

# California

Head Start  
Association



## Summer 2005

# FOCUS

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California Head Start Association  
1107 9th Street, Suite 301  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 444-7760 Voice  
(916) 444-2257 Fax

Lucía Palacios  
2004-2006 President  
palacios@usc.org

Edward Condon  
Executive Director  
edcondon@caheadstart.org

caheadstart.org

## Congress Debates Head Start's Future

As children and families celebrated Head Start's 40th birthday and the end of the school year, Congress, passed two reauthorization bills with little debate.

- House Bill H.R. 2123 (Head Start School Readiness Act of 2005) was approved by the House Committee on May 18th by a vote of 48-0.
- Senate Bill S. 1107 (Head Start Improvements for School Readiness Act) was ordered to be reported without amendment on May 25th.

**Next steps: HR 2123 and S. 1107 will be scheduled for a floor vote in the House and Senate.**

As noted in the recent CHSA Updates, the quick pace of developments surprised many Head Start advocates. Extensive and sweeping changes in both the House and Senate bills will impact all areas of a programs operation. From governance, professional development and accountability, to state and local collaboration, grant re-competition and increased academic standards, these bills would usher in a new era for Head Start and Early Head Start programs.

Looking at the bills from a positive perspective, the increased set-asides for Early Head Start, Migrant and Tribal Head Start as well as a firm minimum base of 2% for training and technical assistance provide relief to areas of current frustration. In the Senate bill the eligibility limit is raised to 130% of poverty. The House bill allows for programs to serve infants and toddlers once outreach to the community demonstrates that serving younger children is viable. Both the House and Senate bills call for closer alignment with the State K-12 standards as well as the development of early learning councils that are designed to build stronger collaborations between systems.

Significant concerns emerge for advocates as the bills seek to create greater accountability. In the House bill, parent's authority over the program is adjusted from the historical role of dual governance to that of advisory within newly created body – Head Start Independent Board. HR 2123 would dissolve Head Start Parent Policy Councils as they are currently designed today. In the new bill the Policy Council

### MISSION STATEMENT

The California Head Start Association is the unified voice providing leadership and advocacy for the Head Start community.

### VISION STATEMENT

The California Head Start Association will be an important strategic partner representing Head Start interests in California and the nation.



Pictured above: Sacramento's SETA/Walnut Grove 2005 Graduation. Pictured below: San Francisco's Head Start Children at 40th Celebration June 18, 2005.



## \$2 PER CHILD CAMPAIGN

Thanks to ALL the California Head Start Parents and Friends who have contributed to this campaign drive. So far in 2005 we have collected \$11,253.80

- Shasta Head Start Parents and Friends
- Sierra Cascade Head Start Friends
- Parents of Kai Ming Head Start
- Head Start Parents of Tulare County
- Parents and Friends of Santa Clara County Head Start
- Community And Family Services Head Start Parents
- Friends of USC Head Start
- North Coast Opportunities Families Supporting Head Start
- Norma Johnson
- Isaac Johnson
- Tracey Dela Riva
- Carolyn Mangrum
- Pamela Shaw
- Carmen Luna
- Corrine Lindgren
- Kevin Ngu

Pictured at left: CHSA Parent Ambassador, Aneita Seigel and family join in the fun.

Pictured at right: Shasta celebrated Head Start's 40 years with "guest" visit from Lady Bird Johnson during a 60's style picnic.

would be a standing committee to an independent board of directors. The Policy Council would be comprised of 50% of parents who have children in the program and the chair of the Policy Council would have a seat on the Independent Board. In both the House and Senate, the bills that passed the committees put forward stronger language, related to eligibility for ongoing funding. Teacher qualifications would be significantly increased in both bills. Of greatest challenge is the requirement that 50% of teachers by 2010/2011 hold a Bachelor degree in early childhood or related field of study.

In recent months, the United States Government Accountability Office (GAO) has issued two reports about Head Start. In February 2005 the GAO looked closely at financial management weaknesses summarizing that the Head Start Bureau and the ACF regional offices must do more to assess and resolve fiscal issues grantees disclose during PRISM visits and ongoing program monitoring. During the reauthorization debate the GAO report number GAO-05-176 entitled 'Head Start: Comprehensive Approach to Identifying and Addressing Risks Could Help Prevent Grantee Financial Management Weaknesses' was widely distributed and discussed. The second report on the National Reporting System, GAO-05-343 entitled 'Head Start: Further Development Could Allow Results of New Test to Be Used for Decision Making' which was released on May 17, 2005. The report states "the NRS is currently incomplete to support its use for the purpose of accountability and targeting training and technical assistance." The GAO study recommends several actions, yet Congress has included very few of those ideas in the reauthorization proposals. Many advocates in the field continue to call for a halt to the use of NRS until it can be demonstrated as valid and reliable.



