



IHSA Advisor:

Reflections & Connections

March/April 2017

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Updates from IHSA Executive Director, Lauri Morrison-Frichtl

Hello Spring! I love this quote from Winnie the Pooh as it reminds me to trust in my ability to deal with anything that comes my way. "You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think," said Christopher Robin to Pooh". As we move into spring and look forward to summer we have lots to

"deal with". I know you are busy implementing the new Performance Standards, recruiting children, implementing duration, and managing the day to day operations of your program. But here's what I am hoping you will do in April. We want you to invite your Member of Congress to visit your program. They are back in Districts for two weeks in April (10th - 21st). It's so important that each Member understand and acknowledge the great work you are doing for our Illinois children and families. I would love to help you with this so don't hesitate to reach out and ask for help. This will probably be the most important time or window we have before the FY18 budget comes out in May. Let's make sure we leave an impression with our Illinois Congressional Caucus.



Also important to do in April is help one of your parents become an IHSA Parent Ambassador. We are accepting applications for our new class of Parent Ambassadors. You can find the Parent Ambassador application on the IHSA website www.ilheadstart.org. Again, our parents are extremely important in our work on educating Congress. Please, agree to help one parent in your organization complete an application. We have had great success with our nationally recognized Parent Ambassador program. NHSA is hoping that at their Fall Leadership Institute in September that they can get one hundred parents to Washington DC. I am hoping that Illinois can send fifty parents to DC! More to come on this!

Finally, we know that our classrooms are "dealing with" more and more challenging behaviors. We are working to support your program and offer some key events. First, in partnership with STAR NET and INCCRRA we are offering the "Pyramid Model Train the Trainers" and the Teaching Pyramid Observation Tool (TPOT) training. The dates of the training are May 23-25th and the TPOT training is June 6-7th, 2017. The training is in Champaign, IL and there is no cost. Your only cost would be travel expenses. This is a great opportunity and is by invite only. Please email me if you or someone on your team is interested (lfrichtl@ilheadstart.org).

We hope that you do this in April -

1. Invite your Congressional Member of Congress to visit your program.
2. Support a parent in your program with completing a Parent Ambassador application.
3. Email Lauri to register someone on your team who is interested in attending the Train the Trainers for the Pyramid Model and TPOT training.
4. Begin thinking about sending a parent or two to DC in September.

Remember, we can do this! "You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think," said Christopher Robin to Pooh". Keep up the great work!

Take care,
Lauri

Updates from Associate Head Start State Collaboration
Director, Donna Emmons



I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
 A host, of golden daffodils;
 Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
 Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
 And twinkle on the Milky Way,
They stretched in never-ending line
 Along the margin of a bay:
 Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced; but they
 Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
 A poet could not but be gay,
 In such a jocund company:
I gazed-and gazed-but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie
 In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
 Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
 And dances with the daffodils.

William Wordsworth



Happy Spring to all! I know we are all relieved to see warmer days and sunshine. No daffodils yet where I live but soon!!!

Anika and I attended the National Head Start State Collaboration Directors' meeting in Washington, DC in early March. Here are some highlights from meetings with the Office of Head Start (OHS):

Ann Linehan, the Acting Director of OHS, began by noting their office was in a

transition period. They are anticipating new leadership. They don't know, yet, the priorities of the new administration. The FY 17 Continuing Resolution is until the end of April. Good chance there will be a Continuing Resolution for the rest of the year. She thinks there won't be any additional cuts for FY 17 but thinks there will be cuts in FY 18, maybe significant cuts. There is currently a hiring freeze for federal staff. Ann also believes we will know well in advance if there are cuts so grantees can plan. Ann says "Stay strong!"

