

# WVHSA NEWSLETTER

## Head Start State Collaboration Office Updates

By Traci Dalton, WV Head Start Collaboration Director

Volume 14, Issue 3

June 2012

The largest revision to WVBE Policy 2525 since it was created has been completed. This process began in late winter and included over 70 stakeholders, including Head Start, in the process to inform and guide the revision. The proposed revised policy has been presented to the WV Board of Education and has been placed on a 30-day comment period. The deadline to submit comments is June 11, 2012. Please visit <http://wvde.state.wv.us/policies/> to review the proposed policy and to make comments.

The Pre-K Institute will not be held in the summer this year. Instead, it will be held September 11-12<sup>th</sup> at the Embassy Suites in Charleston. If you are a county collaborative team member please mark your calendars now and plan to join us in September. In addition, this year the Office of School Readiness will also be developing online trainings for core teams that will occur at numerous points through the school year. They are very interested in obtaining suggested topics for the online trainings from you. Please submit any suggestions you may have for webinars to either myself at [Traci.L.Dalton@wv.gov](mailto:Traci.L.Dalton@wv.gov) or to Clayton Burch at [wburch@access.k12.wv.us](mailto:wburch@access.k12.wv.us)

In addition to the Pre-K Institute and the webinars for county teams that are planned, a system of support for new WV Pre K Administrators employed by Boards of Education, Head Start, or Child Care is being planned. This system of support will be designed for Administrators with two years or less in their position and will be provided online.

Thanks to all the programs that welcomed the Pre K Steering Team during this school year for the Pre K Audit process. It was a pleasure to learn more about your programs and to speak with staff and parents. The process of visiting counties has been very helpful to provide a clear picture of WV Pre K across the state and to provide technical assistance when needed. As a result, on-going program reviews are being planned. Please look for an updated WV Pre-K program review schedule to be posted soon by the Office of School Readiness.

Feel free to contact the Collaboration Office at [Traci.L.Dalton@wv.gov](mailto:Traci.L.Dalton@wv.gov) or at 304-356-4604.

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# Life Behind Bars, Mommy and Me

## Early Head Start Works

By Southwestern CAC Early Head Start and Partners

The Lakin Correctional Center is a maximum security correctional center for women located in West Columbia, WV. Southwestern Community Action Council Early Head Start provides services to 16 inmates housed at Lakin and their families. To qualify for the Lakin Early Head Start program the inmate must either be pregnant or have a child between the ages of birth to three. Families receiving Early Head Start services at Lakin Correctional Center are enrolled in either the locally designed general population option or the locally designed K.I.D.S (Keeping Infant Development Successful) Unit option.

Inmates enrolled in the locally designed general population option receive weekly "cell visits". The goals of the "cell visits" are:

- a. To provide parent education in the areas of health, nutrition, child development, family relationships, parenting, home management and consumer education,
- b. To strengthen the bond between the incarcerated mother and her child by making a monthly activity calendar to send home to the child and guardian;
- c. To identify the needs of the incarcerated mother and her family.

Two group socializations are provided each month for the inmates enrolled in the general population option. Socializations are designed to support the goals established during the cell visit. Socializations take place in a specially designed and developmentally appropriate area of the visitation room. The first socialization/parent group of the month is held with the inmates and Early Head Start Staff. The goals of this socialization are:

- a. To encourage the incarcerated mothers to become involved in planning of the group socialization experience
- b. To provide a parent focused activity/training
- c. To provide an ongoing 30-minute parent education session provided by a licensed mental health consultant.

The second socialization of the month is held with the inmates, children, families, and Early Head Start staff. The goals of this socialization are:

- a. To facilitate bonding between incarcerated mothers and their children;
- b. To promote healthy family functioning by focusing on the parent-child relationship;
- c. To offer structured and unstructured learning opportunities for both parents and children;
- d. To eliminate or reduce the probabilities of the erosion or decline in the mental well-being of incarcerated mothers and their children and in the qualities of the mother-child relationship.

