

# 16<sup>th</sup> ECI Congress Evaluation Summary

February 10, 11 & 12, 2009

73 Evaluations Turned In

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER - WEDNESDAY

- I'm glad someone is encouraging our fields to ask these questions. This was scary & exhilarating at the same time
- Very thought provoking
- We need to make positive change in the whole child and not just early Childhood Ed. ENDED GREAT!
- Very thought provoking – introduced in my head how to judge applicability of “optional research” based results to my “less than optional” parameters.
- Very inspiring! Awesome!
- They were both very articulate & good presenters
- Gave us some challenges – but we keep hearing this same message over & over – Best thing said “it's time to call the question”
- I was surprised at the content not what I expected but it was very good.
- Not very motivating as some keynote speakers
- Very informative and well presented – love the challenge/prospect of the adaptive change
- Very informative lots of questions to think about like the 2 different approaches in presentation mixed it up
- A hit academic
- Valora and Stacie held my attention and helped to put the “big pictures” into perspective
- Easier to hear & understand
- Felt empowering to have some national people come & give us a pep talk re: building our system. I'm going to use “It's time to call the question”!
- Great job presenting challenges, but concrete, specific solutions would have been helpful; a bit repetitive
- Great info. I look forward to reading there book
- Wow! This presentation really made me think about some items that need to be addressed, and think about next steps
- Valora Washington – informative – great presentation
- Gave us lots of things to think about!
- Good “challenge” perhaps highlight examples of meeting the challenge
- Great Information!
- Never really understood presentation purpose – how was it supposed to be applied?
- Good message, but lost on the presentation Valora was an energized speaker – needed more of that
- Great to get “other perspectives because it allows us to give permission to ourselves to view what is happening for a different perspective
- I liked Stacie & Valora breaking up the presentation very good presentation liked having the ECI system framework and PowerPoint presentation, very knowledgeable and easy to listen to. They made me think!

- Would like to hear more of what we can be doing now to change our field – this presentation was not helpful. It reminded me and reinforced how far we have to go.
- Thought provoking “call the question”
- Valora was much easier to listen to. Stacie lost my interest early on I don’t want philosophy I want concrete usable info. I will leave the same comment I have for all previous cc congress 1<sup>st</sup> keynote we need to be motivated and set on fire w/this speaker! Not what is usually offered?
- Good information to think about could have been more positive – somewhat of a “Debbie Downer”
- I came late and was setting out side of the doorway I didn’t know there was seats in the front. So I didn’t get anything out of it. But I did get to network
- Thought provoking New perspective - “It’s time to call the question”
- Content good but presenters lacked energy; room was cold, difficult to see visuals and to hear above sound of fan.
- Good information
- Good motivation to work together
- This was very good information and helped to expand our thinking
- Same info different presenters
- Very well informed and articulated
- I wasn’t able to hear the speakers well – I had to sit in the very back by the door and it was difficult to be engaged.
- Thank-you for the overview. Would like to see a progress report
- Very interesting – probably one of the most aggressive detailed “plans” to achieve the ‘goal’ – believes it is much closer than when I began this note eleven yrs. Ago
- Wide range of participants – I have been here 14 yrs for a newbie it was good info
- They were very knowledgeable however they were a little boring need more info on IA or what is happening now.
- They went well together, great things to think about

## STATE PANEL

- Needed more participation – the change needs to be filling the gap between Early Childhood education & productive citizen (Teen Years)
- I appreciated the dentist’s comments, esp. calling for questions means stepping forward to be held accountable for a responsible piece of the solution.
- Nice to hear from the diverse group
- Couldn’t see them when they were talking
- OK – but not great – need more about collaboration
- Disjointed – bounced around hard to follow
- Good to hear from local professionals about their thoughts
- Interesting some panel members understand collaboration ... but others still don’t get it. Dept. of Ed just isn’t ready to collaborate on much of anything
- It was good to hear a variety of perspectives. I feel more empowered.
- Some were difficult to hear
- Interesting to hear from a variety of people from gov’t agencies

- Excellent
- I appreciate hearing from this panel
- Great Information
- Nice representation of state agencies
- More specifics
- Difficult to hear – more educators on panel
- Good questions
- Some good comments
- A nice variety of professionals with differing viewpoints focusing on a common vision
- Again – frustrating – many of our child dev. Homes & full day programs need more – perhaps the panel needs to visit those programs to understand
- I have never been fond of panels. If all entities represented in this panel worked together we would have a good EC system in Iowa!
- Nothing new
- Couldn't see or hear
- Interesting, challenging responses
- Speakers were not focused on the size of the audience that wanted to hear what they had to say
- Was difficult to hear
- Felt each of you addressed the questions well
- Somewhat helpful
- Multiple reasons why having them participate and to be heard
- Very good to see the collaboration between departments – appreciate the message of a single voice for children
- Could not hear in the back of the room difficult to do a panel
- Enjoyed their thoughts, concerns and goals (efforts to bridge the gaps)
- Good to hear their thoughts. Seem closer to the same goal
- Panel questions were pretty broad. Need to be more interred on what is happening now
- Really enjoyed what Bill Brand had to say – great speaker