New background checks requirement: This is the subject that OHS gets the most questions about. It is a "hot topic!" OHS is working with the Office of Child Care (OCC) and the FBI. States can request an extension for the deadline and they expect many to do that. No requests in yet. OHS and OCC are doing a pilot for a national clearinghouse on background check data to ease the burden on programs. OHS does not know if they will issue another extension but they may do so if there are lots of states requesting extensions. They cannot hold a program responsible if it is impossible to do the new background checks in their state. It is beyond their control. Ann Linehan says "Please don't panic. Adhere to the HS Act in regard to background checks while in the interim."

[CONTINUE READING](#)

ECBG RFP Update

ECBG RFP Update

A revised plan for the Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG) funding for FY 18 is being put in place to allow predictability and stability for currently funded grantees while also allowing for program expansion opportunities. Due to delays in the release of the Requests for Proposals, the full re-competition of the ECBG is being delayed until FY 19, pending final Board approval. Currently funded Preschool for All (PFA), Preschool for All Expansion (PFAE), and Prevention Initiative (PI) grantees will receive continuation funding for FY 18 and will complete continuation applications. For FY 18, there will be 2 RFPs, one for PFAE and one for PI, released in May 2017 which will be open to new applicants and continuing programs. Awards for these two RFPs will be based on additional funding being appropriated to the ECBG.

For the full re-competition for FY 19 there will be 3 RFPs, 1) Preschool for All, 2) Preschool for All Expansion, and 3) Prevention Initiative. The anticipated release date for these RFPs is Fall/Winter 2017. Information will continue to be posted on the [Early Childhood RFP webpage HERE](#).

Better Compensation: A Necessary Component for a Strong Head Start Workforce

By Abbie Lieberman
MARCH 7, 2017

Talk to child care center directors around the country and you will often hear a story that goes something like this: The center had a fabulous teacher who was passionate about working with young children and had a natural connection with them. The center director supported this teacher as she earned her bachelor's

degree, taking classes at night after long days with the children and studying on weekends. The director hoped that the teacher was gaining new knowledge and skills to make her even more effective in the classroom. But soon after earning her degree, the teacher, who now had greater access to higher paying job prospects, left to work in the local public school system.

While disappointing, this decision rarely comes as a surprise to center directors who know teachers can earn significantly more money working for a school district. The increasing education requirements in the early childhood education (ECE) field, combined with the persistently low wages, can make maintaining a high-quality workforce very challenging. It's impossible to provide high-quality early care and education without a high-quality workforce, and child care centers lose talented teachers all the time because they cannot pay them enough.

[READ ENTIRE ARTICLE HERE](#)

'A Chance for Change' tracks civil rights struggle over Head Start

Aram Goudsouzian
March 10, 2017

In the mid-1960s, Head Start programs came to Mississippi, inspiring a new political and racial struggle in a key battleground of the civil-rights movement. In her fine new book, "A Chance for Change: Head Start and Mississippi's Black Freedom Struggle," Crystal Sanders writes of the poor black Mississippians whom Head Start empowered, as well as of the white segregationists who resisted the program. Sanders is an assistant professor of history and African-American studies at Penn State University. Prior to her forthcoming talk at the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, she answered questions via email from Chapter 16:

Chapter 16: How did white segregationists in Mississippi use educational resources to maintain the racial order?

Crystal Sanders: Black public schools in Mississippi faced discriminatory funding and white hostility almost from their inception. White planters worried that educating African-Americans would thwart their ability to maintain a large and cheap black labor force. James K. Vardaman, a Mississippi politician who served in the state house, the governor's mansion, and the United States Senate, asserted that educating African-Americans "is to spoil a good field hand and make an insolent cook." Such hostility to black education resulted in gross funding disparities between black and white schools. In 1915, the state spent five times more per capita on its white students than it did on its black students. By 1943, the state spent eight times as much on white education. Black parents often double-taxed themselves to make up the shortfalls.

