

Iowa Head Start State Collaboration Office
Report to ACF/Region VII
October to December 2005

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Child Care:

- Iowa's Quality Rating System is scheduled for launch in February, 2006, after three years of planning and design. Funding was approved last year by the legislature and additional dollars to support its implementation will be requested by the governor as part of his "Strong Start" initiative. (More on the "Strong Start" initiative below under "Other.") The effort will expand critical infrastructure, technical assistance, a web site and provider supports to increase participation in and the integrity of the Quality Rating System.
- Iowa HSSCO arranged to have a speaker from DHS discuss child care assistance at the Head Start Parent Leadership Conference in November. Data reveals that a number of eligible Head Start families are not taking advantage of the child care assistance. Iowa HSSCO also discussed options to include Child Care Resource and Referral expertise into the Resource Bank currently under development. That option was discussed with CCR&R lead agency directors in October.

Education/Professional Development:

- A successful networking session among FaDSS (Family Development and Self-Sufficiency) and Head Start family support workers was held on October 19th with participation by 38 individuals from twelve programs. Discussion reflected on the different regulations and purposes of the two programs, and how better cooperation around training, information sharing and collaborative work could occur. All participants drafted agency-wide work plans. Discussion also focused on the newly released "Evidence based criteria for Family Support and Parent Education Programs" (an Iowa-based effort to define and encourage quality in family support programs) and how FaDSS and Head Start programs were addressing issues like program model fidelity, staff, and program model monitoring. A second networking session will be held on the east side of the state for FaDSS and Head Start family support workers on February 3, 2006 in Coralville. The Iowa Family Development Association has offered stipends for FaDSS workers to attend, and will do so again for the February event.
- Iowa HSSCO participated in the Region VII Head Start Association's annual Director's Caucus on October 25-26 in Excelsior Springs, Missouri.
- The new directory of "Early Childhood Certificate and Degree Programs at Iowa Colleges and Universities," was distributed at a preconference event to the Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children annual conference. The preconference event focused on on early childhood professional development systems planning. Iowa HSSCO helped developed the meeting and led a portion of the proceedings. The directory was also placed on the IHSA website (www.iowaheadstart.org) and on the Iowa HSSCO website. The directory includes all

institutions of higher education that offer early childhood courses. The directory was a collaborative effort between Iowa HSSCO and the Iowa Child Care and Early Education NetWork (especially its TEACH project). Iowa HSSCO is a member of the TEACH Advisory Committee and serves as its chair.

- The 13th Annual Iowa Early Care, Health and Education Congress took place on November 8 and 9 in Ames. This year's Congress featured keynoters Lynn Sharon Kagan and W. Steven Barnett. Nearly 400 (393) early childhood specialists, advocates and stakeholders gathered for the event including representatives from 4 Head Start programs. A conflict with the Risk Assessment training prevented more programs from participating. At least three sessions featured Head Start programs and services: "Early Childhood Services as Anti-Poverty Strategies," "Healthy Smiles: Fighting Oral Disease on the Front Lines," and "Early Childhood Bilingual Classrooms in Iowa—Theory and Practice." These sessions showcased the unique value of Head Start in supporting the needs of the state. Iowa HSSCO provides support for the Congress and serves on its planning committee.
- IHSA sponsored its annual Head Start Parent Leadership Conference on November 18 and in Des Moines. More than 90 parents showed up to the conference. The Collaboration Officer was honored to provide the opening keynote address.
- Iowa HSSCO completed a comprehensive chart that aligns the Iowa Early Learning Standards with the Head Start Child Outcomes Framework, and with three commonly used curriculum assessments: Creative Curriculum, High Scope and Work Sampling System. That document will become an accompanying document when the Iowa Early Learning Standards are published in 2006. Copies are available on the IHSA website (www.iowaheadstart.org).
- IHSA will be sponsoring a number of training opportunities in the coming months:
 - "Building Relationships for Effective ELL Literacy Instruction in Early Childhood Classrooms" with Regina Friedman, a Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Project Manager from California.
 - Mental Health Networking Session. Friday, January 20, 2006, from 10AM to 3PM. Featured guests include the coordinator of the design team developing a new mental health system for Iowa, the coordinator of Iowa's ABCD II project and a panel of Head Start mental health specialists.
 - FaDSS/Head Start Family Support Workers meeting. Friday, February 3, 2006, from 10AM to 3PM at the Coralville Mall in Coralville, Iowa.
 - Early Head Start Networking Session focused on home visitation issues scheduled for February.
 - A one-day fatherhood conference for grantees later in the spring.

