

WVHSA NEWSLETTER

Head Start Collaboration Office Update

By Traci Dalton Volume 11, Issue 1

November 2011

In this brief article, I would like to take a few moments to reflect on the accomplishments of the 2010-2011 program year and highlight some of the exciting collaborative work planned for the next twelve months.

Collaboration surrounding staff, professional development, and school readiness certainly took center stage over the previous year. The creation and launch of a collaborative West Virginia Early Learning Standards Framework Professional Development system provided staff, administrators, and families a yearlong experience to support language and literacy at home and school in five counties around our state. Another two county collaborative teams applied to implement this professional development system during the 2011-2012 year and the science and math system will be ready to implement beginning the 2012-2013 school year.

Other highlights have included the training and implementation of the Early Learning Scale, across all WV Pre-K classrooms, and the inclusion of three year old Head Start children and those served by Head Start in a home based program option into the West Virginia Education Information System. This inclusion is critical for programs to use child outcome data in meaningful ways within their programs.

Collaboration surrounding supporting positive social emotional development in children through the TACSEI Initiative (Technical Assistance Center on Social Emotional Intervention) has also been a focus for state early childhood leaders. This state leadership team is developing plans to train and implement "universal practices" across center based and home based settings. The first year saw pilots within two child care centers across the state and year two promises to expand those efforts through collaboration with In-home family education, Early Head Start, and WV Birth to Three.

Federal funding to support expansion of home visiting programs has been an exciting opportunity during 2011. The WVDHHR, serving as the lead agency, has worked diligently to create an advisory consisting of all stakeholders to plan and implement West Virginia's home visitation programs. Soon, new home visitation programs will be beginning in several southern counties. In addition, more expansion is planned. Beginning in 2012 community meetings will be held in counties that have been identified as needing home visitation programs. Home based Early Head Start plays a critical role in the future of home visitation. I encourage Head Start and Early Head Start programs to participate in these community meetings to be involved in local level planning and decision-making.

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TID BITS

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Become a Member of the West Virginia Head Start Association

For more information contact Becky Gooch-Erbacher, Executive Director at (304) 233-4450.

North Central WV Community Action Association Head Start/Early Head Start Program to Participate in the West Virginia University COHRA Oral Health Study

The NCWCAA Head Start/Early Head Start Program will be participating in an Oral Health Study for pregnant and postpartum women and their babies sponsored by WVU. The study draws participants from our Head Start families, Early Head Start enrollees, and community members. Each participating mother will be asked to attend 4 in-person dental visits with the team from WVU over the course of 2 years.

For their first visit, WVU would like to see the mother before the end of her second trimester, and then again with their baby at 1-3months, 12 months, and 24 months. At each appointment a dental assessment will be provided, in which the teeth and gums will be checked for both mom and baby, and then mothers will be asked to complete a health history interview. Mothers will receive \$75 for each visit and then a bonus for completing the full study (they may receive up to \$375).

Each of our North Central HS/EHS sites will also be offering space to conduct the study. This space will be large enough for three people, the mother, the dentist, and a portable rolling dental chair (about the size of a reclined beach chair) for the patient as well as a rolling chair for the dentist.

Each participating site will submit a contact person. WVU will then get in touch with the contact person to schedule use of the designated site monthly. **Barbour County** will be using the **Philippi I Head Start** site. **Marion County** will be using the **Rivesville Head Start Center**. **Preston County** will be using the **Early Head Start socialization site at Cornerstone Community Church**. **Randolph County** will be using their **Early Head Start Midland socialization site**. **Taylor County** will be using **Webster Center Head Start** location. **Tucker County** will be using the **HS/EHS Parsons socialization site**. **Webster County** will be using the **Work Force building**.

These sites will be used for community participants as well as Head Start and Early Head Start study participants. If you are interested or know someone who would like to **participate in the study**, please **contact Tiffany Ngan, Site Supervisor** for the Study, at **304-293-0422** or tgnan@hsc.wvu.edu.

