December 2021 Director Report - Johnson County Empowerment/Early Childhood Iowa Area

STATEWIDE UPDATES:

- **State Early Childhood Iowa**
  - I submitted our Community Plan and Strategic Plan to the state team for our designation.
  - The state team is looking for feedback from families across the state. I have posted this survey information on our social media. Please share, as you are able.

- **Association of Early Childhood Iowa Area Boards**
  - I attended the first annual conference of this association on November 4th. State team and board members attended along with most of the other area directors- that was an excellent networking opportunity. The Association's lobbyists gave a presentation on the upcoming legislative session.
  - Legislative Priorities:
    - Support a comprehensive health and integrated early care, health and education system for the youngest Iowans through funding for Early Childhood Iowa
    - Develop Systemic Solutions to the Childcare Crisis
    - Include ECI as a key partner in implementation of the Children's Behavioral Health System
- **Governor's Office**
  - Released their Child Care Task Force Report (below are some of the ideas I am most interested in hearing more about)
  - https://governor.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/documents/IGOV_ChildcareTF_Report_112021.pdf
    - Child Care Solutions for Businesses
    - Support for Child Care Providers
      - Shared services model for administrative functions
    - Quality Child Care
      - More flexibility in CCA
      - Child Care Enrollment Hub: online
    - Investing in the Child Care Workforce
      - Support TEACH and WAGE$

LOCAL UPDATES:

- **General**
  - **Website:** I am waiting on County IT to have capacity to help me move our website to the County website.
  - **Expense Report:** Our October and November 2021 expense reports are in your board packet.

- **Programs**
  - **School Ready Scholarships:** We currently have 12 families on our school ready scholarship wait list. With the re-allocated unspent PREP funding, we funded 2 additional scholarships.
  - **Car Seats:** We had a car seat clinic on November 6th. We checked 44 car seats that day and cleared out almost our entire car seat inventory. The vast majority of our waitlist at this point is prenatal families. Huge thank you to Emily and Cheryl who assisted with the clinic!
- **Committees**
  - **Early Ed Work Group:** Meets on the last Monday of the month 2:30-3:30 pm.
  - **Parent Ed Work Group:** Meets on the first Monday of every other month 1-2 pm.

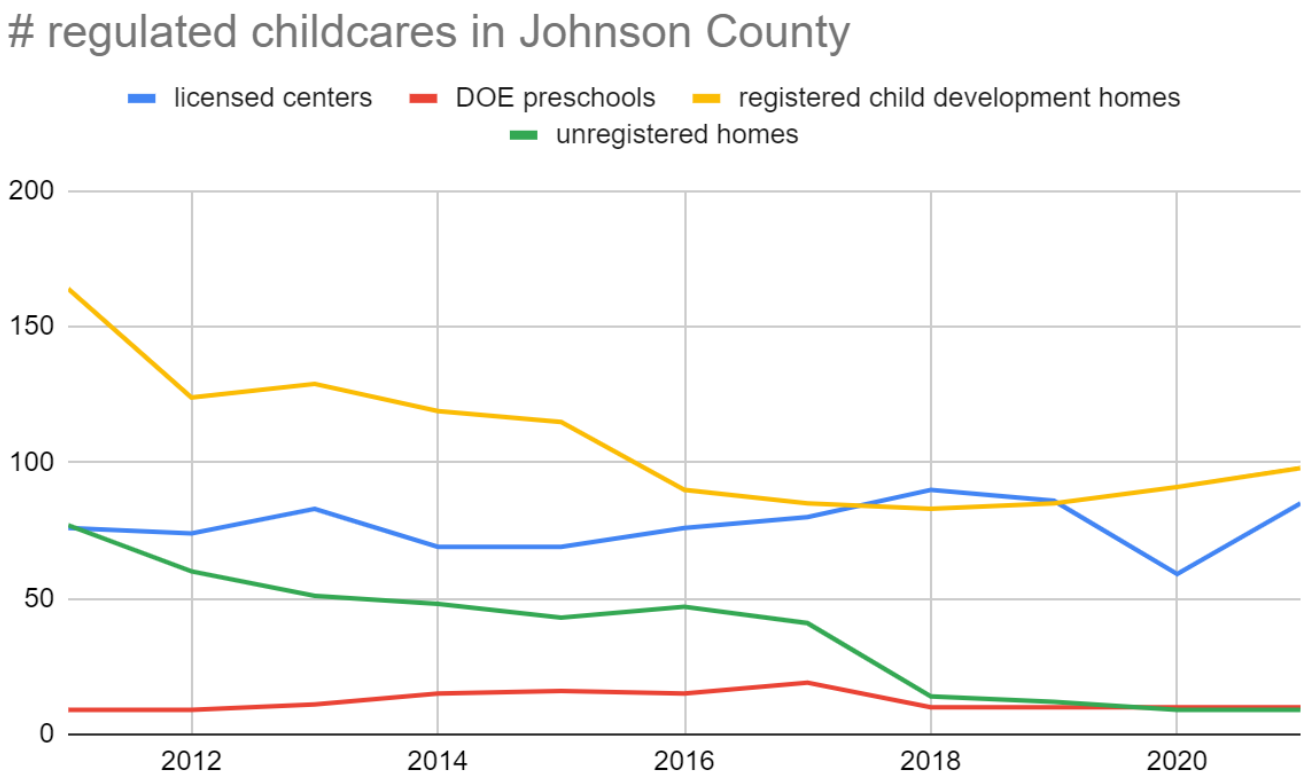
- **Health Work Group:** Meets on the second Monday of every other month 2-3pm.
- **RFP Development Committee:** Meets as needed.

