

Head Start: Learning from the Past, Innovating for the Future

NHSA LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Sponsored by STG International, Inc

January 25-28, 2010

Hilton Crystal City at National Airport

2399 Jefferson Davis Highway

Arlington, Virginia

AGENDA

With early learning a major priority of the Obama administration and the US Congress, the Head Start community finds itself at the brink of a renaissance. Federal lawmakers have appropriated American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds to expand Head Start enrollment and to nearly double Early Head Start enrollment. They are also considering Early Learning Challenge Fund legislation which would provide grants to states to create comprehensive birth-to-five systems to prepare children for kindergarten. Meanwhile, President Barack Obama has made innovation a major theme of his administration.

With this policy environment in mind, join us at the NHSA Leadership Institute to hear from key federal policymakers and learn how Head Start (consisting of Head Start and Early Head Start) is innovating in its programming, services, and policies for the future benefit of America's children and families. This institute is an excellent professional development opportunity for leaders in the early care and education community including state and regional Head Start association presidents and executive directors; Head Start-state collaboration directors; Head Start and Early Head Start program directors, parents, teachers, and staff; and members of the NHSA Board of Directors.

Monday, January 25, 2010

7:30 am – 5:00 pm

Registration
(Admiralty Foyer)

Noon – 1:00 pm

Orientation for New Head Start and Early Head Start Grantees
(Decatur/Farragut Room)

This session provides new Head Start and Early Head Start grantees and delegate agencies with an orientation about the National Head Start Association and its services.

Welcome:

- Carolyn Stennett, Esq., Deputy Director, NHSA

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Status of State Advisory Councils on Early Childhood Education and Care

(Decatur/Farragut Room)

The Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007 authorized the creation of State Advisory Councils on Early Childhood Education and Care, and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act appropriated \$100 million to fund these councils. This session will report on the progress that states have made in developing these councils, describe the roles played by various Head Start representatives, such as the Head Start-State Collaboration Director, on these councils, and explore the possible implications of Early Learning Challenge Fund legislation for these councils.

Presenters:

- Suzanne Burnette, Director, New Jersey Head Start-State Collaboration Office (Confirmed)
- Rachel Demma, Senior Policy Analyst, National Governors Association (Confirmed)
- Christina Satkowski, FMR Program Associate, New America Foundation, Early Education Initiative (Confirmed)

Moderator:

- Ben Allen, Ph.D., Public Policy and Research Director, NHSA

2:45 pm - 4:45 pm

Opening General Session: Office of Head Start Update on Policy and Regulatory Issues

(Decatur/Farragut Room)

This session will provide an opportunity for Yvette

Sanchez Fuentes, the new Director of the Office of Head Start to discuss her vision for Head Start and provide an update on policy issues of interest to the Head Start community.

Introduction:

- Yasmina Vinci, Executive Director, NHSA

Presenter:

- Yvette Sanchez Fuentes, Director, Office of Head Start, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Confirmed)

Moderator:

- Ben Allen, Ph.D., Public Policy and Research Director, NHSA

4:45 pm – 5:00 pm

Break

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Opening Reception – A Celebration of Head Start
(Chesapeake Hall)

- Speaker: Yvette Sanchez Fuentes (Confirmed)

Evening and dinner on your own.

Tuesday, January 26, 2010

7:30 am – 5:00 pm

Registration
(Admiralty Foyer)

8:30 am – 10:00 AM

Quality Rating Systems
Sponsored by Discount School Supply
(Decatur/Farragut Room)

A rapidly increasing number of states have been developing Quality Rating Systems (QRS) to help policymakers and consumers assess the quality levels of Head Start, child care, state-funded pre-k programs, and early education and care programs within a state.

QRS provides information to state policymakers that can be used to increase the quality of early childhood and care programs and to target needed professional development. During this session, QRS experts from a variety of perspectives will describe the development of QRS by states, explore the extent to which Head Start programs are being rated by QRS, and make recommendations about how Head Start programs might participate in state QRS.

