



Virginia Head Start Association, Inc.

Summer 2015

Issue: 3



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Upcoming events

[Infant Toddler Conference](#)

August 12-13, 2015
Stonewall Jackson Hotel
Staunton, VA
Registration now open

[Health & Family Institute](#)

October 27- 29, 2015
Charlottesville, VA
Registration coming in August

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Success Stories

Email your success stories to

[Dawn Ault](#)

We know you have them,
so why not share?

Welcome to our Quarterly Report!

Dear Friends,

I don't recall any other time when early childhood was so prevalent in the news, both at the state and federal level. I assure you that the Virginia Head Start Association continues to dedicate itself to training and advocacy which enhances and fosters growth of Head Start staff, member agencies, and partners who impact the lives of children and families. Most recently we benefited from our packed agenda at the Director's Conference in June 2015, including presentations by Tommy Sheridan, NHSA Director of Government of Affairs, and Cheryl Strobel, VDOE Associate Director of Early Childhood Education. Together, we are making great strides for young children and families on many fronts.

To view speakers presentations from Directors Council, [click here](#).

OHS News

New Proposed Performance Standards Released - Big News!

On June 16, 2015 The Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) was released with the first comprehensive overhaul of the Head Start Performance Standards. There are several major changes being proposed, some of which may or may not be a good fit for families in Virginia. Changes include full-day full school year programs, no longer requiring

parent committees, and changing the Impasse Policy so that Boards are able to over-ride Policy Council. We would like to present a united voice in expressing our feedback on the NPRM, preferably sending a single letter with many signatures. OHS is accepting comments until August 18. It will likely be another year before the final rule is released. Watch your email for future updates as information unfolds. Read the NPRM [here](#).

OHS has a new director! We welcome Dr. Blanca Enriquez as she launches us into our next 50 years. OHS has been busy working with the new EHS/Child Care Partnership Grantees as they begin their journey serving our most vulnerable children and families.

In Virginia, we are fortunate to have 8 grantees who are undertaking this project. Seven programs were noted in our Winter Edition as being names as Preliminary Grantees, but we are excited to announce that that 8 grantees are official recipients, therefore more Early Head Start children than ever before will be served in VA:

Grantee	Service Area
The Campagna Center, Inc.	Alexandria
Culpeper Human Services	Culpeper
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors	Fairfax
Northern Virginia Family Service	Oakton
Orange County School Board	Orange
Parent-Child Development Corporation	West Point
Total Action Against Poverty in Roanoke Valley, Inc	Roanoke
Augusta County School Board	Verona (communities of Augusta and Staunton)

As they work with OHS in their development phase, we look forward to hearing from grantees and their coordinating child care partners in this important expansion for our youngest children and families.

NHSA News

Join the Alumni Network! Organizing 32 Million Alumni

As we celebrate Head Start's 50th Anniversary, NHSA has launched a new public awareness campaign to promote the successes of the program's 32 million alumni. All former Head Start children and their parents are welcome to join! The Alumni Network takes a two-generation approach in keeping with Head Start's mission. If you are an alum or the parent of one, join us in a national campaign to encourage all former Head Start children and parents to identify themselves and share their story. Once you join the Alumni Network, you receive our monthly newsletter, Connections, and hear about the amazing work your peers are doing all across the country. Alumni Network members will also be kept informed of NHSA's work to ensure that the Head Start window of opportunity remains open for future generations, including the many ways you can get involved and help out. You can sign up by clicking [here](#).

Printable Version

Please share the VAHSA Summer Quarterly Report with your program staff, parents, and community partners. A PDF version is also accessible from our [website](#)

Retiring in 2015

This year we are saying goodbye and good luck to the following directors.

Joan Robbins -
Community Improvement Council, Inc.
Anne Taggart -
Greater Mount Vernon Head Start
Rosa Carter -
Pittsylvania County Community Action Agency

Congratulations

We would like to congratulate this years

Elmore Scholarship Winners

Jennifer Baughman
and
Roy Fitch

Shining Stars Scholarship Winners

Myra O'Leary
Cathy Waldie
Leslie Moody-Yates
Lynette Painter
Tanisha Johnson
Christy Swann

A special thank you to Aleta Lawson from the Collaboration office for sponsoring the Shining Stars scholarship.

VA News

Recommendations from the Commonwealth Council on Childhood Success

The [final recommendations](#) from the Lt. Governor's Commonwealth Council on Childhood Success are now posted, including the results of the priority ranking by Council members. VOICES for Virginia's Children has been instrumental in keeping us informed and this process gives us a starting point for their policy agenda. We hope you will take some time to review the recommendations and priorities. In case you missed it, the Governor's office released a [statement](#) on the CCCS Recommendations and the Children's Cabinet Report; and the Lt Governor had a piece published in the [RTD](#) on early childhood interventions.

VA Preschool Development Grants - Known as VPI Plus

We know planning is in full swing for the following school divisions participating in VPI Plus as they work to expand the enrollment and/or quality of services to 4 year-olds in VA, in accordance with the new VPI Eligibility Criteria: Brunswick County, Chesterfield County, Fairfax County, Giles County, Henrico County, Norfolk, Petersburg, Prince William County, Richmond, Sussex County, Winchester.
[More VPI Information here](#)

Jt Subcommittee on VPI Reform

The first meeting of the Jt. Subcommittee on VPI Reform made up from House Appropriations and Senate Finance members took place on Thursday, June 11th. See details [here](#).

CCDBG State Plan

The formation of Virginia's child care plan for federal CCDBG dollars impacts the child care system in VA from licensing and background checks, to reimbursement rates to access for families. There will be some opportunities to influence discussion around the plan before a draft of the plan is released in October, including the next CCCS meeting at 2:00 PM on August 24th, Patrick Henry Building, Richmond VA.

Virginia Head Start Programs Celebrate 50 Years

There have been many 50th anniversary celebrations across the country marking the historic signing of the Act that created Head Start in the Rose Garden of the White House on May 18, 1965. Head Start Programs, State Associations, and National Organizations have celebrated this historic event. A Presidential Declaration was also offered up to celebrate this day. Across the country, through social media using #headstart50 and #headstartworks, the celebrations were recorded.

U.S. Representative Dave Brat, R-7, recently visited Sheila Fowlkes' Hanover Preschool Initiative class at Henry Clay Elementary in Ashland, VA where he read to students in honor of Head Start's 50th anniversary. See pictures [here](#).

People Inc of Virginia - Several HS/EHS centers planted rose bushes with the help of many families and community members.



Monticello Area Community Action Agency - On May 15th, all of the HS children and families were invited to end the school year with a 50th year celebration. At the end of the day, thanks to a generous donation from Lowe's, every classroom was given a rosebush to plant outside their classroom.

Orange County Head Start - Helped with "Have a Heart for Head Start", hosted by a community partner.



Higher Horizons Day Care Center - Held a rose bush planting ceremony on May 18th.



Thank you for your continued support of our mission to speak with a unified voice for the betterment of Head Start children and families in Virginia.

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