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## first monday memo

july 2011 

Dear Friends and Partners,

I admit it: As I write this, most everyone at our office has summer fun on the brain! Even so, we are looking ahead to some exciting projects as we start a new program year. Here are some things you'll hear more about in the coming months:

- the convening of an expert work group to develop a new framework for teen childbearing and parenting in our state;
- the release of a Sex Ed Report Card for Iowa;
- a peer-review project for CAPP-funded sex educators.

We continue to plan for our annual conference in November and look forward to seeing some of you at the Governor's Education Town Hall Meetings across the state later this month. Read on below for more information.



Hope you're having a fantastic, fun-filled summer!

Best,



Rhonda Chittenden, Executive Director

## Sex Education at the Governor's Education Town Hall Meetings in July



Gov. Terry Branstad and Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds will hold public town hall meetings in July before the [Iowa Education Summit](#) to listen to Iowans' ideas about how to create world-class schools.

EyesOpenIowa is here to assist you in speaking out about the need for age-appropriate, medically accurate sex education in Iowa schools. Research shows that the improved sexual health of students results in improved academic measures, including

- decreased drop out rates
- improved graduation rates
- increased academic performance
- increased standardized test scores
- decreased absenteeism.

As the Governor seeks education reform, we need to be sure that the Human Growth and Development mandate, which addresses many topics of sex education, remains a priority and a vehicle for achieving the Governor's broader goal of improving Iowa schools.

If you are able to attend a town hall meeting, please contact [Nicole McLuen](#), Community Strategist. She will provide you with talking points so that you can make your message heard.

Tuesday, July 12, 2011 - 10 a.m. to noon  
Waterloo Education Town Hall  
Central Middle School, 1350 Katoski Dr.  
Waterloo

Tuesday, July 12, 2011 - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.  
Davenport Education Town Hall  
Davenport North High School Auditorium  
626 West 53rd St.  
Davenport

Wednesday, July 20, 2011 - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.  
Sigourney Education Town Hall  
Sigourney Junior-Senior High School Auditorium  
907 East Pleasant Valley St.  
Sigourney

Thursday July 21, 2011 - 10 a.m. to noon  
Boone Education Town Hall  
Sacred Heart Elementary Parish Hall  
1111 Marshall St.  
Boone

Friday, July 22, 2011 - 10 a.m. to noon  
Corning Education Town Hall  
Corning Elementary School Gym  
1012 10th St.  
Corning

Friday, July 22, 2011 - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.  
 Carroll Education Town Hall  
 Carroll High School Auditorium  
 2809 North Grant Rd.  
 Carroll

Saturday, July 23, 2011 - 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.  
 Spencer Middle School Cafeteria  
 1400 10th Avenue East  
 Spencer

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## Save-the-Date! November 8, 2011

### "Re-Frame, Re-New, Re-Imagine: Challenges & Opportunities in Adolescent Sexual Health"

*EyesOpenIowa 9th Annual Conference*  
[West Des Moines Marriott](#), West Des Moines

**Keynote Speaker Danene Sorace,**  
 Consultant to the National WISE Project  
 (Working to Institutionalize Sex Education)



**Closing Plenary Speaker Warren Blumenfield,**  
 Assistant Professor, Curriculum & Instruction, Iowa State University

#### Breakout Session Topics:

Educating adults to talk with children about healthy sexuality  
*Sexual health in the Latino community*  
 Federally-funded PREP in Iowa  
*Iowa teens making their own "future story"*  
 Sex education in a faith community  
*Sex education in Iowa from policy to practice*  
 and more

Registration materials available in September.

Join us for an inspiring day of professional development  
 and personal networking!

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## National Campaign Releases Updated Costs Analysis for Teen Childbearing

An [updated analysis](#) from the [National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy](#) shows that teen childbearing in Iowa costs Iowa taxpayers at least \$99 million in 2008. Nationally, teen childbearing costs taxpayers at least \$10.9 billion each year.

The teen birth rate in Iowa declined 20% between 1991 and 2008. The progress Iowa has made in reducing teen childbearing saved taxpayers an estimated \$34 million in 2008 alone over the costs it would have incurred had the rates not fallen.

In order to continue to see cost savings, Iowa must continue to fully invest in proven-effective teen pregnancy prevention strategies, including the [Community Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention \(CAPP\) Grant Program](#)

administered by the Iowa Department of Human Services.

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## Upcoming Evidence-based Curricula Trainings

The Iowa Department of Education is offering the following evidence-based curricula trainings this summer and fall. Each curriculum is on the approved list for the CAPP Grant Program, except **Focus on Youth**. All curricula appear on the State's list of [approved science-based, age-appropriate resources](#) for meeting the State's Human Growth and Development mandate.

Please [register early](#). A minimum of 10 registrants is required or the class will be cancelled. Deadlines are noted on the [registration form](#). Sex educators are strongly encouraged to attend the AIDS 101 class.

August 18-19 in Des Moines  
**AIDS 101 & Making a Difference**

September 6-7 in Des Moines  
**AIDS 101 & Draw the Line**

October 5-6 in Council Bluffs  
**Draw the Line & Reducing the Risk**

November 1-2 in Ames  
**Making Proud Choices & Focus on Youth**

For more information, contact [Kristin Fairholm](#), CAPP Grant Manager.

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## About Us

The mission of EyesOpenIowa: Your Connection to Adolescent Sexual Health (formerly FutureNet) is to support Iowa communities in ensuring the sexual health of all adolescents through advocacy, education, and collaboration. To learn more, go to [www.eyesopeniowa.org](http://www.eyesopeniowa.org) or call us at (515) 276-6788.

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