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Date: February 20, 2002
To: Community Services Bureau Grantee Agencies; Family Services Bureau Grantee Agencies; Nutrition and WIC Grantee Agencies; Dental Bureau, Covering Kids State Coalition Members
From: Sonni Vierling, Covering Kids Program Coordinator
RE: *hawk-i* Board Meeting

The following topics were discussed at the most recent meeting of the *hawk-i* Board on February 18, 2002:

Correspondence, Reports, & Media Articles

- The 2002 poverty guidelines, effective April 1, 2002, were released and can be located at <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/02fedreg/htm>. There has been a notable increase from the 2001 FPL. For example, the 2001 FPL for a family of four formerly was \$35,300, and the 2002 FPL for a family of four will now be \$36,200.
- National articles on SCHIP that can be accessed via the Internet include the following.
Unqualified People Get Health Aid, Audit Finds
http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/134402870_audit11m.html

Lawmakers Say No to CHIP ads
<http://news.mywebpal.com/partners/347/public/news247069.html>

SCHIP Covers 4.6 Million Children in 2001
<http://www.hcfa.gov/init/children.htm>

Why Eligible Children Lose or Leave SCHIP (webcast of 2-8-02 press conference)
<http://www.kaisernetwork.org/healthcast/nashp/8feb02>

Review of “Why Eligible Children Lose or Leave SCHIP” Report

- The National Academy for State Health Policy recently released a report on findings from a comprehensive study of retention and disenrollment based on a seven-state study (Iowa was among these states). Some key findings include the following:

States may be overestimating the number of lapsed children who may still be eligible for SCHIP. When reached for the survey and asked why their child is no longer enrolled in SCHIP, two-thirds of the presumed lapsed families indicate that they actually left SCHIP for reasons that would make the child ineligible for the program. (For example, a child may be disenrolled for “failure to pay the premium” when actually the family did not pay the premium because they gained other health insurance and neglected to tell the third party administrator why they did not pay their premium).

Parents appreciate SCHIP and lapsed families want to re-enroll their children in the program. They praise the medical care, prescription drug coverage, dental care, and other aspects of the program.

Some parents were unaware that they need to renew annually; they say they were never told about this process. Likewise, a number of parents feel overwhelmed by the paperwork requirements for renewal.

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Parents' busy lives affect their ability to comply with SCHIP rules. Some lapsed families indicate that they forgot to renew or simply did not get around to it. Some lapsed families also say they forgot to pay their premiums.

The total number of children enrolled in *hawk-i* at the end of January was 11,527. 1,400 children were enrolled in *hawk-i* during the month of January. Currently, 30,691 eligible children for *hawk-i* remain unenrolled.

hawk-i information and demographics are now available at www.hawk-i.org/statedir

Username: wildrose

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Questions about these materials may be addressed to Sonni Vierling at 515-282-4516 or by e-mail at svierlin@idph.state.ia.us.