
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA STAKEHOLDERS ALLIANCE MEETING — DECEMBER 2018

Meeting. The Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholders Alliance met on December 11, 2018, in Des Moines. The meeting opened with discussion about Early Childhood Day on the Hill, which will be January 17, 2019.

Children's System State Board. Shanell Wagler, Director of Early Childhood Iowa (ECI), discussed her participation on the Children's System State Board. Director Wagler presented the Children's System State Board Strategic Plan with recommendations to create a children's behavioral health system. She spoke about the cooperative effort between the Department of Human Services, Department of Public Health, and Department of Education and the role of ECI to be a supportive partner.

Family Engagement and Equity Workgroups. Lisa Bender, Department of Human Services, spoke about the work being done in the ECI Family Engagement Advisory Committee. She talked about the need to support the value of family engagement and the need to create systematic ways to partner with families. Tom Rendon, Department of Education, spoke about the work being done in the Equity Advisory Committee Group. He spoke about the need for ECI to do its work through an equity lens and the need for diversity in workgroups.

ECI Strategic Plan. Jeff Anderson, Facilitator with ECI, presented the ECI Strategic Plan. He highlighted that mental health is a new piece of the strategic plan. The strategic plan was formally adopted. The following three goals are outlined in the strategic plan:

- Maintain and promote a solid infrastructure to advance the early childhood system.
- Ensure equitable access to high-quality services for young children and their families.
- Build public will for supporting young children and their families.

Preschool Development Grant. In November 2018, ECI applied for a \$3.0 million federal preschool development grant. If approved, ECI will then apply for additional grant funding for the next four years. The grant will be used to support the Integrated Data System and to strengthen professional development for childcare and child service providers. ECI is to receive award notification of the grant by December 20, 2018.

Early Childhood Iowa Integrated Data System. Heather Rouse, Iowa State University, shared information on the Early Childhood Iowa Integrated Data System (IDS). One of the goals of IDS is to capitalize on data already collected by programs that serve families. The IDS would facilitate statewide needs assessments to identify gaps in current public service system networks, enhance cross-system programming efforts, broaden the ability to measure successful child outcomes in diverse and meaningful ways, and promote data-informed decisions.

Next Meeting. The next meeting of the ECI Stakeholders Alliance is scheduled for February 12, 2019, in Des Moines.

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