



California

Head Start
Association



Fall 2004

FOCUS

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California Head Start Association 7th Annual Conference Pasadena, CA February 9-12, 2005

By Lucia I. Palacios, CHSA President and Wassy Tesfa, Conference Chair

We are pleased to present our 7th Annual Conference, *Stepping Stones to the Future*, at the Pasadena Center in historic Pasadena, California. Nestled at the base of the majestic San Gabriel Mountains, just nine miles north of downtown Los Angeles, Pasadena is "the city that feels like a village." From mountains caressed by the sun, through gardens radiant with roses, to extraordinary turn-of-the-century architecture, there is nowhere else quite like Pasadena.

Pasadena truly is a pedestrian-friendly city. Visitors can stroll along beautiful tree-lined **South Lake Avenue**, known as Pasadena's premier shopping district. **Old Pasadena**, a 22-block historical area featuring 19th century structures and quaint alleyways, is one of Southern California's hottest main-street entertainment districts. With 200 specialty shops, antique havens, boutiques, bistros and entertainment venues, Old Pasadena offers something for everyone. The 2005 conference features over 200 workshops, keynotes, exhibits, local tours, and active learning areas including our Wellness Spa! The Pre-conference sessions on February 9th will feature full day institutes on Challenging Behaviors, Strong Fathers – Strong Families, NHSA Governance Training, Early Head Start Intensive sessions by the Infant Toddler Consortium and much more. Our featured keynotes are Ted Kennedy, Jr. Frances Hesselbein and Public Policy Luncheon Keynote Ms. Joan Lombardi (see bios). Save the date – February 9-12, 2005. For more information go to CHSA web site at www.caheadstart.org

Annual Conference Opening Session February 10, 2005 Ted Kennedy, Jr.

Since losing one of his legs to bone cancer in 1973 at the age of 12, Ted Kennedy, Jr., has devoted much of his professional and personal energy to working as an advocate for the civil rights of people with disabilities.

Kennedy has served as the Executive Director of Facing the Challenge, a non-profit advocacy and public policy office on disability-related issues, and as a teaching fellow on disability policy at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. He is also an attorney fighting for the rights of persons with disabilities.

In addition, he has worked extensively with both policy makers and the corporate world in the areas of expanding job opportunities for people with disabilities. Kennedy has lectured throughout the world about his experiences with cancer, his views about life with a disabling condition, the civil rights movement from a

► cont. on p. 2



MISSION STATEMENT

The CHSA advocates for the interests of Head Start and Early Head Start by:

- Being a catalyst for quality services for children, families and communities.
- Cultivating professional development for staff and parents.
- Advancing collaboration and strategic partnerships.
- Providing timely and pertinent information to our members.
- Ensuring that the needs of California's communities of poverty are at the forefront of our elected officials' minds.

VISION STATEMENT

The CHSA is the influential voice providing leadership and advocacy for California's Head Start and Early Head Start Communities.



California Head Start Association 7th Annual Conference Pasadena, CA February 9-12, 2005

Head Start Reauthorization & Appropriations

From Joel Ryan, GAD,
National Head Start Association

Budget Not Complete

Congress has adjourned until the end of October when they will come back to deal with the September 11 Commission Recommendations. They are expected to complete their final budget in the middle of November during what is called a lame duck session.

While Congress did not complete a final appropriations bill, they were able to put together a series of tax cuts for corporations. First, as part of the extension of the middle class tax breaks, Congress decided to add an additional \$13 billion tax break for large corporations. But they were not done. What started out as an attempt to fix a trade issue worked its way into another giant tax break for corporations totaling \$143 billion. Not only were the tobacco growers lucky enough to walk away with a \$10 billion "buyout," General Electric got an \$8 billion tax break as well. Remember this when your member of Congress tells you during the election that they can't afford even a modest increase for Head Start because of tight budget times. ▲

**SPEAK UP AND BE
HEARD NOW!**
www.saveheadstart.org

disability perspective, health care reform, and other related topics.

