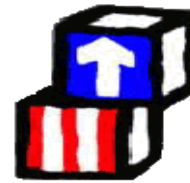


Director of Early Childhood and Family Services Report June 2023



Federal Updates:

Rest Time for Preschoolers

Human beings need sleep, with younger children needing more sleep than older children and adults. Sleep, it turns out, is required for learning as well as for health. The Head Start Program Performance Standards require that preschool programs operating more than six hours provide a rest time, as well as quiet activity alternatives for children who do not fall asleep ([45 CFR §1302.31\(e\)](#)). Rest time should be relaxing for both educators and children.

In the past week, the Federal Register released notices seeking the public's comment on:

- Home-Based Child Care Practices and Experiences Study
- Building and Sustaining the Child Care and Early Education Workforce

State Updates:

In June the Va. Dept of Health is retiring the Covid guidance for childcare and K-12 school settings. There will be updated guidance in its place and any updates to Va. licensing standards will be reviewed during a provider's "lunch and Learn" this month. The Administrative Team will be viewing the changes during our retreat.

NRCA Program Updates:

Enrollment- We ended the year with 315 children enrolled or 98%. Recruitment continues for next program year. NRCA Family Health Advocates, Site Administrators, and the ERSEA and Family Services Specialist are attending local festivals, knocking on doors, reaching out to partners, and working with local public schools to take applications for the upcoming program year. The program has not yet reached full enrollment for the 2023-2024 school year. Pulaski and Giles County are the areas where we need the most applications. In my July report I will include a detailed report of enrollment at each site and if there is a waitlist.

If you know of a child that would benefit from Head Start, applications for Head Start can be found online at the New River Community Action, Inc. webpage or any local public-school website.

Personnel- We continue to advertise and hire staff. We have 15 vacant positions. 3 of these positions are newly added positions using our quality dollars and we have 2 staff retiring after many years of service. Teachers are scheduled to return August 7th.

Self -Assessment-Our Annual Program Self-Assessment is underway. We will update our 5-year goal progress and use the data to identify goals for our next 5-year project period.

Fiscal Update- We received notice that our budget modification has been approved. Katie is already working with the equipment company to install the 2 new playgrounds in Floyd and Christiansburg.

We received word from the Regional Office that our 1-time proposal for safety is on hold for now. We should hear a final August-September time frame. They are still processing our COLA and Quality proposal.

We met our in-kind contribution match for the year.

- There are no dashboard attachments this month.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roni Fitch

Director of Early Childhood and Family Services