

# WVHSA NEWSLETTER

## Head Start State Collaboration Office Update

By Traci Dalton

Volume 13, Issue 1

November 2010

The Collaboration Office continues to be a partner of change within our early childhood system. The past twelve months have seen significant changes both at the national and state levels. We jointly celebrate the creation and funding of our newly established WV Early Childhood Advisory Council and the visits of Yvette Sanchez-Fuentes and Dr. Joan Lombardi to learn about our collaborative work occurring here in West Virginia.

As we celebrate our successes, we must also continue to move forward and address needs. Continual improvement is supported by the Collaboration Office through the annual Collaboration Needs Assessment process. These results are made available to the public and drive the development of the Head Start State Collaboration Office's strategic work plan. A new five year strategic Collaboration Office plan has been finalized over the summer. These goals build upon work that has been initiated over the last five years and is reflective of needs identified in the needs assessment report, and priorities identified by the Office of Head Start. Broad goals over the next five years are:

To continue to reduce the duplication of services, extend limited resources, and create initiatives on behalf of low income children and their families taking into account the eight Collaboration priority areas: public education, health, child care, welfare reform, children with disabilities, family literacy, homeless, and national service activities.

Strengthen the working relationships between Head Start programs and other public and private agencies and organizations to better meet the needs of young children and families at the local level.

To support the WV Head Start Association growth and development as a viable association, integrally involved in collaborative initiatives throughout the state.

Head Start will have meaningful input at the regional and state levels into decisions that promote collaboration in planning, implementing, and evaluating early childhood and family development programs.

To maintain a system to gather and disseminate information about Head Start programs as a point of contact for agencies and planners seeking information about the Head Start population and the services that are provided.

Address the needs of Head Start/Early Head Start grantees in West Virginia with respect to collaboration, coordination and alignment of services and curricula and assessments used in the Head Start/Early Head Start programs.

These goals encompass many short term objectives and include collaborative needs of Head Start and links to work of the Early Childhood Advisory Council. The annual needs assessment process is set to begin around the beginning of the year. Please take the time to participate in that process to ensure the effectiveness of the Collaboration Office and positive change for children throughout our state.

For more information about the Collaboration Office strategic plan and/or the Annual Collaboration Needs Assessment please contact Traci Dalton, Head Start State Collaboration Director, at [Traci.L.Dalton@wv.gov](mailto:Traci.L.Dalton@wv.gov) or visit [www.wvheadstart.org](http://www.wvheadstart.org) to see the most recent annual needs assessment report.

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#### TID BITS

Email Address

[wvhsa@comcast.net](mailto:wvhsa@comcast.net)

website

[wvheadstart.org](http://wvheadstart.org)

**Become a Member of the West Virginia Head Start Association**

For more information contact Becky Gooch-Erbacher, Executive Director at (304) 233-4450.

## ***“Strong Families Eat Together”***

By Brenda Yohn

Monongalia County Early Head Start has teamed up with WVU Extension Service on two occasions to provide a program titled, “Strong Families Eat Together”.

This partnership has offered information with skill starters at both Early Head Start sites, Mountainview and Jakes Run.

Research shows the most important 20-30 minutes of the day for your family is a regularly shared activity, such as a family mealtime. Proven benefits are derived from the family being together while eating at the end of the day. . .two examples are children are less likely to become overweight and do better in school.

The Program offered a meal along with educational material, helpful tips and tools to assist families in making daily togetherness a priority. One particularly popular item was the “100 Conversation Starters” handed out to families. ‘Who do you think is happier: a bird or a dog?’ ‘ How do you think the belly button got its name?’ or ‘How do you know when you are grown up?’

Over 22 Early Head Start families have benefited from this training to use family meals and Tie Their Families Together with a strong bow.

## **Local Dentists Provide Services to Children At Coalfield CAP, Inc. Head Start**

By Karen Browning

As a part of the ongoing process of service delivery to children, Head Start provides opportunities for health-related activities. Program requirements dictate that all children that participate in the Head Start program have an initial dental screening and examination within ninety (90) days of their placement date. The ability to meet this timeline in this geographic area is very difficult as there are few dentists locally that provide dental treatment for preschool aged children. As a result, many children have to be transported a lengthy distance to see a dentist. The Head Start Program has been very fortunate this year to have several dentists that have agreed to provide care for children, not only locally, but also free of charge.