California's Senator Diane Feinstein has introduced Loan Forgiveness for Head Start Teachers Act of 2005. Current law requires that only 50%

of all Head Start teachers must have an associate, baccalaureate, or advanced degree in early childhood education or a related field with experience in teaching. Only 30 percent of Head Start teachers nationwide have a baccalaureate or higher. The proposed legislation would encourage recent graduates, current Head Start teachers without a degree, and college students to enter and remain in the Head Start field. In exchange for five years of teaching in a qualified Head Start program, a college graduate (obtaining a minimum of a bachelor's degree) could receive up to \$5,000 of their Federal loan forgiven. Given the significant cost of higher education, the Loan Forgiveness for Head Start Teachers Act of 2005 would be of great value to our field.



## June Elizabeth Dodson Remembered

January 18, 1947 – May 5, 2005

In 1986 June joined OCHS Orange County Head Start staff teaching in Cypress. She loved working with children. June then moved to Huntington Beach to work a six-hour position, so she could return to college to get her degree in Child Development. June received her B.S. Degree in Child Development in 1992.

After receiving her degree she switched positions from classroom teacher to Education Specialist with OCHS. June enjoyed her job. June's favorite part of her job was training the OCHS Staff in developmentally appropriate practices. June worked at OCHS until her passing.

June will be deeply missed by all of her friends and colleagues at Orange County Head Start.



June Dodson on right with Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez

## California Head Start Programs Join NHSA's 40 Most Outstanding

Congratulations to Child Start Inc. of Napa, California and Shasta Head Start Child Development Inc. of Redding, California who were recognized by the National Head Start Association last month in Orlando, Florida to commemorate Head Start's 40th Anniversary.

Child Start Inc. was specifically acknowledged for expertise in case management, innovations serving children with disabilities and infant mental health services. "This was a great honor for all our staff," said Child Start Inc. executive director Jackie Dollar-Harrison. In 2003, Child Start, Inc was noted as an exemplary program during their PRISM review.

Jackie Dollar Harrison also received recognition from NHSA for a Lifetime Achievement Award as well.

Shasta Head Start Child Development Inc. under the leadership of veteran Head Start Director Judie Englesby-Smith serves children and families in a challenging and vast mountainous terrain that encompasses more than 13,000 square miles. Shasta Head Start was acknowledged for its commitment to full inclusion model for severely disabled children. During a recent community celebration, Shasta celebrated Head Start's 40 years with "guest" visit from Lady Bird Johnson during a 60's style picnic.



Jackie Dollar-Harrison of Child Start, Inc. and Judie Englesby-Smith of Shasta celebrate recognition as NHSA's 40 Most Outstanding Programs.

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## Do you have a Head Start story?

CHSA's story bank is now open for business and ready to receive story deposits – contribute today to so that we can build upon the great work of Head Start. According to experts the key points to a good story are the following...

- Concise but colorful...
- Told in a common language ...
- Unpredictable...
- Engages the emotions...
- Always contains truth...
- Infused with meaning...

Email your stories and photos to our Community Development Associate, Akilah Parks at e-mail: [akilah@caheadstart.org](mailto:akilah@caheadstart.org) We will list them on the CHSA website.

# CHSA Joins State's Leadership on Emerging Issues

Two upcoming events in Sacramento, related to children and families has enlisted the support of CHSA

The Governor's Summit on Health, Nutrition and Obesity, planned for September 2005 will inspire private and public sector leaders to think differently about obesity and the opportunities we have to prevent it. Led by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and sponsored by The California Endowment, the Summit will promote healthy foods, active lifestyles, and obesity prevention. CHSA's executive director Edward Condon has joined the Summit Advisory Committee to represent the interest of our Head Start families. "In California, 41% of our children who need follow-up treatment, as identified in medical screenings were overweight," offers Condon. "In many of our communities, healthy fresh foods are much less available, we need to work toward new solutions in terms of supply and promoting active, child centered lifestyles for our families and staff," he adds.