Special Remarks:

- Jay Lerman, Director of Government & Corporate Accounts, Discount School Supply (Confirmed)

Presenters:

- Gayle Kelly, Executive Director, Minnesota Head Start Association, Inc. (Confirmed)
- Anne Mitchell, Early Childhood Policy Research (Confirmed)
- Gerrit Westervelt, Ph.D., Executive Director, Build Initiative (Confirmed)

Moderator:

- Ben Allen, Ph.D., Public Policy and Research Director, NHSA

10:00 am – 10:14 am

Break

10:14 am – 10:15 am

Special Remarks

(Decatur/Farragut Room)

- Michelle Lee, President and CEO, STG International, Inc (Confirmed)

10:15 am – 11:45 am

Parents and the Child Care Development Block Grant Program (CCDBG)

(Decatur/Farragut Room)

Through the CCDBG program, the federal government provides funds to states, American Indian/Alaskan Native tribes, and U.S. territories to help low-income families access child care through grants, certificates, and contracts. This forum will bring the voices of

parents to inform policy and advocacy on CCDBG issues. Opportunities and challenges faced by parents using child care services will be explored. This session is particularly relevant with federal lawmakers expected to consider legislation to reauthorize the CCDBG program in 2010.

Presenters:

- Helen Blank, Director Leadership and Public Policy, National Women’s Law Center (Confirmed)
- Shannon Rudisill, Associate Director of the Child Care Bureau, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Confirmed)
- Linda Smith, Executive Director, National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies (Confirmed)

Moderator:

- Yasmina Vinci, Executive Director, NHSA

11:45 am – 1:15 pm

Lunch on Your Own

1:15 pm – 2:15 pm

Head Start Impact Study News
(Decatur/Farragut Room)

Federal lawmakers mandated that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services conduct a nationally representative random assignment longitudinal study of Head Start programs. The final report of this study was just released to the public. This session will help you learn about its findings and flawed methodology and how the findings fit within the large body of research about Head Start’s effectiveness.

Presenters:

- Ben Allen, Ph.D., Public Policy and Research Director, NHSA
- Myra Peabody Gossens, Principal, MPG Advisors (Confirmed)

2:15 pm – 2:26 pm

Break

2:26 pm – 2:30 pm

Special Remarks

(Decatur/Farragut Room)

- Michelle Lee, President and CEO, STG International, Inc (Confirmed)

2:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Conversation about Head Start and Early Head Start Expansion Issues

(Decatur/Farragut Room)

Through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, federal lawmakers have expanded the enrollment of Head Start and Early Head Start programs. A substantial portion of the enrollment will be implemented by **new** Head Start and Early Head Start grantees. This session is designed to provide answers to common questions faced by new and existing Head Start and Early Head Start grantees.

Presenters:

- Colleen Rathgeb, Policy Director, Office of Head Start (Confirmed)
- Lillian Sugarman, Director of the Early Head Start National Resource Center, ZERO TO THREE (Confirmed)
- Ted Waters, Esq., Feldesman Tucker Leifer Fidell LLP (Confirmed)

Moderator:

- Ben Allen, Ph.D., Public Policy and Research Director, NHSA

4:30 pm – 5:30 pm

Hot Legal Topics in Head Start

(Decatur)

This session will focus on key recent developments in Head Start and the legal issues surrounding them.

Presenter:

- Ted Waters, Esq., Feldesman Tucker Leifer Fidell LLP (Confirmed)

Moderator:

- Ben Allen, Ph.D., Public Policy and Research

Director, NHSA

4:30 pm – 5:30 pm

Social Change toward Healthy Children and Families
(Farragut)

During this session, leading corporate and nonprofit organizations will highlight their strategies for improving pervasive health issues among young children and their families. New research on Head Start's effectiveness in preventing obesity will be noted.

Presenters:

- Caitlin Morris, Director of Stakeholder Partnerships, Nike (Confirmed)
- Share Our Strength (Invited)

Moderator:

- Carolyn Stennett, Esq., Deputy Director, NHSA

5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

Roundtable Discussion
(Dewey II)

This roundtable is an opportunity for State and Regional Head Start Association leaders and NHSA leaders to have a dialogue about our collaborative efforts.

5:30 pm to 7:00 pm

Advocacy 101
(Farragut)

Advocacy by the Head Start parents, directors, teachers, staff, and friends is essential to ensure that Head Start and Early Head Start programs can continue to thrive by providing needed comprehensive services to children and their low-income families. This session teaches directors, parents, teachers, staff, and friends the nuts and bolts of advocating for these programs.

