

WVHSA NEWSLETTER

West Virginia Head Start State Collaboration Office

By Traci Dalton

Volume 12, Issue 3

March 2010

As I approach one year as Collaboration Director, I am reflecting on what an exciting time it is to be in Head Start and serving as Collaboration Director. The Head Start community has seen many changes over the last twelve months: expansion, creation of State Advisory Councils, and a new Director at the Office of Head Start. Specifically here in West Virginia, we have received recognition for our success with the Dental Home Initiative and our collaboration with the Coalition against Domestic Violence, and WV has been selected by Zero to Three as one of five states to receive technical assistance on including and expanding Early Head Start into our Early Childhood System.

Collaboration continues to be a component in Head Start's Road to Excellence and I would like to briefly highlight some current collaborative efforts. Soon there will be a new wvheadstart.org website, this site is a collaborative project between the WV Head Start Association and the Collaboration Office and will serve to provide information about Head Start and Early Head Start to the early childhood community; as well as, the general public.

The Collaboration Office is partnering with the State Based Training and Technical Assistance Office to create a Pre-k/Head Start Collaboration Discussion Guide. The guide will be designed to serve as a resource for local collaborative teams and organized around content areas. The Guide is targeted for completion in June and will be available on wvheadstart.org

The Department of Education has created a WV Pre-K Continuous Quality Improvement Advisory Council. This Council is charged to review, participate, and respond to WV Pre-K and WV School Readiness projects and initiatives. Projects focusing on program assessment and school improvement, curriculum and instruction, and school readiness have been initially targeted. A secondary focus of the council is ensuring projects and initiatives are vetted thoroughly with early childhood professionals throughout the state, as well as collaborative partners. Five key work groups have been established to lead specific efforts to complete the three primary goals of the CQI Timeline. Please visit <https://sites.google.com/a/wvde.k12.wv.us/wvde-prek-cqi-advisory-council/home> to follow the work of the CQI workgroups and council.

The WV Pre-K Summer Leadership Institute will be held again this year. In addition to the typical format, new this year will be an opportunity for each system such as Head Start to work individually on topics and items most relevant to them. The registration and agenda should be distributed soon.

The Annual Collaboration Needs Assessment has been completed. This year's assessment process is a partnership between the Collaboration Office and Marshall University Center for Business and Economic Research. Thank you to all the programs providing input into the process through completion of a survey. The results will guide the Collaboration Office's Strategic Plan and will be shared at the WVHSA March Quarterly meeting.

I hope these highlights provide you a picture of the activities on-going within the Collaboration Office. It has been an exciting first year and I am looking forward to the next!

Inside this issue:

Rahall Announces EHS Expansion	2
CASE WV	3
Monroe County Head Start	4
NPHS, Inc.	5
WV WIC/National HS Family Literacy	6
WV DOE	7
Schedule of Association meetings and Board of Directors	8

TID BITS
Email Address
wvhsa@comcast.net

website
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.

Rahall Announces Over \$2.9 Million in Funding for Early Head Start Programs

By Jessica Brinton

Rep. Nick Rahall (D-W.Va.) announced that \$2,950,991 in competitive grant funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) is being awarded to Early Head Start Programs across southern West Virginia.

"An early head start not only makes the race for success more competitive for all our kids, it makes America more competitive in the world marketplace. It's one of the most valuable investments we as a Nation can make," said Rahall. "The Recovery Act, which I supported, is creating jobs and making a difference. As a father and grandfather I know that learning from a young age can make all the difference in a child's future, that is why I work for Head Start and Early Head Start programs; they are helping parents to be better parents and our children to be prepared when they start school."

The grants will be awarded to five community programs in southern West Virginia to add or expand Early Head Start Programs-- an education intervention program focused on children from birth to three years of age, and prenatal mothers. The funds will be used to hire staff, cover programmatic costs, and for program facilities to assist families in their respective service-area communities:

\$448,769 for Early Head Start for Monroe County Schools

\$471,887 Southwestern Community Action Council, Inc. in Huntington, W.Va.

