

Director of Early Childhood and Family Services Report March 2023



Federal Updates:

- HHS announced a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) regarding Kinship Foster Care. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/02/14/2023-03005/separate-licensing-standards-for-relative-or-kinship-foster-family-homes>
 - Proposed to allow states to create a second category of foster care children to allow for kinship care. Allowing children in those placement settings will allow for different standards as compared to foster care homes (e.g., age limits, bedrooms, and other qualifiers related to non-family foster care). Allow for services under Title IV E. o 60 day comment period. NHSA is currently working on comments and recommendations. This is a vulnerable subset of our Head Start children and would allow categorical eligibility for Head Start services.
- FY2023 Head Start Funding Increase ACF-PI-HS-23-02 <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/policy/pi/acf-pi-hs-23-02>
This is the IM on Head Start's 5.6 COLA increase and additional funding for expansion.
- 2/28/2023 - Letter from Tala Hooban, Acting Director of The Office of Head Start, as she reflects on the great work of Head Start programs and the prioritization of child safety. <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/safety-practices/press-release/letter-head-start-community-about-child-safety>
- **Welcome Khari Garvin, the New OHS Director** We're so excited to share that Khari Garvin starts today as the director of the Office of Head Start (OHS). He brings to this position 20 years of national, state, and local experience designing and leading systems serving children and families in low-income communities.

State Updates:

- The Birth to 5 Hub website <https://www.unitedwayswva.org/our-work/childhood-success/birth-to-5-hub>
- Spring CLASS observations have begun. April 28th is the deadline for completion.

NRCA Program Updates:

- Attachments included this month:
 - Enrollment and Finance Dashboard reports.
 - Period 2 Educational Outcomes
 - Mid-Year Manage By Information "MBI" Report
 - Updated COVID Mitigation Masking Policy. Developed in conjunction with our local Health Department and program HAC
- Recruitment continues.
- F/HAs and Teachers are wrapping up winter home visits with families.
- Our "*Positive Solutions*" workshop series for parents is moving from a group format to individual "Parent Chats" as requested in family goal plans (IFPAs).
- Professional Development Wellness Third Thursday's series continues with Stephanie Smith leading conversations on the topic of trauma.
- The annual Parent Survey has gone out to families.
- Staff position openings- Check CA, and F/HA Christiansburg.
- The annual staff survey has gone out to staff.
- Professional Development opportunities:
 - Debra Taylor Data Management Technician and I will attend a GoEngage training in Richmond at the end of March.
 - Leah Hill, ERSEA and Family Services Specialist, Trina Nutrition and Health Specialist and Tabbi Greenhalgh, HR Manager are preparing to travel to Phoenix, AZ for the National Head Start Conference in May.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roni Fitch, Director of Early Childhood and Family Services