Presenter:

- J. Zoe Beckerman, Esq., Feldesman Tucker Leifer Fidell LLP (Confirmed)

Evening events and dinner are on your own.

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

7:45 am – 10:00 am

Registration
(Decatur/Farragut Foyer)

8:30 am – 10:00 am

Legislative Breakfast
Sponsored by Lakeshore Learning Materials
(Decatur/Farragut Room)

During this breakfast, Members of Congress will share their news and views about early childhood education developments on Capitol Hill.

Special Remarks:

- Kevin Carnes, President of Educational Division, Lakeshore Learning Materials (Confirmed)
- Orson Porter, Deputy Director of Government Affairs, Nike (Confirmed)

Presenters:

- Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN) (Invited)
- Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) (Confirmed)
- David J. Johns, Senior Education Advisor, Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee (Invited)

Moderator:

- Yasmina Vinci, Executive Director, NHSA

10:00 am to 10:15 am

Break

10:15 am

Meet Bus to Depart from Hotel and Arrive on Capitol Hill

Two buses will depart from the Hilton Crystal City at National Airport and take attendees on a first-come first-serve basis to Garfield Circle on Capitol Hill.

11:00 am – 5:00 pm

Capitol Hill Visits

Scheduled by you or your state/regional Head Start association with your congressional delegation

Lunch on your own

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Reception and Award Honoring Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA), Chairman of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, with the Lady Bird Johnson Award

Sponsored by the Iowa Head Start Association, the National Head Start Association, and the Region VII Head Start Association

(106 Dirksen Senate Office Building)

Chairman Tom Harkin (Confirmed)

7:30 pm

Meet Bus to Depart from Capitol Hill and Return to the Hotel

Both buses will pick attendees up and return them from Peace Circle on Capitol Hill to the Hilton Crystal City at National Airport.

Evening dinner on your own

Thursday, January 28, 2010

8:30 am - 9:45 am

Head Start as a Community Hub
(Decatur/Farragut Room)

Attendees will learn how Head Start/Early Head Start programs can have innovative roles by leveraging their infrastructure and community relationships to become hubs for quality in their communities.

Presenters:

- Phil Acord, President and CEO, The Children's Home/Chambliss Shelter (Confirmed)
- Diane Price, President & CEO, The Child Nursery Centers, Inc. (Confirmed)
- Sue Renner, Director - U.S., David and Laura

Merage Foundation (Confirmed)

Moderator:

- Ruth Mayden, Director of Program for Families with Young Children, Annie E. Casey Foundation (Confirmed)

9:45 am – 10:00 am

Break

10:00 am – Noon

Public Release of the Head Start Policy Project Recommendations
(Decatur/Farragut Room)

In anticipation of the passage and implementation of the Early Learning Challenge Fund legislation by federal lawmakers, NHSA has formed work groups on six topics: early learning standards, curriculum and assessment; program standards; early childhood workforce; data systems; health promotion; parent engagement. In this session, the recommendations of the work groups will be made to key Obama administration officials.

Presenters:

- Anthony Raden, Ph.D., Deputy Commissioner for Policy, City of Chicago Department of Family and Support Services (Confirmed)
- Vanessa Rich, Deputy Commissioner for Children's Services Division, City of Chicago Department of Family and Support Services, (Confirmed)
- Loukisha Smart-Pennix, Director in the Children's Services Division, City of Chicago Department of Family and Support Services (Confirmed)

Obama Administration Officials:

- Jacqueline Jones, Ph.D., Senior Advisor to the Secretary for Early Learning, Office of The Secretary, U.S. Department of Education (Confirmed)
- Joan Lombardi, Ph.D., Deputy Assistant Secretary and Inter-Departmental Liaison for Early Childhood Development, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Confirmed)

- Roberto Rodriguez, Special Assistant to the President for Education Policy White House Domestic Policy Council (Invited)

Moderator:

- Yasmina Vinci, Executive Director, NHSA

Noon – 12:30 pm

Closing Session: Next Steps
(Decatur/Farragut Room)

This session will include a debriefing of your Hill visits, sharing ideas with your Head Start colleagues, as well as a discussion of next steps for all programs to ensure that Head Start voices are heard on early childhood and care policy issues by Congress and the White House.

Presenters:

- Ron Herndon, Chairman of NHSA Board of Directors
- Yasmina Vinci, Executive Director, NHSA