

Partnerships 4 Families Early Childhood Iowa

Cindy Duhrkopf, Area Director

Email: p4fchildren@gmail.com

Adoption Support Group

The Adoption and Permanency Support Caseworker, Julie Gore is offering a support group for parents who are going through or completed the adoption process. The adoption in-person support group in Carroll will be on the 4th Wednesday of the month and the Sac City group will be on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Persons interested should reach out to Julie Gore with Lutheran Services in Iowa. She can be reached at: Julie Gore
julie.gore@lsiowa.org
712-210-3518

We ask that you reach out to Julie to learn the location of the meeting.

Julie also encourages person interested in becoming a Foster Parent to reach out check out the information on Four Oaks website at:
iowafosterandadoption.org/adoption

CCR&R Annual Report

Child Care Resource and Referral has released there 2024 Annual Report. CCR&R is directed by the Department of Health and Human Services (IHHS) to support child care programs, help families find child care and collaborate with communities to ensure

essential services are accessible to children across all 99 counties in Iowa.

[CCR&R 2024 Annual Report](#)

Upcoming Meetings

**Partnerships 4 Families
Thursday October 17, 2024
11:00 AM at New Opportunities,
Carroll or via Zoom**

**The board will meet again in
November.**

Survey says....

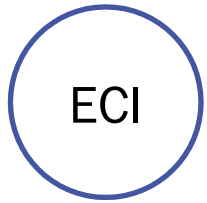
Last month we asked where are the best playgrounds in our four county area for toddlers. The responses were:

Kellan's Kingdom in Carroll at East Side Park

Manning Park right off of HWY 141

Halbur Park in the city of Halbur

If you know of others please let us know.



P4F Board Members

P4F is happy to announce that we will be welcoming three new members at our October board meeting. Our current board membership is at 11 members and represent the following:

- Audubon: 2
- Carroll: 3
- Greene: 2
- Guthrie :2
- All 4 Counties: 2

- Health: 1
- Human Service: 3
- Education: 6
- Business: 2

Faith: 3
Consumer: 4

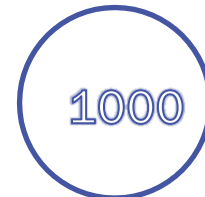
The total areas represented is more than 11 due to some board members represent more than on category. The categories listed are areas an Early Childhood Iowa board is required to have representation from on their board according to Iowa Code.

We are always taking names of persons willing to serve if you or someone you know is interested.

Child Care Connect

The Iowa Dept of HHS has launched a new website to assist parents in finding child care. The site is referred to as Iowa Child Care Connect. childcareconnect.iowa.gov

The site was developed to form a central online hub for finding openings and enrollments in Iowa. Technology will enable timely updates for families, providers and the state on the status of child care across the state.



1000 Books Before Kindergarten

P4F is proud of the way many of the libraries in our area have continued to promote the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten to their youngest patrons.

In 2017 P4F supplied all our area libraries with materials to kick off the initiative area wide knowing literacy is an important foundation for learning.

Check with your local library to see if they are still offering the program.

Behavioral Health District Update

The Behavioral Health RFP to become an ASO for a District has been released and entities are currently writing their proposals. At this time we do not know what entities all wrote for the three districts that fall with in the P4F area.

Again, there is no direct impact from these districts to P4F and Early Childhood Iowa but we are watching the process along as it involves many of our partners.

Center of Excellence Award

St. Anthony Regional Hospital has secured Centers of Excellence funding for the fourth consecutive year to improve access to care for mothers and their babies in the region. For the 2024-25 program year, St. Anthony is receiving \$212,500 from the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The funding is part of a pilot program initiated by Gov. Kim Reynolds in 2021 to enhance rural healthcare services.

St. Anthony has used grant funding in prior years to expand access to prenatal and postpartum services in west-central Iowa, particularly in areas where labor and delivery options have dwindled. The funding has helped sustain programs like postpartum support groups, prenatal classes, and outreach to hospitals that no longer provide maternity services. In 2023, St. Anthony's Birth Place delivered nearly 350 babies from 14 counties in Iowa.

Notes from Cindy

Partnerships 4 Families was required to submit an updated Early Childhood Community Plan this October for the redesignation process of Early Childhood Iowa areas. The updated plan has been submitted and is available via email upon request. Since our previous plan was written at the beginning of the pandemic very little was updated this cycle.

A goal within the plan included reaching more families with information about early childhood services.

The Early Childhood Task Force meeting on October 30th at 9:00 will be lead by Fusebox Marketing personnel who will provide tips and tricks on reaching families.

The meeting is open to anyone and will be held at New Opportunities in Carroll.

Cindy

First Children's Finance

From First Children's Finance

Iowa Child Care Providers we want to hear from you!

Last week postcards were mailed out inviting Iowa child care providers to give input about how current economic conditions, workforce issues, and funding opportunities are affecting the child care sector.

If you did not receive the postcard, we'd still love to hear from you! You can email our Iowa staff at InfoIA@FirstChildrensFinance.org to get the survey link or more information.

Contact information can be found on our website. www.firstchildrenfinance.org

Children in Poverty

Did you know that 15% of all Iowa children live in poverty and 5% of those live in extreme where the family's income falls below 5% of the Federal Poverty Level.

Information about the number of children living in poverty can be found on the Annie E Casey Foundation website along with many other data points. Check out aecf.org for more information.

P4F
Early Childhood Task Force

Who: You and any other early childhood provider of services or early childhood advocates in Audubon, Carroll, Greene or Guthrie Counties

What: Early Childhood Task Force Meeting

Where: New Opportunities, Carroll
23751 US 30
Room D

When: Monday, October 30th at 9:00 AM

Why: To learn tips and tricks for using social media to reach families regarding early childhood services. We will also take time in the second hour to hear updates from programs.

Make plans to attend !!

**Partnerships 4 Families is the Early Childhood Iowa Area
Designated to serve Audubon, Carroll, Greene, and Guthrie Counties**

PO Box 672 Carroll, Iowa 51040

www.partnerships4families.org Email: p4fchildren@gmail.com

Community Coalition Meetings

Community coalition meetings are intentional meetings of community members and service providers gathering to network for the benefit of the people they serve. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Audubon County meets at 11:30 AM on the 2nd Wednesday of the month in January, April, July & October at the ISU Extension meeting room in Audubon. Their next meeting is **Wednesday October 9, 2024 at 11:30 AM**.
Offered in person and via Zoom

Carroll County meets at noon on the third Wednesday of five times a year in Feb, April, June, Sept, Nov. Their next meeting is **Wednesday at Noon on November 20, 2024 @ noon at ISU Extension Meeting Room in Carroll**.
Offered in person and maybe via Zoom

Greene County meets on the first Tuesday of the month five times a year at noon at ISU Extension in Jefferson. The five months are Feb, April, June, Sept & Nov. Their next meeting is **Tuesday November 5, 2024 at noon**.
Offered in person and via Zoom

Guthrie County meets at noon four times a year in March, June, September and December on the second Thursday of the month at the ISU Extension meeting room in Guthrie Center. Their next meeting is **Thursday December 12, 2024 at noon**.
Offered in person and via Zoom

The meetings are offered in person and via Zoom. The Zoom link for all the above-mentioned meetings can be found on New Opportunities website at: <https://www.newopp.org/county-resources/coalitions>