## Wednesday Breakout Sessions

11:00 – 12:15 am

### Ready or Not: Bringing the Issues & Choices to Iowa

Stacie G Goffin & Valora Washington                      3 = 1    4 = 4    5 = 5

- Really had to think outside the box things we didn't want to talk about in ECE good discussion. What choices did we want changed
- Very thought provoking
- Push to identify choices in Iowa
- I liked the interaction with the audiences
- Very engaging and thought provoking – appears that the majority of attendees had similar concerns – would like opportunity to follow up to brainstorm solutions
- Really enjoyed the involvement. Really made you think about everything going on in our counties

### Pathways Toward Medical & Dental Home Integration in Iowa

Bob Russell & Andy Penziner                                      4 = 5    5 = 6

- I would have liked a visual aid as I did not get a handout at the session good points discussed
- Excellent info- thank you. Could be helpful to list ways we can help!

### Looking at Iowa's System of Systems for Early Care, Health & Education

Charlie Bruner    3 = 3    4 = 4    5 = 5

- Very enlightening - speaker was very knowledgeable with the added bonus of being a past legislator
- Dr. Bruner always has good information
- Liked the "stimulus" overview!
- Good info on return on investment in Early Childhood and about economic stimulus pkg. effect of some budget.
- Very knowledgeable about state statistics, budgets, bills, etc. Very knowledgeable!
- Cleared questions I had re/funds
- Very informational, opened up for discussion

### Raising the Bar for Family Support

Janet Gartin, Rachel Bardwell, Ruth Krueger, Pat McReynolds,  
Linda Littlefield, Kim Venteicher                      1 = 1    2 = 2    4 = 2    5 = 1

- Good info how ever thought that maybe Cyndee Dathy should not have said anything about them not getting their credentialing when other empowerment areas are involved did not know about it
- Very informative; well versed representatives of the system I learned a lot
- What was name of Linda's program that got evaluated? Session was not what I expected.
- Very informative – thank you for going back & laying the basic ground work/history I really had no idea what this was about going in
- They worked out the microphone issues good time for questions

- Presenter assumed I knew the program. I was lost could I apply “sttis” (?) for our center. If I have an evaluation program could I apply for this? We have a strong parent program.

### **Disproportionality & Preschool: Universality & Fairness**

Walter Gilliam

4 = 4

5 = 15

- Enjoyed Tuesday night, and this was even better. Great study and research. Great speaker, would love to listen to him again
- Good session – appreciated the opportunity to hear Iowa comments from the local
- Interesting way of looking at preschool serve’s to children – teacher program variability. Monitoring of quality training of staff are also an important key to quality services
- Dr. Gilliam is a great speaker, lots of good info to share
- Great speaker
- Very informative
- Great information to use in talking w/legislators useful real-life research
- I am used to having hand-outs provided, so I didn’t bring note-taking paper this year. The presenter didn’t have hand-outs. Very knowledgably interacted well w/the audience, listened to concerns of audience, great presenter
- Great-good presenter nice blend of information and discussion very valuable information
- Great speaker very knowledgeable & personable communicated info will
- Wonderful information – thank you
- Great info, I wanted to hear more
- Excellent would have liked to hear a lot more & how to make a difference for the disparate groups of kids
- Excellent! Really enjoyed Dr. Gilliam’s presentation. I wanted to hear more – time didn’t allow THANKS!!
- Awesome information
- Really enjoyed Tues night’s & this morning’s presentations

### **So You’ve Issued an RFP. Now What?**

Marcus Johnson & Debra Scrowther

4 = 4

5 = 6

- Excellent presentation – very useful information and discussion
- Good info helpful in developing future RPPS
- Great over view
- Very helpful, I will use much of what I learned
- Very concise information I liked the “scenarios” problem solving
- Very informative and timely for empowerment folks
- For someone who didn’t know much about RFP