Annual Conference Public Policy Luncheon Keynote February 11, 2005 Joan Lombardi



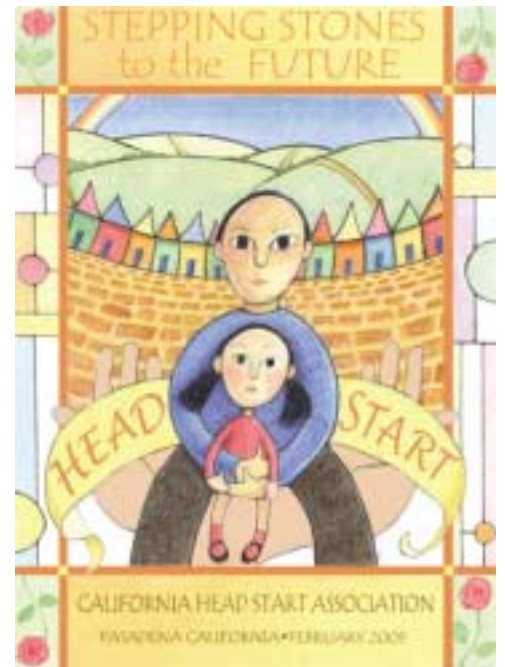
Joan Lombardi is a child and family policy specialist, serving as an advisor to a number of national organizations and foundations across the country on early care and education issues. She served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for External Affairs in the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Prior to this appointment, she served as the first Associate Commissioner of the Child Care Bureau and as the staff director of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Head Start Quality and Expansion. Her recent book Time to Care: Redesigning Child Care to Promote Education, Support Families and Build Communities was published by Temple University Press. She received her Ph.D. in Human Development Education from the Institute for Child Study, University of Maryland.

Annual Conference Closing Session Keynote February 12, 2005 Frances Hesselbein



Frances Hesselbein is the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Leader to Leader Institute (formerly the Peter F. Drucker Foundation for Nonprofit Management). Mrs. Hesselbein was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the United States of America's highest civilian honor, in 1998. The award recognized her leadership as Chief Executive Officer of Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. from 1976-1990, "a pioneer for women, diversity and inclusion." In 2004 Mrs. Hesselbein was awarded the Girl Scouts of the USA National Woman of Distinction Award. Mrs. Hesselbein is Editor-in-Chief of the quarterly journal *Leader to Leader*, and a co-editor of a book of the same name. She

also is a co-editor of the Drucker Foundation's three-volume Future Series and *Leading Beyond the Walls*, and *Leading for Innovation, Organizing for Results*, the first two books in the Foundation's *Wisdom to Action* Series. She is the author of *Hesselbein on Leadership*, published in August of 2002.



Dear Colleague Circulating in the House of Representatives

NHSA is currently working with Congresswoman Heather Wilson (R-NM) on a "Dear Colleague" letter she is circulating in the House of Representatives. The letter, which will be sent to the Appropriations Chairman, Congressman Ralph Regula (R-OH), calls on Congress to add \$121 million extra to the Labor/HHS Appropriations bill that passed the House a few weeks ago. We hope that this effort will bolster our chances of receiving a reasonable increase when a final vote on Head Start funding takes place in November.

To get involved, ask your member of Congress to sign onto the Head Start funding letter being circulated by Congressman Heather Wilson (R-NM). Contact your member of Congress through the Capitol switchboard at (202) 225-3121. ▲

CHSA Launches Parent Ambassadors

Congratulations to our first parent ambassador team:

Jose Gonzalez of San Diego, Doug Brower of San Diego, Priscilla Caffery of Los Angeles, Laura Santos of Bassett, Yolanda Campos of South Gate, Theresa Velasco of Hacienda Heights, Gregory Johnson of Long Beach, Milena Albert of Pasadena, Tito Lucero of Fresno, Paula Dawson of Bakersfield, Cori Fortunati-Ingram of Santa Rosa, Tami Strauch of Sacramento, Janet Foster of Citrus Heights, and Patricia Huitt of Shasta Lake City.

