



ECI BOARD MEETING

Meeting. The Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) State Board met on Friday, November 4, 2016, in the Legislative Dining Room of the Iowa State Capitol. The Board convened to review pediatric dental care outcomes and penetration data for children from low-income families across the state, and to discuss the work of individual ECI State Board committees.

Preventive Dental Services. Dr. Bob Russell, Public Health Dental Director at the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), provided an overview of preventive dental services offered and families served through the I-SMILE Dental Program. Members of the Board had questions regarding the ratio of active, licensed dentists to those accepting new Medicaid patients. The uneven ratio underscores the necessity of IDPH's involvement in providing early dental access.

Family Support Services. The Board heard updates from the family support services group on their implementation of maternal depression screenings, developmental screenings, and outcome measures for the group's intervention projects, including long-term home-based visitation and short-term and group-based programs.

Staff also updated the Board on the ongoing implementation of the new data collection system, DAISEY (Data Integration Solutions for the Early Years), which streamlines data tracking and allows regional entities to better organize the information collected from the families they serve.

Competency Assessment. The development of the competency assessment for all practitioners (direct service providers and supervisors) was discussed. The assessment, which covers the nine nationally recognized domain area competencies for early childhood service providers, will begin rolling out in the coming months for all practitioners in ECI, Iowa Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visitation (MIECHV), and Healthy Opportunities for Parents to Experience Success – Healthy Families Iowa (HOPES-HFI) programs. E-learning modules will also be available as preteaching tools. Concerns regarding the validity of a multiple choice assessment were raised and discussed.

The next ECI Board meeting is scheduled for January 6, 2017.

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