Superintendent for Public Instruction Jack O'Connell will be hosting a Preschool Summit in May 2006. CHSA is working to support and advise the development of the first ever statewide event with an expected attendance of 4000. Deputy Superintendent Sue Stickel, is leading the planning team. The Summit will offer a variety of keynote and featured speakers targeting a range of staff, from program leadership and classroom teachers, to parents and preschool advocates. "We are very excited to work with the state Department of Education on this important event. Head Start programs throughout California work closely to collaborate with our state partners," said CHSA President Lucía Palacios. "We applaud the Superintendent and his leadership on this issue," states Palacios.

## WESTERN GROWERS SCHOOL GARDEN GRANT

This project provides schools, youth groups, community centers, clubs and any organization that supports gardening with children (ages 0-18) funds to purchase supplies needed to install a school garden (wood, nails, soil, fertilizer, raised bed kits, irrigation, garden tools, etc). Application deadline is September 1, 2005.

## "Preschool For All" Initiative Filed

*from Preschool California*

On June 17, 2005, children's advocate Rob Reiner and a broad-based coalition of business, labor, and education leaders, filed a June 2006 ballot initiative to offer quality preschool programs for all California four-year-olds whose parents choose to enroll them. Citing documented benefits to children, K-12 schools and the California economy, the coalition said the **Preschool for All Act** represents one of the smartest and most forward looking investments California can make in its children, its economy, and its future.

The initiative funds voluntary preschool for all California children in the year prior to kindergarten. It asks for support from the wealthiest Californians by increasing their tax rate by 1.7% on the annual income they earn over \$800,000 for married couples or \$400,000 for individuals. Built on the existing public/private preschool system, the initiative insists upon quality for children and their families; adequate qualifications and compensation for instructional staff; flexibility to meet local needs; and accountability to the public.

Programs such as State Preschool and Head Start, as well as state-contracted programs that include a preschool component, and private preschool centers and family childcare homes, may offer **Preschool For All** provided they meet quality standards – including well trained teachers – as defined by the SPI. State Preschool and Head Start programs will be reimbursed the difference between what they now receive from the state and the rate paid to programs to deliver preschool.

The California Head Start Association's leadership is active in the development of many key components of the Act. Working closely with the **Preschool For All** Coalition, CHSA's goal has been to ensure that the **Preschool For All Act** strengthens services to California's low-income communities. CHSA's President Lucía Palacios observes, "I am excited about the progress of this initiative, and I believe our communities who have limited access to preschool, and those families who are over our income eligibility guidelines, will have an opportunity to participate and benefit from a quality preschool experience." The CHSA Board will host a series of discussions in the next twelve months on the impact of **Preschool For All** and the potential local collaborations.

For more information, contact Edward Condon, 916-444-7760.

# TWO Great Institutes – ONE Great City – Pasadena, CA

August 15 & 16, 2005

Summer Director & Manager Institute • Summer Teachers Institute

Register on-line today at [events.caheadstart.org](http://events.caheadstart.org)

## For Directors & Managers...

This institute is targeted to serve the needs of directors, program managers and specialists involved in fiscal services, monitoring and all areas of program management. New Head Start directors and managers are encouraged to attend the two-day session offered to provide basic and advanced understanding of Head Start systems. Time will be afforded within the Institute for networking, keynotes and updates from our regulatory partners. The presentations at this institute will emphasize a balance of theory and practice. Each presenter is a professional trainer with extensive experience in their topic area. Join us for two excellent days!

## Featured Sessions

### Board, Program and Fiscal Managers Training

In This two-day training by Frank Lorah, the attendee will advance their knowledge in a number of areas critical to a Head Start agency success. First, the focus will be on the emerging changes in the Head Start Act and most recent regulatory developments. The trainer will explore the challenges and what changes might be of immediate concern to California Head Start community. Exploring the areas of accountability, on-going monitoring and fiscal controls to for programs who are grantee or delegate will offer a current view of the new demands on our programs. An extensive discussion on the involvement of Board, Finance and Audit Committees will help prepare the attendee for improvement in the areas of reporting and governance. The trainer will lead a number of exercises on short and long range fiscal goal planning as well as the human resource needs related to fiscal management. Lastly, specific best practices will be highlighted throughout the two days with time for networking and group discussion.