The Lakin K.I.D.S Unit was developed to allow eligible incarcerated mothers and the infants born to them while in custody of the West Virginia Division of Corrections to reside in specifically designed modular home located on the prison ground in the minimum security section. To participate in the K.I.D.S Unit program inmates must meet the guidelines outlined by the West Virginia Division of Corrections. The K.I.D.S Unit is available to pregnant women who are up for parole or release within 18 months of their baby being born. While residing in the K.I.D.S Unit, mothers will be providing twenty four hour/seven days a week care to their infants with the hope of establishing a positive and loving bond. Early Head Start provides collaborative services for the infants and mothers beginning while the mothers are pregnant. Early Head Start provides services to the K.I.D.S unit mothers and infants 5 days per week 4 hours per day 50 weeks per year. These services include daily parent education session discussing topics of health and safety, parenting, nutrition, child development, and mental health. The Early Head Start staff model and demonstrate positive parenting techniques and developmentally appropriate activities. The mothers receive educational and transitional programs that enable her to build skills that will allow her to transition with her infant and re-enter society successfully. The benefits far outnumber the risks. Studies show that the developmental bond between incarcerated mothers and their infants reduce the recidivism rate of the mother and allow for attachment to form between the two.

Mothers in the K.I.D.S Unit are expected to provide as much for their child as they can. Support from the family is very important to their success. Participants may receive one care package of items for the baby per month from home. As well as material support, families are encouraged to give emotional support as well.

The mothers and infants enrolled in the K.I.D.S Unit also receive services through the WIC program. The WIC program provides breastfeeding and nutrition counseling as well as vouchers for formula and healthy foods.

Southwestern Community Council and Lakin Correctional Center for Women have been collaborating since 2009. Below is the breakdown of the number of families SCAC Early Head Start has served.

2009-2010 - Kids Unit 7, General Population 18

2010-2011 - Kids Unit 8, General Population 27

2011-2012 - Kids Unit 4, General Population 34 (as of March 31, 2012)

*Continued on next page*

## Life Behind Bars, Mommy and Me *Early Head Start Works*

Continued

Stephen Roush, Unit Manager commented, "I have been overseeing the K.I.D.S. Unit at Lakin Correctional Center since August 2011. During that time I have worked with the Early Head Start program to provide beneficial environment for the inmates selected for this unit. During this time I have observed the EHS staff provide professional service to the inmates of the K.I.D.S. program. The main benefit that I have observed is that the inmates have been given the tools to truly take care and be mothers to their children upon release from incarceration, which has occurred through classes, interaction with the inmates and the proper modeling of good behavior".

"I had the privilege of providing training to the women that work with EHS at the Lakin Prison for Women. The program they have for the pregnant inmates and for that with small children is amazing and I believe should be done in every prison in the country. Teaching the staff techniques and strategies to use with the inmate moms during childbirth class and to be birth doula's for the ones that are pregnant was very exciting. I was able to see the staff in action while they talked with the moms and the ones that are still pregnant. I am so glad I was able to be a small part of the wonderful work they do", stated Janice Banther, CCCE, CLD, CD(DONA), CHBE, Founder/Executive Director, BIRTH BEHIND BARS, INC.

Since its inception in 2009, the Lakin Early Head Start Program has benefited from the mental health consultation delivered by a licensed Psychologist, Dr. Donald Hall. Rooted in a firm belief in positive family development, parent-child attachment, and parental resiliency, consultation targets four key goals:

- promoting mental health and wellness of incarcerated mothers during the prenatal and postnatal periods,
- strengthening the social, behavioral, and emotional development of very young children of incarcerated mothers,
- encouraging healthy family functioning by focusing upon the parent-child relationship, and,
- reducing or eliminating the probabilities of an erosion in the mental wellness of incarcerated mothers and their children

To accomplish these goals, the consultant visits the Lakin site at least once per month to deliver key professional services to all program mothers and their children. These include:

1. **PARENT EDUCATION & CONSULTATION:** Parent education sessions are provided by the mental health consultant and delivered in a group format during regularly scheduled visits to the correctional setting. Examples of parenting topics for both groups are geared to the unique and individual needs of participant mothers. Representative topics include: Child Development, Developing self-esteem in the young child, Raising Happy Children, Helping Children Manage Transition, Disciplining the young children, Parental responses to the basic needs of young children.
2. **PSYCHOEDUCATION:** Psychoeducation is defined as a professional training intervention aimed at strengthening the psychological and mental wellness of mothers. The principle objective of psychoeducational activities is to prevent deficits in mental and emotional health through the strengthening of mothers' coping skills. Delivered in small group, 30-45 minute sessions, the following psychoeducational sessions are examples: Stress Management and Prevention, Successful Re-entry and Family Reunification, Assertiveness, Self-Resilience, Developing Positive Self-Esteem, Getting Motivated.
3. **STAFF CONSULTATION:** Each program visit by the consultant includes dialogue with staff relative to their observations of mothers and their children. In addition, the consultant assists staff to design and implement program practices responsive to the identified behavioral and mental health concerns of an individual child or group of children. Promoting staff-child interactions germane to the promotion of children's mental wellness are essential elements of consultation as well.
4. **CHILD OBSERVATION:** In both the residential unit and during family socialization for general population mothers, Dr. Hall observes each enrolled child for deficits in social, behavioral, and emotional functioning. In addition, he is available to visiting custodians and general population mothers for parent consultation relative to child mental health needs.

"Typically, the greatest stressor for incarcerated mothers is their separation from family members, particularly young children. This separation seriously interrupts the mother-child attachment and adds to the challenges of future mother-child reunification. Through the milieu of services provided by the Lakin EHS, including mom-child co-residence, family socialization, psycho-education, preventive mental health consultation, and child preschool participation, most mothers have become resilient, have continued to feel like mothers, and have nurtured the attachment with their children," quoted Dr. Donald Hall, Licensed Psychologist.

Quotes from Enrolled mothers:

K.I.D.S Unit: • Early Head Start has help provide a safe environment for my child to learn age appropriate activities • Early Head Start has provided the opportunity for me to bond and grow with my child • Early Head Start has helped me take an active role in my child's educational needs

General Population: • Early Head Start has helped me reconnect with my children • Early Head Start has helped me think positive • The handout given to be during visits are helpful • Given me the opportunity to participate in parent meetings • Helped me set goals • See my daughter at socialization • Writing journal pages has opened my eyes • Early Head Start sends information home to my family • Help me fill out a calendar of things for my mamaw to do with my baby daily.

## Early Head Start Provides a Bridge Between Incarcerated Parents and Their Children

By Janice Barrett, Early Head Start Manager

Northern Panhandle Head Start, Inc. was approved for a grant through ARRA funding to collaborate with the West Virginia Northern Regional Jail to provide a program to 8 incarcerated parents. The WV Northern Regional Jail house both men and woman. As we work with our incarcerated parents we are assisting in bridging relationships between the parents, the caregivers and their children.

The goal of the program is to keep families connected during the incarceration period, increase parental knowledge of child development and to build community resource awareness to ease the transition back into the community.

The Early Head Start program extends services to mothers and fathers incarcerated with children 3 years or younger.

The Early Head Start program provides 3 *staff* members that work in collaboration with the Northern Regional Jail staff.

- ◆ Our *Parent Educator* (PE) visits with the incarcerated parent's child & caregiver 2 times a month in the child/caregiver's home. In addition, the PE visits with the incarcerated parent, caregiver and child inside the jail 2 times a month. During these visits the PE follows The Creative Curriculum® for Infants & Toddlers which provides a framework that emphasizes the relationships between parents their children and families. Caregivers receive developmentally appropriate home visits along with comprehensive health and mental health services.
- ◆ Our *Family Resource Advocate* (FRA) works hand in hand with the incarcerated parent. Ongoing trainings on such topics as Domestic Violence, Child Abuse & Neglect, Shaken Baby Syndrome, Stress & Positive Behaviors are provided. The FRA also supplies community resource information to the family prior to the incarcerated parent being released from the jail.
- ◆ Our *Father Advocate* (FA) works specifically with incarcerated fathers utilizing the "Inside-Out Dad"™ fatherhood curriculum. This is a 6 week program that stresses the importance of fathers in the lives of their young children. During this time the FA conducts 12 meetings that last 1 hour with the incarcerated fathers. The curriculum covers topics such as:
  - \*What Is A Man?
  - \*Spirituality & Family
  - \*Expressing Anger
  - \*Love & Relationships
  - \*The Role of the Father
  - \*Building Self-Worth
  - \*Styles of Discipline
  - \*Developmental Stages
  - \*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 Father Advocate also emphasizes the importance of creating balance between work, family and life stressors as part of the fathers re-entry plan into the community.