Children with Disabilities:

- Iowa HSSCO has joined a new early childhood workgroup to develop Positive Behavioral Supports (PBS) activities and connect them with efforts from the Regional Office. A comprehensive rollout of PBS in public schools has been underway for the past two years in Iowa. We hope to have Head Start lead the way in the early childhood rollout.
- Iowa HSSCO has been active in promoting the new Expanding Iowa's Early Inclusion Opportunities (affectionately known as EIEIO or the "MacDonald project"). We have recently mobilized a diverse group of stakeholders to help the state focus on its six-year IDEA state performance plan, which includes increasing the percentage of children served in least

restricted environments. The group involves representatives from Part B, Part C, child care and Head Start. Iowa HSSCO involvement stems from participation in a national training in August 2005, sponsored by NECTAC, OSEP and the Head Start Bureau. Iowa was one of four states to participate in the effort. The first planning meeting of the effort took place and an action plan has been developed that has four components:

1. Develop a strategic plan for inclusion.
2. Develop public awareness and training materials
3. Incorporate inclusion as a priority into everything
4. Plan and provide opportunities for local practitioners to learn about best practice and transitions

Health:

- IHSA co-sponsored on October 27 an early childhood health system symposium entitled, “Off to a Good Start: Framing Policy for Early Childhood Health Systems Integration.” IHSA showcased the contributions of Head Start agencies to child health, summarizing them in a handout, which is attached to this report. The discussion was focused on the six goals from the Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) Strategic Plan, specifically its Healthy Children Result Area. The symposium generated a number of policy recommendations that are being pursued by representatives from the original symposium-planning group. The recommendation to fund a network of oral dental hygienist in every Title V agency has become part of the governor’s Strong Start budget proposals for 2006. Grantees believe this will help them to address effectively oral health requirements.
- The Iowa Head Start/Early Head Start Oral Health Work Group met on December 7. The group reviewed progress on the Healthy Smiles project, including the hope for more training in the coming year, expanded distributions of both English and Spanish flipcharts, and the tabulations of the data collection part of the project. Future audiences for the Healthy Smiles expansion include reaching out to more dental hygienists, pediatrician’s offices, low income dental clinics, Early Head Start programs that did not participate this year and other interested home visitation programs. The group also discussed Head Start performance standards regarding dental examinations. The Oral Health Bureau has agreed to draft an oral health protocol sheet on supervision, to discuss the difference between *public health supervision* and *direct supervision*, and the dental hygiene services that can be applied under each. A key point of this protocol will be to emphasize that registered dental hygienist services do not take the place of an exam by a dentist. The group revamped its strategic plan to focus on the following goals:
 - Healthy Smiles sustainability
 - Developing a Xylitol outreach and utilization experiment with Head Start families
 - Support to the recommendation of placing a dental hygienist at every Title V agency to coordinate oral health care and to address local barriers to oral care access.
 - Develop an initiative across programs to increase the number of children receiving regular fluoride varnish applications.

Family Literacy:

- A new program year with Iowa Public Television’s Book Clubs is underway. The effort to provide monthly literacy workshops for parents, supplemented with books and activities, will include participation this year by SIEDA, Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Drake University, YOUR, HACAP, Community Action of Siouxland, West Central Development Corporation, and Tri-

County Child and Family. This effort is made possible in part by support from the Iowa HSSCO.

- Every Child Reads (ECR) has a new survey out on trainers to investigate how the new materials released last spring have been used. The results will be reported at an ICN training in February. Iowa HSSCO serves on the ECR state technical assistance team.

Advocacy

- IHSA has produced a statement in response to a request from the Iowa Department of Education for preschool funding. The proposal will be part of Governor Vilsack's Strong Start initiative that goes before the legislature's 2006 session. Two subsequent meetings in December have involving representatives of the Iowa Department of Education and the Iowa Community Action Association (ICAA) Board of Directors yielded improved understanding of the proposal and how local collaborations with Head Start can be encouraged or sustained. A meeting of various stakeholders, including IHSA, has paved the way for a united voice in support of the initiative. A more formal response from ICAA is being developed.
- Iowa HSSCO participated in a PreKnow satellite presentation on Thursday, November 10, exploring the value of pre-kindergarten, and how to mobilize various constituencies to encourage participation. Models for Head Start collaboration were evident in many of the examples and site discussions.
- The Early Childhood Day on the Hill is coming up and is scheduled for Wednesday, February 8. Interested participants should email leslie@iowachildnetwork.org for registration information. IHSA will have a display at the event.

