

# 2014 Annual Report



**iowa**collaboration  
for**youth**development

**State of Iowa**  
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**Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development Council**  
Lucas State Office Building  
321 E. 12<sup>th</sup> St  
Des Moines IA 50319-0146

[www.icyd.iowa.gov](http://www.icyd.iowa.gov)

### **Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development Council Members**

San Wong, ICYD Chair, Director, Department of Human Rights  
Brad Buck, Director, Department of Education  
Jim Hennessey, Administrator, Child Advocacy Board  
Adam Lounsbury, Executive Director, Commission on Volunteer Service  
Steven Lukan, Director, Office of Drug Control Policy  
Gary Niles, Chief Juvenile Court Officer, 3<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District  
Chuck Palmer, Director, Department of Human Services  
Kathy Stone, Department of Public Health  
Keli Tallman, ISU Extension and Outreach 4-H Youth Development  
Shanell Wagler, Facilitator, Early Childhood Iowa  
Teresa Wahlert, Director, Iowa Workforce Development

#### Primary Staff:

Cyndy Erickson, Department of Education  
[Cyndy.Erickson@iowa.gov](mailto:Cyndy.Erickson@iowa.gov)

Steve Michael, Department of Human Rights  
[Steve.Michael@iowa.gov](mailto:Steve.Michael@iowa.gov)

### ***Acknowledgments***

The ICYD Council thanks all of the staff who contributed to producing this report. A special acknowledgment is extended to the State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council (SIYAC), who made important contributions in sharing their thoughts, ideas, expertise, and youth voice with us.

### ***In Memory***

Diane Oak-Goode has been a major contributor to ICYD for many years. She led Iowa's *Shared Youth Vision* project, a partnership between ICYD, Iowa Workforce Development, and the federal Department of Labor. She recently retired from Iowa Workforce Development (IWD). She passed away in January 2014.



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – ICYD COUNCIL 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

The Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development (ICYD) Council members are leaders of 11 state agencies with the vision that **“All Iowa youth will be safe, healthy, successful, and prepared for adulthood.”** The ICYD Council oversees the activities of the State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council (SIYAC) and has sought input from these youth leaders in the development of more effective policies, practices, programs, and this Annual Report. SIYAC consists of youth between 14 –21 years of age who reside in Iowa, with the purpose to foster communication with the governor, general assembly, and state and local policymakers regarding programs, policies, and practices affecting youth and families; and to advocate for youth on important issues affecting youth. In 2009, legislation passed formalizing the ICYD Council and SIYAC in Iowa Code Section 216A.140.

The ICYD Council has prioritized the following youth issue: **By 2020, Iowa will increase the graduation rate from 89% to 95%.** Several issues (e.g. substance abuse, family, employment, teen pregnancy, and mental health) prevent youth from graduating from high school and the ICYD Council agencies work to address these issues as individual agencies and together as a team to maximize efficiency in state government and make the best use of existing resources. According to the Department of Education’s *State Report Card 2013* the 2011 four-year graduation rate for all students was 88.3%; in 2011 it increased to 89.3%. The five-year fixed cohort graduation rate in 2010 was 91.8%; in 2011 it decreased to 91.4%.

ICYD Council has several emerging activities in 2014:

- Full implementation of the Juvenile Justice Reform Project (JJRP), which is assessing the effectiveness of juvenile justice programs and determine the cost-benefit of the programs. The overall goal of the project is to reduce recidivism of juvenile offenders by ensuring that the right services are provided to the right youth at the right time.
- Provide the core membership to new youth-serving advisory groups, which will allow state agencies to utilize the ICYD Council infrastructure to serve as the coordinating body for the required respective advisory groups; and to consolidate multiple advisory groups into the existing ICYD Council.
- Identify and highlight effective community strategies demonstrating youth are “beating the odds”; and replicating the approaches statewide.

The ICYD Council seeks the support from the Iowa Legislature and Governor’s Office to continue these activities by modifying laws and policies, as necessary, and providing resources needed to achieve this very ambitious goal. Specific recommendations to support the ICYD Council are to:

- Provide resources to expand evidence-based practices and programs, as they are developed and identified in the Iowa Safe and Supportive Schools (IS<sup>3</sup>) schools, the Juvenile Justice Reform Project (JJRP), ICYD’s *Beating the Odds* initiative, and in other pilot activities.

- Support the ICYD Council's approach to consolidate multiple advisory groups into the existing infrastructure of the ICYD Council. The model will result in a reduction of duplication, enhanced coordination and collaboration between state agencies, and a reduction in costs.
- Support the Iowa Youth Survey. The survey is administered every two years to 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> graders. The results are valuable to state agencies and communities in assessing self-reported youth behaviors and perceptions.
- Provide resources to support state-level youth opportunities and youth-led initiatives (e.g. State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council, Iowa Youth Congress, Achieving Maximum Potential).
- Engage youth on state boards and commissions, and provide the training and support necessary for youth members to be active participants. In addition, state agencies should seek new and creative ways to involve youth.
- Continue to develop ways to share information among agencies and coordinating bodies to address issues affecting youth who receive services and supports from multiple agencies.
- Support the continued use of state agency staff time to implement activities that meet the goals of the ICYD Council.
- Infuse positive youth development (PYD) principles in all youth programming, which includes PYD trainings for youth workers and establishing policies to include PYD principles in all state-funded youth initiatives.