



IHSA Advisor:

Reflections & Connections

October 2016

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I keep thinking about, is my cup half full or half empty? It's so easy for me to fall into the "half empty" thinking. Especially with all that's coming at us. At times, it feels like a tsunami. It was great to see so many of you at the OHS Regional training on the new performance standards. I know each of you are thinking about full implementation of the performance standards. We'll need to keep connected with each other so we can share ideas and strategies. IHSA will be launching a new media platform in December to support ongoing networking among our members. Stay tuned as we go live in December!



We have a new Department of Human Services Head Start State Collaboration Director. This position, previously held by Gina Ruther, has been vacant for over two years. Let's welcome Anika Todd! Anika brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to her role as Collaboration Director. She has in-depth expertise with the Illinois welfare system and understands the importance of our work with the most vulnerable children and families across the state. Anika's contact information is as follows:

Anika T. Todd
Department of Human Services
Office of Early Childhood, Bureau of Child Care and Development
Head Start State Collaboration Director
401 S. Clinton St. 3rd Floor
Chicago, Il. 60607
Email: Anika.T.Todd@illinois.gov
(P) 312-793-4266
(F) 312-793-4881

Let's talk about funding. Our window to impact Head Start/Early Head Start FY17 funding is closing. Yes, we have been under a Continuing Resolution and this ends early in December. With a new Congress and a new Administration this is the best opportunity we have, right now, to make an impact on FY17 funding. We need your help to make an impact! All you need to do is go to www.supportheadstart.org and sign the support Head Start letter. It is easy and can be done on your phone. Please don't think someone else is going to do this because they are probably thinking the same thing. If you are reading this we need you to sign the support Head Start letter.

[CONTINUE READING](#)

Updates from Associate Head Start State Collaboration Director, Donna Emmons



I hope your Thanksgiving holiday was relaxing and full of time spent with family and friends. Our country has had a rough year with all the election hullabaloo! We needed a break to just re-connect with all the many people and relationships in our lives that we are thankful for. I know I did!

DCFS Partners Need Help

Did you know there are about 1300 young children in care with DCFS statewide that need a placement in a preschool program!?? These are some of the most vulnerable children and families in Illinois. We need to help DCFS find these children a preschool program. As you know, a child in foster care is "categorically eligible" for Head Start or Early Head Start. Many of your classrooms may be full as of today but as the year proceeds, you may have an opening. Please contact your DCFS School Readiness worker NOW to offer your program's help. The DCFS School Readiness staff are:

Central region-Diane LaMothe @ 217-735-6098 Diane.LaMothe@illinois.gov
Southern region-Tracey Elliott @ 618-244-8428 Tracey.Elliott@illinois.gov
Northern region-Vanessa Castro @ 847-931-2003 vanessa.castro@illinois.gov
Cook Co. region-Martha Cerda-Babbington @ 708-338-6630 Martha.Cerda-Babbington@illinois.gov

Preschool for All and Prevention Initiative

Next spring all the current Preschool for All (PFA) and Prevention Initiative (PI) grants will be re-competed for the 2017-2018 school year. This will be an open competition and all eligible entities have the opportunity to apply. One of the major components of this new Request for Proposal (RFP) is required community collaboration. It is very important for Head Start programs to connect with their current PFA and PI providers. Reach out to your community. If you don't have a local community group of Early Childhood partners, then start one! Keep working on those local partnerships and don't be blindsided by new PFA or PI programs in your community. These grants also provide the opportunity for Head Start and Early Head Start programs to blend and braid funding with PFA and PI to create more full-day slots for families if that is a need in your community. Keep tuned to the ISBE Early Childhood Division website for updates on this competition. The RFP may be out as soon as January, 2017. Here is a link to the ISBE [website](#).

CONTINUE READING

National Head Start Association Statement on Election of Donald J. Trump by Yasmina Vinci



November 9, 2016

WASHINGTON, DC - American voters yesterday elected Donald J. Trump the 45th President of the United States. The following statement should be attributed to Yasmina Vinci, executive director of the National Head Start Association:

"Those of us who have dedicated our lives to providing the Head Start Advantage to our nation's most vulnerable children and families are confident President-elect Trump will continue to support significant and meaningful investments in Head Start.

