

Name of Group: Governance, Planning, and Administration**Date: March 27, 2007****Responsibility of Group:**

The Governance, Planning, and Administration component group addresses issues related to the governance, planning, and administration of Iowa's Early Care, Health, and Education System. This group is responsible for designing and overseeing the implementation of governance, planning, and administrative structures that integrate the six system components to ensure that the results in the Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) Strategic Plan are achieved.

Activities include:

- Serving as the point of accountability to ensure that the Guiding Principles adopted by the Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholders permeate the products and processes used by all of the components of the Early Care, Health, and Education System
- Securing professional development opportunities (such as cultural competence and results-based accountability, etc.) for the Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholders as system development work continues
- Promoting effective collaborative leadership among the identified system components
- Ensuring that strong partnerships at the local level are formed and supported

Recent actions:

- We are hoping to sponsor a one-day diversity symposium to be conducted in cooperation with the Iowa Department of Human Rights and the Child and Family Policy Center. It would most likely happen in the fall, before November. We also have selected a day for a half-day raising parents voices event. It will take place on Saturday, April 28, from 10AM to 2PM at a Des Moines area location. The event has the verbal support of 19 different Iowa organizations and networks.
- We also continue to work with the other component groups to ensure their activities align with both the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems grant plan and the ECI Strategic Plan. These conversations have helped shape activities to be more strategically focused.
- We have welcomed a new co-chair, Michelle Stover-Wright, a policy analyst from the Child and Family Policy Center. Michelle has co-written with Charlie Bruner some of the leading edge research and documentation on successful early childhood system development work in the country. We are thrilled to have her join our efforts.
- Many members of the Governance component group as well as other stakeholders participated in a national conference call sponsored by Smart Start on early childhood system governance. The key issue was where governance and leadership functions of a system should reside. Two models were presented: functions aggregated into a single and usually new state agency (e.g., Georgia's Office of School Readiness and Massachusetts's Dept. of Early Education), or functions aggregated into a cross-agency management team (e.g., Pennsylvania). The issues discussed included mission foci (Georgia: school readiness; Mass: the trilemma: affordability, accessibility and quality), how efforts make a difference for families, and how to address cost concerns (do combining efforts always save money? Not in any of these states, though many efficiencies were realized).