### Head Start's Management Systems: Preparing for Success

Jerry Gomez, former program manager at ACF Region 9, will provide a 2-day workshop that focuses on key management systems that are evaluated by ACF and will share how to assess and develop effective systems that work for your program and are in compliance with regulations. The workshop is aimed at program managers and directors who are scheduled for a Federal PRISM review next year (Fiscal Year 2006). The session will cover the connections between management systems and program services, common issues, and the systems that can be particularly challenging or at risk. A panel of program managers and reviewers will share their perspectives on some of these challenges and their experiences. The workshop will conclude with an afternoon session conducted by Bob Beggs and Reyna Dominguez on preparing for a Federal review, techniques for organizing and conducting an in-depth self assessment, and how to work with a Federal review team.

### New Directors & Managers Training: Head Start 101

This training presented by the STG Region IX T/TA Network is targeted to new Head Start Directors & Managers, individuals who have been in there positions for less than two years.

This two-day training will provide participants with basic and advanced information to ensure a full understanding of their individual roles in Head Start. On day-one attendees will be introduced to the Head Start Road Map – systems planning and program development. Special effort will be taken to address all key elements new directors and managers must balance in quality programs. Group discussions will support understanding Program Information Reporting (PIR), Program Review Instrument for Systems Monitoring (PRISM) and additional actions needed to further improve their local programs. On day-two, attendees will be exposed to T/TA planning, integrating Head Start Performance Standards and "hands on" group exercises to guarantee understanding – and have a bit of fun too!

## For Teachers and education staff...

This institute is targeted to serve the needs of classroom teachers, education staff and community partners. The presentations at this institute will emphasize a balance of theory and practice. The 2005 Institute will feature three, two-day trainings. Institute topics include: Observation and Assessment – Does all that paperwork have a purpose, Discovering Children's True Spirit: The Process for Supporting Children with Challenging Behaviors and The Basics of Relationship Based Infant Toddler Care Using a PITC Framework. Time will be afforded within the Institute for networking, keynotes and updates from our regulatory partners. Each presenter is a professional trainer with extensive experience in their topic area. Join us for two excellent days!

## Featured Sessions

### Observation and Assessment - Does all that paperwork have a purpose?

This two-day workshop will focus on the power of observation and assessment as a change agent in the classroom. Participants will receive tools and strategies for "Working Smarter Not Harder" by learning how to take advantage of a team approach to observation and assessment. Hands on activities, interactive discussions, and video demonstrations are some of the methods that will be used in this workshop for practicing the skills necessary to maximize resources and meet child outcomes. Each participant will receive workshop materials for implementation in their own programs. In addition, the latest information on the DRDP revision and the Pre-Kindergarten Learning Standards will be presented.

### Discovering Children's True Spirit: The Process for Supporting Children with Challenging Behaviors"

This highly interactive, by Senta Greene, MA, CCLS, is a thought-provoking training that will actively explore the causes of challenging behaviors in young children. This session will utilize a holistic approach to helping children cope, learn, and successfully navigate their daily life experiences at home, school, and in the community. A framework for implementing evidence-based practices will be presented including innovative strategies to enhance the participant's knowledge and skills in supporting young children's social-emotional development.

### The Basics of Relationship Based Infant Toddler Care Using a PITC Framework

The focus of this two-day training will be techniques and perspectives on developing and maintaining responsive relationships with young children and their families. The presenter Catherine de la Torre is a certified graduate of the Program for Infant Toddler Caregivers institutes and a PITC Partners for Quality trainer. Participants will receive an intensive look at relationship-based caregiving for infants and toddlers, including six essential policies of a successful relationship-based approach. Topic areas will include temperament, responsive care, language development, caregiving routines, and the importance of relationships for early development. Each topic covered will weave in discussion of cultural issues and children with special needs. Participants will explore the topics through video clips, discussions, small group activities, and written exercises and reflections.

