

# Head Start: Taking the Lead in a Shifting Policy Environment

NHSA LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE  
*Sponsored by Kaplan Early Learning Company*  
September 21-25, 2009  
Doubletree Hotel Crystal City  
Arlington, Virginia

## AGENDA

The Head Start community finds itself in a shifting policy environment that presents opportunities and challenges. The Obama administration has made early childhood education and care a major priority by providing American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds to expand Head Start enrollment and to nearly double Early Head Start enrollment and by proposing Early Learning Challenge grants to help states create comprehensive zero-to-five systems to prepare children for kindergarten. Meanwhile, federal lawmakers are considering health care reform legislation that has important implications for Head Start and the children and families served by Head Start.

With this policy environment in mind, join us at the NHSA Leadership Institute to learn how Head Start (collectively Head Start and Early Head Start) can lead in the early childhood education and care policy field. We'll receive policy and regulatory updates from senior staff in the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, discuss how Head Start provides a comprehensive birth-to-five early childhood model, explore the implications of health care reform for Head Start, hear how Head Start takes the lead to solve several national public policy problems, and find out the latest legislative news from White House and Capitol Hill staff. This institute is an excellent professional development opportunity for leaders in the early childhood and care community including state and regional Head Start association presidents and executive directors; Head Start-state collaboration directors; and Head Start and Early Head Start program directors, parents, teachers, and staff; and members of the NHSA Board of Directors.

**Monday, September 21, 2009**

7:30 am – 5:00 pm

**Registration** (Crystal Foyer)

2:00 pm - 4:15 pm

**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Update**  
(Crystal Ballroom)

This session will provide an opportunity for high-level Administration for Children and Families' officials in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to discuss their vision for Head Start and provide an update on policy issues of interest to the Head Start community.

Introduction

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

Presenter:

- Joan Lombardi, Ph.D., Deputy Assistant Secretary and Inter-Departmental Liaison for Early Childhood Development, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Moderator:

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

4:15 pm – 5:00 pm

**Break**

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

**A Reception and Conversation with Yasmina Vinci**  
*Sponsored by Discount School Supply and STG International, Inc*  
(Washington Ballroom)

Join Yasmina Vinci, NHSA's new Executive Director, and let her hear your vision for NHSA and Head Start programs.

**Evening and dinner on your own.**

**Tuesday, September 22, 2009**

7:30 am – 5:00 pm

**Registration**  
(Crystal Foyer)

8:30 am – 9:30 am

**Birth-to-Five Service Delivery Models**  
(Crystal Ballroom)

This session will explore how Head Start's future may be one that provides prenatal and birth-to-five services for low-income children and their families. Three innovative birth-to-five Head Start programs will be presented as examples.

- Jana Gifford, Early Head Start Director/ Assistant Head Start Director, Child Development, Inc.
- Carol Keintz, Executive Director, Educare of Milwaukee/Next Door Charter School
- Kris Robertson, Child Health Services Director and Early Head Start Coordinator, Guilford Child Development

Moderator:

- Lucia Palacios, Vice President for Head Start Programs, DANYA

9:30 am – 9:45 am

**Break**

9:45 am – 11:00 am

**Forum to Provide Input in the Development of NHSA's Policy Agenda**  
(Crystal Ballroom)

During this session, attendees brainstorm and offer suggestions to facilitate the development of NHSA's 2010 Policy Agenda.

- Ben Allen, Ph.D., Public Policy and Research Director, NHSA
- Joel Ryan, Esq., Executive Director, Washington State Association of Head Start & ECEAP/Washington State Training Consortium

11:00 am – 11:15 am

**Break**

11:15 am – 12:30 pm

**Head Start: Taking the Lead**  
(Crystal Ballroom)

The Obama administration has made early education and early care a priority and recognizes the leading role that Head Start plays in the development and subsequent success of low-income children. For over 40 years, Head Start programs have provided comprehensive services and empowered parents. Head Start has had profound impacts across many sectors of our society and has helped to address many national public policy problems, such as crime, educational achievement, and homelessness. This session will introduce some of these issues and will provide insight into how Head Start is taking a leading role to address these areas of concern.

- Ben Allen, Ph.D., Public Policy and Research Director, NHSA
- Barbara Duffield, Policy Director, National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth
- Miriam Rollin, Esq., Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Fight Crime Invest in Kids

Moderator:

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

12:30 pm – 2:00 pm

**Lunch on Your Own**

This lunch break will also provide you with time to participate at 12:30 pm in a web chat about Head Start with the *Early Ed Watch* folks, hosted by the New American Foundation and Politico.com. You should make your own arrangements for accessing the Internet.

2:00 pm – 3:15 pm

**Emerging Early Care and Education Policy Issues**  
(Crystal Ballroom)

In our nation's changing policy environment, there are several emerging early care and education policy issues and initiatives. This session will place a spotlight on the Obama administration's proposal to create Early Learning Challenge grants, the increased coordination

between the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the upcoming reauthorization of the Child Care Development Block Grant.

