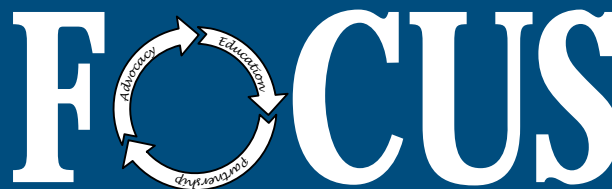




Spring 2002

Head Start General Store
 Check our web site for order forms and prices on CHSA Posters,
 T-shirts, Pins and Candy Jars at www.ca-headstart.org



2002 Conference a Success

In This Issue

1. 2002 Conference a Success
2. The Emerging Role of the Family Service Worker
3. California Head Start-State Collaboration Office Report
4. 2002 CHSA Round Table
5. Contra Costa County Community Services District
6. Second International Conference on Parents with Disabilities and their Families
7. Region IX Association Education Awards
8. CHSA 2002 Board Meetings
9. Under the Domes
10. California Head Start Association 2002 Awardees

California Head Start Association
 State Office
 926 J Street, #1119
 Sacramento, CA 95814
 (916) 444-7760

Raymond Hernandez,
 2000-2002 President
rhernandez@sbcglobal.net

Edward Condon,
 Executive Director
econdon@ca-headstart.org
www.ca-headstart.org

We hope you were able to attend the 4th Annual Conference of the California Head Start Association. Over 1520 individuals from over 94 different organizations attended the four days of speakers, exhibitors, health resources, workshops and networking sessions. The highlight for many was the Saturday morning Keynote, **Yolanda King**. With her passion and creativity she roused attendees with a call for service and the continued recognition of quality education for all as a matter of national pride.

A BIG thanks goes out to our agency hosts in the Southern California area:

2002 Conference Chair, Ms. Barbara Fielding & Neighborhood House Association, Orange County Head Start, MAAC Project, Riverside County Office of Education, Childhelp USA, Inc, San Bernardino County Head Start...and from the north Contra Costa County Head Start, Monterey County Head Start ❖



Raymond Hernandez, CHSA President, welcomes conferees



Yolanda King receives a standing ovation



Head Start Choral



CHSA 2002 Awardees

Save the Date!

Please Join CHSA in 2003 in Sacramento!

5th Annual Conference will be held on January 22-24, 2003 at the Sacramento Sheraton Grand Hotel and Sacramento Convention Center. Check our Website for details www.ca-headstart.org. Mark Your Calendars!

The Emerging Role of the Family Service Worker

Jacquie Davis, Family Community Partnership Specialist
Region IX Head Start Quality Improvement Center
Development Associates, Inc

The **Responsible Fatherhood/Healthy Marriages Initiative** has created interesting dynamics for the Family Service Worker in Head Start programs. The underpinnings of this initiative urge Head Start programs to construct new strategies to work with families. Strategies that will strengthen “the ties that bind families.”

The Fatherhood Initiative propelled Head Start to analyze the Father Friendliness of their programs; and encouraged internal assessments of staff attitudes as the promise of more men in a primarily female dominated environment became eminent. The term male involvement was deemed exclusionary of a key ingredient in the Fatherhood Initiative...*a focus on assisting a man in his role as father so that he “be there” for his children.* We, now, move forward with a clear understanding of what it is we seek to build within Head Start. Programs that not only encourage men to be involved in Head Start; but also encourage and help fathers gain the knowledge, attitudes and skills that they need to play an active role in the lives of their children.

Family Services staff have worked with Male Involvement Coordinators to proceed in revamping internal structures that are more friendly to fathers and program offerings that are attractive to fathers.

Research touts that we must now “raise the bar,” because single parents are at an increased risk for welfare dependence and their children are at greater risk for poor developmental outcomes (Mathematica Policy Research). How do we increase the number of children growing up with the support of both parents? How can we help couples strengthen their relationships? How do we identify strengths and barriers associated with strong family formation? Head Start is urged to look at not only what the fathers can do differently; but what can both parents do to create a stable and healthy environment for the children. Thus, the Responsible Fatherhood/Healthy Marriages Initiative was borne.

In December 2001, the National Training and Technical Assistance Network Meeting (for Quality Improvement Centers) marked the official announcement of our role as TTA units: return to our respective Regions and assist programs in constructing innovative ways to integrate and build on the initiatives.

In Spring 2002, an expected Information Memorandum will provide the backdrop to spark ideas on how programs should integrate successful implementation of these initiatives into the Family Partnership process, the Fatherhood Toolkit and the 21st Century Exploring Parenting Curriculum will also be published. These publications will do much to flicker the flame of creativity.

Since implementation of these initiatives have a clear and present impact for the Family Services staff, it is important that the staff is equipped with the skills and knowledge to continue to plot the course of success for the families they serve. There are key competencies that have been identified as important. These competencies are based on the Family Services Worker Credentialing Initiative.

There are 10 competency goals that are particular to Head Start staff who work with families.

