

VIRGINIA HEAD START ASSOCIATION
SOUTHEAST REGIONAL MEETING
MINUTES
April 30, 2008

The meeting was held at OHA Head Start/Early Head Start in Newport News, VA. There were 23 persons in attendance.

The Executive Director of the Office of Human Affairs, Wendell F. Braxton extended a welcome to all of the attendees.

Maxine McKinney, VaHSA Executive Director, presented the following information:

- ❖ 454 persons attended the VaHSA Conference in Fredericksburg, VA from April 8-10, 2008. Thanks to all who attended. 10.5% of the attendees were Early Head Start staff, WOW.....! Next year the conference will be held in Roanoke, VA.
- ❖ ECHO (Early Childhood Hearing Outreach) was discussed. Louise Canfield, CDR Early Head Start Director related the success they have experienced using the ECHO. CDR now has the equipment and it is very easy to use, costs about \$3300. The hearing screening assessment does not require a response from the patient, is unobtrusive and great for small children. The device can be used while a child is asleep. CDR has purchased a second kit. VaHSA is working toward a grant template for assisting programs with the purchase of this screening tool.
- ❖ There is a possibility that more Early Head Start funds will be available this year, (not \$35,000.), programs will be informed if funds become available.
- ❖ The Health Advisory Committee needs a regional representative to go to State Health Advisory meetings and report back to the Southeast Regional meeting. The ideal candidate would be a health related staff person.
- ❖ Annual Reports are available if programs need more copies.
- ❖ Web site bracelets are available and if you get one please use it to access the website. If you go online and can't find what you want, go to Member Central.

KUDOS TO PATRICIA BANKS AND STAFF FOR A SUCCESSFUL ONSITE MONITORING REVIEW. THE PROGRAM RECEIVED THE GOLD STAR AWARD FOR "0" NON-COMPLIANCES. GREAT JOB.....WE ARE PROUD OF YOU.

Malinda Langford, TA Specialist provided interesting information regarding the Transportation Service Area. Highlights included:

- ❖ In the Reauthorization of the Head Start Act there are no changes to Transportation.
- ❖ CDR stated that it was difficult to suspend transportation for Early Head Start, families did not have cars, carpooling was arranged, and 2 families had to drop out as a result. Now all enrollees know in advance there will be no transportation provided.

- ❖ OHA stated that after a survey of Early Head Start families, transportation was suspended (only for Early Head Start-32 families). A 6-month notice was given to those who were reenrolling. Bus passes are given for inclement weather to those families who live within a 4 block radius of the center. This has worked well.
- ❖ Programs need to look into contracts with local gas companies, oil companies for a break on gas prices.
- ❖ To stop service for Head Start families entails a lot more red tape if you are already offering the service. There are rules to follow if this is the solution for your program. This is not recommended.
- ❖ School systems may act as a broker and provide services at a cost to Head Start.
- ❖ Lawanna Dowden from STOP Organization Head Start found that some of the gas the program used priced at a "discount" was inferior and caused vehicle maintenance problems.
- ❖ Programs should explore the possibility of writing grants to large Gas Companies, i.e.: EXXON, BP, Chevron, etc. Malinda will do research to see if there are grants available and she will report back to programs.

NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD AT CDR-NORGE, VA, ON September 17, 2008 AT 10 A.M.

At that time we will talk about Reauthorization information shared by Nancy Elmore at the June Directors Council in VA Beach. The regional meetings are a good time to invite VPI folks, Cooperative Extension, etc. We should bring Community Partner and Parent representatives as we are required to do so. Hope everyone will mark their calendars and plan to attend.

Submitted by: Nancy M. Null