Got Health Data?..Making it easy to collect and report

By Rebecca King MSN, Med, RN WVDE-Office of Healthy Schools

Through the Governor's Kid First Initiative, the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE)-Office of Healthy Schools received funding from Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield to provide iDevices to county school systems to allow for portable and efficient entry of HealthCheck (EPSDT) surveillance/ screening data on new enterers. As you may know, health record data systems are not utilized to their full potential for various reasons including but not limited to data entry burden (staffing, time and access) and user-friendliness.

The WVDE matched the HighMark funds for the development of a West Virginia Health Data App. The Health App was completed in the winter of 2010 with regional trainings throughout the state held in April of 2010 by the RESA-Regional School Wellness Specialist. The training was open to all stakeholders working with health data for entry of new enterers in public schools including PreK Collaborative sites. Each county school system was provided funds to purchase hand-held device(s) (iTouch, iPhone, or iPad) to utilize this App. The decision of who would receive the iDevice and input the HealthCheck data was decided by a county stakeholders group per each Superintendent or his/her designee. Many counties purchased iPad devices which proved to be more conducive to the entry of data process.

The Health App collects the following: Height/Weight including data of collection with calculation of BMI; Health Screening information for vision, hearing, speech/language, developmental and dental and; Immunization records with month/date/year along with a space for notes and codes.

The iDevice App was developed to allow entry of data on students without an assigned West Virginia Education Information System (WVEIS) number, integration of data into the WVEIS student educational record, access for off-site locations to enter health data on new enterers in PreK and Kindergarten, access while out of the WVEIS network that is secure and confidential along with having a transportable and efficient data entry portal.

As we move into the near future, providing WVEIS access to Head Start Programs throughout the state of West Virginia could be beneficial to meeting the requirements for children's health data, follow-ups and referrals. The webbased WVEIS screens include objective and subjective screening data fields, immunizations, miscellaneous health data, sick bay visits and medication logs. I hope you join our State Collaborative Team in making this future endeavor toward "Universal Access and Enrollment" a success that is beneficial to your collaborative program and the children and families you serve.



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS



Resiliency of Children

We've just completed WV ROCS, *West Virginia Resiliency of Children*, a professional development program for early care educators in West Virginia focusing on the life-long impact of their relationships with children. This 8-part series provides insights and strategies for fostering trust, autonomy, and initiative to facilitate the growth of attachment and resiliency skills in children.

West Virginia's Resource and Referral Behavior Consultants will be presenting the training throughout the state to providers in center and home-based child care, and Head Start and pre-K programs. Helping early childhood educators build these positive relationships with young children leads not only to greater success in school and in life for the children, but also to greater job satisfaction for the adults who care for them.

The key project developers are Annette Santella, Fred Rogers Company Professional Development Specialist, and Saun Floyd, Behavior Consultant Coordinator for the Early Care and Education Unit of the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Services. Funding was provided by The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) 2009.

Additional learning components of WV ROCS include a series of animated vignettes, video clips about trust and resilience delivered by West Virginia Family Therapist Jim Harris, and a variety of video clips from *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* and our other professional development workshops.


Just as Fred Rogers built his Neighborhood programs around the central theme of building relationships with the viewing audience and between his human and puppet neighbors, WV ROCS is designed to offer practical, everyday ways to enhance quality emotional attachments between children and the people who care for them.

Collaborations

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It should be obvious that collaboration is always occurring at the state and local level. Together we are all making positive changes for children and families. Here are a few other items to be watching for during this year. First, visit www.wvearlylearning.org this is the website of the WV Early Childhood Advisory Council. Sign up on the site to receive important information from the council and you can also get involved in one of the many committees. Secondly, watch for the announcement of Race to The Top Early Learning Challenge grants. West Virginia did put forth an application and announcements will occur in December. Next, local grant announcements to support health data entry into WVEIS will be coming soon. This collaborative grant opportunity is funded jointly through the West Virginia Department of Education and the Head Start Collaboration Office. These grants will support the purchase of iPads and the training of staff on how to use them. This step is critical to school readiness goals and we are excited to be able to support this work.

