
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA (ECI) STATE BOARD MEETING — APRIL 2018

Board Meeting. The Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) State Board met on Friday, April 9, 2018, at the Des Moines offices of the Iowa Economic Development Authority. The Board saw presentations on multiple topics from ECI staff, Department of Human Services (DHS) staff, and Department of Public Health staff.

Integrated Data System (IDS). A task force of individuals from multiple organizations represented by ECI has been working on the IDS since the fall of 2015. The ECI IDS project is working under the following vision statement: "The Iowa early childhood system will be effectively and efficiently coordinated among health, social service, and education agencies to support healthy and successful families. This work will be informed by actionable intelligence derived from a statewide IDS that comprehensively identifies and addresses the needs of Iowa's young children and their families."

The project is working to identify gaps in the current public service system, enhance cross-system programming efforts, and measure child outcomes. In 2018, the IDS project is working to update statewide data system inventories, prepare an IDS development plan, and create the first demonstration project to focus on the needs and service utilization patterns of Iowa's families with young children.

New Tools. The Board saw, discussed, and approved new and updated ECI program evaluation tools. These included updates to reflect the new [Iowa Quality Rating System](#) (QRIS) as programs transition from the previous QRS model and toward a new optional Business Investment program.

Other Items of Business. The Board saw an overview of and endorsed the Iowa Early Learning Standards and heard an update and recommendations from the Family Support Pilot Project. There was also a presentation from a DHS staff member on the Child Care Assistance Program, including new federal requirements with the Child Care and Development Block Grant Reauthorization.

The Board also discussed ways that Board members could be advocates for ECI.

The next ECI State Board meeting is scheduled for June 1, 2018.

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