Community Services

- Addition funding is available to continue some projects started by the Supplemental Grant effort that ended in September, 2005. That funding will support management support activities for community action agencies and assistance to the Iowa Community Action Association in developing a poverty report about Iowa. IHSA and ICAA continue to explore a common state legislative agenda.

Other

- Iowa HSSCO participated in Head Start-State Collaboration Directors National Meeting from November 29-30, 2005. The emphasis of the meeting was on strengthening Head Start, Child Care and Pre-Kindergarten Partnerships at the local level. Borrowing on the current language in the Head Start law that created the Collaboration Offices, renewed importance was placed on the "unified planning regarding early care and education services at both the State and *local levels*" [emphasis added]. The meeting heard from successful Head Start integration with state pre-K initiatives in Georgia, Maryland and Louisiana. Presentations by Shannon Christian of the Child Care Bureau and Dr. Jacquelyn Jackson from Title One at the U.S. Department of Education, explored barriers and potentials for collaboration with those programs.
- The Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholders met on Tuesday, December 13, 2005. After hearing from both Kris Bell and Josh Mandelbaum, representatives of Governor Vilsack's office, the group noted that the final numbers in the budget are not yet available, but the emphasis will be on a comprehensive effort dubbed "Iowa Strong Start." The preschool effort will provide

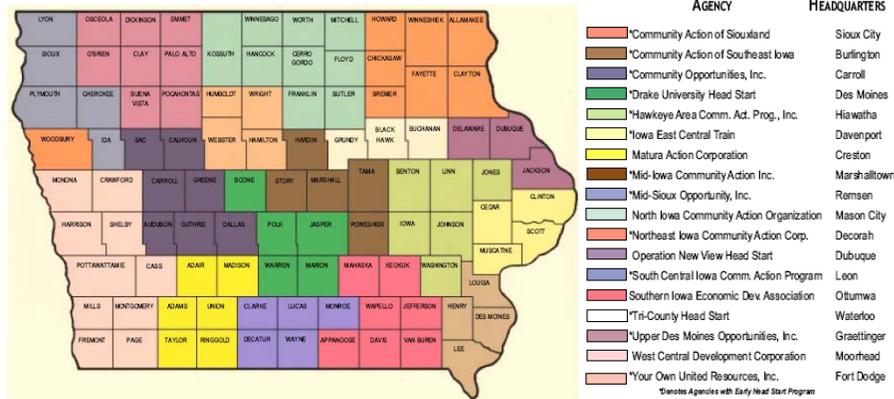
sustainable funding through a school aid formula that has the potential of reaching. The governor is also interested in moving the Quality Rating System forward and has included it in his funding proposals around the Strong Start initiative. The group reviewed the strategic plan and provided detailed responses for a revised and updated plan. The “Evidence based criteria for Family Support and Parent Education Programs” has been endorsed by the Iowa Community Empowerment coordinators and is now being further encouraged. Other updates on component group activities are available on the website: www.earlychildhoodiowa.org.

- As alluded to throughout this report, on Tuesday, January 10, Governor Tom Vilsack will announce an “Iowa Strong Start” early childhood initiative, building on the momentum from the last legislative session. The initiative will feature continued support or new support for the following efforts:
 - New Preschool Initiative: to provide funding to increase access by Iowa four year-olds to a quality preschool experience.
 - Statewide Family Support and Parent Education Coordination: to improve the coordination of a variety of family and parent support efforts.
 - Iowa Access to Baby and Child Dentistry: to increase the capacity of communities to provide preventive oral health services, increase access to oral health services and improve the oral health status of low income children.
 - Healthy Mental Development: to elevate the social and emotional well-being of young children as an integral part of a child’s healthy mental developing in an early care, health and education system.
 - Quality Rating System: to expand critical infrastructure, technical assistance and provider support to increase the participation in and the integrity of Iowa’s new Quality Rating System.
 - Iowa Community Empowerment: to continue financial support for Community Empowerment to continue technical assistance to communities and to the system development work of Early Childhood Iowa.
 - Shared Visions: continued funding for Shared Visions, Iowa’s state-funded preschools.
- IHSA and the Iowa HSSCO will again be jointly developing a 2005 annual report.
- Starting in January, Iowa’s Collaboration Office coordinator will begin to assume additional responsibilities coordinating the state’s Even Start program.