If you have any questions related to information shared in this article, have questions, or would like to learn more about the Head Start State Collaboration Office please email Traci.L.Dalton@wv.gov or call the office at 304-356-4604.



Southwestern Head Start and Early Start

Period of purple crying

On August 26 Early Head Start staff attended an online training module for The *Period of PURPLE Crying*®. The *Period of PURPLE Crying*® is an evidence-based infant abuse prevention program which educates parents and caregivers about normal infant crying and the dangers of shaken baby syndrome. The Period of PURPLE Crying® is the phrase used to describe the point in a baby's life when they cry more than other times. This period of increased crying is often described as colic. The *Period of PURPLE Crying*® is a new way to help parents understand this time in their baby's life, which is a normal part of every infant's development. This program gives the parent's strategies they can use to help the infant through this period as well as strategies to help the parents cope with the increased crying.

The letters in PURPLE stand for:

- P: Peak of Crying—your baby may cry more each week, but most in month 2, the less in months 3-5
- U: Unexpected—Crying can come and go you don't know why
- R: Resists Soothing—Your baby may not stop crying no matter what you try
- P: Pain-Like Face—A crying baby may look like they are in pain, even when they are not
- L: Long Lasting—Crying can last as much as 5 hours a day or more
- E: evening—your baby may cry more in the late afternoon and evening

The *Period of PURPLE Crying* uses a triple dose strategy: Dose 1 Maternity Wards, Dose 2 Post-natal reinforcement, and Dose 3 Public Education and Media Campaign. Four hospitals in West Virginia are serving as pilot sites for The *Period of PURPLE crying*. As a dose 1 provider, these hospitals are distributing intervention materials to parents of all newly born infants in the maternity wards. As a dose 2 provider SCAC Early Head Start Staff is distributing and reviewing The *Period of PURPLE Crying*® Booklet and DVD with the families enrolled in the Early Head Start Program.

For additional information regarding The *Period of PURPLE crying* visit www.dontshake.org.

HUG Your Baby

On September 22 and 23 twelve Early Head Start Staff including, Home Visitors, the Pregnant Moms Program Home visitor, and Child and Family Development Specialists, attended HUG Your Baby Part I and II Training. The HUG is a program developed by Jan Tedder, BSN, IBCLC, Family Nurse Practitioner. Ms. Tedder has worked in a primary care setting for thirty years. Educated at UNCC, UNC-CH, the Brazelton Institute/*Touchpoints* Center, and Duke University Child Development Center.

The HUG is a program to help professionals learn an effective, fun, and family-friendly approach to teach expectant and new parents about newborn behavior. HUG Your Baby's trainings and resources help parents (and the professionals who care for them) understand a baby's body language in order to prevent and solve problems around eating, sleeping, crying, and parent-child interaction and bonding.

The HUG is based on the medical and child development literature of Drs. T. Berry Brazelton, Marshall and Phyllis Klaus, Michael Lamb, Mechthilad Papousek, Barbara Howard and others. This research and Ms. Tedder's materials have been presented at national and international conferences and published in peer-reviewed nursing and childbirth education journals.

The Early Head Start staff who attended the HUG Your Baby Part I and II received a certificate and are planning to complete Part III (online training) to become a Certified HUG your Baby Teacher.

For additional Information regarding HUG your Baby visit www.hugyourbaby.org or contact Jan Tedder at (919)923-6609 or hugyourbaby@earthlink.net.