In Mingo County, Dr. Jason Long, Dr. Joshua Leonard, and Dr. Charles Sammons all supported the children’s needs by offering their services in a variety of ways. Dr. Long and Dr. Leonard both participated in local Health Fairs and completed examinations onsite. Approximately one hundred (100) children were seen at Health Fairs held in the Fall of 2009 and again in the Spring of 2010. Dr. Leonard also participated in the Health Fair held in September of 2010. Dr. Sammons has been traveling around to various Head Start centers to perform examinations onsite with children being able to access dental services in a familiar environment – their classroom.

In McDowell County, Dr. Gerald Dice and Dr. Arthur Yacenda travel out to the centers to perform children’s examinations. Children are able to access dental care in a non-threatening environment, thus, reducing the stress and anxiety some children feel when going to the dentist’s office. Both dentists provide these services at a reduced cost. In addition to direct service, both dentists have also provided guidance for parents on oral health matters by attending local parent meetings, as well as attending Health Fairs scheduled to provide health-related services for the children.

By providing services for children in these ways, these dentists illustrate their dedication to enhancing the lives of children in their communities. The generosity and commitment they show to the Head Start Program as well as the families is admirable.

## **New Five County Collaboration with WV Northern Regional Jail**

By Janice Barrett

Northern Panhandle Head Start, Inc is excited about the new collaboration with the WV Northern Regional Jail located in Marshall County. Through our ARRA grant, NPHS was approved to serve 8 incarcerated parents in partnership with the caregivers of their children, as well as prenatal women who may be incarcerated. Families may reside in any of the five county service areas of NPHS, Hancock, Brooke, Ohio, Marshall and Wetzel.

The Early Head Start Parent Educator conducts 2 educational visits within the confinement of jail with the parent and child participating in 90 minute visits. Additionally the caregiver and the child receive 2 home visits monthly in the home setting. Families are also offered Early Head Start group socializations twice a month in their local communities.

A Early Head Start Father Advocate supports the fathers in the program. He provides instruction through the "Inside Out Dad" curriculum for the incarcerated fathers. This curriculum is a Re-entry Program for Incarcerated fathers. It is designed to connect incarcerated fathers to their families and prepare them for release. This comprehensive curriculum includes 12 core sessions with core topics such as:

- About Me: Remembering My Past (What Kind of Father Am I?)
- Being a Man: What is a Man? (Physical and Mental Health, Masculinity and the Media)
- Relationships: Love and Relationships (Improving my Communication Skills)
- Handling and Expressing Emotions: Expressing Anger (Stress and Anger, Carrying Emotions)
- Discipline: Styles of Discipline (Culture, Morals, and Discipline; Being a Fair, Loving Father)
- Fathering From the Inside: Creating a Fathering Plan (During this time, the father chooses a book to read to his child. He is then filmed reading the book to his child and then the video and books are sent to the child.)

The program also has a Family Resource Advocate who works with the caregivers to provide transportation including but not limited to: Doctor appointments, WIC, and DHHR. Resources are offered to the family such as housing information, WIC information, and other community agencies that may benefit the family. The Family Resource Advocate provides training to the incarcerated parents twice a month on topics such as Domestic Violence, Child Abuse/Neglect, Shaken Baby Syndrome, Safety in the Home, and other topics of interest to the parents.

This Early Head Start service model has been favorably received by the jail administration, Head Start, and the community. The CASA Executive Director, Susan Harrison, after hearing Tim Midget, Early Head Start Father Advocate, speak at a Healthy Family Coalition meeting, stated, "I am so happy to hear about this program. This is the type of program our community needs. The attorneys in the area will want information about this program and how to get their clients involved."

Please visit NPHS's redesigned website at [www.npheadstart.org](http://www.npheadstart.org) which includes information about this new program.

## North Central WV Community Action Association

Did you know.....

