



Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) State Board June Meeting

Meeting. The [Early Childhood Iowa \(ECI\)](#) state Board met on June 3, 2016, in the State Capitol. The following topics were covered.

Levels of Excellence. ECI staff visited nine ECI Areas as part of [Levels of Excellence](#), the ratings system for the local area boards. The ratings system has four levels: probationary, compliant, quality, and model. Reviewers made the following recommended ratings for the nine areas for the following reasons. Each recommendation was approved by the State Board.

- **Adams, Ringgold, Union, Taylor County Area - Compliant.** The local board has met all required criteria for compliance.
- **Appanoose, Davis, Lucas, Monroe County Area - Probationary.** The local board did not complete a community needs assessment, left a board member position vacant for more than one year, does not have written policies for assuring services or monitoring contracts, and has not completed monitoring of contractors.
- **Cherokee, Lyon, Plymouth, Sioux County Area - Probationary.** An analysis of the needs assessment for the local board's community plan is needed. Various policies and procedures could be strengthened. Contract monitoring needs to be improved.
- **Clinton, Jackson County Area - Model.** The local board has no areas of improvement.
- **Jasper, Marion, Poweshiek County Area - Probationary.** Materials submitted to reviewers were difficult to follow, and processes for contract monitoring and unspent funding need improvement.
- **Mahaska, Wapello County Area - Probationary.** The local board left a board member position vacant for a long period and needs to develop a policy for board member recruitment. Request for Proposal (RFP) applications for funding and program reviews need proper review and documentation of review.
- **Muscatine County Area - Model.** All required criteria were met for this rating.
- **Pottawattamie County Area - Model.** All required criteria were met for this rating.
- **Scott County Area - Model.** All required criteria were met for this rating.

ECI Areas on Probation - Recommendations. The state Board reviewed the probationary status of the two ECI area boards placed on probation as part of their Levels of Excellence ratings last year. Areas identified for improvement that contributed to the boards' probationary status include:

- Bremer, Butler, Franklin, Grundy - did not provide evidence the board annually tracks and reviews performance measures and adopted indicators.
- Clay, Dickinson, O'Brien, Osceola - did not provide a proper needs assessment and an annual review of community-wide indicators and did not fill board member vacancies on time.

The ECI Administrator recommended that the two area boards be removed from probation because they have corrected the shortcomings in the areas identified for improvement. The State Board approved the recommendations.

Iowa Population Trends. Gary Krob of the State Library presented data on Iowa's changing demographics. Topics included state trends, county trends, economic trends, and county comparisons. Click [here](#) for the full data and presentation.

Next Meeting. The next meeting of the Board will be September 9, 2016 (location to be determined). Additional information including handouts can be obtained from the LSA and on the [Board's webpage](#).

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