Partnerships 4 Families Early Childhood Iowa

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Legislation

Many of you may have heard that there is currently legislation moving through the House and Senate that would make changes to Early Childhood lowa as we have known it for the past 27 years.

The bill recommending the changes is coming from the Governors Office. The first committee meetings on the bills were held the week of February 17th.

While nothing is final until bills are signed the ECI State Office is preparing ECI areas for the changes.

The most noticeable change is to move from 33 ECI areas to 7
Districts using the map that was created for the Behavioral Health Districts. With that changes
Partnerships 4 Families as we know it would be divided into three Districts.

District 1 Carroll County
District 4 Audubon & Guthrie
District 5 Greene County

As we wait and see what will happen in the legislator meetings are being held to make transitions go smoothly should the change occur.

Reach out to me if you have questions. Cindy

Preschool in the Fall

It is that time of year when our local school districts are signing up children for Pre-K. If you know of a family with a child who will be 4 by September 15th have them reach out to their local elementary school building for information. Each school district has a slightly different process.

If you are looking for a three year old program in your area

Email us at:

<u>p4fchildren@gmail.com</u> Or visit with other families with children your child's age.

Upcoming Meetings

Partnerships 4 Families
Thursday March 20, 2024
11:00 AM at New Opportunities,
Carroll or via Zoom

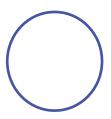
Due to the many changes at the state level the Designation visit that was planned for this spring has been canceled.

March is....

March is a time to sneak out side in the afternoon to enjoy the sunshine and warmer weather.

Just as animal start to wake up from hibernation it is also great for humans to get outside and enjoy the sunshine and Vitamin D.

Be sure to schedule time outside for children and adults this March.



Greene County Toddler Fest April 26th

The 18th Annual Greene County Toddler Fest will take place on April 28th from 10-Noon at the Greene County Community Center.

Persons wishing to volunteer to assist at an activity should reach out to Cindy at p4fchildren@gmail.com.

It takes many volunteers to make

Toddler Fest was started by the Greene County Librarians 18 years ago as a fun activity for families to have with their children who were toddler age 1-4. Make plans to attend if you are in the area.

Early Childhood Data

February is a great month to do some data digging. When looking for data regarding early childhood there are three places we recommend. I2D2, Iowa HHS and Kids Count.

Let us know if you find something interesting in your data digging.

Early Access

Early ACCESS is lowa's system for providing early intervention services. It is available to infants and toddlers from birth to age three years who:

- Have a health or physical condition that may affect his or her growth and development
- Have developmental delays in his or her ability to play, think, talk, or move

The first three years of a child's life are the most important when setting the foundation for ongoing development. Starting supports and services early, improves a child's ability to develop and learn. The focus of Early ACCESS is to support parents to help their children learn and grow throughout their everyday activities and routines.



DPIL Seeking Non-Profit

DPIL is seeking a nonprofit in Greene and Carroll County to take over the management of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program.

Both counties have built a great following and are in need of a non-profit to take it over due the changes coming to Early Childhood Iowa.
Contact Cindy or Jo for more information.

Head Start

If you know of someone who will be 3 or 4 by September 15, 2025 and might be eligible for Head Start preschool, have them give Magen a call at 712-830-9442 for Audubon, Carroll, and Coon Rapids Head Start programs, and Diane at 712-830-6990 for Jefferson or Panora..

Children attending will be provided nutritional snacks and meals, active learning experience, and health and dental services.

Head Start also offers an Early Head Start center based program in Carroll. Call 712-830-3028 for more information.

https://www.newopp.org/services/headstart-early-head-start

Notes from Cindy

The news is starting to sneak out and as of the last P4F Board meeting it became official. I will be retiring in the fall of 2025. It is time to join my husband in the retirement world and have more time to enjoy traveling to see our kids and grandkids.

While this news comes when many things are unknown for ECI and P4F my intention is to get things settled and then ride off into the fall leaves.

Who would lead ECI if Cindy is not there you ask. With the potential move to Districts I will be connecting people to the new leadership in each of the districts. Since we won't know much until April or May I will keep everyone posted as things progress. For now if you have questions please reach out to me, I would be happy to sit down and have coffee and share what I know so far.

Cindy

DCAT & CPPC Coordinator Update

Many of you know Mollie Scott, the DCAT & CPPC Coordinator for Audubon, Carroll, Greene & Guthrie Cluster along with Crawford and Sac Cluster. As of February 1 her positions has gone part time. She will still have the same email address and will respond when she is able.

P4F Board

Last month we reported how P4F currently has a full board. With the pending legislation we are considering who may be interested in serving on one of the three districts that we could be moving into.

If you or someone you know would be interested in assisting with the new governance structure of Early Childhood Iowa we would be happy to visit with you and share information as it becomes available.

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 April 9**, **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 April 16, 2025 @ noon at New Opportunities, Room D in Carroll** Offered in person and maybe via Zoom There is no December meeting as the website said.

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 April 1, 2025 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 March 13, 2025 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

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

PO Box 672 Carroll, Iowa 51040

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