By Ruth Ann Ponzurick

- North Central WV Community Action Association Inc. began its 45<sup>th</sup> year contracting with DHHS, Administration for Children and Families, Region III, to offer Head Start services in Barbour, Marion, Pocahontas, Preston, Randolph, Taylor, Tucker, and Webster Counties as well as its Delegate, Monongalia County Board of Education in Monongalia County; its 12th year offering Early Head Start services in Marion, Preston, Randolph, and Tucker Counties.
- Head Start Grantee offers services to 663 children and families in two (2) home-based and fifty-six (56) center-based options in all eight counties. Of the fifty-six, 49 are full-day operating at least 6 hours as collaborative classrooms with the Boards of Education; 1 is a full-day/full-year childcare collaborative; 4 are half-day collaborative classrooms with the Boards of Education and the remaining 2 are half-day non-collaboratives operating at least 4 hours per day.
- Head Start Delegate offers services to 181 children and families in 24 Board of Education full day classrooms throughout the county.
- Early Head Start Grantee offers services in (2) center-based options primarily serving expectant students and their children in Marion County as part of a collaboration with the Marion County Board of Education. The remaining counties of Preston, Randolph, and Tucker offers home-based to prenatal, infant, toddlers and their parents.
- Randolph, Taylor, and Tucker Counties have been designated as Universal Pre-K counties by the WV State Pre-K Steering Committee. These counties have demonstrated that all Policy 2525 requirements have been met through the Pre-K Plan as well as demonstrates that all four year children whose parents choose to participate have access to center-based preschool classrooms.
- It is with great pride to announce that North Central West Virginia Community Action Association's Head Start/Early Head Start Program had no findings during its triennial review held in April 2010. It was a true team effort on all staff's part to make this possible. Ruth Ann Ponzurick, Children Services Director for HS/EHS, wanted to acknowledge and "THANK " each and every staff, Policy Council, Board of Director members, and collaborative partners for all of their effort and time contributed to make this possible.

Please allow NCWVCAA to introduce its Advisory Team:

Ruth Ann Ponzurick-Children Services Director

Linda Bissett-Children Services Administrative Secretary

Kim Martin, Children Services Assistant Director

Linda McBee-Children Services Program Manager

Nancy Keller-Barbour and Webster Counties Children Services Supervisor

Courtney Kesler Casto and Jim Barnes-Marion County Children Services Supervisor

Loretta Baker-Pocahontas County Services Supervisor

Bruce Miller-Preston County Services Supervisor

Melissa Barone-Preston County Assistant Supervisor

Gene Purkey-Randolph County Services Supervisor

Barbara Simmons-Tucker County Services Supervisor

Christine Arnold- Program Specialist Supervisor and Nutrition/Safety Program Specialist

Chris Toothman-Education Program Specialist

Jennifer Buckland-Education Program Specialist

Jennifer Alvaro-Education Program Specialist

Johnna Barber-Education Program Specialist

Misty Cantwell-Family and Community Partnership Program Specialist

Crystal Copeland, RN, Health Program Specialist

Roberta DeMarco-System Information Coordinator (ERSEA)



## Student Loan Forgiveness After 10 Years of Payments

**What is the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program?** Through the College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007, Congress created the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program to encourage individuals to enter and continue to work full-time in public service jobs. Under this program, borrowers may qualify for forgiveness of the remaining balance due on their eligible federal student loans after they have made 120 payments on those loans under certain repayment plans while employed full time by certain public service employers. Since borrowers must make 120 monthly payments on their eligible federal student loans beginning after October 1, 2007 before they qualify for the loan forgiveness, the first cancellations of loan balances will not be granted until October 2017. This fact sheet summarizes the terms and conditions of the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program.

**What federal student loans are eligible for forgiveness under the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program?** Any non-defaulted loan made under the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program (Direct Loan Program) is eligible for loan forgiveness. (See below for information on how non-Direct Loans may be eligible.) The Direct Loan Program includes the following types of loans—

Federal Direct Stafford/Ford Loans (Direct Subsidized Loans)  
Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford/Ford Loans (Direct Unsubsidized Loans)  
Federal Direct PLUS Loans (Direct PLUS Loans) – for parents and graduate or professional students  
Federal Direct Consolidation Loans (Direct Consolidation Loans)

How can other federal student loans qualify for loan forgiveness?

Although loan forgiveness under this program is available only for loans made and repaid under the Direct Loan Program, loans made under other federal student loan programs may qualify for forgiveness if they are consolidated into a Direct Consolidation Loan. However, only payments made on the Direct Consolidation Loan will count toward the required 120 monthly payments.