\$512,034 MountainHeart Community Services in Oceana, W.Va.

\$659,814 Fayette County Child Development, Inc.

\$858,487 Community Action of Southern Eastern West Virginia in Bluefield, W.Va.

Monroe County Early Head Start program funding will be used to construct a new facility on the campus of the James Monroe High School and Vocational School to add services for 40 children from birth to age three. Currently, the Head Start Program serves 59 children and their families across Monroe County.

"Early Head Start has been a vision for our county for many years," said Jeana Comer Carr, Director of Monroe County Head Start Program. "Our goal is to help parents be better parents and be more knowledgeable. We need to address learning problems our children may have way before they reach kindergarten, so they are on track and ready to learn. We appreciate Congressman Rahall and everyone that was involved in the grant process and award."

Southwestern Community Action Council, Inc. plans to expand and serve an additional 24 families: eight in Cabell County and 16 in Mason County. The Early Head Start Program currently serves 110 children and families in Cabell, Lincoln and Wayne counties.

"We are very excited to be able to serve some of the neediest families and expand our services into Mason County," said Dwight Coburn, Chief Executive Officer, Southwestern Community Action Council, Inc.

Currently, Fayette County Child Development serves 248 Fayette County families through their regular Head Start program. Funding a new Early Head Start program will serve 32 additional children, from birth to age three, plus eight pre-natal (pregnant) mothers for a total of 40 families in Fayette County. This new Early Head Start program is targeted to start next March.

"This ARRA money will allow us to create eleven new jobs and also allow us to increase hours for four current staff people, meaning they will be employed a full 12 months instead of partial year," explained Keith Young, Executive Director, Fayette County Child Development, Inc.

Community Action of South Eastern West Virginia will expand their program to serve 80 additional children, families, and pregnant mothers. It will also add eight teaching staff, four home visitors, and three additional support staff. This program will have added focus on teenage mothers and plans call for establishing a new transitional classroom at Hinton High School in Summers County.

"We are pleased and excited to be able to include these additional families in our program. This will have a marvelous impact on the communities we serve," said Darlene Martin, Head Start Director for Community Action of South Eastern West Virginia. "This fills an important gap in services for these high risk children, period."

Grant funding awarded to MountainHeart Community Services will expand their program to serve an additional 36 families, 26 infants and toddlers and 10 pregnant women, throughout Wyoming County. It will also add eight new job positions and open two new classrooms for infants and toddlers-- one in the Pineville area, and one in the Oceana area. MountainHeart currently serves 300 Head Start and Early Head Start families. The total with this expansion will be 336. "Strengthening families with infants and toddlers in Wyoming County will be a benefit realized for years to come for our community. This grant for expansion will give MountainHeart Community Services, Inc. an opportunity to build on an existing foundation of quality services meeting the needs of children, families, and the community," said Susan Stafford, Director Head Start/Early Head Start, MountainHeart.

ADVENTURES IN EXCITEMENT

By Darlene Martin

CASE WV Head Start/Early Head Start is moving forward; the excitement and enthusiasm throughout the program and with our partners, as we demonstrate effectiveness in providing high quality services to children and families, is a beautiful experience.

Our partnership with Concord University has provided opportunities for some of our teachers to complete twenty-four of the thirty-six hours required in early education classes toward a BS degree in Early Education and with the receipt of additional grant dollars our partnership has expanded to include other teachers in our efforts to increase teacher credentials. The teachers have achieved great success in their adventures in personal education, 90% have maintained a 3.5 or better average.

Each day the Head Start program, our partners, and the community has the opportunity to impact the lives of children and families. On November 1, 2009 a new adventure came to us, Early Head Start! CASE WV Head Start program has initiated a movement for the development of partnerships for Early Head Start within the community; we anticipate outcomes comparable to current partnerships.