This model has been widely received by the WV Northern Regional Correctional Jail, Head Start, and community. The CASA Executive Director, Susan Harrison, after hearing the EHS 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."

## Early Head Start Lends Supports to Mothers in Transitional Housing

By Darlene Martin, Director Community Action of  
South Eastern WV (CASE WV)

Community Action of South Eastern WV (CASE WV) serves Mercer and Summers counties. In Mercer county we operate one classroom for transitional housing recipients in our Preston Street Project.

Mercer County implemented "Drug Court" three years ago. Drug Court was established as a mechanism to support residents that are making an effort to overcome addictions and stay out of our correctional institutions. People going through Drug Court are sentenced to jail, but if they qualify, instead of going to jail, they may serve their time in Preston Place. Preston Place is a transitional housing site which has four units of housing that serves eight women originating from Drug Court. If they violate any of the Drug Court rules, then they land back in the penal system where they left off which is at the sentencing. The Preston Street project houses non-violent female criminals.

The Preston Street project will house non-violent female criminals. Our statistics show that more than half of these residents are either pregnant or presently have children. If they already have children, the children are in the foster care system, and if they are pregnant, the children enter the foster care system at birth.

CASE WV will provide the center based option for this group. Last year we offered two days of center based care, a home visit with the foster family and socialization for both the birth parent and the foster family. We were not as effective as we would have liked with the involvement in the home visits or the socializations. This year we will provide a more intentional focus on our family involvement piece while providing full year center base care for the children involved.

We will continue to offer one day per week where both the birth parents, as well as the foster family, are invited to spend time in our classroom interacting with the staff and children. This will provide for optimal opportunities for these mothers to form a stronger bond with their children and lay the foundation on which their successful futures will be built.

On-site parenting and child development group discussion opportunities will be provided based on ages, experiences and interests of the birth parents and the foster families.

This project serves eight (8) children and there families. The Early Head Start provides all required health and developmental screenings as well providing any needed services through the Birth-to-Three system inside our classroom. The birth mother and the foster family have a family service advocate who assists them in setting and meeting personal goals and provides on-site classes that they determine are needed. (ex. Parenting, stress management, budgeting, etc.). Currently eight women are living in the facility, but only five of the current residents have children in the program.

CASE WV have strong partners supporting our efforts to provide opportunities as parents transition. Drug Court, supplies the list of potential residents and presents our services to them at the court. Day Report, provides mental health classes and volunteer work hours for the residents. Public Education, assures the transitional services necessary for the children with IFSP. Birth-to-Three, offers the services to the children and families identified with special needs.



## Building Partnerships

By Kenneth M. Perdue, Chairman,  
AFL-CIO Appalachian Council

The AFL-CIO Appalachian Council Head Start Program has taken my heart knowing we are having a positive affect on the lives of families of 3-4 year old children. The concerted activity around the children is unbelievable in changing their lives and giving them a more positive attitude and confidence. The involvement of the parents is truly creating a family atmosphere.

As the Chairman of the Appalachian Council Head Start Oversight Committee I know that our own team does an excellent job with the children, parents and Board of Educations in each of the 11 counties. The office staff, bus drivers, teachers, aids, cooks and social workers are the nucleus of the fantastic team that is improving the lives of so many families. There are representative from each county on the Oversight Board but the actual partner in building a collaborative relationship is the County BOE. I believed that knowing the partner and thanking them was important to our collective success.

I believed that thanking each partner would be a worthwhile endeavor so a letter was sent to each County BOE requesting an opportunity to speak before the board. I was astonished that there was a quick response and dates were set for our opportunity to appear before each board. The board understood that I was the President of the WV AFL-CIO as well as the Chairman of AFL-CIO Appalachian Council and I said as such in each presentation to the 11 boards that we had oppotunities for presentations.

I have had Sue Hall, Larry Lucas and Mike Sneigle attend several of the BOE meetings and as different times were allowed to participate in the discussion. I talked to each board explaining who we were, how many we jointly served and the parent involvement. I said THANK YOU to all in helping to improve the lives of 3-4 year olds that we serve.