**Loan Forgiveness for Public Service Employees:** Federal Student Aid February 2009; Federal Student Aid, an office of the U.S. Department of Education, ensures that all eligible individuals can benefit from federally funded or federally guaranteed financial assistance for education beyond high school. We consistently champion the promise of postsecondary education—and its value to our society. [www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov](http://www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov)

**What types of public service jobs will qualify a borrower for loan forgiveness under this program?** The borrower must be employed full time (in any position) by a public service organization, or must be serving in a full-time AmeriCorps or Peace Corps position. For purposes of the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program, the term “public service organization” means – A federal, state, local, or Tribal government organization, agency, or entity (includes most public schools, colleges and universities);

A public child or family service agency;

A non-profit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code that is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (includes most not-for-profit private schools, colleges, and universities);

A Tribal college or university; or

A private organization that is not a for-profit business, a labor union, a partisan political organization, or an organization engaged in religious activities (unless the qualifying activities are unrelated to religious instruction, worship services, or any form of proselytizing) and that provides the following public services –

Emergency management;

Military service;

Public safety;

Law enforcement;

Public interest law services;

Early childhood education (including licensed or regulated health care, Head Start, and state-funded pre-kindergarten);

Public service for individuals with disabilities and the elderly;

Public health (including nurses, nurse practitioners, nurses in a clinical setting, and full-time professionals engaged in health care practitioner occupations and health care support occupations);

Public education;

Public library services; and

School library or other school-based services.

NOTE: To qualify for forgiveness of a parent PLUS loan the parent borrower, not the student on whose behalf the loan was obtained,

must be employed by a public service organization.

### Where can I find additional information?

This fact sheet provides only a summary of the basic requirements of the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program. For more detailed information, refer to the final regulations for this program (34 C.F.R. 685.219) that the U.S. Department of Education issued on October 23, 2008. You may view the final regulations by linking to

<http://www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/finrule/2008-4/102308a.html>.

<http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/PSF.jsp>

*Recipients of the 2010 WV Coalition Against Domestic Violence Purple Ribbon Award*

*West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence*

By Laurie Thompsen

Every year since 2000, the West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WVCADV) honors three people with the Purple Ribbon Award during the month of October, which is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. This year's reception was held at the Charleston Marriott and honored Becky Gooch-Erbacher, Executive Director of the West Virginia Head Start Association, Sam Hickman, Executive Director of the West Virginia Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, and Krista Fink, survivor, author and school teacher.

In addition, Victoria Bradshaw, an advocate at the Beckley-based Women's Resource Center, received the Diane Reese Advocacy Award. This is given in memory of Diane Reese, a long-time advocate and co-founder of the WVCADV. The award is presented annually to a West Virginia domestic violence advocate who exemplifies the outstanding commitment to social justice and advocacy for people who have experienced domestic abuse that Diane Reese showed throughout her life.

The recipients of the Purple Ribbon Award are selected for going beyond their professional commitment through practical and statewide actions to increase safety, raise public awareness, and create hope for change at personal, public and institutional levels. Each awardee, through creative and intentional actions, expanded the options for families living with domestic violence through education, policy, outreach and a strong commitment to sustaining the work to ensure safety and resources for those affected by abuse.

Becky Gooch-Erbacher became aware early on in her position that advocating for policies and procedures to protect families living with abuse was necessary. In 2000, she became involved in the domestic violence movement in West Virginia and served on the Board of Directors of the Wheeling YWCA Family Violence Prevention Program.

Believing that Head Start programs in the state needed to develop specific strategies for addressing domestic violence faced by Head Start families, Becky contacted the WVCADV and suggested a partnership to work together on these issues. Since 2006, she has taken the lead in ensuring that local Head Start and Early Head Start programs have participated in the activities of the Head Start for Safety Project.

Becky has offered leadership through helping with the development of training modules, model policy and procedures, brochures and other outreach material and by opening doors at the local, state and national levels for the work to move forward.

Personally and professionally Becky has worked to focus on policies to increase the awareness and funding needs of domestic violence programs. As an advocate and ally, she has addressed the need to recognize and respond to domestic abuse against women, children and men in West Virginia. As stated on Becky Gooch-Erbacher's Award:

*"The West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence*

- commends your visionary leadership in helping to end violence against women;*
- celebrates your tireless efforts to develop statewide partnerships;*
- recognizes your steady influence in raising awareness; and*
- honors your passionate commitment to peace, non-violence and social change.*

*WVCADV proudly names you as one of the 2010 recipients*

*of the Purple Ribbon Award*

*Given this the Seventh day of October, 2010"*

## **Head Start Program Celebrates 45th Anniversary**

**By PRIDE In Logan County Head Start Staff**



**Serafino Noletti, Mayor of Logan, Reggie Jones, P.R.I.D.E. Executive Director, Linda Tweed, Administrative Assistant, and Anna Ferrell, Head Start Director along with children from Logan 1**



**Jim Blevins, Mayor of Man, Laura Haddon, Family Service Worker and children of South Man Center at the signing of the Proclamation**

This year, **P.R.I.D.E. In Logan County, Inc. Head Start Program** and others like it from across the country will join together to celebrate Head Start's 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary and to strengthen the nation's awareness of the Head Start program. As part of this celebration, **P.R.I.D.E. In Logan County, Inc. Head Start Program** hosted the Local Mayors' signing of Proclamations naming October as Head Start Recognition Month.