Iowa Head Start Association

Head Start in Iowa



Program Description: Head Start and Early Head Start are comprehensive child development programs that serve children from birth to age 5, pregnant women, and their families. They are child-focused programs and have the overall goal of increasing the school readiness of young children in families of low-income.

The Head Start program has a long tradition of delivering comprehensive and high quality services designed to foster healthy development in low-income children. Head Start grantee and delegate agencies provide a range of individualized services in the areas of education and early childhood development; medical, dental, and mental health; nutrition; and parent involvement. In addition, the entire range of Head Start services are responsive and appropriate to each child’s and family’s developmental, ethnic, cultural, and linguistic heritage and experience.

Funding Sources: The Head Start program is administered by the Head Start Bureau, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Grants to Iowa are awarded by the ACF Regional Offices in Kansas City, Missouri, directly to local non-profit agencies and private organizations for the purpose of operating Head Start programs at the community level.

By reaching hard-to-reach families, and ensuring screenings and referrals, Head Start is able to deliver impressive health care results for enrolled families and for Iowa overall.

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Head Start delivers bottom line results on all of Iowa's six health goals for children.

1. Increase access to and utilization of social, emotional and mental health services.

Head Start contribution to goal	Pct change 2002–2004	Pct of lowans this represents
Number of Head Start children diagnosed and who received services: 1900	+2%	< 1% of all Iowa Children (7.8% of Iowa children in poverty)

2. Increase access to and utilization of preventive health care services

Head Start contribution to goal	Pct change 2002–2004	Pct of lowans this represents
Number of Head Start children who received screenings: 8,339	+1%	3.7% of all Iowa children (34% of all Iowa children in poverty)

3. Increase the number of children with a medical home

Head Start contribution to goal	Pct change 2002–2004	Pct of lowans this represents
Number of Head Start children with medical homes: 8962	+17%	4% of all Iowa children (36% of all Iowa children in poverty)

4. Increase the number of children with a dental home

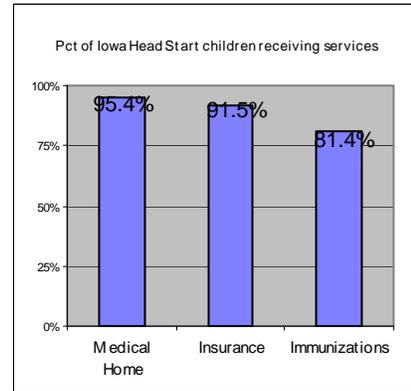
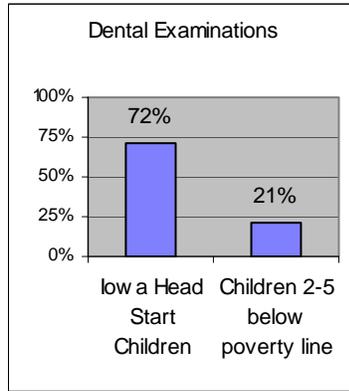
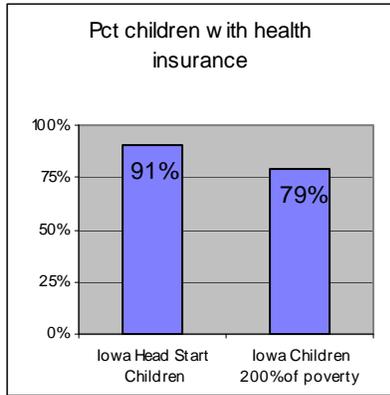
Head Start contribution to goal	Pct change 2002–2004	Pct of lowans this represents
Number of Head Start children with dental homes: 7,772	+19%	3.4% of all Iowa children (31% of all Iowa children in poverty)

5. Increase the number of children with health care coverage

Head Start contribution to goal	Pct change 2002–2004	Pct of lowans this represents
Number of Head Start children with health insurance: 8,601	+6%	3.8% of all Iowa children (35% of all Iowa children in poverty)

6. Increase access to and utilization of prenatal care services

Head Start contribution to goal	Pct change 2002–2004	Pct of lowans this represents
Number of pregnant women receiving prenatal care services through Early Head Start: 181. Number of these considered medically “high risk” pregnancies: 61.	-1%	< 1% of total live births (6.6% of pregnancies in Iowa resulted in low birth weight babies.)



All figures based on 2004 Head Start PIR data.