1. *Establishing mutually respectful partnerships with families to enhance the quality of their lives and their communities.*
2. *Supporting families' efforts to reach their goals*
3. *Offering parents the opportunity to be involved in group activities, including policy groups, based on interest and need.*
4. *Providing, either directly or through referrals, opportunities for children and families to participate in family literacy services*
5. *Coordinating and integrating Head Start services in order to enhance effectiveness.*
6. *Supporting families in accessing other community resources.*
7. *Assisting families in crisis.*
8. *Respecting and responding competently to the culture, traditions, lifestyle, language and values of each family and community.*
9. *Advocating, in partnership with families, for community services that are responsive to families' interests and needs.*
10. *Ensuring effective program operation practices and maintain a commitment to professionalism.*

In order for Family Services staff to effectively execute and meet the goals there are a combination of knowledge and skills that are key to the emerging role of the Family Service Worker. **Some of the more critical skills and knowledge include:**

- *writing skills (documentation)*
- *family assessment skills*
- *cultural competency*
- *Ethics & professionalism*
- *interviewing skills*
- *group facilitation skills*
- *knowledge of crisis intervention techniques*
- *knowledge of strength based models when working with families*
- *knowledge of record keeping*
- *knowledge about accessing community resources*
- *knowledge of home visitation guidelines*

As Administrators contribute to support the increased importance to upgrade the skills of the Family Services staff, pending legislation bears a watchful eye. For example, “*The “Promoting and Supporting Responsible Fatherhood and Healthy Marriage Act of 2001”* was introduced to the House on September 14, 2001. The bill provides \$64 million per year for FY 2002-2006 to support projects that improve fathers' parenting, employment and life management skills and strengthen and promote marriages. Grants may be made to community, religious and governmental organizations including Indian Tribes.

The work is before us. Establish within your programs how you will operate – develop goals, objectives and a plan of action; and move forward! ❖

Fatherhood Initiative...a focus on assisting a man in his role as father so that he “be there” for his children.

R E P O R T

California Head Start-State Collaboration Office

By Michael Silver and Michael Zito

We would like to congratulate the CHSA on its best conference yet! The CHSSCO presented workshops with Region IX staff on full-day, full-year partnerships; with DS-QIC staff on the new MOU between the State Department of Developmental Services and Region IX for the Early Head Start and Early Start programs; and on Head Start collaboration with Local Child Care Planning Councils and Regional Resource Centers. We were pleased to help facilitate the first-ever Tribal strand at the conference as well.

We are pleased to report that the Governor's proposed budget contains over \$42 million to implement Express Lane Eligibility, which will lead to faster eligibility determination for Medi-cal and Healthy Families services for children. The CHSSCO represented California's Head Start programs in a series of meetings held by the Governor's Health and Human Services Agency to plan this vital streamlining of services last year.

Work also continues on a side-by-side comparison of the PRISM and new State Program Monitoring Systems for co-located programs. We are also gearing up for the annual Family Literacy Conference to be held at the Santa Clara Marriott March 11-13, which will have a number of sessions of interest to Head Start programs. For more information on the conference go to www.cpoevents.com or contact Michael Zito at 916/323-9727 or mzito@cde.ca.gov. ❖

Contra Costa County Community Services District

Recipient of NHTA Program of Achievement

Contra Costa County Community Services District is the first in California, and second in the Region IX to receive the award. CCCSD is one of three programs nationally at the program of achievement level which will be recognized at the NHTA Conference this year in Phoenix, AZ.

The process of applying for the award takes one year of serious internal review. "The process of applying for the award helped staff bond and look at strengths, and develop new insight into producing quality results for the families and children we serve. The award is significant to the tremendous changes we have been through as we continue to grow", states Dr. Pat Stroh, CCCSD Head Start Director.

In addition, CCCSD has offered support to any California program considering application for this recognition. "The initiative is a comprehensive process and requires 110% effort from top to bottom of any organization, Contra Costa did a wonderful job and submitted a dynamic application", offers Diane Whitehead, Director of Program Development, National Head Start Association. Call (703) 299-7515 or email dwhitehead@nhsa.org for current applications due Fall 2002. ❖

Second International Conference on Parents with Disabilities and their Families

May 2-4, 2002
Oakland, California

The Second International Conference on Parents with Disabilities and their Families has been re-scheduled for May 2-4, 2002. Postponed from its original October dates due to 9/11, the three-day conference will include workshops, panels and presentations by national and international speakers across a wide range of disciplines. Through the Looking Glass has been receiving inquiries from parents, advocates and professionals throughout the world who anticipate coming to this historic event. Space is limited, so please take the time to register now. **Regular registration ends April 7.**

If you have any questions, please contact us:

Conference@lookingglass.org
(800) 644-2666 (U.S. voice)
(510) 848-1112 (international voice)
(800) 804-1616 (TTY)
(510) 848-4445 (FAX)