Created in 1965, Head Start is the premiere national school readiness program in the United States. It provides comprehensive education, health, nutrition, and parent involvement services to children and their families at 100% of the poverty level. More than 27 million pre-school aged children have benefited from Head Start.

**P.R.I.D.E. In Logan County, Inc. Head Start Program** began in May 1965 as a summer program in local school facilities. The **Head Start Program** is funded for 251 children. These Head Start children are served in eleven (11) Head Start Classrooms: Chapmanville Head Start (1 classroom), Dehue Center (five classrooms), Logan Center (two classrooms), Lorado Center (one classroom) and South Man (two classrooms) and ten collaborative classrooms consisting of three, four, and five year olds. Collaborative services are provided at Buffalo (one classroom), East Chapmanville (two classrooms), Logan (1 classroom), Omar (1 classroom), South Man (2 classrooms), West Chapmanville (2 classrooms), Holden (1 classroom), Elementary Schools.

Jim Blevins, Mayor of the city of Man, enjoyed a day with South Man classroom students. While at the center he visited with the children and signed a proclamation. Head Start's 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration was observed by community members at the Lorado Center. Those enjoying lunch with the children were Duke Lamb, Corey Green, Mary Catherine Ellis, and Teresa Grimmett from Southern West Virginia Health Systems, and Amy Ellis and Tanya Ellis from Rescare.

Serafino Noletti, Mayor of the city of Logan, also signed a proclamation and participated in a luncheon at the Logan Head Start Center. Mr. Noletti was also joined by Dave Allen & Erin Williamson of WVOW Radio, John Turner, Logan County Clerk, JD Charles and Martha Sparks of The Logan Banner, Reggie Jones, Director of P.R.I.D.E, Anna Ferrell, Director of Head Start, and Linda Tweed, Administrative Assistant.

## WVDE Office of School Readiness

By Clayton Burch

The West Virginia Department of Education has further strengthened its commitment to young children in the state by forming the WVDE Office of School Readiness. The Office of School Readiness was launched in June 2010, and has been extremely busy over the past several months with various state initiatives. The primary focus of the WVDE OSR is to ensure high-quality services for young children in the state, with particular attention given to WV's Universal Pre-K program. "The WV Department of Education's newly-formed Office of School Readiness will continue the work already in place toward the provision of universal pre-k programming for all four year olds and three year olds with special needs," noted W. Clayton Burch, WVDE OSR Assistant Director. "The mission of our office is aligned with the fact that focusing on high-quality pre-k programming benefits our education system, families, and most importantly, young children in our state."

This fall the office has engaged in continuous quality improvement initiatives throughout the state, including program assessment and school improvement, early childhood assessment, pre-k administrator support, and early learning standards support via a comprehensive professional development system for educators, administrators, and families. The Office of School Readiness is also currently developing a comprehensive website for practitioners, administrators, and families which will be launched in early 2011.

The Office of School Readiness is comprised of a four member team and can be contacted at 304-558-5325. Email information for the members of the WVDE Office of School Readiness follows:

W. Clayton Burch, Assistant Director

[wburch@access.k12.wv.us](mailto:wburch@access.k12.wv.us)

Janet Bock, Coordinator, Program Assessment and School Improvement

[jboc@access.k12.wv.us](mailto:jboc@access.k12.wv.us)

Rhonda Crowley, Coordinator, Curriculum and Instruction

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Monica DellaMea Harless, Coordinator, Child Assessment and School Readiness

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**Thank You**

From the WVHSA Board of Directors

The West Virginia Head Start Association's Board of Directors would like to thank every Head Start and Early Head Start program, our community partners and our Friends for the wonderful support that has been given to our Association this past year. We are looking forward to continuing our partnerships in 2011.