[SEE FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)

NHSA Statement on Early Childhood Education Hearing

March 16, 2017

WASHINGTON, DC - In response to today's Appropriations Subcommittee hearing on Early Childhood Education Programs at the Department of Health and Human Services, the following statement should be attributed to Yasmina Vinci, executive director of the National Head Start Association:

"With the release of the White House's Fiscal Year 2018 "skinny budget" and the prospect of an almost 18% budget cut looming, it is imperative lawmakers continue robust investment in domestic priorities, especially early childhood education. Head Start programs across the country offer critical and quality early learning services to a million vulnerable children and their families each year. Today's hearing reflects the strong leadership of Chairman Tom Cole (R-OK, 4th) and Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro (D-CT, 3rd) and the Subcommittee's continued commitment to ensuring every child has the opportunity to pursue the American dream - regardless of circumstance at birth. It was a positive step forward in the midst of the disconcerting news being generated by the release of the Administration Fiscal Year 2018 spending priorities. Head Start looks forward to continuing to work with Chairman Cole, Ranking Member DeLauro and the rest of the Subcommittee to keep the national commitment to investing in the future of our nation's most vulnerable children and families."

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Parents face diverse options, rising costs when choosing child care

Heather Stanek | Times-Press
Mar 21, 2017

Tara Olson knows how challenging it can be to find a daycare. The Reedsburg mother of four and her husband are just two of the many parents in the region who've had to consider cost, programming, security and other factors when choosing a service. Olson said she stayed home with one of the children because the family was spending so much money on care. The other children have attended daycare and one is enrolled at St. Peter's Christian Kids Zone Daycare. Olson said it was a weighty decision, so she talked to teachers at numerous locations and settled on a provider whose values and mission mesh with her family. They settled on St. Peter's because they are Lutheran, although their church is in Baraboo. The site also offers a 4-year-old kindergarten program, a plus for the Olsons.

The ability to find a daycare can vary greatly based on a family's income and location. Some communities, like Reedsburg, offer an assortment of care ranging from religious to small business operations. Others, such as Mauston, have lost daycare providers and are struggling to keep up with demand.

Cost

Affordability is a leading factor in selecting daycare. Lou Ann Van Doren, who teaches 3-year-olds at Head Start in Mauston, said many families earn too much to qualify for assistance, but face tight finances when paying for child care. In Sauk County the average family paid \$150 a week for one child in daycare in 2015, according to 4-C, a nonprofit support service that operates in Sauk and Columbia counties. The average range for daycare in Sauk County varied from \$120 to \$200 weekly.

[READ ENTIRE ARTICLE HERE](#)

Head Start hosts night for male role models

Jayati Ramakrishnan
March 22, 2017

It was "A Day for Dudes," as fathers, uncles, grandfathers and older brothers joined the kids in their family for dinner and activities at Rocky Heights Elementary on Tuesday evening. The event, planned by Umatilla-Morrow Head Start, encourages males to take a more active role in their children's upbringing.

"It's giving male role models an opportunity to be part of a child's life and spend time with them," said Jonny Badillo, a family advocate for Head Start. The event was a kickoff to a parenting series Badillo is organizing, called "Nurturing Fathers." "We hope to do more events like this," Badillo said. "We invite all male role models to come back. It's not just for fathers. Males play a strong, positive role in a child's life."

The event started with dinner and free time, and then families worked together on a couple of projects - building a small wooden house out of Popsicle sticks, and painting a tic-tac-toe board on wood.

Books were also available for families to take home, all in a specific theme: fathers as nurturers.

"Usually, dads tend to be disciplinarians," Badillo said. "It's OK for dads to be nurturing. Our goal is for every child to take a book home."

[SEE FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)

The Issues: Why STEM Education Must Begin in Early Childhood Education

MAR 29, 2017

BY KELSEY HAND

Education policy experts explore why Nevada must prioritize STEM educational experiences for all children, and why waiting until kindergarten is too late.

Research has demonstrated that the drive to explore, interact, and observe in human beings begins in early childhood, long before middle and high school, and even before elementary school. At the same time, the nation's economy is moving toward technologically based industries, creating growth in demand for workers proficient in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The question is, how can Nevada cultivate a generation of adults that is prepared to thrive in the 21st century economy? The answer is, begin recruiting and training them to serve in early childhood education capacities. Despite overwhelming evidence in support of this approach, high-quality STEM programming has not yet been incorporated into early childhood education.

