

**Early Childhood Iowa Local Area
Annual Report
State Fiscal Year 2012
July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012**

Name of Early Childhood Area: Early Childhood Iowa: Lakes Region

Website: www.ecilakesregion.com

Counties/Area Served: 1. Clay 3. O'Brien
2. Dickinson 4. Osceola

Current Board Chairperson: Name: Barbara Wilkerson
Address: CHSC Regional Spencer
1200 1st Ave
Spencer IA 51301
Email: barbwilkerson9@gmail.com

Current Fiscal Agent: Name: UDMO
Address: 101 Robins Ave
Graettinger IA 51342
Email: tedwards@udmo.com
Tax ID #: 42-0923424
DUNS #: 06-131-7236

Contact Person for the local ECI Board: (if different from Chairperson)
Name: Cyndee Dather
Address: Box 15
Okoboji IA 51355
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DUNS #: 96-621-1745



Assurances: I hereby affirm and certify that:

1. The information in this annual report is accurate, to the best of my knowledge.
2. The Board reviewed all indicator data, trends and analysis during this fiscal year.
3. The local ECI Board has conducted an annual review of the ECI Area Director contract with regards to state required performance measures.
4. The Community Plan was reviewed by the ECI Area Board on 6/7/12.
5. This Annual Report was approved by ECI Area Board on 9/6/12.

Signature of ECI Board Chairperson

Date

Signature of Current Fiscal Agent

Date

Barbara Wilkerson
ECI Chairperson's Name (print or type)

Travis Edwards, Fiscal Director UDMO
Fiscal Agent (print or type)

Early Childhood Iowa Local Board Composition

Name of Early Childhood Area: Early Childhood Iowa: Lakes Region

Number/Range of Board Members Required in Bylaws:	15-17	Total Number of Board Members that served during the year:	16
Number of Board Members (board size) on June 30, 2012:	16	Total # of hours board members spent at board meetings:	264

Instructions: List all members of the ECI board during the fiscal year. List all current board members at the top of the table, followed by members that vacated board positions. You may add rows to the table as appropriate.

Name/Officer (Alternate)	Employer	Representation	Board Vacancies		Term Information																									
			Date member vacated the board	Date member joined the board	Term #	Date Term Ends	August 4, 2011	September 1, 2011	October 6, 2011	November 3, 2011	December 12, 2011	January 5, 2012	February 2, 2012	April 5, 2012	May 3, 2012	June 7, 2012														
If the board allows alternates, put the alternate's name in parentheses after the member's name																														
John Example (Susie Fillin)	Bank of Empowerment			7/1/2010	1	6/30/13	X	A				X																		
Paula Miller (Jeanne Feeck) (Phyllis Slawson) (Kaisha Netten)	DHS	Req. human services		1998	NA	NA	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X										
Barb Wilkerson-Chair	Child Health Specialty Clinic	Required health		2010	1	6/30/12	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X											
Cindy Barwick	Sheldon CSD	Required education		2005	1	6/30/13		X	X				X																	
Leroy Riemer	Bethel Lutheran Church	Required faith		1999	1	6/30/14	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X										
Daryl Strenge-Treas.	Self Employed	Required business		1998	1	6/30/12	X	X	X	X	X	X	X							X	X									
*Rob Olsen	Preschool	Required consumer		2008	1	6/30/12									X															
Pam Jordan	Dickinson Board Sup.			2006	1	6/30/12	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X											
Joyce Kruse	Retired School Sec			2001	1	6/30/14	X	X	X	X	X	X	X																	
Emily Waund	O'Brien Board Sup.			2008	1	6/30/12	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X											
Connie Olhausen	Retired Nurse			2009	1	6/30/12	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X											
Arlene Roemmich	Retired			2004	1	6/30/12	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X											
Jean Severson	Juvenile Court Services			1998	NA	NA			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X											
Mary Sloan	Compass Pointe			1998	1	6/30/12	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X												
Joe Skow-Vice	Clay Board Sup.			2007	1	6/30/14	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X													
Roger Sixta	Osceola Board Sup.			Apr 2011	1	6/30/13	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X					X										
Tom Naviaux (Bill Glienke)	Parent Partner			Dec 2010	1	6/30/14	X	A	X	X	A	A	A	X	X	X	X	X	A											

