**Announcement Regarding Parent Cafés**
We are pleased to announce that Joe Burke and Sarah Hohanshelt with Indianola DCAT/CPPC will assist with the further development and organization of Parent Cafés in an effort to support expansion of this initiative throughout the state.  Joe has spent the last 13 years as the Indianola Cluster DCAT Coordinator and Sarah has spent the last eight as the cluster’s CPPC Coordinator. Joe and Sarah have overseen the establishment of several programs in their service area including ALS PALS, School Based Mental Health, Three Community Web Site, etc., over the last 13 years.  The Indianola DCAT/CPPC currently has four Parent Cafés established, with this experience Joe and Sarah are ready to begin work on assisting CPPC sites and community partners with implementation and technical assistance around launching new Parent Café opportunities as well as supporting the retention of existing Cafe’s.

Joe and Sarah will take the next couple of months to begin contacting the current Parent Café locations and will use this information to begin work on an implementation guidebook to utilize for Parent Cafés to serve as a best practices approach. They will also work toward setting up monthly conference calls for updates, guidance, sharing experiences, reviewing information, etc. for Parents Café trainers and facilitators.

**What is a Parent Café?**
Parent Cafés are physically and emotionally safe spaces where parents and caregivers talk about the challenges and victories of raising a family. Through individual deep self-reflection and peer-to-peer learning, participants explore their strengths, learn about the Protective Factors, and create strategies from their own wisdom and experiences to help strengthen their families.
Cafés are carefully-designed, structured discussions that use the principles of adult learning and family support. They are highly sustainable with training reinforcement, institutional support, and a commitment to an approach that engages and affirms parents as leaders. Participants leave Parent Cafés feeling inspired, energized, and excited to put into practice what they’ve learned.

**What to do**
If you get this message and currently have a Parent Café running in your area, or want to have one established, please make sure the lead person of the Café gets a copy of this email.

Joe would like you to contact him at jburke@dhs.state.ia.us  to begin the process of getting an accurate picture of who currently runs a Parents Café and who is interested in establishing new Parent Cafes.  Joe and Sarah’s full contact information is included below.

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Thank you,

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