## American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Funds the Choosy Oral Health Pilot Project

By Amy Requa

The AAPD Choosy Oral Health Pilot Project is an innovative health promotion project designed to improve the oral health outcomes of our nation's most vulnerable children, toddlers, and infants under age 5 enrolled in Early Head Start and Head Start. The project is a community-based partnership funded by the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD), in collaboration with the West Virginia and Maryland Head Start Associations, West Virginia and Maryland Head Start and Early Head Start programs, the West Virginia and Maryland Head Start State Collaboration Offices, the West Virginia and Maryland AAPD Dental Home Initiative (DHI) state leaders, the State Dental Director of the Maryland Office of Oral Health, Choosy Kids, LLC, and networked Dental professionals.

The WVHSA has a successful record of actively providing leadership to promote oral health for families, including pregnant women and young children, through its dissemination of Healthy Children Happy Smiles, an educational DVD and training manual, collaboratively developed by the West Virginia Partners for Oral Health. West Virginia's Healthy Children Happy Smiles DVD is currently being distributed to other states and regions through Georgetown University's National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center (ORHC). West Virginia's Healthy Children Happy Smiles DVD is catalogued in the OHRC library and can be viewed from the OHRC Web site at: <http://www.mchoralhealth.org/materials/multiples/wv/>. There have been over 5,000 views of the video online. Furthermore, the WVHSA has also demonstrated leadership in promoting additional areas of child health and wellbeing through its instrumental role in piloting I Am Moving, I Am Learning (IMIL), a childhood obesity prevention initiative that originated in federal Region III in 2004 and was subsequently launched nationally by the Office of Head Start. In fact, West Virginia was the first state in the country to deliver statewide IMIL training to all Head Start programs and many of their community partners.

The purpose of the Choosy Oral Health Pilot Project is to promote optimal oral health in high risk children by pairing preventive best practices, such as adult supervised tooth-brushing and more intake of water instead of sugary beverages, with healthy nutrition and fun physical activities using a friendly children's character named "Choosy" who appeals to children under age 5. "Choosy" is an ambassador for healthy choices developed by Choosy Kids, LLC, a small West Virginia health promotion company. Choosy stands for Choose Healthy Options Often and Start Young. The project includes the field testing of a package of parent-friendly educational materials, videos, lively music, and resources with embedded "Choosy" health messages for Dentist offices and participating Head Start programs.

Children's characters have been shown to influence the preferences of young children as summarized in the May 2010 President's Childhood Obesity Task Force Report and July 2010 issue of the Journal of Pediatrics. The Choosy Oral Health Pilot Project will demonstrate that Choosy successfully reinforces healthy messages and influences children's preferences for healthy behaviors, such as consistent dental hygiene habits and happily visiting the Dentist. The Choosy Oral Health materials, videos, and music will be paired with fun activities to promote healthy nutrition choices, as well as increased physical activity in daily routines to prevent childhood obesity.

A presentation on the Choosy Oral Health Pilot Project is scheduled on November 17th in Charleston, WV, at the WV Head Start Association Conference. Amy Requa, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner and a co-author of IMIL with Dr. Linda Carson, and Kim Cunningham, Head Start Health Specialist, will provide a detailed overview of the pilot project for programs interested in participating. Approximately 10 classrooms from West Virginia will be selected to participate in this pilot project in 2011. Training for Head Start teachers and family services staff is scheduled for January 2011 and technical assistance will be provided through the spring of 2011. Structured focus groups and questionnaires will be used to obtain feedback on the materials from Head Start staff, families, and partnering Dental offices.

**Your West Virginia Head Start Association  
2009-10 Board of Directors**

**President:** Susan Stafford

**Vice-President:** Marlene Midget

**Treasurer:** Dawn Wagner

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**Parliamentarian:** Tracy Cox

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Parents: Triscella Bare, Kathie Crouse, Aubrielle Strothers, Monique Watkins, Nathan Watkins

Friends: Edith Redd, Tim Salmons, Terri Wontrobski

***UP & COMING***

**2011 WVHS Association Meeting Dates**

1/13 & 14 /11      TBA

3/09 & 3/10/11      TBA

6/08 & 6/09/11      TBA

**2011 WVHSA Board of Directors Meeting Dates**

2/10/11      Conference call

4/04/11      Conference call

5/12/11      Conference call

8/11/11      Conference call

9/08/11      Charleston, WV

10/13/11      TBA

***MISSION  
STATEMENT***

***\*\*\*\*\****

***The West Virginia Head Start  
Association's Mission Statement for  
2002-2009***

Speaking with one voice for West Virginia's young children and families by:

- involving parents as decision makers,
- advocating for high quality services,
- strengthening partnerships on the local and state level,
- providing statewide training for early childhood programs, and
- circulating key information to local Head Start programs.