Register on-line today at [events.caheadstart.org](http://events.caheadstart.org)  
or call CHSA at 916-444-7760

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**August 9, 2005**  
Santa Barbara, CA  
**First Smiles Oral Health  
Education Trainings**

**August 15 & 16, 2005**  
Pasadena, CA  
**Summer Director  
& Manager Institute**

**August 17, 2005**  
Pasadena, CA  
**Board of Directors Meeting**

**August 15 & 16, 2005**  
Pasadena, CA  
**Summer Teacher Institute**

**October 11, 2005**  
San Rafael, CA  
**First Smiles Oral Health  
Education Trainings**

**October 18, 2005**  
Pasadena, CA  
**Board of Directors Meeting**

**January 17 & 18, 2006**  
Sacramento, CA  
**5th Parent Conference**

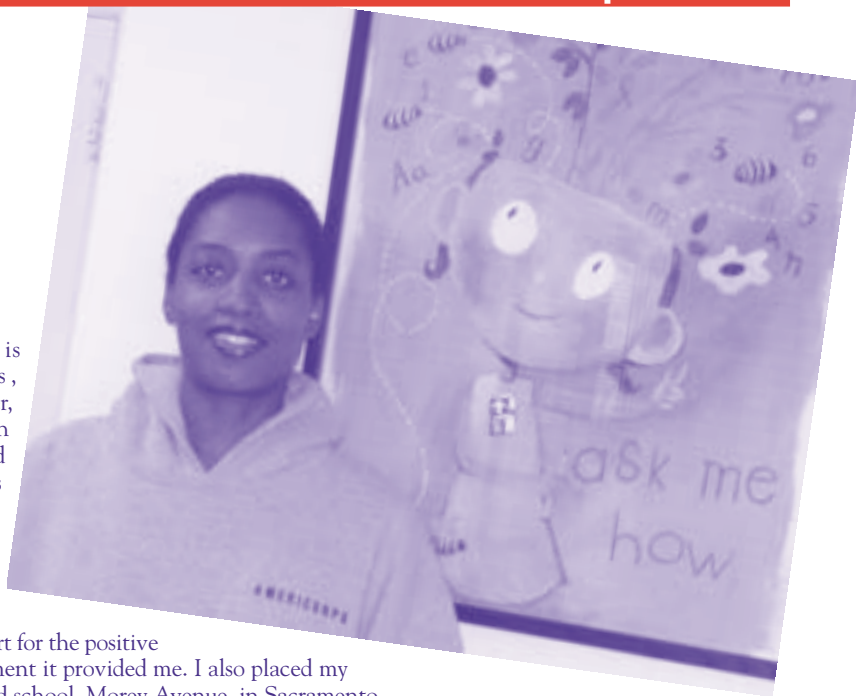
**January 17, 2006**  
Sacramento, CA  
**Board of Directors Meeting**

**January 18 - 20, 2006**  
Sacramento, CA  
**8th CHSA General Conference**

## California Head Start and AmeriCorps

**Akilah Parks**  
*AmeriCorps  
Member*

Hello. My name is Akilah Parks, AmeriCorps member, volunteering with The California Head Start Association. As a Head Start graduate, I am very excited to be an advocate of the association. I am grateful to Head Start for the positive childhood environment it provided me. I also placed my son, Isaiah, at my old school, Morey Avenue, in Sacramento.



As a Head Start parent, I have completed three units of early childhood development at American River College. I am currently pursuing a certificate in ECE. My Head Start parent experience really pumped me up for involvement in politics and community upkeep.

I encourage all Head Start parents to positively cooperate with your school. Become a class representative and voice your questions, concerns, and praise, for teachers and staff, to the policy committee and/or school site council. If you are like me, you will want to stretch your legs. If you are on the policy committee, nominate yourself for the policy council at the grantee level. I was class representative for, and eventually was, elected to the SETA policy council. It was great! I was able to travel, participate in workshops, and met Head Start parents as well as staff from all over the nation.

As an AmeriCorps member, I have been offered training and a great opportunity to work closely with CHSA to support outreach to parent leaders and program staff. Please call me if you have any requests that I may assist you with in the near future. I can be reached at 916-444-7760.

