Early Childhood Iowa State Board Update

Program Status Report

Reporting Period: September – October 2023

Report Date: November 1, 2023

I2D2 is authorized by the ECI State Board and Department Directors and advised by the I2D2 Data Stewardship Committee: Amanda Winslow (ECI; HHS); Heather Rouse & Cassandra Dorius (ISU); Ryan Page (Child Care; HHS); Shelley Horak (Early Intervention, HHS); Marcus Johnson-Miller

> **Early Childhood Iowa VISION for I2D2:**
> *Iowa's early childhood system will be effectively and efficiently coordinated among health, social service, and education agencies to support healthy and successful families. This work will be informed by actionable intelligence derived from a statewide integrated data system that comprehensively identifies and addresses the needs of Iowa's young children and their families.*

(HHS); Kelsey Feller (HHS); Jay Pennington & Monica Garner (Education); Wendy Greenman & Donna Burkett (Workforce).

Overview: Iowa's investment in building an integrated data system approach to help address the comprehensive needs of families began in 2015, with full implementation and completion of three demonstration projects funded by the Administration for Children and Families (Preschool Development Grant) and the Iowa Department of Public Health in 2019. Between 2019 and 2021, advancements in technology, governance, and communications were made possible through additional state contracts, university awards, and federal research grants. In 2022, Early Childhood Iowa initiated an annual contract to support the foundational operations of I2D2 that is essential to facilitate more efficient and effective use of I2D2 data capacities. Goals for 2023 include legal and technology updates, securing additional data sources relevant for state priorities, improving the Iowa Data Drive public-facing data dashboard, and developing training opportunities for effective data use in local and statewide decision-making.

Activities Update for the Current Reporting Period:

- New member of the Data Stewardship Committee, Shelley Horak, joined to represent leadership from Early Interventions and Support within HHS, which is the new home of ECI.
- Data Stewardship Committee completed the annual review and approved the current governance plan for I2D2 with no changes. Ongoing monitoring will ensure alignment with evolving state agency transitions.
- A new Data Sharing Agreement was executed between Iowa Workforce Development and ISU to include WIOA program data into I2D2 to support federally required evaluation activities.
- Data Sharing Agreement amendment discussions are scheduled with HHS representatives to determine the best path forward for aligning the current separate agreements from legacy DHS and IDPH agencies.
- The I2D2 team continues to work with HHS Child Care Policy leadership in the development of an operational data store to facilitate real-time child care availability and supply/demand

information aligned with the Governor's Task Force recommendations and Shared Services project priorities. Because of ECI's investments in I2D2 infrastructure, this work is moving efficiently to maximize investments in technology and governance protocols. Discussions this period have included the determination of interactive dashboard components about child care that will be integrated with the IA Data Drive capacity to provide efficient and streamlined public-facing access to information.

Ongoing Analytic Project Activities Update:

1. **Early Childhood Iowa Longitudinal Study (ECILS)** [Data included: Birth records, CCA, DE-K, DAISEY, *Head Start*].
   - Discussions are underway with Head Start recipients and the IDE Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO, 2023) to consider additional analyses about underserved populations and how I2D2 data can be used to support Program Information Reporting. Subgroup members are working on amendments to the Head Start data sharing agreements to facilitate annual data sharing and more reporting.
   - The ECI Results Accountability Workgroup, with Iowa MIECHV and Head Start program leadership, are discussing potential new indicators for IA Data Drive. Exploration is identifying relevant data sources that inform various federally required community risk and needs assessments and developing methods of connecting new indicators to the data dashboard.
   - I2D2 staff are collecting and updating the currently approved annual indicators for the ECI Annual report and IA Data Drive updates, to be completed before the end of 2023.

2. **Multiple Risks and Families in Home Visiting** [Data included: Birth records, DAISEY, CCA, DE-K, *Head Start*].
   - The statewide community risk assessment update was completed and shared with MIECHV program leadership including a ranking of counties by cumulative risk using the same process as the previous community assessment.
   - Phase II of a birthing hospital closure analysis was completed and presented at the recent Maternal Health Symposium sponsored by Healthy Birth Day (10/30/2024). Phase III analyses are now underway to document prenatal care system supports and study counties where collaborative programming is supporting prenatal care to identify opportunities and continued needs.

3. **2023 Iowa Child Care Workforce Study** [no current I2D2 data]. Funded by the Iowa AEYC, this study extended the 2016 Child Care Workforce study documenting strengths and challenges in our child care workforce. A key component was a data discovery process to document potential administrative datasets that would better facilitate future workforce studies.
   - Final results of the study were published on the website and presented at the 2023 Iowa AEYC Fall Institute.
   - ECI Results Accountability workgroup and the Iowa AEYC Workforce Advisory Committee are developing a proposal for future workforce studies to include administrative data using I2D2 capacities.

Anticipated Activities in the Next Reporting Period ~ *Directors and Board Input Needed*:

- The ECI Annual Report and IA Data Drive annual updates will be completed and released.
- I2D2 Website will be updated to include broader descriptions of statewide priorities informed by the Data Stewardship Committee work and recent reports from ongoing approved projects. *Department Directors and Board Members may reach out to Committee members for input and feedback.*
- Executive leaders and legal teams will continue renewing legal agreements to align with approved governance protocols, security updates, and prioritized uses of I2D2 for 2024. *Please support Department/Agency data team members' involvement in these activities to ensure our data capacity is ready to complete approved projects that are in the pipeline for 2024.*
  - DE Agreement ASAP
  - Head Start agency agreements December 2023

- o HHS Agreement May 2024
- Findings from ongoing projects will be translated into program and policy briefs and vetted for sharing through project Community Advisory Groups and the Data Stewardship Committee. *Please reach out to Data Stewardship Committee members for input on communications.*

For more information about any of these projects or I2D2 processes, please visit our website or contact us. Stay in touch via i2d2.iastate.edu or follow us on LinkedIn via the QR code.