Early Head Start staff have been hired and trained to meet WV Licensing Regulations and CDA requirements. The staff is excited and eager to “get started”. Two classrooms in Summers County, one at a local high school and one at a current Head Start site will receive children on March 15th and two classrooms in Mercer County will be available to children on April 1st.

We are excited and grateful for the opportunity to provide high quality services to children and families as we engage in our adventures.

Case WV Head Start---Parent Involvement

On March 2nd 2010 CASE WV Head Start/Pre-K in Summers County had a Dr. Suess Celebration in the evening and all Head Start Students and Pre-K students in Summers County were invited.



We had a Make & Take activity that students could make Dr. Suess hats, we had story time, a bean bag toss game and a pin the eggs on the Ham game, tattoos, and a snack served. They also received a goody bag which consisted of a book, bookmark, a notepad, stickers, and a pencil. We had children from all the collaborative classrooms attend. There were a total of forty nine children/ family members that attended.

Monroe County Head Start Expands Services

By Bill Krafft

On March 1, 2010, Monroe County Head Start began service to 40 additional families and children through the Early Head Start Program. This is an exciting time for one of West Virginia's smallest Head Start Programs. Forty additional enrolled children represents a 67% increase in the number served by this program.

Between November 19, 2009 and March 1, 2010, Monroe County Head Start and Early Head Start recruited, hired, and trained four additional staff members to operate their program. They were also able to adjust and expand the duties of their existing management team and governance structure to oversee this new program.

The expansion continues through September when Monroe County HS/EHS will have a new facility to serve 8 infants and toddlers in a center-based program. Monroe County HS/EHS is undertaking this program in collaborations with Monroe County Schools and Parents as Teachers to serve as many families as possible and to support those mothers continuing their secondary education.

News from the West Virginia Head Start Association Office

NEW WEBSITE

Our new West Virginia Head Start Association and West Virginia Head Start Collaboration Office website is online. We are continuing to add features and links to resources and partners. To visit go to: www.wvheadstart.org and visit our new site!

2010 Annual Fall Conference

The West Virginia Head Start Association's 10th Annual Fall Conference will be at Embassy Suites in Charleston, WV., November 15, 16, and 17, 2010. We will be celebrating Head Start's 45 years of success! This event will have special guests and hold many surprises.

Early Head Start Expands in the Northern Panhandle of WV ***By Cher McKeever***

Head Start officials report that competitive grant funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) will support expansion in the Early Head Start program which serves pregnant women and families with children birth to age three in West Virginia.

Forty-eight additional enrollment slots will be available in the communities of: eight slots in Hancock County through a collaborative agreement with Weirton Heights Day Care Center; Ohio County will provide 24 openings through center base services operated at the Head Start facility located at the former Orchard Park Child Care Center as well as support families through the Domestic Violence Program at the Y.W.C.A.; eight slots in Marshall County a collaborative agreement to support incarcerated parents at the Northern Regional Jail Correctional Facility; and eight slots in Wetzel County through a home base program offered at the Jacksonburg Head Start facility.

“We are excited to grow our Early Head Start program through several unique collaborations as well as the traditional center base and home base services,” reports Marlene Midget, Executive Director, Northern Panhandle Head Start Inc. “This expansion will extend the benefits that many families with young children, as well as pregnant women, have realized through our existing Early Head Start program since 1999.”

The newly hired staff of 15 infant/toddler professionals has undergone a vigorous training schedule in recent months in preparation for the official start of the program expected March 8th.

Front Row, L-R: Gina Ferrebee, L.P.N.; Leslie Delaney, Parent Educator; Jessica Wright, Infant/Toddler Teacher (I/TT); Tammy Lowe, I/TT; Brittany Hocker, I/TT; and Janice Barnett, Early Head Start Manager; Back Row, L-R: Christina Bootz, Parent Educator; Melissa Barnett, I/TT; Kim Welshans, I/TT; Reed Bizzari, I/TT; Kim Fruner, Parent Educator; Renee Sivert, I/TT; and Laura Hayhurst, Early Head Start Supervisor. Not pictured: Brittany Clegg, Family Resource Advocate



