

# Partnerships 4 Families Early Childhood Iowa

Cindy Duhrkopf, Area Director

Email: [p4fchildren@gmail.com](mailto:p4fchildren@gmail.com)

## P4F Designation

P4F submitted the P4F Early Childhood Community Plan in September prior to the October 31 deadline. The next steps in the designation process will be for the state to look over our updated plan, previous annual reports and set a date for a site visit.

During the virtual site 2-3 meetings will occur. One will be with the P4F Board, a second with early childhood community partners and a possible third with our fiscal agent. The virtual visit will take place sometime between January and April of 2025. At the ECI State Board meeting in June of 2025 all ECI Areas that are being designated this round will be presented to the state board.

Watch for more information about the virtual visit in January.

## Iowa Family Support Network

The Iowa Family Support Network serves as a central point of contact in Iowa to help parents and providers connect to Early Access, family support programs and group-based parent education services for children ages 0-5 and their families across the state of Iowa .

Every Step is the contractor who oversees the Network.

[lafamilysupportnetwork.org](http://lafamilysupportnetwork.org)

Take time to check out the page and if you are a contractor make sure your information is up to date. Contact Every Step if changes need to be mad.

## Upcoming Meetings

**Partnerships 4 Families**  
**Thursday November 21, 2024**  
**11:00 AM at New Opportunities,**  
**Carroll or via Zoom**

**The board will not meet in December.**

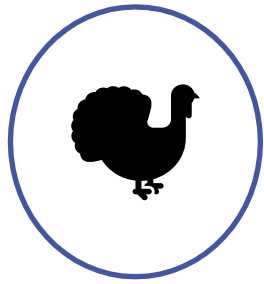
## Experts says....

Fusebox Marketing presented to the P4F ECTF in October and their recommendations were:

Focus on using one social media network and do it well.

Parents in the 18-25 age range are most likely on TikTok.

Facebook is still the most widely used platform especially for community information.



# Children Remember

If you took a survey of adults, what do you think they would remember about Thanksgiving when they were children? Is it gathering with family. Eating Grandma’s sweet potatoes or playing a game of catch with the cousins?

Children remember the feeling of a gathering often better than adults. As we work with children and families who may not have a great deal of disposable income remind them it doesn’t take money to make a positive memory for children.

Here are a few ways to make memories with young children during Thanksgiving or any holiday.

Get out the playdough and have a contest to see who can make the best turkey.

Draw around your hand, give it some legs, color it in and you have a turkey. If you want list on each finger something you are thankful for.

Get outside and go on a nature walk talking about what you are thankful for.

## Give Thanks

P4F would like to take time in the month of November to thank all of the early childhood providers in our area. The work that you do is invaluable to children.

If you are an early childhood provider-Thank You!!!

If you know of an early childhood provider, tell them Thank You!!



## DPIL Focus of Chamber Coffee

Racon Valley Electric Cooperative is sponsoring Carroll Chamber Coffee to assist the Dolly Parton Imagination Library in Carroll County. The Chamber Coffee on Friday November 15<sup>th</sup> will take place at the Depot at 8:00 AM.

If your agency is a member of the Carroll Chamber be sure to attend. Or come as a guest and hear about the way you can have Dolly in your Lobby.

## Behavioral Health District Update

Currently the applications for the new Regions ASO are being scored by the state. An announcement of who will be awarded the contracts will come in December.

# Health and Wellness of Children

Are you searching for information about the well being of a child? Always use reputable resources when searching for information on the internet.

The overall best two resources a parent or early childhood provider can have been the websites for the CDC and AAP.

Center for Disease Control became very popular during the pandemic but have been a presence at the federal

Level for a long period of time. Take some time to investigate their website. [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

The America Academy of Pediatrics is your go to for many topics related to child health. They also have a whole site dedicated to Healthy Children. Save the site and refer to it often.

[www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org)

[www.healthychildren.org](http://www.healthychildren.org)

---

## Notes from Cindy

November is upon us and with that comes the elections. We hear a great deal about the national level elections, but we also have many seats up in our area for County Board of Supervisors and Iowa Legislature. There isn't much time left but consider voting for local candidates that have a knowledge of human services in their district or county. Over the years of being in my position I have found that people elected locally influence the work that you or I do more than the national election.

Once the elections take place become familiar with who is elected and take any opportunity to know them and for them to get to know you.

Cindy

## Child Care Centers in Need of Staff

All of our local child care centers are in need of staff. If you know of anyone who loves children and would like to spend their day encouraging young minds to grow and develop send them to your local child care center.

A recent survey of the centers indicated that there are 45 positions that need to be filled to bring the centers back to serving more children.

---

## HHS Organization Chart

Since Early Childhood Iowa moved under the Iowa Health and Human Services umbrella, we have landed in the Family-Well Being and Protection Division area headed by Janee Harvey. To find out more about this area of HHS take a look at the most recent org chart on their website. <https://hhs.iowa.gov/about/leadership>

**Hello everyone!**

**I am Emma Kroll, the Western Area Recruitment and Retention Coordinator with Four Oaks/LSI Foster Care and Adoption. I'm reaching out to share an urgent need for foster families in our community, and we're eager to spread the word! Attached is our informational flyer, which I'd be grateful if you could pass along to any networks or organizations you're connected with. Every share helps us reach more potential families who might open their homes to children in need! In addition, I'd love the opportunity to speak with your organization or any other local groups interested in learning more about foster care, the support we offer, and ways your organization can support our foster and adoptive families. If you have upcoming events or speaking engagements, please let me know—I'd be honored to participate and share our mission!**

**We're also thrilled to announce the launch of Operation Santa to ensure that all our foster and adoptive children have a joyous Christmas. We're collecting donations, including gifts and monetary support, which will go directly towards holiday gifts for these children. Your generosity will make a memorable difference in their holiday experience. The flyer includes the donation link and additional details on how to contribute.**

**Thank you for your continued support and partnership in serving our children and families. Please feel free to reach out with any questions,**

**and I look forward to working together to make a lasting impact!** 😊

**Emma Kroll**

**Recruitment & Retention Coordinator**

**Northern Service Area**

**Four Oaks Foster and Adoptive Family**

**Connections**

**605-590-0870**

**[ekroll@fouroaks.org](mailto:ekroll@fouroaks.org)**

**[lowafosterandadoption.org](http://lowafosterandadoption.org)**

**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](http://www.partnerships4families.org) Email: [p4fchildren@gmail.com](mailto: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 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month in January, April, July & October at the ISU Extension meeting room in Audubon. Their next meeting is **Wednesday January 8, 2025 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>