The BOE's were very receptive and appreciative to the comments and the collaborative efforts that we jointly provide. I have at no time felt any concerns about a presentation but walked away knowing that together we are changing lives. There were mixed responses from the meetings from a thank you to open discussion to applauds. I know we are doing the right for children. We have visited Calhoun, Clay, Pleasants, Roane, Putnam, Doddridge, Wood, Wirt, Jackson, Tyler and Boone Counties.

"As the Head Start Director, I believe that this is a unique concept and am very proud to be the Director of such a caring program." Sue Hall



## West Virginia Remains a National Leader in Pre-K Education

By Clayton Burch, Assistant Director  
WVDE Office of School Readiness

A commitment to pre-K education by the West Virginia Board of Education, West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources and Head Start has been recognized by a national report, which was presented to state board members during their monthly meeting in April. West Virginia has developed its Universal Pre-K system over the past 10 years to now boast a 72% collaboration rate with community partners, as well as ranking fourth nationally in funding due to the maximization of resources from the LEAs, Head Start and child care partners. This level of commitment and collaboration is evident as West Virginia is compared to other states in the State of Preschool 2011.

“The State of Preschool 2011: State Preschool Yearbook,” a landmark report capping 10 years of research, shows West Virginia remains strong in its commitment to pre-K even as many states are faltering in their efforts to deliver high-quality preschool education to children most in need.

“An overwhelming body of research shows that high-quality pre-K prepares children to succeed in school, enroll in college or career training, and helps more students ultimately get better jobs that can help the nation’s economy,” said West Virginia Superintendent of Schools Jorea Marple. “They are less likely to require special education or repeat a grade, become teenage parents, or commit crimes as teens or adults, all at great savings to taxpayers.”

“The State of Preschool 2011,” produced by the nonpartisan National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) at Rutgers University, noted West Virginia has made tremendous progress in early education over the last decade. West Virginia continues to rank in the top five states for access, enrolling an all-time high of 58 percent of 4-year-olds in 2010-2011, an increase of 24 percent from a decade ago, according to the report. In addition, West Virginia continued to achieve eight of 10 research-based quality standard benchmarks indicative of effective early education policies.

“West Virginia has become a national beacon for what is possible in state pre-K even in difficult financial times,” said Steve Barnett, director of NIEER, which has surveyed state preschool programs on a number of measures since 2001-2002. “NIEER commends West Virginia for staying on schedule as it marches toward its goal of universal pre-K access by 2012-2013, illustrating what other states seem to have forgotten during budget season: investment in high-quality education today is worth it tomorrow.”

	<b>West Virginia Head Start and Early Head Start Programs Welcome New Early Childhood Specialist/State Manager</b>	
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By Kathleen Pathan, Head Start TA Regional Coordinator

ICF TTA and ACF Head Start are pleased to welcome Patty Marickovich as the new West Virginia ECE State TTA Manager.

Patty Marickovich is thrilled to return to Region 3 Head Start as the West Virginia Early Childhood Education Specialist/State Manager. She is a graduate of Virginia Tech and holds a master's of science degree in the field of child development/early childhood education.

She has over 30 years of experience in Early Childhood Education which includes working as a preschool teacher, a toddler teacher, and a Head Start director. After serving as a Head Start Director, Patty joined the Region 3 training and technical assistance system as a Grantee Liaison for the Head Start Resource and Training Center in 1997, providing TA to West Virginia and Virginia programs. In 2003, Patty extended her experience and knowledge at the national level by providing training and technical assistance to American Indian and Alaska Native grantees.

Most recently, Patty worked for Virginia Western Community College as an Infant and Toddler Specialist. While at the college Patty taught courses specific to infant and toddler development.

When not working with Head Start and Early Head Start programs, Patty enjoys bicycling with her husband in the mountains of southwestern Virginia. They reside in Blacksburg, Virginia.

Patty is eager to return to West Virginia and looks forward working with everyone to support the staff, children and families across the Mountain State.

Patty may be reached by email or phone at: Office phone: 540-449-9991 or Email: PMarickovich@icfi.com.

