



Creating a Family Support State System

Stretching your dollars while increasing quality – it can be done!

NCSL Early Learning Fellows Meeting
May 2014



The Iowa Family Support Landscape

Strengths

- Began state financial support in 1988
- In 2014, approximately \$28,000,000 in state, federal and local government funding.
- Received a MIECHV competitive expansion grant.
- History of strong bi-partisan support
- Capacity to serve a minimum of 5% of the 0 – 5 child population
- Tracking common performance measures for six years across program models and types
- Have a strong early childhood system embedded in state government with private partnerships.



The Iowa Family Support Landscape

Challenges

- Ensure access and maintain quality programs in rural areas and not short-change the urban areas
- Tension between local control and accountability controls
- Meeting the diverse and changing needs of the population (language, cultural, relocation to urban settings)



How is family support different than other early childhood services?

- A family support professional does not provide direct care or instruction to children. They work with the parents to care for and instruct their own children.
- Best used within a comprehensive array of supportive services for children and families.



Which model is best?

- Iowa promotes an array of models based on community needs.
- The federally funded HomVEE study gives you solid data on which model/s are effective at mitigating which risk factors.
- Using data and research takes the political pressure off on model selection.



Build it and they will come

- Common definition and understanding of evidence-based and promising family support
- Room at the table for all –
 - Create a pathway for any program to successfully meet the definition of a promising program (*Iowa Family Support Credentialing Program*)
 - Create low-cost training solutions to increase the competency of the workforce (*Iowa Family Support Competency Assessment System, Iowa Learning Management System, Specialized Endorsements*)
 - Adapt successful strategies for the workforce to increase their formal education (*Iowa TEACH Scholarship program*)

Casting a Wide Net

- Ensure participants get referred to the family support program that can best meet their needs (*Iowa Family Support Coordinated Intake System – web and phone*)
- All parents can benefit from the services but not enough funding to serve all, so who gets served? (*Virtual Home Visitor System*)
- The parents that most need the services are the ones most likely to not receive or drop out early (*Provider reimbursement for missed home visits. Supervisor conference versus an automatic 3 strikes and you are out. Family Support Professional Q Score*)



Working Smarter

- Move to electronic records and web-based reporting (*Iowa Family Support Statewide Data System*)
- Bringing specialized services to under-resourced rural communities (*Adapting tele-health for non-traditional health services pilot project*)
- Use technology to deliver training and hold meetings to remove access barriers (*GoTo meeting account, Online Learning Management System*)



Resources

- HomVEE Study: <http://homvee.acf.hhs.gov/>
- Iowa family support guidance:
http://www.state.ia.us/earlychildhood/files/toolkit_tools/Tool_FF.pdf
- Iowa Family Support Credentialing Program:
<http://lsiowa.org/index.php/services/credentialing-program/>



Resources

- Iowa TEACH:

<http://www.iowaaeyc.org/teach.cfm>

- Coordinated Intake:

http://www.earlychildhoodiowa.org/files/state_system/quality_services_programs/family_leadership/CoordinatedIntakeBestPracticeGuide.pdf

REDCap: <http://project-redcap.org/?3e3ea140>

For More Information

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Thank you!