Under a grant from the Packard Foundation, CHSA will be working to develop a core group of parent advocates to work in their local communities and statewide on issues related to children and families. The Parent Ambassadors, will be trained to present effectively their personal experience in early childhood education, Head Start and community mobilization. Our first class of Parent Ambassadors will meet in Sacramento, November 12th and 13th. ▲



College Help – Click away!

www.icanaffordcollege.com

In the fall of 2003, the California Community College enrollment fee was raised from \$11 per unit to \$18 per unit (and the fee was recently raised again to \$26 per unit). Because of this increase, many Californians were concerned that students from lower-income households would be discouraged from enrolling in a community college because it would seem unaffordable. So the Legislature and Governor set aside money from within the community college budget to increase awareness about financial aid opportunities and to hire additional staff to provide students with free one-on-one help identifying those opportunities and applying for them. This effort is aimed at low-income high school students, currently enrolled community college students, and other low-income Californians. ▲

CHSA Welcomes New Staff

Responding to increased project and opportunities to support Head Start programs statewide, CHSA has added two additional staff members.

Catherine de la Torre, Project Coordinator, catherine@caheadstart.org

Catherine has been in the field of Early Childhood Education for over 15 years, and Head Start for the last 10 years. She believes strongly in comprehensive services and the holistic, family focused approach that we embrace. Her Head Start experience includes being a classroom teacher, a site supervisor, and for the past two years, a staff trainer. During this time, she has developed, adapted, and presented staff trainings and become

familiar with the varying needs of the adult learner. Catherine is finishing her Master's degree in Early Childhood Education, with a research focus on bilingual language and literacy development, particularly as it relates to children and families in Head Start.

Mary Percoski, Administrative Assistant, mary@caheadstart.org Mary has been involved in a wide variety of human service organizations. From children's services to adult care environments, Mary brings her skills in communication and office management to CHSA. A native of the Central Valley and a graduate of California State University, Sacramento, Mary is married with three children. ▲



CHSA Board Adopts Mission & Vision for 2004-2006

Vision

The CHSA is the influential voice providing leadership and advocacy for California's Head Start and Early Head Start Communities.

Mission

The CHSA advocates for the interests of Head Start and Early Head Start by:

- Being a catalyst for quality services for children, families and communities
- Cultivating professional development for staff and parents
- Advancing collaboration and strategic partnerships
- Providing timely and pertinent information to our members
- Ensuring that the needs of California's communities of poverty are at the forefront of our elected officials minds.

Goals

1. Ensure Head Start's continued success and federal reauthorization.
2. Solidify infrastructure of California Head Start Association operations.
3. Expand professional development services to member programs.
4. Strengthen strategic partnerships and collaborations at the state, regional and national levels.
5. Establish research and data analysis projects which support Head Start child, family and community goals.

Corporate Sponsors for 2004 that proudly support California Head Start Association



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REPORT

California Head Start State Collaboration Office Report

By Michael Zito, Coordinator and Nancy Remley, Director

The CHSSCO is involved in a number of activities intended to build bridges between Head Start and important State partners, including:

- The CHSSCO is working closely with the Region IX Office, the CDE Child Development Division of CDE and the California Head Start Association to ensure Head Start outcome indicators are included to the greatest extent possible as the Desired Results Developmental Profile is revised. We are pleased to report that SETA Head Start will share the expertise and time of a key staff person over the next few months to work part-time with the team revising the DRDP at UC Berkeley.
- The CHSSCO and CHSA are representing Head Start programs on the Child Development Division's School Readiness Network Advisory Committee. The purpose of the statewide system of School Readiness Networks is to provide consistent and high quality professional development for preschool administrators and teachers. Year one will focus on language and literacy best practices, resources and information for preschool aged children, including English learners and children with disabilities. Professional development activities will be accomplished via a statewide network coordinated through the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association.
- The CHSSCO was awarded a \$150,000 supplemental grant by the Head Start Bureau in July. The grant proposal, submitted in cooperation with the CHSA and Cal/Nevada Community Action Partnership, is to conduct activities intended to improve the ability of Head Start agencies to meet their enrollment goals, via the Enrollment Project.
- The CHSA, CHSSCO, and the CA Department of Health Services' Office of Oral Health Oral Health Report has been published. The report includes information regarding a plan to be developed which describes the work that the CHSA, CHSSCO, Department of Health Services and others will undertake to improve oral health outcomes for Head Start and other low-income children. The report is available on the CHSA website.
- The Region IX/CDE Special Education Interagency Agreement update is under review by CDE legal staff. The 2002 Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Developmental Services and Region IX will also be reviewed and updated this year, with assistance from the Region IX disabilities TA specialist.
- Articles for the next issue of the Bridges newsletter are now being solicited. The issue will focus on the service system for children with developmental disabilities. ▲

