ahead of us.

As I have highlighted in previous newsletters HHS has conducted an assessment of services from summer through this fall. As of last week, we are starting to hear the themes from that assessment. While we don't know anything specific, we do know that there is change in the air. But change can be good. So while we wait out the specifics I highly encourage your team to pick up the book "Who Moved My Cheese?" by Spencer Johnson, M.D. It is an oldy but goody when we talk about how we respond to change. Most libraries may have it. As you read the book think about who you are Sniff, Scurry, Hem or Haw.

Also, take time to make your list of 100 things you are thankful for. I know you are all over achievers and can't list just 10.

Have a wonderful month filled with things to be thankful for.

Cindy

## Gratitude

November is National Gratitude Month and who knows gratitude best-children. They are grateful for the smallest of things, an open swing, a new marker, a smiling face, a juice box and even just one piece of candy.

During this month of gratitude find ways to incorporate gratitude into your daily lives and the lives of others around you. Maybe it is a journal, a list on the white board,

a gratitude jar where you place a slip of paper in the jar each day with something you are grateful for.

National Gratitude month was started by a person who believed gratitude is an essential ingredient of a happy and fulfilling life.

P4F is grateful for all of you, do the work you do with young children.

- ◆ Every Child beginning at birth will be healthy and successful.

## HHS Service Delivery Alignment Assessment Project

HHS has engaged Health Management Associates to conduct a study of 19 services delivered by HHS in Iowa. Information about the process that is made public is available at the following link: [hhs.iowa.gov/service-delivery-alignment-assessment-project](https://hhs.iowa.gov/service-delivery-alignment-assessment-project).

Persons are encouraged to watch for opportunities to provide input, whether that be through surveys, focus groups or other means. The process will go rather quickly.

Be in the know.

## Data from Schools

Is your local school growing or losing students. Last week many schools released to the public the certified count that is required by law to be reported to the Department of Education each October.

The number of students enrolled is important to schools as their reimbursement is from the state is

tied to that number. But enrollment data is also important to communities to tell if the number of children in their communities is growing or dwindling.

You can find last year's data on the Iowa Department of Education's website.

<https://educateiowa.gov/data-reporting/education-statistics-pk-12>

## PBS Kids for Parents

Needing another resource that might resonate with parents. PBS Kids has a wonderful newsletter that teachers or parents can subscribe to. This week's newsletter was focusing on age-appropriate chores, empathy and

pretend play. There are also links to activities, games and information about upcoming PBS Kids programming.

Sign up today and encourage parents to sign up too.

[https://www.pbs.org/parents/?utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=internal&utm\\_content=parents&utm\\_campaign=](https://www.pbs.org/parents/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=internal&utm_content=parents&utm_campaign=)

## P4F Early Childhood Task Force

The P4F Early Childhood Task Force meet on October 24<sup>th</sup>.

We focused our time on building relationships, how we serve children and discussing any new needs of children and families in our area.

Heartland AEA staff in attendance encouraged

participants to make referrals to them if they are seeing concerns in children. Referrals can come from parents or anyone working with a child who has the parents consent to make the referral. If you would like more information reach out to Cindy and she will connect you with the appropriate persons.

### Resources Based in Iowa

Child Passenger Safety Program in Iowa is based out of the Blank Children's Hospital. Information for parents and caregivers can be found at:

<https://www.unitypoint.org/locations/unitypoint-health---blank-childrens-hospital/advocacy-and-outreach/child-passenger-safety>

Locally you can contact the Carroll County Public Health or the Greene County Public Health to access technicians who are trained through the program at Blank.

If you or someone you know has ever considered being a technician, we encourage them to check the website for information.

### Helping in the Kitchen

As you are busy preparing the Thanksgiving meal consider how to engage children in the process. From making cute place cards to helping open the can of green beans for the traditional green bean casserole. Children can be helpers.

From an infant riding in a baby carrier and being talked to about the meal to a five-year-old who can help set the table and even assist in cutting up fruit

for the fruit salad. All children can have an ownership in any meal that is being prepared.

Children may be learning a new skill or building a bond with you. Be sure to include them.

Here is a link to one mom's blog about age-appropriate tasks for children in the kitchen.

<https://www.momables.com/teach-your-kid-how-to-cook-by-age/>

### Community Human Service Coalition Meeting Dates

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 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month in January, April, July & October at the ISU Extension meeting room in Audubon. Their next meeting is **Wednesday January 10, 2024 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 November 15th @ ISU Extension Meeting Room in Carroll** Offered in person and maybe via Zoom

**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 November 7, 2023**. Offered in person and maybe 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 December 14, 2023 at noon**. Offered in person and maybe 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>

## P4F Board

The P4F Board did not meet in October. Their next meeting will be on November 16<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will be held at New Opportunities in Carroll and via Zoom. Agendas are posted on our website.

Topics for discussion may include HHS Service Delivery Assessment, designation, child care concerns and other topics.

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

## Story Time at Local Libraries

Many of our local libraries offer a story time for children and parents. Other than checking directly with the library many of them post their schedule on Facebook. Story time is a great way to encourage positive social skills in children.

### Focus and social skills

At story time children are encouraged to listen to others, whether it be the storyteller or others listening to the story. They learn to be more patient and to let others speak; they begin to understand that others may not interpret things in the same way they do.

Their focus and listening skills are developed as they concentrate on what the storyteller is saying as.

Story time provides children with a window to new worlds. It gives them the opportunity to learn new ideas and information; without realizing it.

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- ❖ EARLY CHILDHOOD PROFESSIONALS
- ❖ PARENTS
- ❖ EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVOCATES

OR FIND IT ON THE WEBSITE AND SHARE THE LINK