

# WVHSA NEWSLETTER

## Universal Pre K Teachers Recognized

By Traci Dalton, Head Start State Collaboration Director

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William Foster stated, "Quality is never an accident; it is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction and skillful execution; it represents the wise choice of many alternatives." In February, Outstanding Pre K Teachers from across our state were recognized for the demonstration of these characteristics in their classrooms and programs.

The West Virginia State Board of Education, the West Virginia Department of Education Office of Early Learning, and the West Virginia Pre K Steering Team honored fourteen educators across all settings during Celebrating Connections in a ceremony that culminated in the naming of the WV Outstanding Pre K Teacher Award winner. Congratulations to Amber Myers the 2013-2014 Outstanding WV Pre K Teacher of the year and to all of the following 14 Outstanding WV Pre K Teacher nominees that exemplify dedication, inspiration and collaboration:

Karen Bowman, East Hardy Early/Middle School, Hardy County

Diana Chipley, Hollywood Elementary, Raleigh County

Dana Crudup, Presbyterian Child Development Center, Monongalia County

Mary "Mimi" Davis, Ruffner Elementary, Kanawha County

Whitney Anne Dobson, Blennerhassett Elementary, Wood County

Tonya Fitzgerald, RESA 8 Head Start Great Cacapon, Morgan County

Michelle Lea Hicks, Friends R Fun Child Development Center, Nicholas County

Lisa Dawn Hilling, New Hope Head Start, CASE WV Head Start, Mercer County

Melissa Love, Washington Lands Pre-K, Northern Panhandle Head Start, Marshall County

Susan "Suzy" Mastrantoni, Liberty Elementary School, Hancock County

Amber Myers, Pierpont Community and Technical College, Marion County

Angela Jean Shawver, Loving Kindness Child Care Center, Wood County

Elizabeth Stidom, Frankford Elementary, Greenbrier County

Shawnee Ward, Burch Pre-K-4 Elementary, Mingo County

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

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

## **CASE WV Head Start and Early Head Start's "Point Store" for Parents**

By Willa Whittaker, Mentor CASE Head Start

The grocery store, the department store, the building supply store, and the CASE WV Point Store – the greatest similarities between these stores are the types of merchandise available. The most important difference between these stores is the method of payment for the items sold. Payment for purchases made at the grocery store, department store, or the building supply store may accept a SNAP card, cash, checks or debit/credit cards. The CASE WV Point Store does not accept these as payment for purchase, they only accept points earned as payment merchandise. A Head Start parent may earn points which transfer to dollar value purchasing power by achieving a family goal; others may earn points through volunteer services in any of the CASEWV programs, including Head Start / Early Head Start. The completion of one family goal earns 10 points which equals \$100.00 purchasing power for items at the Point Store. One hour of volunteer services equals 1 point, or \$10.00 of purchasing power. The points may be cumulative and are good for a period of one year from the earned date.

The Point Store's inventory includes a broad range of bedding, draperies, curtains, decorative pillows, small appliances, assorted plumbing materials, insulation, flooring, bathroom fixtures, windows, and so much more. The Points Store provides a wonderful opportunity for families to acquire many "every day" use items as well as those items that may not be affordable in traditional shopping sites. CASE WV has a partnership with the Home Depot and Bed, Bath and Beyond to implement this program.

To date, twelve (12) Head Start / Early Head Start families have earned from 12 to 24 points which translates to up to \$240.00 of purchasing power. One of the families was able to purchase six rolls of insulation for their home; the father installed the insulation which assured warmth and lower heating costs. Others chose bedding, pillows, comforter sets, area rugs, drapes and small appliances.

The most recent shopping occurred last week. The mother of an Early Head Start Home Based child arrived with her small child and a friend who helped care for the little one while Mom shopped. During discussion, the mother shared that she and her husband were renting to buy a 100 year old house and that it needed a lot of work. As the conversation evolved, the mother said that she really needed items for the bathroom. She shopped about one hour and was able to choose items that included a shower curtain and liner, towel bar, towel ring, toilet paper holder and a full length mirror. Her last selection for the day was a set of plates and soup bowls which would enhance the family meal as they ate together. The mother was so excited and pleased that she had this opportunity; she has a balance of 17 points or \$170.00 purchasing power for her next shopping experience!

