Every child, beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful.

Iowa’s
Early Care, Health, and Education System

Prepared by the Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholders

A group of committed advocates dedicated to developing a comprehensive system of programs and services for Iowa’s children ages 0 to 5.

Spring 2011

www.earlychildhoodiowa.org
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**ECCS Work Plan***

### Goal One: Further advance the five result areas of Iowa’s Strategic Plan (Healthy Children, Children Ready to Succeed in School, Safe and Supportive Communities, Secure and Nurturing Families and Secure and Nurturing Early Care and Education Environments)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective 1:</th>
<th>Integrate Early Childhood Iowa Strategic Plan activities focusing on medical home, including access to health insurance into the Medical Home Advisory Council’s work plan by May 2012.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Partners:</strong></td>
<td>Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), Child Health Specialty Clinics (CHSC), Child and Family Policy Center (CFPC)</td>
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**Activities**

1. Partner with the Iowa Medical Home Advisory Council to promote the medical home concept as a standard of care for all children.
2. Engage health care professionals and medical organizations in supporting the development of medical homes across Iowa.
3. Create best practices and lessons learned for implementing a community-based utility model to support primary care practices to become family centered medical homes for children.
4. Participate in the medical home work group to educate primary care providers on their role of implementing the medical home models.
5. Build and support an infrastructure for increasing quality of pediatric care in Iowa by working with the IAAP and IAFP on development of a pediatric quality improvement initiative that supports a patient and family centered model of care.
6. Continue to improve enrollment and retention strategies for health insurance for all children ages 0 to 5 by promoting presumptive eligibility for children for Medicaid and hawk-i (State Children’s Health Insurance Program).
7. Advance the recommendations of the Off to a Good Start Coalition and the Department of Human Services focusing on children’s health insurance.
8. Promote the I-Smile dental home initiative and its focus on early and regular dental care.

### Objective 2: Strengthen the infrastructure for Iowa’s social/emotional health care system for children ages 0 to 5 through the spread of 1st Five projects across Iowa by May 2012.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Partners:</strong></th>
<th>Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), Iowa Department of Education (DE), Child Health Specialty Clinics (CHSC), Local CH agencies 1st Five Initiatives, local Community Early Childhood Iowa Areas</th>
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**Activities**

1. Coordinate with Project LAUNCH to develop a shared vision for Iowa’s social and emotional health care system.
2. Integrate lessons learned into Title V community-based agencies from Iowa’s 1st Five Healthy Mental Development Initiative on early identification and referral for young children’s social/emotional development.
3. Increase public/primary care provider partnerships and capacity to assess and link families regarding concerns of caregiver depression and early childhood social/emotional development.
4. Explore the adoption of infant mental health certification through the Michigan Infant Mental Health Association.
5. Provide support to Early Care, Health and Education providers implementing a universal, social and emotional developmental screening tool.
6. Build a partnership among early childhood social/emotional providers to identify and coordinate opportunities among state agencies and public...
**Objective 3:** Integrate Early Childhood Iowa Strategic Plan activities focusing on early care and education services into the work of the Quality Rating System and the Voluntary 4-Year-Old Preschool program by May 2012.

**Partners:** Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), Iowa Department of Education (DE), Iowa Department of Management- Office of Early Childhood (DOM), local Early Childhood Areas, Area Education Agencies, Child Care Resource and Referral agencies

**Activities**

1. Continue to provide education on and promote awareness of Iowa’s voluntary Quality Rating System for child care in Iowa.

2. Promote the recommendations of Iowa’s State Child Care Advisory Council, in partnership with Early Childhood Iowa, for quality improvements to the child care regulatory system.

3. Continue to support the accessibility to the state-funded voluntary 4 year old preschool program.

4. Continue to encourage high quality preschool program standards in all early care and education programs through Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards, Head Start Performance Standards, or program accreditation through the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) or the National Association for Family Child Care.

5. Develop and deliver Level II Consultant Training and Implementation credentialing process for child development homes and licensed center through the delivery of Iowa's Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) system.


7. Work through the ECI PD System Early Learning Professional Development Early Learning team to discuss the rewriting the director/administrator competencies.

**Objective 4:** Integrate the work of the Healthy Child Care Iowa (HCCI) initiative into the Early Childhood Iowa Strategic Plan by May 2012.

**Partners:** Iowa Departments of Public Health (IDPH), Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), Iowa Department of Management- Office of Early Childhood Iowa (IDOM), Child and Family Policy Center (CFPC)

**Activities**

1. Develop a statewide, uniform CCNC data analysis report that will be disseminated through Early Childhood Iowa.

2. Further develop the role of the CCNC implementation system for defining the role of CCNC versus the regulatory role.

3. Develop a consistent infrastructure to fund child care nurse consultation (CCNC) at the local level.

4. Continue to provide health and safety training to Early Care, Health and Education providers.

**Objective 5:** Create a sustainable infrastructure for the Family Support Credentialing process to support family support and parent education evidence-based practices by May 2012.

**Partners:** Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), Iowa Department of Management- Office of Early Childhood Iowa (IDOM Iowa Department of Education (DE), Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) and Iowa Department of Human Rights (DHR), ECI Family Support Leadership
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<td>1. Continue to convene the family support leadership group to make recommendations for the family support and parent education system.</td>
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<td>2. Provide continued support for the family support technical assistance and credentialing process.</td>
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<td>3. Continue to convene the family support professional development committee to address professional development and training needs.</td>
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<td>4. Explore the creation of a universal database for all family support programs in Iowa to collect common identified outcomes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Create a web based data system that will assist parents and professionals with locating family support and parent education programs in the state.</td>
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Goal Two: Strengthen leadership, collaboration and coordination of early childhood partners for the integration of a comprehensive Early Care, Health and Education system

**Objective 1:** Provide leadership for the creation of a comprehensive professional development system for all Early Care, Health and Education (ECHE) providers as evident through the ECHE Professional Development Framework and Implementation Plan by May 2012.

