

**Early Childhood Iowa Local Area  
Annual Report  
State Fiscal Year 2013  
July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013**

**Name of Early Childhood Area:** Building Families – Early Childhood Area

**Website:** www.buildingfamilies.net

**Counties/Area Served:** 1. Hamilton 3. Wright  
2. Humboldt 4. \_\_\_\_\_

**Current Board Chairperson:** Name: Angela Halfwassen  
Address: 723 1st Ave.S.  
Ft. Dodge, IA 50501  
Email: ahalfwassen@webstercountya.org

**Current Fiscal Agent:** Name: Michelle K. Walters  
Address: 120 1<sup>st</sup> Ave NW Ste 14  
Clarion, IA 50525  
Email: mwalters@co.wright.ia.us  
Tax ID #: 30-0031082  
DUNS #: 13-411-00-50

**Contact Person for the local ECI Board:** (if different from Chairperson)  
Name: Michelle K. Walters  
Address: 120 1<sup>st</sup> Ave NW Ste 14  
Clarion, IA 50525  
Phone: 515.602.6371  
Fax: N/A  
Email: mwalters@co.wright.ia.us  
Tax ID #: 30-0031082  
DUNS #: 13-411-00-50



**Assurances:** I hereby affirm and certify that:

1. The information in this annual report is accurate, to the best of my knowledge.
2. The Board reviewed all indicator data, trends and analysis during this fiscal year.
3. The local ECI Board has conducted an annual review of the ECI Area Director contract with regards to state required performance measures.
4. The Community Plan was reviewed by the ECI Area Board on 8/26/13 (date).
5. This Annual Report was approved by ECI Area Board on 8/26/13 (date).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of ECI Board Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Current Fiscal Agent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Angela Halfwassen  
ECI Chairperson's Name (print or type)

Michelle K. Walters  
Fiscal Agent (print or type)

## Early Childhood Iowa Local Board Composition

Name of Early Childhood Area: Building Families

Number/Range of Board Members Required in Bylaws:	7-12	Total Number of Board Members that served during the year:	13
Number of Board Members (board size) on June 30, 2013:	9	Total # of hours board members spent at board meetings:	10

Instructions: List all members of the ECI board during the fiscal year. List all current board members at the top of the table, followed by members that vacated board positions. You may add rows to the table as appropriate.

Name/Officer (Alternate)	Employer	Representation	Board Vacancies		Term Information		Meeting Attendance (place an X in the box if the member was present or an A if an alternate was present)													
			Date member vacated the board	Date member joined the board	Term #	Date Term Ends	August 27, 2012	October 22, 2012	December 17, 2012	February 25, 2013	April 22, 2013	June 10, 2013	June 24, 2013	<<insert meeting date>>	<<insert meeting date>>	<<insert meeting date>>	<<insert meeting date>>	<<insert meeting date>>		
If the board allows alternates, put the alternate's name in parentheses after the member's name																				
<i>John Example, Chair (Susie Fillin)</i>	<i>Bank of Empowerment</i>			7/1/2010	1	6/30/13	X	A		X										
Doug Bailey	Hamilton County Board of Supervisors	<i>Req. human services after Jan 1</i>		12/17/12	1	6/30/15			X	X	X	X								
Angela Halfwassen, vice Chari Jul 1 – Dec 31; Chair Jan 1 – Jun 30	Webster County Public Health	<i>Required health</i>		4/24/09	2	6/30/15	X	X	X	X	X	X	X							
Mike Kruger	Eagle Grove Community School District	<i>Required education</i>	6/30/13	9/10/08	2	6/30/13		X		X										
Abby Helgevold, Vice Chair Jan 1- Jun 30	University of Northern Iowa	<i>Required faith</i>		4/23/12	1	6/30/15	X	X		X	X	X	X							
Carl Mattes	Humboldt County Board	<i>Required business after April</i>		4/24/09	2	6/30/15	X	X	X	X	X	X	X							



## Community Plan Updates

Name of Early Childhood Area: Building Families

Iowa Code chapter 256I requires that local ECIA boards report progress toward and achievement of desired results identified in the Community Plan.