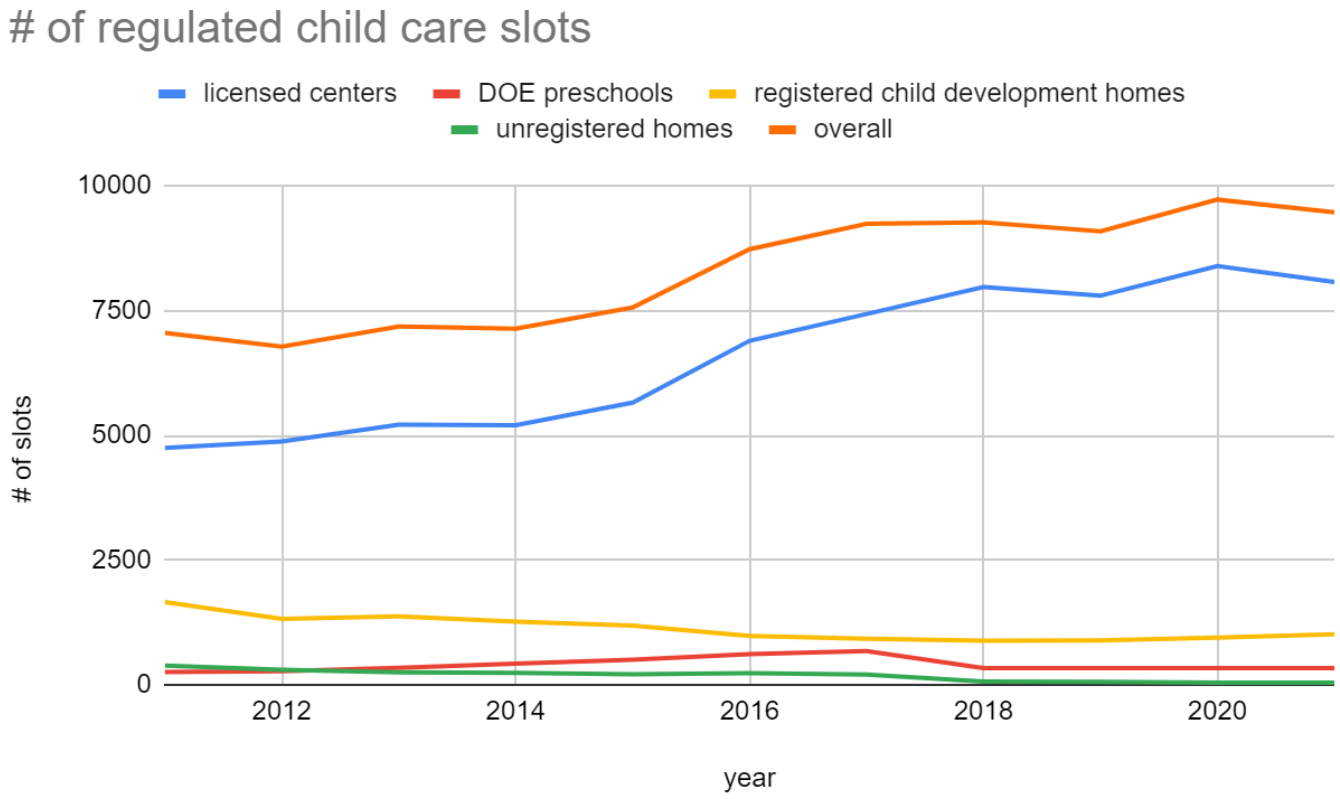
- **Community Collaboration**
  - **Injury Prevention Day November 18:** We received pack n plays and sleep sacks from UIHC. I also have first aid kit supplies to distribute to childcares.
  - **Car Seat and Pack N Play Drive:** We are again holding a car seat and pack n play drive. I have posted the information on our social media. Several area churches will also hold collections in December and January for us.
  - **Iowa Children's Museum-Coralville Library School Readiness Grant:** I met with the Iowa Children's Museum and Coralville Public Library regarding a school readiness grant they received. They are working on figuring out what activities or materials they will use this funding for and want to collaborate with us on this planning.

- **Resource Links**
  - Website https://jcempowerment.com/
  - State ECI website https://earlychildhood.iowa.gov/
  - Facebook https://www.facebook.com/JohnsonCountyEmpowerment/
  - Twitter https://twitter.com/JohnsonCountyE1
  - Johnson County www.johnsoncountyiowa.gov

Board Development:
Indicator of the Month

Indicator: Number of regulated childcare programs, number of regulated childcare slots.





Priority: Increase the accessibility and availability of quality early education.
Results Area: Secure and Nurturing Early Education Environment
Programs we fund that affect this indicator:

- 4C's Home Ties
- ARC of Southeast Iowa Preschool
- HACAP Head Start Expansion
- NCJC Early Education
- NCJC Welcome Back to Early Learning
- School Ready Scholarships

Definition

Supplanting: Boards must be diligent in not supplanting programs, services and activities funded through other state and federal funds. We cannot use our funding to pay for things that could be paid for by other state/federal funds. This means we cannot fund childcare that could be paid for by Child Care Assistance or Head Start.

Respectfully submitted Sam Turnbull December 2, 2021