**Partners:** Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), Iowa Department of Education (DE), Iowa Department of Management - Office of Early Childhood Iowa (IDOM), Iowa Department of Human Rights (DHR), Child and Family Policy Center, local Early Childhood Iowa Areas, Area Education Agencies, local MCH agencies

**Activities**

1. Continue to convene the ECI Professional Development Steering Committee to develop a plan for dissemination of statewide professional development funds and to discuss the integration activities related to the four oval workgroups.

2. Continue to monitor the membership of the ECI PD Component group and the four oval workgroups to make sure there is diverse representation.

3. Implement the ECI PD Framework plan that address the professional systems of the four system ovals (health, mental health and nutrition; early care and education; family support; and special needs/early intervention) and a plan that addresses system overlap and gaps in professional development.

**Objective 2:** Support the Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholder Alliance as a catalyst in the development of the Early Care, Health and Education system through an increase in stakeholders involved in Early Childhood Iowa by May 2012.

**Partners:** Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), Iowa Department of Education (DE), Iowa Department of Management - Office of Early Childhood Iowa (IDOM), Iowa Department of Human Rights (DHR), Child Health Specialty Clinics (CHSC), Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED), Iowa Department of Workforce (IWD), Child and Family Policy Center

**Activities**

1. Support the work of the ECI Stakeholder Alliance, six component workgroups and the co-chair committee.

2. Continue to focus on increasing parent leadership into the system building efforts through venues such as the Parent Summit.

3. Partner with ECAC staff in the Department of Management to update the ECI Strategic Plan for the new combined ECI system.

**Objective 3:** Provide leadership in the development and implementation of a work plan that focuses on early childhood cultural competency for diverse populations by May 2012.

Early Childhood Iowa
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**Partners:** Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), Iowa Department of Education (DE), Iowa Department of Human Rights (DHR), Iowa Department of Management-Office of Early Childhood Iowa (IDOM), Child and Family Policy Center, Child Health Specialty Clinics (CHSC)

**Activities**

1. Update the diversity issue brief and provide updates on system level integration of diversity work plan.
2. Continue to convene the diversity taskforce to implement activities of the diversity work plan.
3. Advocate for funding to focus on increasing the diversity of Iowa’s Early Care, Health and Education workforce by building on progress made through T.E.A.C.H., Early Childhood Iowa and other strategies.
4. Provide ongoing, focused evidence-based professional development opportunities related to cultural competency, dual language acquisition, working with families and culturally-sensitive assessment.
5. Provide guidance for conducting intentional and proactive recruitment of diverse populations.

**Objective 4:** Identify and foster private sector champions to focus on building public/private partnerships for early childhood by May 2012.

**Partners:** Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), Iowa Department of Education (DE), Iowa Department of Human Rights (DHR), Iowa Department of Management-Office of Early Childhood Iowa (IDOM), Child Health Specialty Clinics (CHSC), Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED), Iowa Department of Workforce (IWD), Child and Family Policy Center

**Activities**

1. Continue to promote public/private partnerships for programming at the local ECI area level.
2. Support the work of the Project LAUNCH Interagency Coordinating Committee to advance the healthy mental development system for young children.
3. Monitor the new Levels of Excellence rating system for local Early Childhood Iowa boards to evaluate their relationships and partnerships with public/private organizations in their area.
4. Cultivate business champions through involvement on the ECI Board and ECI Steering Committee.

**Goal 3: Inform decision making for program development, public policy and fiscal management at the state and local levels through use of results accountability data**

**Objective 1:** Implement a continuous quality improvement process for implementation of the ECI Strategic Plan through an annual updating process of the plan by May 2012.

**Partners:** Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), Iowa Department of Education (DE), Iowa Department of Human Rights (DHR), Iowa Department of Management-Office of Early Childhood Iowa (IDOM), Child Health Specialty Clinics (CHSC), Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED), Iowa Department of Workforce (IWD), Child and Family Policy Center

**Activities**

1. Provide a mechanism through which the ECI Stakeholder Alliance, local ECI Areas and other early childhood partners review and provide feedback on the ECI Strategic Plan.
2. Monitor progress towards indicators and goal measures through an annual ECI Leadership Agenda report.
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3. Continue to promote evidence-based programming for early care, health, and education programs.

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<th><strong>Objective 2:</strong> Continue to promote Iowa’s financing strategy for the Early Care, Health and Education system as evidenced by the completion of a bi-annual early childhood fiscal assessment by May 2012.</th>
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**Activities**

2. Partner with early childhood advocacy organizations to promote the financing strategy among legislators, state department directors and other decision-makers.

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<th><strong>Objective 3:</strong> Develop methods to align government funding streams, program resources and policies to support effective system integration through Memoranda of Agreements established with ECI and state agencies by May 2012.</th>
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**Activities**

1. Secure commitment from state agency directors to explore opportunities for aligning funds.
2. Encourage the Early Childhood Iowa State Board to direct resources toward evidence-based models.
3. Assure that state agencies have incorporated the goals of Iowa’s strategic plan into their work in accordance with signed Memoranda of agreement with the Department of Management.

*Due to space limitations as stated in the ECCS application guidance, the Strategic Plan is not included in this attachment. For a complete copy of the ECI Strategic Plan, please visit: [http://www.state.ia.us/earlychildhood/docs/ECIStrategicPlanRevisedSpring08.pdf](http://www.state.ia.us/earlychildhood/docs/ECIStrategicPlanRevisedSpring08.pdf)*