Growing Healthy Communities: Supporting Development of Community-level Early Childhood Systems

Gretchen Hageman

Early Childhood Iowa

- Promote implementation of strategies to address the critical components in Iowa’s Early Care, Health, and Education System Strategic Plan
- Continue to strengthen leadership and collaboration to build the infrastructure for Iowa’s Early Care, Health, and Education System
- Further develop results accountability for Iowa’s Early Care, Health, and Education System to support data-informed decision making
- Create a commitment for broadening public will and investing resources for Iowa’s Early Care, Health, and Education System

Iowa’s Early Care, Health, and Education Vision

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

- Adopted by state agencies and organizations
- Gained buy-in and support of Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholders

Iowa’s ECI Project

Early Childhood Iowa

PURPOSE:
Be a catalyst in the development of Iowa’s comprehensive, integrated Early Care, Health, and Education System.

Guiding Principles
Make Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholders accountable to their mission of building a comprehensive Early Care, Health, and Education System for the State of Iowa.

- Broad Based Representation
- Respect
- Responsiveness
- Informed Decision Making
- Agent of Change
Components Workgroups of the System

Program
• Quality Services and Programs
• Professional and Workforce Development
• Public Engagement

Infrastructure
• Accountability for Results
• Resources and Funding
• Governance, Planning, and Administration

Strategic Plan Result Areas

• Healthy Children
• Children Ready to Succeed in School
• Safe and Supportive Communities
• Secure and Nurturing Families
• Secure and Nurturing Early Care and Education Environments

Early Childhood Iowa

www.earlychildhoodiowa.org

Community Empowerment

“Empowerment was founded on the vision that communities and state government could work together to improve the well being of families with young children.”

--- Dr. Robert Koob, Iowa Empowerment Board Chairperson

December, 2000

Purpose of Community Empowerment

• Empower local citizens to lead collaborative efforts
• Improve results for families with young children, birth through age 5

Purpose of Community Empowerment

• Build an early care, health and education system: State and communities work together
• Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of early care, education, health and human services programs
• Promote collaboration among state and local levels
Iowa Empowerment Board

**Composition:**
- Citizen members (16)
- State Department Directors
  - Economic Development
  - Education
  - Human Rights
  - Human Services
  - Public Health
  - Workforce Development
- Legislators (6) – Ex Officio

**Mission:**
The Iowa Empowerment Board supports communities by demonstrating and facilitating leadership and collaboration to achieve desired results for children (0-5) and their families.

Community Empowerment Areas

- 58 areas representing all 99 counties
  - Geographically self-defined
  - Develop and implement comprehensive, community plans
  - Commit to reaching results for young children and their families

Community Empowerment Boards

- **Overview/Role:**
  - Promote and demonstrate community collaboration
  - Develop and implement community plan
  - Community assessment
  - Coordinate planning
  - Establish priorities
  - Annually report on the effectiveness of the plan
  - Develop a system for comprehensive services to support families and children, 0 – 5 years of age
  - Coordinate program/funding to meet needs and priorities

Composition:
- Majority Citizen/Elected Official
- Representation Includes:
  - Business
  - Consumer
  - Faith
  - Education
  - Health
  - Human services
Community Empowerment Funding

School Ready

- State Funds
- Support comprehensive services for children ages zero through five, including:
  - Family Support for children Prenatal thru age 3; home visitation component
  - Parent Support & Education (60%)
  - Preschool Support for Low-Income Families
  - Professional development
  - Quality Improvements
  - Other Early Care, Health and Education Services
    - Preschool and child care services
    - Administrative funds (Up to 3%)

Early Childhood Funds

- Federal Funds
- Enhance quality child care capacity in support of parent capability to obtain or retain employment, including:
  - Regular child care, including recruitment of providers
  - Child care for mildly ill children
  - Second or third shift child care
  - Infant child care
  - Training to increase quality for center-based and home-based child care providers

Contact information

Gretchen Hageman
ECCS Project Director
Dept of Public Health
ghageman@idph.state.ia.us