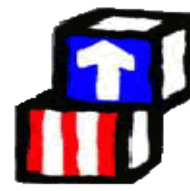


Director of Early Childhood and Family Services Report February 2023



Federal Updates:

- **Supplementary Information on Establishing an Evidence-based COVID-19 Mitigation Policy**
ACF-PI-HS-23-01 <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/policy/pi/acf-pi-hs-23-01>
- **IM ACF-IM-HS-22-09 Enrollment Reductions and Conversion of Head Start Slots to Early Head Start Slots**
<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/policy/im/acf-im-hs-22-09>

State Updates:

The Birth to 5 Hub is now up and running. This new website shows families what early childhood programs are available near their home and work. Each of our Head Start sites are listed. If you have time, feel free to check it out.

<https://www.unitedwaysva.org/our-work/childhood-success/birth-to-5-hub>

NRCA Program Updates:

- Attachments included this month:
 - Enrollment and Finance Dashboard reports.
 - The Continuation Grant package is being submitted for review and pending your approval. This includes the T/TA budget and narrative.
- It's recruitment time! We are preparing applications, updating staff on procedures, and making plans for each jurisdiction.
- February 10th is the end of the 2nd period for our Teaching Strategies Assessment. Teachers are entering mid-year child assessment outcomes into the Teaching Strategies Gold child assessment database. The Education Specialists will share the program's child assessment outcomes next month. Parents will receive the TSG outcomes for individual children from their classroom teachers on joint home visits with Family/Health Advocates.
- Leah and the Family/Health Advocates are planning a "*Positive Solutions*" workshop series for parents. Positive Solutions is our research-based parenting curriculum. The 5-6 week series starts February 21st. Parents may join either in person or virtually.
- Wellness Third Thursdays continue with Stephanie Smith leading conversations on the topic of trauma.
- The annual Parent Survey will go out to parents during our next home visit cycle starting February 6th.
- Staff position openings- Check CA, and F/HA Christiansburg. We are looking for substitutes.
- I am working on the annual staff survey. The target date it is available to staff is April 1st.
- Last month I attended the National Head Start Winter Leadership Institute in Washington D.C. Along with the federal updates I shared with you in my last months report I also was able to review some exciting professional development for our staff through NHSA's professional development academy, "The Block" and hear from OHS regarding the updates to the masking and full enrollment mandates, the progress on Head Start's COLA increase and additional funding for expansion.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roni Fitch, Director of Early Childhood and Family Services