

1 August 2010

To: California Head Start/Early Head Start Programs
From: California Head Start Association
Re: CDA requirement in the Head Start Act of 2007

As many of you know, CHSA wrote a request to the Office of Head Start asking that they accept the California Associate Teacher Permit as an equivalent to the CDA requirements for EHS teacher and HS teacher assistants as stated in the Head Start Act of 2007. (Section 648A(a)(2)(B)(ii) and Section 645A (h) of the Head Start Act no longer identifies a State issued equivalent to the CDA as meeting the requirements.)

We are very pleased to share the attached letter that grants that request. While Head Start teacher assistants are not mentioned in the letter, OHS has stated that there was a previous agreement that identified the 12 units required by Community Care Licensing in CA as meeting the CDA equivalent and that the agreement was still in effect.

For Early Head Start teachers the equivalent to the CDA is a CA Associate Teacher Permit with course work that includes 6 units of infant toddler content. This means that an EHS teacher will need to have at least 6 units of infant toddler course work as well as the core classes required by licensing. (Child/Family/Community, Child Development, and Curriculum).

We appreciate the work that went into getting this equivalent, especially from the Region IX office. They spent a lot of time working with the staff at OHS to clarify the systems we have in California. Thank you.

If you have any questions contact your program specialist and they should be able to help you.

Kay Wernert
President, California Head Start Association



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
Office of Head Start
8th Floor Portal Building
1250 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20024

July 26, 2010

Ms. Kay Werner, President
California Head Start Association
c/o Community Action Agency of Marin
359 Bel Marin Keys Boulevard, Suite One
Novato, California

Dear Ms. Werner,

The Office of Head Start is pleased to inform you and other key stake holders that our review of materials from the State, related to the Child Development Associate Teacher Permit, is complete. This review includes materials related this permit designed by, awarded by and accepted by the State as an alternative to the Child Development Associate (CDA) for infants and toddlers.

After reviewing the California documentation, the Office of Head Start has determined that the Child Development Associate Teacher Permit as an acceptable alternative to the CDA when it includes a minimum of six units in infant toddler course work as part of the core units. This determination was based on the fact that the State attaches requirements for mandatory, successful completion of early childhood and child development college coursework of at least 15 units along with required experience.

As you know, per the 2007 Head Start Act, every infant toddler teacher must be qualified by September 30, 2010

In addition to recognizing this Associate Teacher Permit, we want to remind Head Start and Early Head Start agencies that they are responsible for ensuring that all teaching staff are, and remain, competent and qualified to work with either infants and toddlers, or preschool children.

Thank you for your hard ward in contributing to the professional development opportunities in you State. I look forward to our continued work together on behalf of children and families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yvette Sanchez Fuentes', written in a cursive style.

Yvette Sanchez Fuentes
Director
Office of Head Start

CC: Jan Len, Region IX
Kristine Jackson, Region IX
Adia Brown, Office of Head Start
Ann Linehan, Office of Head Start
Angie Godfrey, Office of Head Start
Michele Plutro, Office of Head Start