## Wednesday 1:45 – 3:00 pm

### Early Childhood Mental Health Initiatives

Laura Larkin, Stephanie Trusty, Jennifer Stout Kagan & Tom Rendon

3 = 5                      4 = 11                      5 = 4

- Fun, good presenter, stuff I did not know about
- We skimmed over several things. I would have preferred to learn about on initiative more in depth
- Good presentation – presenters had an obvious understanding of current initiatives
- Good information – nice to see what is & can happen to support children & families
- I would have liked a visual aid as I did not get a handout at the session good points discussed
- Good job Stephanie reg. Mental Depression first time I heard of First Five
- Stephanie Trusty said um and uh way to many times
- Would have liked handouts power point
- Stephanie said “um” over 100 times during presentation

### Linking Systems to Promote Positive Development & Reduce Disproportionality

Brad Richardson                      2 = 1

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### Racial and Ethnic Disparities Data from the Household Health Survey

Pete Damiano & Jean Willard                      3 = 1                      4 = 1                      5 = 3

- Great information – will be helpful as I work with families will be a useful resource
- Would have liked more presented on the early care questions since there was time & it's Early Childhood Congress
- Very interesting & information
- Very informative more implications for practice and next steps on what to do with data
- Well presented, interesting

### Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards Verification Process

Mary Schertz                      3 = 2                      4 = 2                      5 = 6

- “Anyone” can assess playground – even if they have no knowledge of safety hazards? Disturbing! Are we aware of the # of children injured on playgrounds?! Is this quality? Slides too small to read on overhead and handout
- Nice to get handouts on her topic
- Lots of good info
- Presenter knowledgeable & easy to understand
- Gave me so information that will help me when I have our visit. I was able to write down added info making me feel better prepared for visit
- Mary did a nice job covering for herself and Lori
- Very informational

### Everything ECI Leaders Need to Know About the CDA

Dawn Collins & Stacie Steveson                      4 = 1                      5 = 9

- Excellent presentation & info – good open discussion Glad to meet the new staff
- Very informative learned a lot!

- Very informative. Will make it easier for me to give accurate info to the providers that I work with
- Excellent! ECI leader's need to know about the CDA great job Stacie & Dawn
- Learned a lot from this
- Clarification on many pieces
- Dawn & Stacie flowed well together. Good information
- Didn't have answers to all questions but they will email answers when they find out – good presentation positive behavior
- Useful information, great to meet regional CCR&R staff, access to information

#### **Data from the First Two Years of Iowa QRS: Who? How? Where?**

Susan Hegland, Jody Caswell & Carla Peterson      3 = 4      4 = 4      5 = 8

- Interesting to see data – especially compared to other 3 states
- Good overview of ORS & what's to ask
- Wish speakers did not read power point
- Very informative
- Excellent, well organized presentation
- Good info, nicely & succinctly presented
- Good information
- THANKS
- Good data – quality should be emphasized instead of compliance as programs sustain their ratings

#### **Works in Progress: Practical Tools of Application**

Katie McKenzie & Melissa Nelson      4 = 2      5 = 4

- Very informative – great ideas can't wait to tailor them to our area & implement some versions of them
- Engaging from the STSRT!! Great ideas! And many not expensive – very doable! Thank you best session I attended!
- Wonderful presentation – wonderful ideas and resources – this session can greatly enhance reaching family, friend and neighbor providers
- Very good info – will set take back in my role as home consultant for FCN providers

## WEDNESDAY 3:15 – 4:30 pm

### Statewide Structure to Promote Positive Behavior Support

Mary Schertz & Tom Rendon      3 = 3      4 = 5      5 = 4

- Tom concise to the point very familiar & knowledgeable of material Mary – good! Thanks
- Thank you for providing handouts. Great brief overview
- I understand the language of PBS & program wide PBS; trainers & coaches
- Room was hot – had a hard time focusing
- Great job done by all
- So many charts – seemed like too much info for time slot

### Diversity Issues in Quality Rating Systems

Michelle Stover-Wright, Eric Johnson & Jody Caswell

4 = 5      5 = 3

- Great speaker, fascinating to learn difference diverse & representation (that may be the biggest thing I'll take away) good info even though I don't deal directly with the QRS program. Great discussion – wish more were there
- Very thought provoking presentation
- Expected Dr. Johnson to give more details in his presentation Great job overall!
- Good information we had a great group discussion
- Thought provoking

### Early Childhood Screening

Tammy O'Hollearn, Erin Kongshaug, Kimberly Noble Piper & Mary Larew

3 = 1      5 = 5

- Good info – doesn't work in my area
- Loved the 1st five info & pamphlet, great info from EDHI program; metabolic screening was also very informative
- Very informative
- All speakers very knowledgeable and interesting
- A lot of great things happening in the state for young children & new born. Didn't need to hear about Dr. Larew stomach flu – gross

### Ethics for the Early Childhood Professional

Janet Gartin      3 = 1      4 = 5      5 = 6

- This was excellent – very soul-searching and at times out of our comfort zone – but very needed training
- Janet – thought provoking, but kind of disconnected ... a little more “on task” would help
- Excellent speaker thought provoking
- Very interesting. Presenter was great. Not sure information will pertain to my current position, but thought provoking
- Lots to think about
- Good information – lots of info that will be helpful work with families
- Excellent discussion!