***WELCOME PATTY FROM THE WEST VIRGINIA HEAD START ASSOCIATION'S  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OUR MEMBERS!***

	<p>Early Childhood Stakeholders Unite to Address the Needs of WV's Youngest Children</p> <p>Community Dialogue to Action Initiative Planned</p> <p>By Gretchen Frankenberry, Early Childhood Advisory Council of West Virginia</p>	
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The first three years of a child's life are a time of great opportunity, as well as risk. We can tip the scales in favor of healthy development by providing early experiences and relationships that help babies and toddlers thrive. Our failure to do so can lead to long-lasting harm to our children, communities, and economy.

In order to consider ways to ensure a good start for all West Virginia's children, the Early Childhood Advisory Council of West Virginia is joining with the West Virginia Center on Civic Life to sponsor community discussions throughout the state.

These discussions will bring together members of local communities in a thoughtful conversation about what can be done. A neutral moderator will lead participants in a discussion of several in an atmosphere that encourages respectful sharing of differing perspectives. An issue guide will be available with background information about the issue.

The ideas for action that surface in the community discussion will be brought together in community action planning to follow the forums.

Meeting the needs of our youngest children is a complex issue requiring the involvement of nearly every sector of the community - business, policymakers, students, educators, state and local agencies, parents, and community groups. The dialogues will allow community members to unite in purpose and actions to help improve the quality of life for young children.

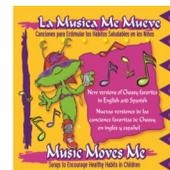
The Early Childhood Advisory Council of West Virginia hopes that stakeholders from all corners of the community will choose to host and moderate these forums around the state. For more information about attending or sponsoring a community discussion in your county, neighborhood, or organization, please contact Gretchen Frankenberry, Executive Manager of the Early Childhood Advisory Council of WV, at [Gretchen.d.frankenberry@wv.gov](mailto:Gretchen.d.frankenberry@wv.gov).



# Choosy Kids Releases Dual Language Music CD

By Dr. Linda Carson, Choosy Kids

West Virginia's favorite health hero, Choosy, has new music for the Head Start community. In June, 2012, Choosy Kids will release a new CD, Music Moves Me, La Musica Me Mueve (photo attached) with songs about healthy habits recorded in English and Spanish. Some of the songs are prior Choosy favorites that have been remixed with new, fresh sounds. Listen to sample tracks from the new CD on the Choosy web site [www.choosykids.com/CK/av/audio](http://www.choosykids.com/CK/av/audio).



The trainers at Choosy Kids are often asked about the making of the award winning music which has been introduced to children nationally and internationally. "Do you go to LA or New York to record? Do you have someone else write the songs for you?" The answer is NO! Choosy Kids takes great pride in producing exemplary children's music in West Virginia with West Virginia artists and technicians. The health themes and lyrics for each song are written by Linda Carson, founder of Choosy Kids.

The voice of Choosy music is Scott Simons, a very talented singer, song writer, and musician from Clarksburg, WV. [www.scottsimonsmusic.net](http://www.scottsimonsmusic.net) Prior to the recording sessions, Scott and Linda meet to determine the general "style and sound" of each song and tweak the lyrics to fit. Each song evolves from several demo versions.

Once the songs are ready for recording, The PopShop, a comprehensive music education and recording studio owned by Chris Russell in Morgantown, WV captures the voices and the music. The sound engineer at PopShop is Jeremy Batten, the Music and Arts Director at Fairmont Faith United Methodist Church in Fairmont, WV. Each recording session is a long process with many hours of "takes," "re-takes," and harmony tracks recorded with Scott, Chris, Jeremy, and Linda working as a team.

For the new CD, Music Moves Me, La Musica Me Mueve, Orlando Rivera, singer/musician living in Morgantown, WV joined the team. In Orlando's native country of El Salvador, he was a well known contemporary gospel singer/musician. Choosy Kids is grateful to have Orlando as the voice of Choosy songs recorded in Spanish.



Once all tracks are recorded, Scott Simons mixes them to have consistent audio within and across tracks so that they sound very close to what you hear when you play Choosy songs in your programs. Once Scott mixes the final versions of the recorded songs, they are ready for post production duplication and packaging. Whew what a process! We hope it is always worth the wait.