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# California Head Start State Collaboration Office REPORT

By Michael Zito, Coordinator and Nancy Remley, Director

The CHSSCO is involved in a number of activities intended to build bridges between Head Start and important State partners. Current activities include:

- The CHSSCO funded the **Enrollment Project** statewide training events that were held April 26th and 28th in northern and southern California. The training events, developed by the California Head Start Association and California/Nevada Community Action Partnership, provided resources and strategies to grantees to assist them meet their enrollment goals.
- Head Start practitioners continue to work with the UC Berkeley team revising the **Desired Results Developmental Profile** and drafting the new preschool **"Learning Standards."** The work of these Head Start practitioners is intended to ensure both final products are consistent with Head Start requirements.
- The CHSA, CHSSCO, California Department of Health Services and Region IX Training and Technical Assistance staff began working on a **Child Health and Disabilities Program – Region IX Interagency Agreement (IA)**. A survey of Head Start Health Specialists was conducted to assess areas to focus on in the IA.
- The updated **Region IX/CDE Special Education Interagency Agreement for Part B** has been signed by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and officials at the Head Start Bureau. It will be disseminated in the near future.
- A **joint letter from the CHSSCO and the California Department of Health Services Domestic Violence Program** was mailed out in April to Head Start and Domestic Violence shelters in an attempt to foster better collaboration between the two local programs.

The Summer 2005 issue of the **Bridges Journal** focusing on the service system for children with disabilities is now available on the CHSSCO website at [www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/re/chssco.asp](http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/re/chssco.asp) and will be mailed out to grantees in several weeks.

## Head Start Oral Health Efforts Around the Golden State

First Smiles Oral Health Education Project – launched in partnership with the Dental Health Foundation, funded by California First Five, the projects goal was to provide training to key staff over the next three years on oral health prevention and hygiene. The goal of the trainings will be to increase awareness and knowledge of parents and Head Start staff about the importance of early oral health care and the necessary actions needed to prevent dental decay. To date over 100 Head Start staff have been trained in the First Smiles – Cavity Free Kids curriculum. Two additional trainings are scheduled at this time – August 9, 2005 in Santa Barbara and October 11, 2005 in San Rafael. Additional trainings will be added for the Fall & Winter 2005. On-line registration is available at [aheadstart.org](http://aheadstart.org).

The California Children's Dental Disease Prevention Program will hold their annual conference at the San Diego Mission Bay Hilton, November 8-10, 2005. Speakers will present information on oral health legislation, new research on dental caries and sealants, fluoride, the CHDP Gateway system, nutrition and more. A 2-hour First Smiles training will be provided on November 10th covering new information about early childhood caries, transmissibility of bacteria and how to conduct dental assessments. For more information about the conference, please contact Robyn Keller at the California Office of Oral Health at 916-552-9934 or email [RKeller@dhs.ca.gov](mailto:RKeller@dhs.ca.gov).

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SUMMER 2005 NEWSLETTER



## Professional Development Events and Web Links

**Region IX Head Start Association Annual Training Conference**, October 17 -19, 2005 at the Hilton Pasadena. For more information contact Region IX Head Start Association at (619) 228-2850 Ext-385 or r9hsa.org.

**National Head Start Association offers Executive Challenge 2005**, August 10-12, 2005 in Atlanta Georgia. Designed to address the ongoing challenges that directors and executive directors face in administering Head Start programs, Executive Challenges includes a close look at the Program Performance Standards, PRISM reviews, legal advice, human resource issues, funding, and planning for succession. Institute highlights include prestigious speakers and networking opportunities. Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are available to attendees. For more information call 703-739-0875 or nhsa.org

The Office of Community Services has been working with the Head Start Bureau to develop a series of workshops on governance and fiscal skill building to be presented at the **Community Action Partnership 2005 Annual Convention**, August 30 – September 2, 2005 in New Orleans - [communityactionpartnership.com](http://communityactionpartnership.com)

**The California Head Start Association is seeking presenter for both the winter Parent Conference and Education Conference**, January 17-20, 2006 in Sacramento. To download a copy of our invitation to present go to [caheadstart.org](http://caheadstart.org) and look for the link on the home page.

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### FOCUS Alphabet Soup

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| ACF    | Administration for Children and Families         |
| CHSA   | California Head Start Association                |
| CDE    | California Department of Education               |
| SPI    | Superintendent of Public Instruction             |
| CHSSCO | California Head Start State Collaboration Office |
| CDPI   | Child Development Policy Institute               |
| T/TA   | Training and Technical Assistance                |
| PITC   | Program for Infant Toddler Caregivers            |
| DRDP   | Desired Results Developmental Profile            |
| PFA    | Preschool For All                                |
| PRISM  | Program Review Instrument for Systems Management |
| NHSA   | National Head Start Association                  |

### NOTE NEW ADDRESS

**California Head Start Association**  
1107 9th Street, Suite 301  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**916-444-7760 Voice • 916-444-2257 Fax**