First Book National Book Bank Donates Over 155,000 Books to WV WIC Program

By: Heidi Staats, State Outreach Coordinator

The First Book National Book Bank distributes large quantities of brand-new publisher-donated books to organizations serving children from low-income families. Book distributions are hosted by the First Book National Book Bank annually at a variety of sites across the United States. The books are free to organizations that are able to pick them up or pay just \$0.35 per book to have them shipped. The First Book National Book Bank has once again awarded the West Virginia WIC Program free books which will be used for outreach as a way to reinforce the healthy habits supported through WIC services.

The Eagle Books are a series of four books that are brought to life by wise animal characters, Mr. Eagle and Miss Rabbit, and a clever trickster, Coyote, who engage Rain That Dances and his young friends in the joy of physical activity, eating healthy foods, and learning from their elders about health and diabetes prevention.

The first book, *Through The Eyes of The Eagle* introduces the characters of Mr. Eagle and Rain That Dances, the American Indian boy he befriends. Mr. Eagle reminds the young boy of the healthy ways of his ancestors.

In *Knees Lifted High*, the second book, Rain That Dances introduces Thunder Cloud, his best friend, to Mr. Eagle who encourages the boys to be physically active every day.

The third book, *A Plateful of Color*, introduces Miss Rabbit and the boys' friends, Little Hummingbird and Simon. Miss Rabbit teaches the value of eating a variety of colorful and healthy foods.

Tricky Treats, the final book in the series, introduces the character of Coyote, a trickster, and encourages children not to be tricked by coyote when choosing foods to eat.

This is the third time First Book has been so gracious to the WV WIC Program. In fact, our program application for this distribution was a request for a little less than 12,000 books to be shipped at a cost of \$0.35 per book. When reviewing the application, First Book inquired as to our "pie in the sky" dream for using these books. Since the series is dedicated to diabetes prevention and healthy habits, our response shared a desire for every West Virginia family participating in WIC to receive the entire series. Three days later, First Book indicated they would feel honored to offer 155,808 books, providing equal amounts of each of title in the series, plus deliver the books free of charge directly to our warehouse!

To get involved, register your organization at <http://register.firstbook.org>. After registering, you will receive notification via e-mail to alert you when book distribution applications are available. Your organization may be eligible to receive up to three books per child once per calendar year, excluding "special distributions".

Breaking News from the National Head Start Family Literacy Center!

By Therese Snyder

Getting Ready for School: Engaging Children, Teaching Children! *Getting Ready for School* materials are available to order! The materials provide simple, easy-to-access experiences which parents and preschool-age children can share. The versatile activities support children's early learning while empowering parents and enriching their relationships.

One of Head Start's core values is to support parents to positively promote their children's academic and social growth. Toward that end, the National Head Start Family Literacy Center is pleased to provide one hard-copy set of *Getting Ready for School* to each Head Start grantee and delegate agency and a CD so that the materials can be duplicated.

If the NHSFLC can be of any assistance as you move forward in this exciting effort, please do not hesitate to contact us at nhsflc@sonoma.edu or 800-849-7810. We look forward to hearing your stories and learning about the innovative ways that you are using these valuable materials. Order your set today! http://www.sonoma.edu/cihs/familyliteracy/gettingr4school/gettingready_4school.html

Redefining “Universality” for WV Pre-K – a 2009-10 update

Clayton Burch, Coordinator, Early Childhood WVDOE

Since the inception of Universal Pre-K for West Virginia, 80% access for four year old children has been the targeted or anticipated participation rate for the voluntary, universal access to public Pre-K. Only a handful of states have developed a full-fledged universal Pre-K system since West Virginia’s Pre-K launch in 2002, and the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) has provided annual updates on each state’s progress over the past several years.