The experts

- Jennifer Buchter, visiting lecturer in the College of Education's Educational and Clinical Studies department
- Maryssa Kucskar, visiting lecturer in the College of Education's Educational and Clinical Studies department
- Conrad Oh-Young, recent College of Education Ph.D. graduate
- Jenna Weglarz-Ward, assistant professor in the College of Education's Educational and Clinical Studies department
- Jeff Gelfer, professor in the College of Education's Educational and Clinical Studies department

These experts authored a policy paper, "Supporting STEM in Early Childhood Education," that appears in the College of Education's 2017 volume of reports for Nevada lawmakers. To read the full paper, visit the College of Education's policy

initiatives site.

A few facts

- The National Science and Technology Council, along with the Committee on STEM Education, the National Association for the Education of Young Children, and the Next Generation Science Standards concur the exposure to STEM during early childhood is critical to establishing an optimal educational trajectory.
- Advancing American students from the middle to the top tiers in mathematics and science is a federal educational priority.
- A report by the Brookings Metropolitan Policy Program in partnership with the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Cracking the Code on STEM: A People Strategy for Nevada's Economy, found that the K-12 education system is inadequate to address STEM educational outcomes.
- By 2018, STEM-related jobs are projected to increase to nearly 50,000, a 25 percent increase from 2008 levels.

Why this matters?

[SEE FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)

Foster Grandparents Program gives seniors connection with students

By Eric Taylor
Apr 3, 2017

Bill Smith and Helen Sasson have found the fountain of youth.

They discovered it when they became foster grandparents.

Sasson and Smith, both of Bellevue, are two of the many volunteers across the area who serve through the Foster Grandparent program. The national organization is run regionally through the Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging.

Mary Parker, coordinator for the program, said it serves five counties in the metro area (Sarpy, Douglas, Dodge, Cass and Washington counties) and has 72 volunteers in about 50 different locations.

Smith, 82, has been with the program for about seven years. He works with children at Educare, an early childhood development center in Omaha.

"It makes you younger," Smith said of his time as a foster grandparent. "You get so much in return for your time."

Sasson spent more than a year working at Betz and Belleaire elementary schools in Bellevue through the Sarpy County Head Start program.

"These little ones add so much to your life," Sasson said. "When I moved to Bellewood Courts, I saw a sign on the bulletin board about the program. I stared at the sign for two years before I decided to join and it's been so rewarding. I got bored and this is a way to get myself off the couch."

Parker said the program is designed for people 55 and older to serve a number of roles for children, whether as playmates, storytellers or mentors.

[SEE FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)

IHSA Upcoming Training Opportunities

Check out our
**UPCOMING
TRAININGS**
.....FEATURED BELOW.....

APRIL

April 21: ERSEA / Chicago

April 28: ERSEA / Joliet

MAY

May 2: Regional New Health Managers Orientation / Oak Brook

May 3: IHSA 2017 Health Institute / Oak Brook

May 4: New Directors Series #2 / Springfield

May 30 & 31: New Leaders Series #3 / Oak Brook

May 31 - June 1: 2017 Directors Institute / Oak Brook

JUNE

May 31 - June 1: Directors Institute / Oak Brook

June 19 & 20: Vanessa Rich Leadership Experience / Oak Brook

June 27: New Leaders Series #4 / Springfield

June 27 & 28: Practice Based Coaching - Coaches Training / Springfield

**2016 - 2017 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
TRAINING PLAN**

DATES-AT-A-GLANCE

Current Job Openings



NEW POSITIONS

[Springfield, IL - Springfield Urban League - HS Teacher Assistant](#)

[Springfield, IL - Springfield Urban League - HS Teacher](#)

[Springfield, IL - Springfield Urban League - EHS Teacher](#)

