



Family Support in Iowa

Early Care Best Practices

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Iowa Family Support Coordinator

- Why was there a need to create this position?
 - Federal, state and local funding
 - Increasing number of “home grown” models
 - Increase quality and consistency

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Early Childhood Iowa - Family Support Products

- Family Support definition
- Family Support issue brief #4
- Family Support issue brief #5

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What do the Issue Briefs Tell Us?

- Family Support programs are only reaching 13% of families with young children.
- Over 1/3 of the families being served are not being served with a recognized model.



Family Support Leadership Group

- Tasks

- Share tools, resources and build collaboration
- Core competencies for workers and supervisors
- Basic family support standards
- Common outcome measures
- Peer Review for external evaluation
- Academic/Research Family Support Forum



What's Been Accomplished?

- Creation of Family Support web page
- Began systematic plan for professional development
- Created draft set of basic family support standards
- Piloted Peer Review in three sites
- Obtained permission to use as a starting point the Wisconsin Children's Trust Fund core competencies for workers and supervisors

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Iowa Peer Review Process

- Application/Selection
- Self Assessment
- Site Visit
- Final Report
- Quality Improvement Plan
- Iowa Family Support Credential



Basic Iowa Family Support Standards

- 16 Program Service Standards
- 17 Organizational Standards
- Some standards are not applicable to all programs
- Many second order standards



How are the Standards Rated?

- The Iowa Family Support Peer Review Process uses the Council On Accreditation four point rating scale for each standard
 - 1 = Full Compliance
 - 2 = Substantial Compliance
 - 3 = Partial Compliance
 - 4 = Non-Compliance



Future Plans

- Standard Outcome Measures
- Common Demographics
- Implementation of Peer Review and Iowa Family Support Credential
- Curricula for Supervisors
- Convene two times per year - Family Support Leadership Group



Contact Information

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