- Valuable session – good collaboration – Janet is a great presenter w/practical applications
- She made it very personnel & interesting

**Early Childhood Local System Development Update**

Gretchen Hageman, Jenny Hodges, Cindy Duhrkopf

3 = 1            4 = 3            5 = 2

- Networking was wonderful – ideas were shared well – realize the need for support & training
- Description did not match session content very well. Presenters were not specific about what regional mtgs they were talking about – empowerment?
- Glad to know what others are doing in empowerment

**Collaboration Equals Quality**

Monica Garner, Charlette Sudduth & Curt Buhr

3 = 1            4 = 1            5 = 5

- Very helpful
- Great ideas from both sites
- Very interesting to hear other programs examples – how they make the voluntary 4 yr. old program – work in their communities
- Wonderful! Specific examples
- Very informative – real life examples to consider

**Iowa’s Early Care & Education Compensation Crisis – Could WAGE\$ Help?**

Pam Ellis & Barb Merrill

4 = 2            5 = 5

- Good information – great ideal for center staff in Iowa
- Good info hope something happens in Iowa
- Very informative
- Very helpful

**OVERALL SATISFACTION WITH CONGRESS**

3 = 8            4 = 22            5 = 25

1   2   3   4   5

- I really enjoyed the sessions
- Not as WOW! As in past
- Nice schedule – nice to be on single day
- It was good
- Great!
- Wonderful job
- I enjoyed all the sessions I attended
- I enjoyed the 2 Wed lunch speakers
- Always good
- Good job

## GENERAL COMMENTS

- Food much better than anything ever served in Ames! Thanks for the 3 p.m. “cute” soda’s on Wednesday! Very efficient & competent wait staff! Time schedule kept! Thank you for that respect! I liked how many sessions were tied together by the “Early Childhood Systems”
- At lunch could not hear at lunch anything due to speaker system!
- Would like power point hand outs for presentations! Would have liked to have vendors stay whole day of Wednesday some were packed & gone before afternoon break.
- Well organized; packed schedule; not much time for exhibits
- Had a great time – good learning experience, I will come back
- Very good. I haven’t been for a few years this seemed much better than the last time I attended Would like to see more integration of health & safety in EC and special needs ovals represented
- Rooms were very cold. Sound system was not effective in large setting – Am and lunch however, the gentlemen who spoke at lunch could be heard/understood where as Sheila could not
- As an empowerment board member the “big picture/policy” sessions were most helpful. Keep the local policy makers on mind in planning the congress program
- I wish we had 2 days or 1 ½ to attend breakout sessions. So much info to cover in just 1 day. Awesome!
- Food not great (lunch) Breakfast nice variety
- This was nosier (the building) than it was when held in Ames. The Scheman building in Ames seemed to allow for a more “conference feel” – better set up for vendors, food, meeting rooms, could see presenters better. Iowa room was very cold.
- In packet – provide several blank sheets paper to take notes on; session in Iowa room & lunch room very cold! Provide hot tea, coffee at break time.
- A reminder email would have been helpful. I forgot to copy my registration form and couldn’t remember which part I had registered for – especially since there were so many components to these 3 days
- The sad part today was that we were on the outskirts of the luncheon area and could not understand either speaker the atmosphere was not conducive to understanding too muffled
- Area for lunch not conducive to a speaker very hard to hear
- Really enjoyed Ames/Scheman as site of congress all meeting always in Des Moines – nice to have a new place & I think the Scheman site really feels “more professional” – airplane noise was a distraction
- Great job in organizing the conference – my only complaint is that the facility was too small – not enough bathrooms, parking was difficult. Seating was limited
- Well organized, nice meals, wonderful opportunity to network, good presentations
- Too warm on Tues almost too cool Wed. the food was all very good! The facility was great for space & accessibility
- Would like to have opportunity to attend more than 1 session during the time it was offered, so possible repeat topics/sessions throughout the day
- Sheila Hanson – was excellent at lunch to help get us ready for tomorrow on the hill!
- I really learned a lot from each session I was involved with GREAT DAY of information for me
- THANK YOU!
- Good, food was better at Ames location last time
- I enjoyed the keynotes both days & the breakout sessions choices for the most part
- VERY GOOD!
- Enjoyed Sheila Hanson over lunch

