Writing this month’s newsletter is hard. I have started and stopped at least ten times. What is the right tone to use? What is important to say during this critical time? I guess the right thing is to speak from the heart. What I know for sure is how proud I am to be part of the Illinois Head Start/Early Head Start community. The stories, pictures, and notes you all have shared make me want to yell from the mountain tops, “Head Start gets it!” From delivering food to educational packets, reading stories to the children (yes, I have been listening), to driving by each child’s home showing them how much you love them makes me cry every time. Many people in my circle think because our centers are closed that we are not working with our children and families. Trust me, I am the first to let them know we are open and serving our children and families.

Now, moving forward. How do we re-enter a “new normal”? There is so much to think about here. How do we help our staff .

CONTINUE READING HERE

"At many times throughout their lives, children will feel the world has turned topsy-turvy. It's not the ever-present smile that will help them feel secure. It's knowing that love can hold many feelings, including sadness, and that they can count on the people they love to be with them until the world turns right side up again.” -Fred Rogers

The Fred Rogers Center on Early Learning and Children’s Media has many great resources here for staff and parents working with children in this difficult time.

CONTINUE READING HERE
Reflections . .
There are certainly different aspects and viewpoints to these current times people have been facing - here in our state and across the country. Here are two articles: one from a southern Illinois reverend and the other from an internal medicine physician, each sharing their own reflections and the unique way they each decided to help. Click onto the articles below for more details.

**ILLINOIS RESTAURANTS PARTNER TO FEED WORKERS**

**COMBATING VIRUS OUTBREAK**

**TIKTOK IN THE TIME OF COVID: AN UNEXPECTED WELLNESS TOOL FOR HEALTH CARE WORKERS**

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**IHSA TRAININGS**

Below are the current updates for our IHSA events. Please know your health and safety is our #1 priority. We continually work hard to analyze the information and guidelines recommended by the Center for Disease Control and will continue to do this regarding all future event decisions.*

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

**Good 2 Great (G2G) Human Resources / Fiscal** training will now be held (virtually) via Zoom from 9:30 am - 11:30 am on Tues., May 26, Weds., May 27th and Thurs., May 28th.

**The (almost) IN-person (Directors) IN-stitute 2020 LIVE!** will be June 3 - June 5; there will be nine sessions (and more) over the course of those three days. For details and to register, click [HERE](#)!

**Vanessa Rich Leadership Experience** will be held July 21st through July 23rd (more details soon)!

*Note on the postponed **Practice Based Training Institute** - it IS going to be a (virtual) training. However, the date has not yet been finalized.

Additional updates will be provided regarding any future event as soon as known. Visit our [website](#) and Facebook page for our latest IHSA news.
OTHER NEWS:

Partner * Plan * Act / Illinois Action for Children -- "Equity from the Start: Shifting from Intentions to Outcomes (Virtual Summit) - details [here](#) on free available sessions.

ILLINOIS EARLY LEARNING PROJECT

CLICK ON THE LOGO FOR THE LATEST NEWS!

HEAD START EMPLOYMENT

CLICK ON THE LOGO FOR THE LATEST JOBS!
MEET THE MODULES

YOUR ONBOARDING SOLUTION!

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!
Asthma & Allergy Awareness Month
National Mental Health Awareness
Neurofibromatosis Awareness Month

Staff Alumni Membership Project
Retired and really want to make an impact?
Click HERE for details.

Parent Ambassador Program
Interested in Leadership, Advocacy & Parent Cafes?
Call 217-241-3511 for more details.
Read about our Parent Leaders HERE.

Earn an Erikson Institute Graduate Certificate Online with a 25% Tuition Scholarship!
MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Anna Waters (DMCOC)
Baby Talk Early Head Start
BCMWW 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 Leyden 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 IL 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

2020 AGENCY MEMBERS

CLICK 'HERE' FOR LINKS
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 these icons on the front page of our IHSA website.

YOUR AGENCY CAN BE THE NEXT....

2020 APRIL INNOVATION SPOTLIGHT!!!
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 Illinois Head Start/Early Head Start Members:
Know that your voice is heard. IHSA advocates for its members at the federal, state and local level to secure more funding, achieve beneficial policy changes and better serve Illinois’ most vulnerable children and their families. Feeling isolated and overwhelmed as you tackle the challenges of Illinois’ most vulnerable families? IHSA creates a platform for communication that fosters better understanding and mutual benefit among Head Start/Early Head Start agencies, advocates, strategic allies and corporate partners. How strong is your team? Enhance your effectiveness through IHSA’s many professional development options that include conferences, QEC’s, leadership training, online learning and peer learning opportunities. Turn to us. IHSA offers you the security of knowing where to turn to get support, and resources that you need to strengthen your Head Start/Early Head Start programs. Stay engaged. IHSA offers its members the opportunity for higher-level engagement as they participate in and shape the work of their association.

Engagement grows the membership and trains association leadership.

"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

ILLINOIS HEAD START ASSOCIATION

HELP ADVANCE THE ADVOCACY WORK OF HEAD START ON BEHALF OF AT RISK CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

IHSA MISSION STATEMENT
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