# North Central West Virginia Community Action Head Start and Early Head Start Parent, Family and Community Engagement Plan

By Misty DeWitt, Family and Community Partnership Program Specialist

NCWVCAA Head Start/Early Head Start was charged with creating a Parent Family and Community Engagement (PFCE) Framework Action Plan this year. The Program chose to incorporate the NCWVCAA Head Start/Early Head Start School Readiness Goals within this Action Plan to ensure that staff and parents are aware of how encouraging family participation and engaging parents in the program on many levels makes a difference in their child's and family's preparedness for Kindergarten.

A PFCE Framework Action Plan Committee was formed to create this instrument in the early summer months of 2013. Program Specialists, Supervisors, and Family and Community Partnership Staff were invited to attend the first meeting that was held on Friday, June 7th. Using the Sample PFCE Action Plan from the Office of Head Start, a draft plan was created which incorporated the Family Engagement Goals from the program's School Readiness Goals. A second meeting occurred on Thursday, June 20th with a Policy Council Parent in attendance for parental feedback on what had been created thus far. Three additional Family Engagement Goals were added to the PFCE Action Plan that are not currently a part of the School Readiness Goals, but were felt to be important additions. The NCWVCAA PFCE Framework Action Plan has also been discussed and reviewed with T&TA Specialist Patty Marickovich on several occasions in order to ensure accuracy. With Policy Council approval in December 2013, the program is now ready to fully implement the Action Plan and document successes.

The Parent Family Community Engagement Action Plan was reviewed with staff at the Feb. 12, 2014 Health and FCP Networking to ensure families are learning to prepare themselves and their children for their next educational setting. Staff have been encouraging families to participate in the many different opportunities offered in order to become more involved in the program and therefore, their child's progress. These opportunities include nutrition trainings and physical activities to combat obesity, trainings about child development and parenting skills to build family relationships, completion of Parent Child Activity Calendars to enhance math, reading, and science skills at home, family socials to provide families new opportunities and ideas of ways to engage in play with their children, and financial/budgeting trainings to assist families in improving their financial self-sufficiency. Staff also continue to involve parents in leadership development opportunities such as Parent Committee Meetings, Policy Council Meetings, assisting Head Start/Early Head Start staff with the hiring process, Self Assessment Interviews, and participation at the WV Head Start Association Conference in Charleston. Transitioning activities have just begun in all the counties and parents are learning how to best support and advocate for their child's learning and development as they transition into new learning environments.

NCWVCAA Head Start/Early Head Start will be documenting all measures of success accordingly and will continue to align the PFCE Action Plan with their School Readiness Goals.

## Southwestern CAC moving forward:

### “Literacy, School Readiness & Family Engagement in Action” and Professional Development “Attaining the Goal”

By Crystal Pelfrey - Health and Wellness Specialist, Nikki Rabel, Education Specialist

#### Literacy Grant

In a collaborative effort between Southwestern Community Action Council, Incorporated’s Child and Family Development Program, Head Start/Early Head Start and West Virginia Public Broadcasting The Cat in the Hat will be visiting Cabell County Head Start/Early Head Start Classrooms on March 4, 2014. This event, which is held in conjunction with the birthday of Dr. Seuss, not only promotes the WV PBS Ready to Learn Language Arts focus area, but also the Head Start School Readiness Language and Literacy Domain.

A highlight of the event is that it will also incorporate a grant that was awarded to us from the National Home Library Foundation recently. The monies received from this grant have allowed us to purchase two books for each child in our Early Head Start program. Each child will receive a copy of Brown Bear, Brown Bear What Do You See? by Eric Carle and Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown. Both of these books are classic children’s books that the children can add to their home libraries and read with their parents and caregivers to extend the learning received in our Early Head Start Classrooms

#### Professional Development

Research has shown that high quality early childhood programs begin with well-educated staff. Professional development is an essential cornerstone for Head Start and Early Head Start Programs.

To ensure Head Start and Early Head Start staff members meet the requirements set forth by the Office of Head Start, Southwestern Community Action Council, Inc. provides Individualized training opportunities for all staff according to each program option. These educational opportunities motivate staff to become more informed, more creative, and more intuitive.