*Choosy Kids is proud to lead the nation in raising awareness about developing healthy habits while promoting the passion, talent, and skills in the great state of West Virginia.*

## **WV Child and Adult Care Food Program Annual Conference**

By Celeste Peggs, WV Department of Education,

Office of Child Nutrition

The 2012 CACFP Annual Conference, coordinated by the West Virginia Department of Education, Office of Child Nutrition, is scheduled this year for June 12th-13th at the Waterfront Place Hotel in Morgantown. The goal of this year's training is to provide child care directors with the tools, resources and knowledge they need to empower and educate their staff, inform and educate parents and to be a role model and engage the community in order to fully incorporate the West Virginia Leap of Taste Nutrition Standards in their centers.

Two years ago, West Virginia implemented new child care nutrition standards. These guidelines are based on child nutrition best practices, identified by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Healthy food guidelines for beverages, fruits and vegetables, milk, meats and meat alternates, and grains and breads have been implemented. These new guidelines will assist child care sponsors offer meals that will help children grow up healthy.

Child care professionals play a key role in the healthy development of children, both as teachers and as role models. When staff members take an active role in promoting the health, nutrition and physical activity of the children in their care, they are encouraging the healthy development that is the foundation for exploration and learning across all domains.

Families are children's first and most important teachers. Repetition of healthy behaviors in multiple environments helps those behaviors "stick" as children grow older. Because child care center staff are able to build relationships with families over time, they are in an excellent position of being able to engage them as partners to support healthy habits.

Communities also play an important part in supporting children in eating healthy foods and maintaining an active lifestyle. In order for children to make healthy choices, they have to have access to places where they can eat healthy foods and run and play. Children are heavily influenced by the communities they live in, so demonstrating that it's easy to make healthy choices in their neighborhood is important in creating and maintaining lifelong good habits.

Some of the tools that center directors will be receiving in their "Outreach Toolkit" include educational resources for staff and parents regarding the Leap of Taste Nutrition Standards and CACFP Meal Pattern Requirements; a Menu Planning (complete with menus and recipes) and Administrator's Guide; posters; and a flash drive that contains a variety of resources and forms needed to effectively administer the program's requirements.

To register for the June conference contact Jarahnee Armstrong at 304-558-3396 or email at: [jarmstr@access.k12.wv.us](mailto:jarmstr@access.k12.wv.us).

## New Online Tool Helps West Virginia Residents Connect With Local Public Services

by Tina Faber, Child Abuse Prevention and Community Partnership Coordinator

*Family Resource Networks Partner with One Economy to give residents easy access to employment, housing, healthcare, and education information.*



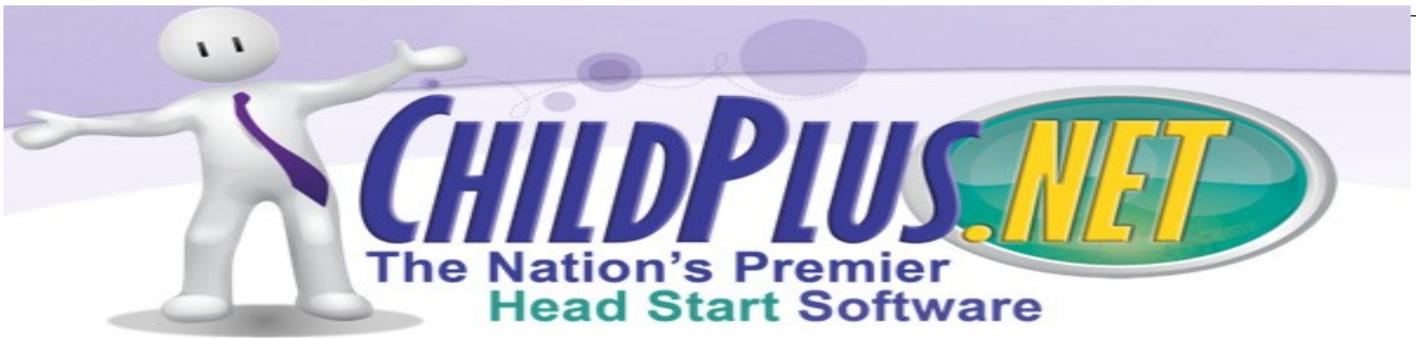
The Family Resource Networks are proud to announce their partnership with One Economy to provide West Virginia residents with easy online access to local public services that can help improve their lives.