- Enjoyed hearing speakers during lunch – difficult to see & hear, but great information by both
- Please avoid speakers at lunch! Could not understand lunch speaker – sound was loud enough, but sound system not good either add another day to speakers for day on the hill
- Many of the speakers in the bigger rooms were difficult to hear. The presenter Tue night was very good
- I enjoyed Ames, but would like Des Moines as well, if it were housed downtown. The opportunity to get outside and walk to explore the area and get some large muscle activities is needed February is a good month to tag with day on the hill.
- Nice to have all in one location. Bus was a good idea
- Excellent presenters
- A breakout on things you can talk about & not talk about for newbie’s advocacy 101 early notification on yearly focus for the day on the hill so we can put the theme or thought through - out our packets we make up for the legislators “Time to call the question” (what is our one voice saying?) give me quarterly talking points to go to my local coffee’s with legislators.
- Is nice to have it w/day on the hill gets more people here to talk to legislators about what is important to us
- Enjoyed the congress, would have liked to have had one extra session added as there were sessions that I wanted to attend. Maybe have the most popular sessions do another session from 5-6:15 so that folks can make it to ones that they may have missed
- Very difficult to hear when in the back of the room. Airport noise did not help for the keynote speakers, rooms were cold
- Great way to increase participation w/day on the hill
- This (hotel) location seems a little small. Like the Des Moines (city) location but Ames setup is larger for more people. Auditorium good for speakers.

## STAKEHOLDERS MEETING

1 2 3 4 5

3 = 4

4 = 7

5 = 2

- Appreciate the framework document & discussion around it
- Very long afternoon! hard to hear
- Very Interesting!
- Very informative for people not previously involved w/ECI
- Sometimes tough to see the link between ECI meetings and then products where are decisions made?
- Honestly, I felt as though I wasn't sure I belonged there (a coworker registered me for Congress) some nice information & I'll be looking more into ECI & how we (CCR&R) fits
- Sorry – though I had registered, yet had not read thoroughly! Can the process be simplified
- Great! Lots of updates & clarifications of current sometimes fairly new – early care, health, and education initiatives

## Tuesday Dinner & Speaker: Walter S Gilliam

1 2 3 4 5

3 = 1

4 = 10

5 = 11

- Wonderful information – expanded thinking on SVPP
- Very knowledgeable speaker
- Had some good points
- Interesting data
- Great speaker – very knowledgeable but “down to earth” as well
- Great info
- Great! Dr. Gilliam was informative and funny!
- He kept me interested
- Could his power point be posted on ECI web site?
- Great info & stats! very informative & engaging
- Dinner was wonderful. I wish the speaker would have spoke more on IOWA not other states: that does not impact me. Sometimes it was hard to hear him. I liked the “social hours” Very relaxing and a great way to network. This is one of the few times I see other Early Childhood Professionals from across the state.
- Very good speaker, presented great info on the hot issue of pre-K programs
- He was a great speaker considering the potential of presenting data
- Very educational/knowledgeable hard to hear – data not long enough on screen to decipher – but good information
- Loved this speaker! Very engaging while keeping us informed and educated
- Good information – just difficult to see from rear in a large room
- To warm in room – not enough materials – trouble/hearing speaker/seeing power point but good format & information – helpful
- Even though he did not change his topic, he illustrated verbally how we could use his stats/findings for our arguments to state or case

## Thursday Day on the Hill

3 = 6

4 = 5

5 = 6

1 2 3 4 5

- Good but very frustrating
- It seemed to be on a day when lots of legislators had other commitments
- Very empowering & great to network on the hill
- Great Day! Glad to attend the congressional committee in Rm 22 – Very interesting. Good meetings with Senators Representatives
- Thur AM brkfast no juice! Only coffee
- Too many in committees and unable to reach contact
- Had a great time will come back!
- Liked the displays & LOVED Maria's enthusiasm inspiration slightly disappointed that more legislators weren't available to talk with
- They need more chairs for people to sit down a bit. We should figure out a way to get them down to us more with free lunch box? Then with a note with what we want from them in the box – do something when they re visit the constitution in 2010 to include children & their rights.
- Loved Maria! She was very motivational & inspirational full of energy
- A bit overwhelming for the 1st time – I'll do better next time
- Visited with: staff from both our region & other regions to compare programs; staff from state capital; and legislators and their staff

## GENERAL CONGRESS QUESTIONS

Based on your work schedule, do you prefer having the Congress

38 held in conjunction with the Day on the Hill events

8 during another time of the year

30 the Des Moines location and winter dates

14 the Ames location and fall dates