To prepare Early Head Start center staff to become quality infant/toddler educators, they begin working as infant /toddler trainees. As a trainee, they work as a third person in the infant/toddler classroom. They learn the skills needed and obtain the require credentials to become and infant/toddler educator.

During 2013-2014 program year, eight Early Head Start staff and eight Head Start staff have obtained the CDA credential. There are currently five Early Head Start staff and thirteen Head Start staff enrolled in the CDA course. Southwestern Community Action Council, Inc. provides a twenty week online CDA class via a yahoo group. The CDA class is a combination of instructor directed and self-study activities. Each CDA candidate is assigned an advisor. The advisor’s role is to support the candidate through the CDA process. Upon completion of the class the advisor assist the candidate with obtaining the necessary documentation needed to complete the CDA application process and scheduling the verification visit. The advisor also travels with the CDA candidate to the Pearson Vue Testing site as a support. *Continued on next page*

**“Literacy, School Readiness & Family Engagement in Action” and  
Professional Development “Attaining the Goal”**

By Crystal Pelfrey - Health and Wellness Specialist, Nikki Rabel, Education Specialist

Southwestern Community Action Council, Inc. provides staff with the opportunity to further their education through higher learning. Below are the degrees and certificates earned for the 2013-2014 year for Head Start employees:

- 1 teacher received a Masters of Early Childhood Education Degree
- 6 teachers of received a RBA in Early Childhood Education
- 1 teacher assistant is enrolled in an Associate Degree program
- 2 teacher assistants have completed the ACDS coursework
- 1 teacher assistant has received an ACDS certificate

The Child and Family Development Specialists at the Lakin Correctional facility are completing a prenatal bonding facilitator course through B.O.N.D University. B.O.N.D University has partnered with Childbirth and Postpartum Professional Association (CAPPA) to offer this researched based course. B.O.N.D University was inspired by the book *The Greatest Pregnancy Ever* written by Laurel Wilson and Tracy Wilson Peters. This course is based on the foundations of perinatal psychology, epigenetics, mindfulness techniques and the latest scientific evidence surrounding the prenatal period. This course is not your typical childbirth course. This course prepares the Child and Family Development Specialist to educate prenatal inmates on topics such as: positive mental attitude, relaxation, nourishing, physical changes, how to communicate effectively, the impact of relationships in pregnancy and so much more.

To date, there is a one hundred percent success rate for the families that have transitioned out of the Lakin Correctional Facility KIDS Unit. We are fortunate that several of the women and their children were able to transfer to our center based programs once they were released from the correctional facility.

***MARK YOUR CALENDARS***

**Our June Association training and meeting will be in Charleston at  
Embassy Suites**

***June 4 and 5, 2014.***

***Our Annual Fall Conference will be in Charleston at Embassy Suites***

***November 18, 19 and 20, 2014.***

**Your West Virginia Head Start Association  
2013-14 Board of Directors**

**President:** Susan Stafford

**Vice-President:** Marlene Midget

**Treasurer:** Tracy Cox

**Secretary:** Janice Jackson

**Parliamentarian:** Patty Fussell

Directors: Jeana Comer-Carr, Darlene Martin, Marlene Midget, Ruth Ann Ponzurick, Susan Stafford, Brenda Yohn

Staff: Charity Boggs, Trella Coppola, Tracy Cox, Patty Fussell, Janice Jackson, Yvonne Quinn

Parents: William Johnson, Stephanie Murray, Misty Wilson

Friends: Stephanie Paynter, Edith Redd, Terri Wontrobski

Liaison: Tim Salmons

***UP & COMING***

**2014 WVHS Association Meeting Dates**

March—3/5 & 3/6/2014 Charleston, WV

June—6/4 & 6/5/2014 Charleston, WV

**2013-14 WVHSA Board of Directors Meeting Dates**

12/12/13 Conference call

1/09/14 Conference call

2/13/14 Conference call

4/09/14 Conference call

5/08/14 Conference call

No Call Conference call

8/13/14 Conference call

9/10/14 Conference call

10/09/14 Conference call

11/13/14 TBA

***MISSION  
STATEMENT***

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***The West Virginia Head Start  
Association's Mission Statement for  
2010-2012***

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.