Provide a narrative of the ECIA's progress in the last year towards the priorities and strategies identified in the most recent Community Plan. Success and/or challenges to meeting the ECIA goals may also be included.

This year the Program Committee went through the current Community Plan thoroughly and noted changes and updates that need to be made to data and other components. The Committee is planning to implement a Board Retreat in the fall of 2013 that will include community partners/collaborators as well as Board members. This will be in line with our open RFP that will be released in the Winter of 2014. More than half of our current Board members have been on the Board just a year or less. This retreat will provide an opportunity for them to become more familiar with Early Childhood Iowa, the initiatives, results, and outcomes, as well as the additional supports and services that they may not have known about prior.

The current results chosen by the Board and Committee members include healthy children, secure and nurturing early care and educational environments, secure and nurturing families, safe and supportive communities, and children ready to succeed in school.

Priority one is to enhance the health, growth, and development of children and adults in the family unit. Child abuse rates for children 0-5 were located through PCAI reports and it was found that this area saw an average decrease of 5.6% from 2010-2012. This goal has been met; however, the Board feels that it is so important that it would like to continue to support the services targeting this need. The committee discussion this year focused around the changes at the state level in regards to how child abuse will be reported and investigated. The Board and committee will monitor and change as necessary based on future trends. Programs that address this result area will continue to be funded this year. Impacts are being made on the number of child abuse cases and awareness around the issue of child abuse has become better known due to the programs Building Families funds.

Teen pregnancy will continue to be supported through our ECI director. This indicator is good and represents the CAPP Coordinator work. Teen birth rates impact all of the projects we support.

The committee looked at immunization rate as another health indicator. It is possible for our public health agencies to collect this data for us yearly. In the past we only had data from Public Health, but now it seems reasonable to use this indicator again with more health providers reporting. The committee and Board would like to communicate with public Health to determine if they have a goal for immunizations.

Priority numbers two and three are to improve the availability and quality of preschool programming based on a per child basis and develop childcare and preschool providers who enhance children's health, safety, developmental skills, and abilities. The Board wanted to see more professional development opportunities for them to better understand the quality rating scales and assessment tools used in the early learning and child care environments. This need has been fulfilled through professional development opportunities offered before each Board of Directors meetings for one hour per a discussion with the Board about their current PD needs for the upcoming year. The Program Committee asked if we could use the preschool dollars to help programs with federal accreditation that aren't under Department of Education funding. And the group would

like to know if this is something the Board would want. Other barriers brought to the table included the lack of a solid foundation for services; that services are only going to those that are established not those that may be just starting up. CCR&R shared that there are changes happening in the CCR&R programming plan.

The result chosen for these priorities is the percent of quality programs as indicated by using Head Start Standards or IQPPS or a level 3 on the QRS. The goal of 90 of preschool programs will be using Head Start Standards, ECERS, or IQPPS verified by Dept. of ED or have a QRS rating of 3 or above by 2015 will be assessed. The Board and Program Committee are working with Head Start and CCR&R to achieve this goal.

The Board will continue to fund the projects initially proposed including preschool scholarships, scholarship coordination, Head Start transportation and slots, and the Early Childhood Educational Advocate. The Board will also be reviewing these priorities to identify additional needs in the area where mini-grants could be utilized as there are unallocated funds available to put out for a request for proposal due to the changes in legislation. It has been noted that the services the Parent Connection provides will continue with support from other funding sources.

Priority number four is to improve the public perception of our programs. The marketing committee has made great strides in this area this year to revamp the image of Building Families. This hiring of a marketing professional in our local area has been a tremendous asset to our agency. The Board finds this is an important investment to ensure families and service providers have an awareness of what ECI is and what we do as a Board and agency. A new logo has been developed and Building Families has gone through a rebranding process. After conducting a brief survey in the community, the marketing professional determined that individuals and families that would be using our services were not aware of whom we were. The Board will continue to support this effort financially as it is vital to increasing family's access to the services we support. Results for this priority are indicated on surveys through the Parent Connection programs. Parents indicate that they are aware of Building Families projects.