One Economy's tool "BeeLocal" will serve as information hub that West Virginia residents can access through a local easy-to-use website from their desktop computer or mobile device. Local resources ranging from free tax filing and after school programs, to employment services and food assistance, are all available on BeeLocal.

"There is an abundance of community services, but people do not always know how or where to find them," said Sonja Murray, Senior Vice President of One Economy. "We have developed a tool that allows residents to effortlessly connect to all types of resources in their community including employment assistance, emergency shelters, healthcare clinics, and childcare centers."

With access to more than 40 member organizations across the state, the Family Resource Networks have helped One Economy populate BeeLocal with relevant information about public services in West Virginia. By simply entering a zip code, residents can instantly connect with more than 4,500 resources in the state of West Virginia. Users also have the ability to add new resources, comment on listings, and engage with other members of the community through BeeLocal.

BeeLocal provides an easy way for community members to access information with just a few clicks of the mouse. All of these resources can now be found at one website, and volunteers are able to help make the most of the information. For more information, please visit <http://beelocal.thebeehive.org/>



Recruiting season is here – is your agency ready?

Did you know that more children are tracked with ChildPlus.net than all other professional Head Start management software combined?

With recruiting season in full swing, use ChildPlus.net's complete recruiting and enrollment tracking to make the recruiting process easy!

### **Save Time Entering Applications**

When you have a pile of applications to go through, use ChildPlus.net to quickly and easily enter an application in just a few minutes. ChildPlus.net is designed for maximum data entry speed. It

intuitively changes selection options depending on the data you enter, making data entry more efficient.

### **Find More Eligible Children**

After you've entered applications, you can use ChildPlus.net's built-in tools to see which children are eligible for your program:

- Create custom eligibility criteria for all your programs.
- Calculate eligibility points consistently and automatically!
- Figure poverty level based on income and the number of people in the family with the Poverty Calculator.

Once you know which children are eligible, easily accept, waitlist and enroll multiple children at once. You'll be able to quickly assign children to sites and classrooms without going to each child's record.

### **Track Children's Enrollment**

Meet ERSEA requirements by monitoring over income counts, disability counts, enrollment and ADA. Use ChildPlus.net to monitor and improve enrollment and attendance with the Dashboard, end of the month enrollment reports and so much more.

You can even see when a child entered your program, what site(s) that child attended and when the child left the program. You'll have live enrollment data from the child's original enrollment date for every year in your program.

### **Plan Your Recruitment Efforts**

Unsure where you should focus your recruitment efforts? ChildPlus.net's Participant Mapping will help you to quickly identify areas where to focus your recruitment efforts.

Over 1,000 Head Start/EHS agencies use ChildPlus.net. From features like the Dashboard to Application Express to LiveLetter, we're always looking for ways to help you and your agency save time!

Visit us online at [www.childplus.com](http://www.childplus.com) to watch video tours and learn more about the benefits of ChildPlus.net.

**Contact us at 800.888.6674 or [sales@childplus.com](mailto:sales@childplus.com) today**

**Your West Virginia Head Start Association  
2011-12 Board of Directors**

**President:** Susan Stafford

**Vice-President:** Marlene Midget

**Treasurer:** Dawn Wagner

**Secretary:** Janice Jackson

**Parliamentarian:** Tracy Cox

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Staff: Tracy Cox, Trella Cuppole, Janice Jackson, Patty Fussell, Yvonne Quinn, Dawn Wagner

Parents: Rachel Shannon, Regina Goodman

Friends: Edith Redd, Tim Salmons, Terri Wontrobski

***UP & COMING***

**2012 WVHS Association Meeting Dates**

3/21 & 3/22/12 Charleston, WV

6/05 & 6/06/12 Charleston, WV

**2012 WVHSA Board of Directors Meeting Dates**

2/09/12 Conference call

4/12/12 Conference call

5/10/12 Conference call

8/09/12 Conference call

9/13/12 Conference call

10/11/12 TBA

***MISSION  
STATEMENT***

***\*\*\*\*\*"***

***The West Virginia Head Start  
Association's Mission Statement for  
2010-2011***

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.