*Rob Olsen/Okoboji School Preschool doesn't receive ECI funds EXCUSED ABSENCE A=Alternate

Community Plan Updates

Name of Early Childhood Area: Early Childhood Iowa: Lakes Region

Iowa Code chapter 256I requires that local ECIA boards report progress toward and achievement of desired results identified in the Community Plan.

Provide a narrative of the ECIA's progress in the last year towards the priorities and strategies identified in the most recent Community Plan. Success and/or challenges to meeting the ECIA goals may also be included.

Priorities

- Strengthen the relationship between parents and their children through the provision of quality family support programs
- Improve health and wellness of infants
- Improve the quality of early care and learning environments

Progress towards the priorities and strategies including success and challenges:

- An example of the Board's support/action is the ECI Lakes Region's coordination of SEED (Social, Emotional, and Educational Development), a collaborative of early childhood programs and partnerships whose goal is to promote and enhance children's healthy social and emotional development. Activities have ranged from the "top of the pyramid" children to broader prevention and promotion to reach more young children and families and the providers who serve them. More recent initiatives include working with the group on implementation of a 1st Five pilot program, addressing professional development/staff training needs, and pursuing coordinated intake. The initiative has blended all of the ECI Lakes Region's priorities of: *Strengthening the relationship between parents and their children through the provision of quality family support programs; Improve health and wellness of infants; and Improve quality of early care and learning environments.*
- The Board expanded its support of *improving the quality of early care and learning environments and strengthening the relationship between parents and their children through the provision of quality family support programs* by promoting quality for the Best Care for Better Babies (BCBB) program. BCBB had been working toward the IFS credential. During FY12 the overall administration of the program was changed, necessitating withdrawal from the credentialing process. Shortly after withdrawal from the IFS program, BCBB partners began the process of assessing the needs and strengths of the newly formed oversight team. Strategies have been developed to reapply for the credentialing process in January of 2013.
- Because of the FY12 CCR&R redesign, subsequent award of the contract to Mid Sioux, and reduced funding available to the ECI Lakes Region, the Hand in Hand program, which had previously been funded to provide enriched services to child care providers (home and center based) and preschools, was restructured for FY12 to *improve the quality of early care and learning environments*. Based on review of data collected and the needs of providers, the Board chose to emphasize quality improvement with emphasis on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) training, coaching, and individualized follow up for child care homes and centers and preschools in the Lakes Region.
- As state and federal funding streams continue to decrease, the need for partners remains essential to the ECI Lakes Region's priorities of *strengthening the relationship between parents and their children through the provision of quality family support programs, improving the health and wellness of infants, and improving quality of early care and*

learning environments. The KIDS program utilizes other grants to help sustain its services, and Best Care for Better Babies uses other financial resources (Title XIX, insurance) to provide additional services. The agencies delivering ECI Lakes Region services provide significant amounts of in-kind support. With the assistance of and funding from Parent Partners (a federally funded grant), Head Start/Early Head Start, and Nature Connections (a regional initiative), ECI Lakes Region programs and staff have been able to participate in local, regional, and national training opportunities. These opportunities have enhanced our ability to address the priorities of our plan. ECI Lakes Region will continue to pursue grants and collaborate with our partners to do so.

- Area data documents an increase in poverty, yet a decrease in childhood population, yet an increase in child abuse - which makes it difficult to predict what the future holds for some of our communities. Conditions seem to be changing more rapidly than the statisticians can document. We know that our Hispanic and Latino population is increasing and need to determine what types of services are needed, how to effectively reach out to families, how to better develop relationships and services *with* this population with our limited funding. Collaborations with other initiatives such as the SEED group, Parent Ed Partners, and Parent Partners is essential in assessing and navigating the complexity of issues.