2002 CHSA Round Table on Fiscal Management

Watch your mailbox and check our web site www.ca-headstart.org for upcoming details on CHSA's Round Table series. In partnership with Development Associates/HSQIC and the State Department of Education's Head Start Collaboration Office, CHSA will be hosting a one-day information packed session related to the latest best practices, updates from State and Federal officials and networking for fiscal officers. The first Round Table is scheduled for April 11, 2002 in Oakland at the Airport Hilton. ❖

Region IX Association Education Awards

The Regional Head Start Association is pleased to announce the 2003 Education Awards. The Association offers three (3) Education Awards one each in commemoration to Al Orozco, Torcey Wiley and Ron Bernard, three people who supported Head Start's efforts and were committed to its goals. *Each Education Award is for \$1,000 and dedicated to a specific applicant audience.*

- **Al Orozco Memorial Education Award** is offered to present or former Head Start parents who will be or are presently attending college or an accredited vocational or technical school.
- **Torcey Wiley Memorial Education Award** is offered to current Head Start employees who will be or are presently attending college or an accredited vocational or technical school.
- **Ron Bernard Memorial Education Award** is offered to high school seniors who graduated from a Region IX Head Start program who will be attending college or an accredited vocational or technical school.

Parents and staff applying for the Education Awards must be from agencies that are current members of the Region IX Head Start Association. Non-member applications will not be considered. **The Association's Education Award recipients will be announced at the Annual Regional Training Conference in October.** Education Awards are disbursed directly to the educational institution and can only be used for tuition and books. ❖

For more information contact, Mary Dana, Southwest Human Development (602) 266-5976 or go to www.devassoc.com/hsqic for application materials.

Deadline is May 30th.



Denise Bissonette offers advice and poetry



Alan Lopatin and Laura Walker offer advocacy advice

More 2002 Conference Highlights



Children for Neighborhood House Association perform

Over 1520 individuals from over 94 different organizations attended the four days of speakers, exhibitors, health resources, VIPs, workshops and networking sessions.



Under the Domes

Washington DC and Sacramento are bustling with lawmakers, advocates and bureaucrats challenged with national and state early education policy changes and opportunities. The California Head Start Association's Executive Director provides an update of today's most important topics. **Go to www.ca-headstart.org for the current issue of Advocacy Update.**

Here is a brief list of issues under discussion:

Washington DC Watch

- Funding – Proposed Increase of \$130
- Administration – Bush Proposed movement to Federal Department of Education
- Head Start Eligibility – From 10% to 25% Over Income
- Enhancing Early Literacy of Children
- ACF Key Priorities FY 2002
- Associate Commissioner for Head Start Bureau – Ms. Wendy Hill

Sacramento Watch

- Administration's Restructuring California's Child Care System – Winners & Losers
- Governor's Budget – Impact on HS Collaboration Opportunities

Universal Preschool is once again a hot topic at the federal level. Just released ***"School For All: Investing In a Productive and Just Society"***, a new report published by the Committee for Economic Development, offers excellent reading for child advocates. **Go to www.ced.org for a full copy of the report.**

Individuals interested in participating in CHSA's public policy list serve should email chas@ca-headstart.org and ask to be added to the list.



CHSA 2002 Board Meetings

April 16th CHSA Board of Directors

Sacramento, 9:30 to 3:30

Host: SETA/Head Start, 3750 Rosin Court, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA

May 3rd CHSA Board of Directors

San Diego, Seating of New Officers – 9:30 to 3:30

Host: Neighborhood House Association, 5660 Copley Drive, San Diego, CA

June 5th CHSA Board of Directors

Los Angeles, 9:30 to 3:30

Host: Los Angeles County Office of Education, 17315 Studebaker Road, Cerritos, CA

August 14th CHSA Board of Directors

San Francisco/Bay Area, 9:30 to 3:30

Host: TBA

October 18th CHSA Board of Directors

Sacramento, 9:30 to 3:30

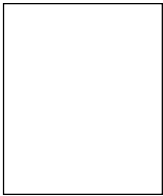
Host: SETA/Head Start, 3750 Rosin Court, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA

For agendas, locations or more information contact Paula at CHSA (916) 444-7760

California Head Start Association 2002 Awardees & Special Thanks to Discount School Supply...

For the first time the California Head Start Association has joined it's national and regional associations to recognize publicly the California champions in the Head Start community. Also, thanks to a generous contribution from Jay Lerman, Earlychildhood.com the Discount School Supply Catalog for underwriting the cost of awards and flowers. **Again, congratulations to:**

- **Administrator of the Year** – Wilda Davisson of Contra Costa County
- **Parent of the Year** – Alyce Taylor of Meadowview Community Action, Inc.
- **Beating the Odds Awards** – Marianne Rowen of Contra Costa County
- **Teacher of the Year** – Pam West of SETA Head Start
- **Support Staff of the Year** – Stephenie Giusto of Calaveras Head Start



California Head Start
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Sacramento, CA 95814



2002 Conference a Success



Dr. Willis Epps encourages us to improve and inspire

A BIG thanks goes out to our agency hosts
in the Southern California area.



Yolanda King rouses CHSA to service