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ECHO Initiative

On September 27th and 28th, Regina Ward, Head Start Health Specialist and Crystal Pelfrey, Early Head Start Health and Wellness Specialist attended the ECHO Initiative OAE Hearing Screening Training. The ECHO Initiative is a collaborative opportunity between The National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management at Utah State University and Southwestern Community Action Council Early Head Start Program. It is funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau and the Office of Head Start. The goal of this initiative is to demonstrate model strategies using otoacoustic emissions (OAE) hearing screening technology to update hearing screening practices for Early Head Start, Migrant/Seasonal and American Indian/Alaska Native grantees/delegates and to ensure that appropriate follow-up diagnostic and intervention services are provided for children who do not pass the screening. The focus of this effort is on the provision of updated hearing screening practices for children birth to three years of age. We will begin screening Early Head Start children using the OAE hearing screener in October.

For additional information regarding the ECHO Initiative Visit www.kidshearing.org

Self Defense

On September 2nd and 9th Early Head Start staff from the Lakin Correctional Facility participated in women's self-defense seminar taught by Cheryl Hutchison and Carmen Raynes, owners and Instructors at Hutchison's Chun Kuk Do Karate Studio, located in Milton, WV. The seminar included strategies to handle potentially dangerous situations, things you can do to increase your safety, and strategies to use to get out of physical situations such as, chokes, bear hugs, and hair grabs. The main emphasized of the seminar, "If you judge the situation to be unsafe, then trust your feelings and do not wait around to see if it worsens. GET OUT! If it's a false alarm don't be embarrassed".

For additional information regarding Women's Self-Defense call (304)690-1149.

Birth Behind Bars

On November 8,9, and 10 Janice Banther, CCCE, CLD, CD(DONA) CHBE, founder and Executive Director of For the Love of Birth, Inc. and BIRTH BEHIND BARS, will be providing training and support to the Early Head Start Staff who work at the Lakin Correctional Facility. In 2001, Janice began **Birth Behind Bars** in the Tampa Bay Area. This program focuses on teaching childbirth classes to pregnant inmates and providing labor support when the inmates go to the hospital to give birth. This program also provides parenting education to female as well as male inmates. The goal of the classes is to help inmates stop the cycle of abuse in their families.

Janice is going to provide training and technical assistance to the Early Head Start Staff on topics such as, teaching the adult learner in jail, conducting childbirth education classes with pregnant inmates, and basic issues of postpartum care; including breastfeeding, newborn care and postpartum depression.

For additional information regarding the Birth Behind Bars program visit www.birthbehindbars.com.

SCAC EHS Programs

Cabell Midland High School and Huntington High School, Southwestern Community Action Council Early Head Start Program provides comprehensive Early Head Start services to high school students so they can continue their education and graduate from high school. Not only does Early Head Start provide childcare for these students, but we provide the students with support, educate them about child development, and provide them with social services that they may not have known about if they were not part of the Early Head Start Program. "Most of all we offer the children and families we serve a nurturing, loving environment. When I have children in my care, I treat them as my own and would protect them with my life. I love my job and what we do, and feel we are giving these young families a chance to succeed in life," said Amber Evans, Site Supervisor and Early Head Start Teacher at Cabell Midland High School.

Monroe County Head Start and Early Head Start Provides Literacy Learning to Families and Children

By Bill Krafft

Monroe County Head Start and Early Head Start and the West Virginia Department of Education have collaborated in 2011 to provide students with a greater number of opportunities to experience literacy awareness. Head Start and Pre k teachers receive training throughout the school year to develop lesson plans and classrooms that provide more of these opportunities. This training began with the second day that teachers were back from summer break and will continue through April. Monroe County Early Head Start will borrow from these lessons to increase the literacy activities in center-based and home-based program options.



As a result of this training, students will be exposed to literacy-rich classroom experiences which will improve Kindergarten readiness. Students in Pre K and Head Start classrooms will be presented with practices to develop many literacy skills such as keyboarding, writing, spelling, word recognition, and phonics. Teachers will be able to intentionally design math and science lessons which will continue to expose their students to literacy activities through all curricular activities.