Given Head Start's solid and proven return on investment, our new President certainly understands the importance of deepening our national commitment

to starting America early and building a solid base for national security through comprehensive, high-quality early childhood education and development for our nation's most at-risk children and families."

What a therapist wants you to know about repairing America after this election.

November 9, 2016

By Annie Wright

I'm a therapist. I'm also an adult survivor of a childhood trapped with a sociopathic, narcissistic, abusive, misogynistic white male bully of a father who disowned me at age 11.

He was a big source of trauma for me growing up until pretty recently.

And for 25 years, I didn't talk about this - no one in my family really did. No one really had the language, power, or modeling to really even know it wasn't OK, to stand up to him, to shine a light on how incredibly abusive and dysfunctional it was for him to do, say, and act in the ways he did. At many points during my childhood, I looked around and thought,, "Am I the crazy one for thinking this isn't right but no one else is saying anything?!"

Then I grew up. And I literally left my family system.

I found therapy. I cultivated new and reparative and healthy relationships where I learned what functional actually looked like. I learned that while certain kinds of relationships can wound and traumatize, other kinds of relationships can heal. In my bones, I believe it's always possible to heal and overcome until the day we take our last breath - because I did.

I want to share this with you today in case you're feeling scared, shocked, and even a little traumatized.

[SEE ARTICLE HERE](#)

4 Key Messages Children Need To Hear The Day After The Election

November 9, 2016

By Sarina Behar Natkin

Well, it's almost over. The election that modeled the exact opposite of the values we hope to instill in our children. Lying, name calling, misogyny, sexism, racism, anti-Semitism and hatred. This will take a lot of time to make sense of as parents, let alone explain to our children. Yet, parents we are; our children just hours away from waking up full of questions.

The truth is, even as a parent educator, I don't have all the answers. The good news is we don't have to. We can still be present and hear their feelings about the results. And just like so many learning opportunities that came with this election, we have a responsibility as parents to take this one. Matter of fact, I think it's our best hope for changing a clearly very angry, mistrusting society.

What I can share is the messages I hope to convey to my own daughters tomorrow morning, and in the days to come.

Message #1: Your feelings are okay

[READ ENTIRE ARTICLE HERE](#)

U.S. Senator Dick Durbin, D-IL, visited West Central Community Services' Head Start

[SEE VIDEO HERE](#)

Sen. Durbin announces \$2.25 million grant

"The Head Start program is the source of countless success stories in Illinois and around the country-it's a stepping stone children need to succeed from elementary school to college and beyond," said Durbin. "Today's funding will help level the playing field for families of modest means by promoting school readiness for kindergarten and elementary school."

U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin visited the West Central Community Services Head Start program here on Tuesday.

Durbin, D-Ill., asked questions of staff after he had visited and played with some of the 3- to 5-year-olds in the program.

The West Central head start program is for Henderson, Warren and Knox counties and serves more than 300 kids in the three counties at seven locations. Congresswoman Cheri Bustos, D-East Moline, along with support from Durbin's office, secured a grant for about \$2.25 million for the program in August. Those dollars are from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and was the same funding source at about the same amount last year. Local offices are in Galesburg, Knoxville, Abingdon, Monmouth and Oquawka.

[READ ENTIRE ARTICLE HERE](#)

Policy Statement on Meeting the Needs of Families with Young Children Experiencing and At Risk of Homelessness

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
U.S. Department of Education
October 31, 2016

PURPOSE

This policy statement provides recommendations from the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS), Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and Education (ED) on ways in which early childhood and housing providers at the local and, in some cases, State levels can collaborate to provide safe, stable, and nurturing environments for pregnant women and families with young children who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness. The intended audience for this policy statement includes State and local early childhood, housing, and homeless providers, as well as policymakers who work in this space. The recommendations in this policy statement focus on better meeting the needs of these highly vulnerable families through stronger partnerships between early care, learning, health, and development settings and Continuums of Care (CoCs),¹ housing programs, and emergency shelter providers.

