I was going to write about spring in this month’s newsletter. Spring officially began on March 19th but that really doesn't feel important anymore. It feels like the whole world has been turned upside down. It was just two weeks ago that I saw many of you at the IHSA Annual Conference but that feels like months ago. So much has happened since then. I am sure you are reading this from your home and practicing social distancing. I also know that each of you are providing the best support and care to our Head Start/Early Head Start children and families. That’s just the Head Start way! Recently, I heard Dr. Bergeron share these top three things:
1. Take care of our families.
2. Take care of our staff
3. Support our communities
I would be interested in hearing from you on how you are working with families, supporting your staff and involved with your community. As a community I think we can network and learn so much from each other.

CONTINUE READING HERE

I hope everyone is keeping safe and healthy! Who knew our Spring Break, 2020, would last for more than a week!

GOECD Resource Page for COVID-19
The Governor’s Office of Early Childhood Development has a very thorough web page of Early Childhood resources pertaining to the COVID-19 crisis. HERE’S THE LINK.

ECBG Grants Deadline Extended
The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has extended the deadline for their Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG) submissions. This includes the Preschool for All (PFA), Preschool for All Expansion (PFAE) and Prevention Initiative (PI) grants.

CONTINUE READING HERE
And Now, Let’s Reflect
We all most certainly know a health care professional who is risking their lives every day. Below are two posts from two ER doctors sharing their experiences. We know they are risking their lives and these help us understand just how much. Click on the headline to read the full article.

WHAT’S GOING TO HAPPEN? WHAT’S GOING ON? I WISH SOMEONE COULD TELL ME.

IHSA TRAININGS AND CONFERENCES

Below are the updates for the IHSA April events. Please know your health and safety is our number one priority! We continue to work hard to analyze all the information and guidelines recommended by the Center for Disease Control and will continue to do this regarding all future event decisions. Additional updates will be provided regarding May and future events as soon as possible. You can also visit our website and Facebook page for the latest news and updates.

CLASS Observation Training / April 21 & 22 / Aurora, IL is currently postponed. We will let you know the rescheduled date as soon as possible.

Quality Enrichment Circles - will move forward on the scheduled date via a Zoom video meeting. Zoom links will be sent out closer to the event.
April 16th: Education & Coaching (all regions)
April 28th: Family Services & ERSEA (all regions)
April 29th: Disabilities, Mental Health & Wellness (all regions)
April 30th: Health & Nutrition (all regions)
May 1st: EHS & Home Visiting (all regions)
Senator Dave Koehler of Dist 46 and Representative Keith Sommer of Dist 88 visited Tazewell-Woodford Head Start for "Give Kids A Smile Day." The event (put on by the Peoria District Dental Society) provides free dental check-ups to all our Head Start children! Urgent care needs are then referred to dentist for follow-up.
MEET THE MODULES
YOUR ONBOARDING SOLUTION!

DID YOU KNOW? EACH MODULE
• Takes about 15-20 minutes to complete.
• Includes short video segments that support interest and cultivate passion.
• Includes 5 questions that test the learners knowledge of the content and supports ongoing learning.

REACHING THE MOST VULNERABLE
The foundation for this module is built on believing all children, regardless of circumstances, at birth have the ability to reach their full potential. Employees will understand who we serve, why we serve the most vulnerable and how we reach the most vulnerable. Included are the important segments on poverty and trauma informed care. This module is centered on the key components of ERSEA – eligibility, recruitment, selection, enrollment and attendance. Through video segments and concrete information the employee has an opportunity to learn how each component works within a Head Start/Early Head Start program.

PROFESSIONALISM
Children and families deserve our best, everyday, no matter what our role is! During this module we enhance our understanding of how our attitude is critical to providing the best opportunity for the children and families we serve. The way we act each day impacts everyone around us. Our work is stressful but managing our emotions and asking for help when needed are key components of professionalism. At the heart of our work is understanding the importance of maintaining confidentiality. During the video segments parents share how Head Start staff have shown professionalism and made a difference in their life.

CULTIVATING PASSION
Many members tell us this is their favorite module. They love the theme of cultivating passion and discovering how important their role is to the overall success of their program. They find the connection of belonging to a community and discover that they also grow from ongoing interactions with children and families. You will need a tissue when watching the video segments as they pull at our heart strings.

WELCOME TO HEAD START AND EARLY HEAD START
New employees discover the history of Head Start, learn about comprehensive services and are provided with an introduction to the Head Start Program Performance Standards. They learn each Head Start/Early Head Start program is unique and why this matters to their community. Employees begin this module thinking they know all there is to know about Head Start but there is much more to see, hear and feel about the value of the work and the importance they play in making a difference for children and families.

ENROLL HERE NOW!
WE NEED YOUR PARENT LEADERS!
Does your agency have parents interested in an IHSA Ambassadorship?
Open our APPLICATION to read about the process; due by 05-01-20.
Call us (217) 241-3511 for more details about this ongoing program.
Click HERE to open the latest Parent Ambassadorship booklet that features their own individual stories by the Ambassadors themselves.

