

DIRECTORS FORUM

AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2019

1:00 – 2:45 pm

Opening Session

Welcome Address - IHSA Board President, Terri Lawrence

IHSA Annual Business Meeting

Keynote Speaker – Jonathan Edison

3:00 - 4:30 pm

Illinois Risk and Reach Report

Cristina Pacione-Zayas, PhD

Director of Policy, Erikson Institute

The Early Childhood Risk and Reach in Illinois is designed as a tool (website) to be used by all early childhood stakeholders, governmental and nongovernmental, in order to better inform policy and funding decisions that impact the distribution of critical resources. The data contained here can be tracked over time thereby helping communities and the state better understand their early childhood strengths and vulnerabilities. The report and website contain risk and reach indicators in family stability, health and early care and education. Learn about how this important investment can support community assessment and strategically be utilized to enhance overall services to our most vulnerable children and families.

4:40 - 5:15 pm

Director Component Meeting – Component Elections and Component Meeting

5:45 – 7:15 pm

Reception at Children’s Discovery Museum

THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2019

8:30 – 10:00 am Public Policy Breakfast

The IHSA Public Policy Breakfast is a valuable forum for thoughtful consideration that provides behind-the-scenes insights into some of the most crucial issues confronting Illinois Head Start/Early Head Start programs today. This Public Policy Breakfast will bring leaders and some of the most important movers and shakers into close contact with our Illinois Head Start/Early Head Start family. Participants will have an opportunity to better understand what policies are moving both at the federal and state level that will have a potential impact on local Head Start/Early Head Start programs. Learn more about Governor Pritzker's early learning vision and where the Illinois State Board of Education is heading with Preschool for All. Through highly selected presentations and group discussions you will find yourself "in the know" and be able to better position your agency within the current environment.

Speakers Include:

Setting the Stage – Why it Matters?

Lauri Morrison-Frichtl,

Executive Director, Illinois Head Start Association

Insider Perspective @ the National Level

Tommy Sheridan

Senior Director of Government Affairs

National Head Start Association

Insider Perspective @ the State Level

Tracey Kreipe

Lobbyist for Head Start and Early Head Start in Illinois

So What, Now What?

Lauri Morrison-Frichtl

Executive Director

10:00 - 12:00 pm Region V Office of Head Start Update

Karen McNamara, Supervisory Program Specialist

Guadalupe Quiroz, Program Specialist

Office of Head Start

Administration for Children and Families

**12:00 - 1:30 pm Scholarships and Awards Luncheon –
Keynote Speaker – Yasmina Vinci, Executive Director, National
Head Start Association**

1:45 - 3:15 pm Connections with Partners!

Office of Early Childhood Development

Jamilah R. Jor'dan, Ph.D.,

Deputy Director, Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development

National Head Start Association

Yasmina Vinci

Executive Director, National Head Start Association

Tommy Sheridan

Senior Director of Government Affairs, National Head Start Association

Illinois Department of Human Services

Nakisha Hobbs

Associate Director, Office of Early Childhood

Felichia Crawford

Head Start Collaboration Office

Illinois Head Start Association

Donna Emmons

Associate Collaboration Director

**3:30 - 5:00 pm Birth – 3rd Grade: Working with Public
Schools**

Lisa Hood, PhD

Center for the Study of Education Policy

Illinois State University

Birth-to-third grade alignment requires multiple systems and stakeholders to come into correct relative position to support a coherent educational experience from birth through age eight. Creating an aligned birth to age eight educational system requires changes on the part of both ECE and K-12 systems. Willingness to change and partner across systems requires understanding and building of mutual respect and trust. “Early Childhood Education (ECE) and K-12 communities share a focus on 3rd grade as it marks a significant shift in expectations for children related to learning. Children are expected to use all the foundational skills they have developed in their early years of life to be more independent learners and to be able to demonstrate acquisition of knowledge and skills through the use of standardized testing”. Let’s see what’s working and learn strategies to support alignment with our kindergarten – 3rd grade community.

FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 2019

8:30 – 9:00 am Minimum Wage Increase

Facilitated discussion and networking on how best to navigate through the increase of the Illinois minimum wage. We’ll learn what other states and communities are doing to address the eligibility issues and how they are managing their resources.

9:00 – 10:30 am Home at Head Start: Helping Families Experiencing Homelessness Access Head Start Services

Vicki Hodges, M.S.Ed.

State Coordinator for McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Safe and Healthy Climate: Regulatory Support Illinois State Board of Education

The Office of Head Start is leading a new initiative for serving more children and their families who are homeless. Are you ready for this push? The campaign challenges Head Start programs to enroll more children and families experiencing homelessness. How can we better identify young children who qualify for McKinney-Vento homeless services? Let’s examine the need in your area that will support homeless children through the McKinney-Vento services being offered and

develop a plan to better serve our youngest homeless children and their families.

10:45 - 12:00

**Closing Lunch and Keynote Speaker
Sesame Street's Sonia Manzano**