[SEE FULL STATEMENT HERE](#)

Community support makes Head Start work

November 4, 2016
By Sabrina Stockrahm

Head Start has always had a special place in my heart, and to see the community I've always loved stand behind the preschool makes me so proud to be a Greene Countian.

If I were a hugger, I probably would hug Rob Turpin and his comrades who have undertaken a large project to ensure the little children have the best amenities needed for a quality start to their education. Turpin learned Head Start needed a back-up solution to help address the foundation issues and he acted.

The second Head Start location in Linton is currently under construction next to Jo Etta's Pizza Villa.

My education started within the four walls of the Head Start in Linton. I have some very vivid memories from my preschool days. I remember Miss Connie and Miss Brenda, and the playground.

[SEE FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)

Head Start Health Matters: Findings from the 2012-2013 Head Start Health Manager Descriptive Study for Regions I-XII

Published: November 3, 2016

Health services have been a priority for Head Start since its inception and remain a core need for the more than 1 million children enrolled in Head Start and Early Head Start programs each year.

Drawing on survey data from 73% of Head Start and Early Head Start program health managers, the 2012-2013 Head Start Health Manager Descriptive Study explores the context and delivery of health-related activities and programming for Head Start and Early Head Start programs. This is the first study to look at the role of the health manager in nearly 20 years.

The report also reveals the insights and needs of staff who implement health components. Health managers are well-credentialed, with two-thirds holding at least a bachelor's degree and 86% reporting a health-related educational background. They describe their work as demanding but fulfilling, requiring coordination with program staff and community stakeholders, as well as the trust of Head Start families. Most cite a need for ongoing training and professional development in evidence-based health services and more streamlined access to standards and resources. These and other insights should help inform program managers to better support these front-line professionals.

[READ ENTIRE REPORT HERE](#)

How Head Start Changed This Veteran's Life

by Frank Nolan
November 11, 2016

****VALERIE YOUNG WAS A 2015-2016 IHSA PARENT AMBASSADOR and a 2016-2017 IHSA PARENT AMBASSADOR MENTOR. VALERIE YOUNG WAS ALSO THE STATE and REGIONAL WINNER FOR HEAD START PARENT OF THE YEAR and 2nd RUNNER UP FOR NATIONAL PARENT OF THE YEAR!****



Every year, Head Start serves a million of our most vulnerable children, and thousands of these children come from families with one or more parent who is a veteran. These parents put their lives on the line, and came home burdened with health and other problems which make being a successful parent especially challenging.

As we celebrate Veterans Day, we must have an honest dialogue about what needs to be done to make sure that their sacrifices are not given in vain. Every day Head Start programs are working to make sure that military families do not fall behind. Head Start currently serves over 7,000 children with a parent who is a veteran of the United States military and over 6,500 children with a parent who is a member of the United States military on active duty. There are thousands more military families in need of the Head Start Advantage. We know that we can do better but every changed life has an incalculable impact on our communities, and their stories need to be told.

[READ ENTIRE ARTICLE HERE](#)

Giving Thanks for the Head Start Advantage

By dskriloff via Rockland County Times
November 17, 2016

To the Editor,

This Thanksgiving as we reflect on all that we are grateful for, I am particularly thankful for the support Head Start has provided my family.

As a single parent of three children, Head Start provided critical support for my family. I decided to apply to Head Start after hearing many positive reviews from other friends and coworkers who had gone through the program. My oldest daughter has since graduated from Head Start and my two younger children currently attend Haverstraw Head Start and the West Street CCLC Head Start program.

The transformative impact of Head Start is clear when I look at my children. My oldest daughter is at the top of her class for reading and my children's vocabulary and conversational skills are significantly stronger. The difference I have noticed in myself is also significant. As a parent, I am much more engaged. I read to my children every night and I previously volunteered with Head Start before starting a full-time job.

[SEE FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)

Federal Judge Halts Overtime Rule

By Lisa Nagele-Piazza, SHRM-SCP, J.D.

Just 10 days before the implementation date, a federal judge in Texas put the brakes on the Department of Labor's (DOL's) new federal overtime rule, which would have doubled the Fair Labor Standards Act's (FLSA's) salary threshold for exemption from overtime pay.

