

FY 2016

At a state level, ECI utilizes funding allocated to professional development activities that support the comprehensive early care, health and education system.

A highlight of accomplishments this year is described below.

Iowa Family Support Credential. *The Iowa Family Support Credentialing program is a quality improvement framework for family support programs. Technical assistance is provided to enrolled programs to improve practice and to demonstrate adherence to the Iowa Family Support Standards. After completing a self-evaluation with the assistance of their technical assistance mentor, a quality improvement plan is developed. A peer review is scheduled when the program determines that they are in adherence in both policy and practice to all of the 139 standards. The peer review team carefully reviews all assessment materials, interviews key stakeholders, observes activities, and reviews family files to determine if the program is in adherence to the standards. A certificate of achievement and recognition is awarded to the program by the state once a program is found to be in complete adherence to the Iowa Family Support Standards.*

There were 26 programs awarded the Iowa Family Support Credential through either the standard method or an alternate method during FY '16. Of those reviewed, 94% of the standards were found to be in adherence at the conclusion of the peer review.

T.E.A.C.H. supported active contract agreements for 200 different early care and education practitioners on 216 contracts with these funds as they attended classes and moved forward in their professional development journeys. 153 twelve-month contracts were completed since the beginning of this fiscal year. Averaging these contracts, those participants averaged 13 credits per contract. Successful completion of contracts demonstrates that participants are on track to achieve their educational goals.

The overall GPA for the fiscal year is 3.5 for community college students, and 3.7 for four year college or university students. The combined average is 3.6/4.0. Overall, 10% of participants will complete a degree, endorsement, or credential during the grant period, with 95% showing progress towards a degree, endorsement or credential.

Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health. IDPH utilized Professional Development funds to provide continued leadership for implementation of Iowa's Culturally Sensitive, Relationship-Focused Practice Promoting Infant Mental Health Endorsement process. This competency-based Endorsement system is designed to support and recognize the development of professionals who work with or on behalf of infants, toddlers, and their families, with a focus on promoting healthy mental and social development. Funds were used to support staff time for activities such as raising community awareness on the impact of experiences, relationships and environments on early childhood brain development; networking with states participating in the Alliance for the Advancement of Infant Mental Health to troubleshoot and share best practices; advocating for early childhood mental health within existing Iowa initiatives;

coordinating professional development opportunities for Iowa stakeholders; and supporting the Iowa Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health.

Funds were also used to build capacity for Reflective Consultation within Iowa's early childhood network. Two trainings were held during the year, with one specifically targeted to family support professionals. In addition, two-hour monthly Reflective Consultation sessions were held with early childhood professionals to promote self-reflection and enhance the quality of early childhood services provided.

Health and Safety Professional Development Toolkits for Child Care Nurse Consultants. In FY16, Healthy Child Care Iowa provided 3 professional development opportunities.

- A train-the-trainer for CCNC's and CCR&R consultants on Safe Sleep. Patty Keely from the Iowa SIDS Foundation presented the *Safe Sleep 2015* training with each participant receiving a Safe Sleep binder with handouts, brochures, and "Safe Sleep For Iowa Babies" DVD.
- The Medication Administration course for child care providers was updated in 2015 and a review of the training was given at the CCNC regional meetings in the fall of FY16. The medication skills competency requires a "mock" medication administration demonstration of 8 medications. CCNC's received a supply box of "mock" medications, equipment, Epi pen trainers, and supplies to use for this training.
- A train-the-trainer for CCNC's on the ASQ/ASQ-SE tools for providing developmental screening for children in child care and follow up referrals when indicated. Each CCNC service area received a ASQ- 3 and ASQ-SE 2 kit.

Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention. Education on Abusive Head Trauma and Shaken Baby Prevention is made available through Iowa hospitals. IDPH works with the University of Iowa and Mercy Des Moines to coordinate system-wide efforts in their networks to provide education to ER Staff and urgent care clinic staff. Education includes prevention efforts for families who bring a crying infant to the ER who is found to be normal and is discharged from the ER as well as recognition of abusive head trauma.

- Shaken Baby Training was provided and 33 participants from seven Iowa hospitals participated.
- A second in person training to the UIHC ER staff was provided with 25 people (ER Physicians and nurses) in attendance

Early Childhood Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (EC-PBIS). This contract provides multiple opportunities for training and professional development to family support programs, child development homes (family child care providers) child care center and preschool programs to incorporate strategies promoting positive behavior. (See a separate annual report on the ECI 2016 annual report website page.)

Essentials Training for Health and Safety Requirements. Funding was used to support DHS as they implemented changes required in the CCDF Reauthorization. Required modules of Health and Safety Training was developed for both in-person and online strategies.