The 2008 Yearbook by NIEER showed that the top three states for four year old access were Oklahoma, Florida and Georgia. For the 2008-09 school year Oklahoma led the nation for four year old access at 71%. What does this mean for West Virginia as the 2012-13 goal for universal access approaches? West Virginia needs to clearly define what Universal Pre-K truly means. A clearer and more accurate definition to describe a school district obtaining universal access for West Virginia Pre-K would be to focus “Universality” on two key components – access and collaboration.

The first component, **access**, is based on a school district’s ability to meet the community’s need. There cannot be a waiting list - all families who require a space in the Universal Pre-K system must be accommodated. Much of this work involves community needs assessments, which requires a district to be able to identify trends in enrollment, parent choice in placement in private/secular sites not partnering and trends of families who choose not to participate and keep their children home until Kindergarten. This component is individual to each district. The preliminary data of the fifteen counties who have applied to be audited as meeting the requirements of West Virginia Board of Education (WVBE) Policy 2525 prior to 2012-13 have found that each of the districts demonstrated meeting this component but at various participation rates for four year olds.

The second component, **collaboration**, is the required collaboration piece as per WVBE Policy 2525, which indicates that a district is working to fully maximize its resources. Each school district must demonstrate that it has established collaborative partnerships, where feasible, with the goal being a minimum of 50% of the programs in collaboration with community partners. Many of the school districts have surpassed this requirement as 68% of all the 2009-10 West Virginia Pre-K classrooms are collaborative.

As of the 2009-10 school year, fifteen counties have applied to be designated “Universal,” meaning that they have implemented WVBE Policy 2525 prior to the deadline of 2012-13. Of the fifteen counties which have applied for universal status, twelve have completed all necessary paperwork and undergone an on-site audit and review. A team from the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (WVDHHR), the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE), and the Head Start Collaboration Office completed the Universal Pre-K audits. The twelve counties who have completed the Universal Pre-K Audit include Lewis, Taylor, Mineral, Clay, Tucker, Tyler, Wirt, Harrison, Randolph, Braxton, Summers, and Jackson counties. Cabell, Roane and Pleasants counties will be completing the Universal Pre-K Audit by the end of the school year.

With the ongoing work of each county collaborative team and the supportive partnership among WVDHHR, WVDE and the Head Start Collaboration Office, the remaining forty counties continue to submit annual plans, updating the state collaborative partners on their progress to offer Universal Pre-K. The 2010-11 county collaborative pre-k plans are currently under review. Time is short for the remaining counties to demonstrate they’ve met the definition of Universal Pre-K and fully implemented WVBE Policy 2525; however many are poised to complete the Universal Pre-K Audit during the 2010-11 school year. Of the remaining forty counties working to meet the 2012-13 goal, twenty two counties have participation rates for Pre-K at over 70%. The work of designing and implementing a Universal Pre-K program for West Virginia’s children has resulted in West Virginia being recognized as a national leader in public preschool education and comprehensive services.

For more information on West Virginia Universal Pre-K visit <http://wvde.state.wv.us/osp/wvprek> .

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

President: Susan Stafford

Vice-President: Marlene Midget

Treasurer: Dawn Wagner

Secretary: Janice Jackson

Parliamentarian: Tracy Cox

Directors: Jeana Comer-Carr, Darlene Martin, Marlene Midget, Susan Stafford, Pam Waddell, Brenda Yohn

Staff: Tracy Cox, Janice Jackson, Marcia McKinney, Yvonne Quinn, Gladys Simpson, Dawn Wagner

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

Friends: Edith Redd, Tim Salmons, Terri Wontrobski

UP & COMING

2010 WVHS Association Meeting Dates

6/08 & 09 /10	Waterfront Place Morgantown, WV
11/12/09	To be announced

2009 WVHSA Board of Directors Meeting Dates

4/08/10	Charleston, WV
5/13/10	Charleston, WV
8/12/10	Charleston, WV
9/09/10	Charleston, WV
10/14/10	Charleston, WV

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

***West Virginia Head Start Association's
Annual Pre and Fall Conference
November 15, 16 and 17, 2010
Embassy Suites, Charleston WV***

***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.