[Springfield, IL - Springfield Urban League - Family Resource Advocate](#)

OPEN POSITIONS FROM PREVIOUS MONTHS

[Kankakee, IL - Kankakee School District - Director of Pre-School Programs](#)

[Chicago, IL - Region V OHS and Office of Grants Management - Information Management Support Specialist](#)

[Joliet, IL - Catholic Charities of Joliet - Senior Site Supervisor](#)

[Maywood, IL - PLCCA - Program Accountant Head Start](#)

[Champaign, IL - Tap In Leadership Academy - Tap In Prep Academy \(TIPA\) Head Start Director](#)

[Champaign, IL - Tap In Leadership Academy - Tap In Prep Academy \(TIPA\) Coordinator](#)

[Carbondale, IL - SIUC - Assistant Director of Head Start](#)

[Bloomington, IL - Heartland Head Start - Family Resource Advisor](#)

2017 Parent Ambassador Application - Due April 21, 2017

**PARENTS!! Don't forget to turn in your
2017 Parent Ambassador Applications!
Due on April 21, 2017**

Do You Want To Be An IL Head Start Association Parent
Ambassador?

[Here's What You Need To Do!](#)

[Memo to Directors](#)

Congratulations and a final thank you to our **2016 Parent
Ambassadors!**



ONLINE Food Handler & Food Safety Manager Certification Training

Check This Out!

Illinois Head Start Association is now offering
YOU....**ONLINE** Illinois Approved **FOOD
HANDLER TRAINING** and **FOOD SAFETY
MANAGER CERTIFICATION TRAINING** at
SPECIAL PRICING only for Illinois Head Start
members!

[CHECK THIS OUT!!!](#)

Food Safety Manager Certification Training

This Enhanced e-Learning course has been accepted for Professional Food Managers Certification training by most of the nation's regulatory agencies.

[Learn more here](#)

Food Handler Training

The State of Illinois requires an ANSI-accredited food handler card. The TAP Series Food Handler card is from an ANSI-accredited program, carries the ANSI logo, and is accepted by the Illinois Department of Public Health.

[Learn more here](#)

IHSA Staff Alumni Project

IHSA Staff Alumni Project - check us out on [FaceBook!](#)

Illinois Head Start Staff Alumni project mission: To encourage and support former Head Start staff who still love the program to reconnect, become informed, and receive opportunities to make a difference in local programs and the state association. You are Head Start.

Were you on staff in a Head Start program? Did you love it? Was it one of the most exciting times in your life? Did it seem like a calling rather than just a job?

IMAGINE if you could:

- Reconnect with colleagues from Head Start throughout Illinois;
- Build a social network; plan some activities including attendance at the Friend's component annual meeting at an affordable price;
- Get updated and informed on Head Start in Illinois and across the nation;
- Lend your voice to advocate for this wonderful program
- Get ideas and opportunities to volunteer or donate if you choose....
- Have fun
- Be a model for other Head Start programs across the country.

\$2 Per Child Campaign!



\$2 Per Child Campaign

Head Start Works in Illinois!

The IL Head Start Association & the National Head Start Association support IL Head Start programs and their work by advocating on the state and national level. We need local agencies to support advocacy efforts through a local level \$2 Per Child Campaign. **\$1 will be sent to NHSA and \$1 will stay in Illinois for the local association's work.**

YOUR ILLINOIS \$\$ @ WORK!

- * Advocacy Visits to State & Federal Legislators
- * Parent Ambassador Support
- * Ensuring Head Start has a voice in state level discussions about issues that affect us.

Local Campaign Ideas for HS Parents, Alumni & Volunteers

Spare Change Drive
Silent Auction
Bake Sale
Raffles of Donated Items
Car Wash
Decorate Your Classroom Door Contest (\$1 per vote)
Pie in the Face (pay per vote to see your favorite manager take a pie)
Chili Cook Off Contest (pay to taste & vote)
Pay to PJ (staff pay to wear pjs to work)



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