Twenty-one states filed an emergency motion for a preliminary injunction in October to halt the rule. They claimed that the DOL exceeded its authority by raising the salary threshold too high and by providing for automatic adjustments to the threshold every three years.

The states' case was consolidated last month with another lawsuit filed by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and other business groups, which raised similar objections to the rule.

The overtime rule was scheduled to take effect Dec. 1 and would have raised the salary threshold from \$23,660 to \$47,476. The rule also provided for triennial adjustments based on the 40th percentile of weekly earnings of full-time salaried workers in the lowest-wage Census region.

"A preliminary injunction preserves the status quo while the court determines the department's authority to make the final rule as well as the final rule's validity," said Judge Amos Mazzant of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas in a Nov. 22 ruling.

[SEE FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)

Early childhood programs have long-term benefits, study finds

By Grace Mok
November 28, 2016

New research from Duke shows that early childhood education programs have long-term positive impacts.

Researchers from the Center for Child and Family Policy examined two of North Carolina's early childhood programs: Smart Start and NC Pre-K, formerly called More at Four. They concluded that these interventions have had positive effects that endure through late elementary school. Early childhood education research is important for policymakers considering long-term investments, explained Kenneth Dodge, director of the Center for Child and Family Policy.¹

"[Smart Start and NC Pre-K] have been heralded nationally as examples of high quality, pioneering efforts," Dodge said. "They represent the two kinds of approaches to early child care and education. The national child care community and state governments are looking to North Carolina to see if those programs have a positive impact and last a long time."

The study's authors found that at average funding levels, students who had been through Smart Start and More at Four performed significantly better on standardized testing, had less need for special education and were less likely to be held back in school.

[SEE FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)

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.

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](#)

Upcoming Training and Events

Check out our

UPCOMING TRAININGS

FEATURED BELOW



NOVEMBER:

November 29 & 30: Getting the Most from Your Staff / Springfield

DECEMBER

December 14 & 15: CLASS Observation Training / Springfield

JANUARY

January 11 & 12: New Directors Leaders Series #1 / Joliet

January 31 & February 1: IHSA Pre-Conference: Performance Standards
Excellence: Train the Trainers

FEBRUARY

February 1-3, 2017: IHSA Annual Conference / Marriott Hotel & Conference
Center / Bloomington-Normal

February 1: IHSA Pre-Conference: QEC Author Book Signing Event

February 7-9: Practice Based Coaching / Springfield

2016 - 2017 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING PLAN

DATES-AT-A-GLANCE



IHSA Annual Conference and Parent Institute

February 1 - 3, 2017

Marriott Hotel and Conference Center, Normal Illinois

Current Job Openings

JOB OPENINGS

NEW POSITIONS

- [Englewood, IL - Children's Home & Aid - Early Head Start Teacher](#)
- [Palatine, IL - Children's Home & Aid - Head Start Teacher](#)
- [Schaumburg, IL - Children's Home & Aid - Early Head Start Teacher](#)
- [Palatine, IL - Children's Home & Aid - Early Head Start Teacher](#)
- [Carthage, IL - PACT - Site Supervisor/Food Program Monitor](#)
- [Mount Sterling, IL - PACT - Information Systems Manager](#)
- [Pittsfield, IL - PACT - Head Start Center Based Teacher](#)
- [Macomb, IL - PACT - Early Head Start Center Based Teacher](#)

OPEN POSITIONS FROM PREVIOUS MONTHS

- [Palatine, IL - Children's Home & Aid - Assistant Site Manager - Education Services](#)
- [Palatine, IL - Children's Home & Aid - Bilingual Home-Visiting Teacher](#)
- [Evanston, IL - McGaw YMCA - Head Start Lead Teacher / Added 10/21/16](#)
- [Evanston, IL - McGaw YMCA - Head Start Assistant Teacher](#)
- [Evanston, IL - McGaw YMCA - Head Start Associate Teacher](#)
- [Chicago, IL - Children's Home & Aid - Director of Education Services](#)

\$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)

Grand Opening
of our new website!

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK IT OUT!



Illinois Head Start Association
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Follow us on **twitter**

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