IHSA STAFF ALUMNI PROJECT

Were you on staff in any Head Start program? Was it more of a calling, rather than a job? You loved it, right? Wasn't it one of the most fulfilling times in your life?
Well, it can be again! Join the IHSA Staff Alumni!

Staff Alumni 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.

Goals of the Staff Alumni:
- Reconnecting with colleagues from Head Start throughout Illinois
- Building social networks & planning some activities (including Annual Friend's Component Meeting)
- Getting updated and staying informed on Head Start in Illinois and across the nation
- Lending YOUR VOICE to advocate for this wonderful program
- Sharing ideas, getting to volunteer, and/or donate, IF you choose
- Adding a bit more fun into your own life by being part of a Head Start program model for across the country

Annual Memberships for Staff Alumni are $35; but the first year is FREE! Get the word out to retired Head Start friends & staffers and tell all your former colleagues about this project! For Associate Individual Membership Form click here.
2020 AGENCY MEMBERS

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Anna Waters (DMCOC)
Baby Talk Early Head Start
BCMW Community Services, Inc.
CAA of McHenry Co.
CAP of Central Illinois
CAP of Lake County
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet
CEFS Economic Opportunity Council
Centerstone
Champaign Co. Head Start (with CCRPC)
Chicago Commons Early Head Start
Chicago Department of Family Support Services
Child Care Resource & Referral
Childcare Network of Evanston
Children’s Home + Aid
Christopher House Early Head Start
City of Rockford Head Start
Community Link/1st Step
East Central IL Community Action
Easter Seals Head Start & Early Head Start
Educare of West DuPage
El Valor - Chicago
ERBA, Inc.
Evanston-Skokie Community SD#65
Governor’s State University Early Head Start
Heartland Head Start
Howard Area Community Center
Illinois Dept. Human Services Migrant & Seasonal Head Start
Illinois Action for Children
Illinois Valley Economic Development Corporation
Kankakee School District #111
Metro Family Services DuPage
Mount Vernon School District #80
NICAA (Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency)
Ounce of Prevention Fund
PACT (Parents and Children Together)
PCCEO, Inc.
Pillars Community Services
Project NOW, Inc.
Proviso Leydon Council for CA (PLCCA)
Quincy Public Schools
Riverbend Head Start & Family Services
Rock Island-Milan Head Start Program
SIU-Carbondale Head Start
SIU-Edwardsville Head Start
Southern 7 Health Dept.
Springfield Urban League
Tazewell-Woodford Head Start
Tri-County Opportunities Council
Two Rivers Head Start Agency
Wabash Area Development, Inc.
West Central Community Services
Western Egyptian Economic Opportunities Council
YWCA Metropolitan Chicago
The IHSA Innovative Bright Practices is a place where we spotlight innovative ideas from the Head Start and Early Head Start community. Showcasing your innovative practice will offer our Head Start community an opportunity to see, listen and learn about bright ideas that are happening across Illinois. Our hope is that it might stimulate or “plant a seed” with other leaders and they take an idea and make it their own as innovation is key to our professional success. We will highlight these innovative strategies on our website and also in our monthly IHSAdvisor e-newsletter. When you have a practice that is chosen to be the monthly spotlight, this automatically nominates your Agency for the Vanessa Rich Innovation and Leadership Award. The Vanessa Rich Innovation and Leadership Award symbolizes the persistence, creativity and excellence personified by Vanessa Rich and strengthens the drive for innovation and ingenuity in our work. Tending the flame and passing on the legacy of Vanessa Rich inspires and motivates us to work even harder, to expand our reach even further and to make a bigger contribution to the children and families we serve. The prestigious Vanessa Rich Innovation and Leadership Award is presented at the Annual Conference to one Head Start program that 1. has been chosen as Innovative Bright Practice Spotlight winner and 2. has proven to be an innovated, leader-filled organization.

Do you have an innovative practice or brilliant idea that you would like featured on the IHSA website and in the newsletter? CLICK HERE to submit your strategy or look for the SPOTLIGHTING INNOVATIVE BRIGHT PRACTICES on the front page of the IHSA website.
IHSA mobilizes and strengthens its membership by creating a passion for leadership and advocacy in the interest of our most vulnerable children and families.

**IHSA Purposes**

To engage in and to receive, maintain and expend funds for benevolent and charitable purposes.

To conduct activities designed to upgrade the quality and quantity of Head Start services for children, families and communities and to safeguard, upgrade and promote the social welfare of the children and families in the State of Illinois.

To develop policies, positions, and statements which reflect a consensus of opinion of Head Start parents, directors, staff and friends.

To provide a referral of service to maximize the use of community resources and governmental agencies.

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**IHSA MISSION STATEMENT**

IHSA mobilizes and strengthens its membership by creating a passion for leadership and advocacy in the interest of our most vulnerable children and families.

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**POWER OF TWO CAMPAIGN**

_Every child deserves an opportunity to succeed. We can help make that happen with the Illinois Head Start $2 per child campaign, created to support the advocacy work of Head Start in Illinois and the National Head Start Association._

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FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO WWW.ILHEADSTART.ORG