

Updates from the Head Start State Collaboration Office

May 2011



PURPOSE: The purpose of this newsletter is to provide updates on Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO) projects and to share other relevant information and opportunities to participate in state level activities and events. The HSSCO in the Department of Early Learning helps to develop and maintain state and local partnerships that benefit low-income children and families and works to coordinate federal, state and local policy to help unify the early care and education system in Washington.

Early Learning and Development Benchmarks

In October 2010, DEL, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and Thrive by Five Washington held a workgroup to plan and implement a redesign process for Washington's early learning guidelines currently known as the Early Learning and Development Benchmarks. The purpose of the redesign process is to update the guidelines based on the most current information available, improve linkages to K-3, and to improve the cultural relevance of the document to reflect the needs of Washington's increasingly diverse population. The group has been meeting regularly, and subgroups are working to develop the guiding principles and purpose for the new document, to craft the content for the new document, and to design an outreach process. The outreach effort will be widespread with an emphasis on inclusiveness and will include forums, attendance of community meetings and electronic surveys. This is planned to occur in later summer/early fall. The intent of the group is to produce a final redesigned document by December 2011.

Home Visiting

DEL, in partnership with the Department of Health (DOH), Department of Social and Health Services, and the Council for Children and Families, has selected four communities and two evidence-based home visiting models for funding in the first year of a five year federal grant through the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program.

For a list of the communities and models, please click here:

www.del.wa.gov/publications/development/docs/HVFundingAnnouncement.pdf

More information about the state home visiting plan is available at

www.del.wa.gov/development/visiting/plan.aspx

Smile Survey

The results of the 2010 Smile Survey were recently released by DOH. The smile survey is the latest statewide assessment of children's oral health in Washington. Below are some key findings from the survey:

- Fewer children have untreated tooth decay (an indication that access to care has increased)
 - The rate in low-income preschoolers was cut in half (from 26% in 2005 to 13% in 2010)
- Low-income and minority children suffer from the highest rates of tooth decay

- Cost-effective private/public partnerships such as the Access to Baby and Child Dentistry (ABCD) program and others are contributing to more low-income children accessing care
- Much work remains; too many children still suffer from preventable tooth decay

The full report can be found on the DOH website:

<http://doh.wa.gov/cfh/oralhealth/docs/datapubs/SmileSurvey.pdf>.

Newborn Hearing Screening Meeting

Registration is now open for the Washington State Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Meetings. The hearing screening meetings are a great opportunity to update your knowledge and network with other programs and potential partners within the Early Hearing-loss Detection Diagnosis and Intervention (EHDDI) system. They are offering a choice of two meetings:

- Friday, May 20 at Sacred Heart Children's Hospital, Spokane
- Friday, June 3 at Seattle Children's Hospital

If you have any questions or would like to register for the meeting, please contact Wendy Harrison at wendy.harrison@seattlechildrens.org or 206-987-2457.

Immunization Training

Learn about vaccination principles, vaccine-preventable diseases and vaccines. The course, commonly known as the Pink Book course, is hosted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Continuing education credits will be available for multiple professions. The class will be offered:

- September 27-28, 2011 in Tacoma

If you have any questions please visit the IACW website www.immunizewa.org/cdc2day or contact Michele Roberts at michele.roberts@doh.wa.gov or 360-236-3720.

Love.Talk.Play.

DEL, OSPI and Thrive by Five Washington are sponsoring a statewide campaign encouraging parents of children birth to age three to focus on three simple actions that will help give their child a great start in life. Learn more at www.lovetalkplay.org and spread the word!

Starting Strong

Registration is now open for the third annual Starting Strong Institute. Hear from national experts and talk with peers about aligning preschool through third grade programs and practices. Teams of early learning providers and elementary school staff are encouraged to attend and will receive a registration discount. The conference will be held:

- August 11-12 in Spokane

For more information or to register, visit the conference website at: www.esd101.net/startingstrong.

Negotiation Skills Training

The Leaders as Learners series is offering a training on negotiation skills. The training will be a two-day negotiation skills training lead by Joshua Flax, commissioner at Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service. Mr. Flax is an expert trainer in negotiation and a guest lecturer in negotiation skills at Harvard Kennedy School. The training will be aimed at leaders in the Head Start community. Conference tuition is free, and breakfast and lunch will be provided both days. Participants are responsible for travel and hotel accommodations. This training will be offered:

- June 6-7 in Boston, MA (Deadline: May 20)
- October 24-25 in Denver, CO (Deadline: September 23)

For more information contact Edward Condon at econdon@nhsa.org or (703) 739-7568.

Sign the Pledge on Responsible Fatherhood

The President's Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiative is an effort to encourage individuals (especially fathers) to be involved in the lives of their children, and to be positive role models and mentors for the children in their lives and communities. Signing the pledge is just one way to show that you will do your part to be a positive and supportive figure in the lives of children to help them reach their full potential. For more information or to sign the pledge visit: www.fatherhood.gov/initiative

Working Connection Child Care Survey (For Head Start/ECEAP Directors)

Please take 5-10 minutes to complete an online survey about the 12-month extended eligibility in the Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) program for children attending Head Start, Early Head Start or ECEAP. The survey is being conducted to help DEL and the state Legislature find out how well the WCCC extended eligibility is working for families, for you and your staff. The survey is available online until Friday, May 20 at the following website:

- www.opinion.wsu.edu/wccc
- Access code: 268314

If you have any questions, please contact WSU's Social and Economic Sciences Research Center at 1-800-833-0867.

Head Start/Early Head Start/ECEAP Summer Institute

Mark your calendars for the Washington State Training Consortium's 23rd annual Summer Institute. The institute will offer teachers and other early learning professionals the opportunity to take a concentrated 20 hour course on a single subject. The institute will be held:

- June 27-29 at Central Washington University (Deadline: June 7)

For more information visit www.wsaheadstarteceap.com/summer_institute.html

Other News

For more information about what's happening in DEL, check out the DEL newsletter at: www.del.wa.gov/publications/communications/

Contact Information

If you have suggestions for future newsletter topics or feedback/questions regarding any of the HSSCO's activities, please send those thoughts along to Kaelyn Bristol at (360) 725-3517 or Kaelyn.bristol@del.wa.gov - we would love to hear from you.