- Jacqueline Jones, Ph.D., Senior Advisor to the Secretary for Early Learning, Office of The Secretary, U.S. Department of Education
- Eric Karolak, Ph.D., Executive Director, Early Care and Education Consortium
- Shannon Rudisill, Associate Director of the Child Care Bureau, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Moderator:

- Janis Santos, Executive Director, Holyoke●Chicopee●Springfield Head Start Inc.

3:15 pm – 3:30 pm

**Break**

3:30 pm – 5:15 pm

**You've Accepted Stimulus Funds -- Now What?**  
(Crystal Ballroom)

Most, if not all, Head Start programs have received funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Whether your program just accepted COLA money or you are about to receive expansion dollars, Head Start leadership may be asking, “now what?” This session will help you to understand the terms and conditions that your program agreed to by accepting stimulus dollars, including an overview of Buy American, Davis Bacon, required disclosures, and reporting requirements. The perils and pitfalls of construction awards will also be discussed. There will be ample time for questions.

- Ted Waters, Esq., Feldesman Tucker Leifer Fidell LLP

Moderator:

- Thomas Sheridan, Executive Administrative Assistant, NHSA

5:15 pm – 5:30 pm

**Break**

5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

**Roundtable Discussion**  
(Van Buren Room)

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 – 7:00 pm

**Parent Advocacy Forum**  
(Room 969)

During this forum for Head Start parents, parents are welcome to join us to learn more about NHSA, the basics of advocacy, the legislative process, and what to expect when you visit your lawmaker. This session provides an opportunity for parents to talk about important issues. The forum will be facilitated by parents participating in the Washington State Association of Head Start & ECEAP's parent ambassador advocacy training program.

Evening events and dinner are on your own.

**Wednesday, September 23, 2009**

7:45 am – 10:00 am

**Registration**  
(Crystal Foyer)

8:30 am – 10:00 am

**The Dos and Don'ts of Head Start Advocacy and Background Briefing for Capitol Hill Visits**  
(Crystal Ballroom)

The session will prepare participants for the afternoon visits on Capitol Hill by providing tips and how-to's. In addition, attendees will learn about what can and cannot be done when it comes to advocacy in Head Start. We will specifically discuss Head Start programs, staff, and parents, and the differences for each.

- Yasmina Vinci, Executive Director, NHSA
- J. Zoe Beckerman, Esq., Feldesman Tucker Leifer Fidell LLP

10:00 am to 10:15 am

**Break**

10:15 am

Two buses will depart from the Doubletree Hotel Crystal City to Capitol Hill. On a first come first-serve basis, one bus will first drop attendees off at the Peace Circle on the Senate side and then at Garfield Circle on the House side, and the other bus will first drop attendees off at Garfield Circle on the House side and then at Peace Circle on the Senate side. Please see map in Congressional Information packet (in program folder) for more detailed information. *The buses are sponsored by Discount School Supply.*

11:00 am – 5:00 pm

**Capitol Hill Visits**

Scheduled by you with your congressional delegation

**Lunch on your own**

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

**Reception and Award Honoring Congressman David R. Obey (D-WI), Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, with the Lady Bird Johnson Award**

*Sponsored by the Wisconsin Head Start Association and the National Head Start Association  
(B339 Rayburn House Office Building)*

Chairman David R. Obey

7:30 pm

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

Both buses will pick attendees up at the Garfield Circle on the House side and return them from Capitol Hill to the Doubletree Hotel Crystal City. *The buses are sponsored by Discount School Supply.*

**Evening dinner on your own**

Thursday, September 24, 2009

8:15 am – 9:45 am

**Health Care Reform in a Shifting Policy Environment**  
(Crystal Ballroom)

Federal lawmakers are considering various health care reform policy proposals. This session looks at existing governmental programs in the health care system providing health services to much of the Head Start eligible population: Medicaid, SCHIP, and Head Start health services and explores what health care reform could mean to the health component of the Head Start program and children from low-income families served by Head Start.

- Bruce Lesley, President, First Focus
- Cindy Mann, Esq., Director of the Center for Medicaid and State Operations (CMSO), part of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- Barry Marx, MD, FAAP, Senior Medical Advisor, Office of Head Start, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Moderator:

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

9:45 am – 10:00 am

**Break**

10:00 am – 11:00 am

**Perspectives from the White House**  
(Crystal Ballroom)

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

**Moderator**

- Yasmina Vinci, Executive Director, NHSA

11:00 am – Noon

**Perspectives from Capitol Hill**  
(Crystal Ballroom)

- Ruth Friedman, Ph.D., Senior Education Policy Advisor, House Education and Labor Committee

- David J. Johns, Senior Education Advisor, Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee

**Moderator**

- Yasmina Vinci, Executive Director, NHSA

Noon – 12:30 pm

**Closing Session: Next Steps**  
(Crystal Ballroom)

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.

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

Moderator:

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

12:30 pm – 2:00 pm

**Lunch on Your Own**

2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

**NHSA Board of Directors Committee Meetings**

Budget Finance Committee Meeting  
(Van Buren Room)

Governance/Nominations Committee Meeting  
(Monroe Room)

Government Affairs/ Research/Evaluation Committee Meeting (Washington Room)

Resource Development/Member Services  
(Jackson Room)

**Friday, September 25, 2009**

9 am – TBD

**NHSA Board of Directors Meeting**  
(Crystal Ballroom)