Early Childhood Learning Literacy in the Pre K/ Head Start Classrooms are being reinforced by Literacy Practices being shared with parents courtesy of the Center for Early Learning Literacy (CELL). Materials from CELL are available from their website, <http://www.earlyliteracylearning.org/>. These materials will be shared through CELL information that will be sent home in backpacks. There will be a series of training opportunities at parent meetings to identify how parents can create literacy rich experiences for their children. This year's Fatherhood Events are being planned to provide dads to promote best practices for literacy development.

In the combination model that serves three year-old students, home visitors are utilizing CELL materials to provide families with literacy-enriching practices to give students a head start to kindergarten readiness. Home visitors are incorporating CELL practice guides into their home visiting lesson plans, as well as providing parents with materials to use between visits to provide literacy opportunities.

Also, CELL practice guides are being utilized by the Monroe County Early Head Start program to help parents of infants and toddlers to create a literacy-rich environment for their children. Increased awareness of developmentally appropriate literacy learning is fundamental for these children as much as any child in a three or four year-old classroom. While the practices may look different for infant, toddlers, and preschoolers, Monroe County Head Start and Early Head Start will provide children and families with the greatest possible learning experience.

Simplify Recruitment using



ChildPlus.net Brings More Compatibility for 3rd Party Software

Did you know that more children are tracked with ChildPlus.net than all other software combined? Over 1,000 Head Start/EHS agencies use ChildPlus.net. From features like the Dashboard to Application Express to LiveLetter, we're always looking for ways to help you and your agency save time!

Export to Fit Your Needs

Does your agency use other software like WVEIS for reporting? Now you can eliminate duplicate data entry into state, county systems and other 3rd party software! ChildPlus.net is pleased to bring you **Custom Data Export** tool. Export data from the Family Application for whole families or family members. Here's some of the data you can export:

- Family and individuals
- Name
- Birthday
- SSN
- Race and Hispanic
- Gender
- Addresses
- Phone numbers
- Attendance
- Immunizations
- And more!

Enter Data Once

The Custom Data Export tool has the familiarity of running a report that you can then export! Enter all of your data for Family Application, Enrollment and Immunizations like normal in ChildPlus.net. Before the Custom Data Export tool, you would reenter the data in WVEIS. Now you open the Custom Data Export tool and choose the data you'd like to export. Eliminate duplicate data entry in WVEIS and save valuable time with Custom Data Export!

Stay tuned for Custom Data Export – coming in ChildPlus.net's next major release.

Time to Network

Discuss Custom Data Export and more of ChildPlus.net's helpful features at the next Region III User Group Meeting!

Date: 10/25/2011

Place: Country Inn and Suites Harrisburg, VA

Contact Diane Sproull at dsproull@privateindustrycouncil.com or 724.836.2600 for more details!

Not a ChildPlus.net user and ready to learn more about the benefits of switching? Sign up for a free personal ChildPlus.net demonstration to see the software in action. Contact us at 800.888.6674 or sales@childplus.com today! Visit us online at www.childplus.com to watch video tours.

**Your West Virginia Head Start Association
2010-11 Board of Directors**

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UP & COMING

2012 WVHS Association Meeting Dates

3/14 & 3/15/12 Charleston, WV

6/13 & 6/14/12 TBA

2012 WVHSA Board of Directors Meeting Dates

1/12/12 Conference call

2/09/12 Conference call

4/12/12 Conference call

5/10/12 Conference call

8/09/12 Conference call

9/13/12 Charleston, WV

10/11/12 TBA

***MISSION
STATEMENT***

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***The West Virginia Head Start
Association's Mission Statement for
2011-2012***

Speaking with one voice for West Virginia's young children and families by:

- involving parents as decision makers,
- advocating for high quality services,
- strengthening partnerships on the local and state level,
- providing statewide training for early childhood programs, and
- circulating key information to local Head Start programs.