California Head Start Agencies joining CHSA – 2004-2005

ABC Child Development, Inc., ABC Unified School District, Amador-Tuolumne Community Action Agency, Baldwin Park Unified School District, Bassett Unified School District, Bellflower Unified School District, Berkeley Albany YMCA Head Start, CAPE, Inc., Casa Blanca HNS Head Start, Center for Children of Incarcerated Parents, Center for Community & Family Services Head Start/Early Head Start, Child Care Resource Center, Child Development Resources, Child Start Inc./Napa-Solano Head Start, Child, Family and Community Services, Inc., Children's Institute International, City of Los Angeles, City of Oakland Head Start, Community Action Agency of Butte County, Inc., Community Action Commission of Santa Barbara County, Community Action Marin/Marin Head Start, Community Action Partnership of Sonoma County, Contra Costa County Community Services Department, Delta Sigma Theta, Duarte Unified School District, Easter Seals Child Development Center, E-Center/Yuba Sutter Head Start, El Dorado County Office of Education, El Monte City School District, Episcopal Community Services, First Baptist Head Start, Foundation for Early Childhood Education Centers, Inc., Garvey School District, Glenn County Office of Education, Hacienda-La Puente Unified School District, Inglewood Unified School District, Karuk Tribe of California, Kedren Community Health Center, Kings Community Action Organization, Inc., Lancaster School District Latin American Civic Association, Little Tokyo Service Center, Los Angeles County Office of Education, Los Angeles Urban League Head Start State Preschool, Merced County Community Action Agency, Metro Area Advisory Committee Project, Mexican American Opportunity Foundation, Montebello Unified School District, Monterey County Office of Education, Mountain View School District, Neighborhood House Association, North Coast Opportunities, Inc., Northern California Child Development, Inc., Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District, Options-A Child Care and Human Services Agency, Orange County Head Start, Inc, Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment, Palmdale School District, Palo Verde Unified School District/Palo Verde Head Start, Plaza de la Raza Head Start, Pomona Unified School District, Rincon Indian Reservation, Riverside County Office of Education, San Bernardino County Head Start Preschool Services, SFSU Head Start/Early Head Start, San Joaquin County, Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, SETA Head Start, Shasta County Head Start Child Development, Inc., Sierra Cascade Family Opportunities Head Start, Siskiyou Early Head Start, Southeast Los Angeles County Workforce Investment Board, Stanislaus County Office of Education, Sutter Lakeside Community Service, The Institute for Human & Social Development Inc., Training and Research Foundation, Vaughn Next Century Learning Center, Venice Family Clinic, Volunteers of America, Los Angeles, WCIC/Playmate Child Development Center, Wu Yee Children's Services, Xanthos, Inc./Alameda Head Start – Hooray!

Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) & YOU

Head Start grantees are encouraged to learn more about EITC and to inform Head Start families about its availability. The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a refundable Federal tax credit for eligible individuals and families who have worked and earned income for all or part of a calendar year. There are currently more than four million eligible families who have not applied for Federal EITC, and nearly three billion dollars available in unclaimed credits. Taxpayers can file amended returns to claim any credit due them for up to three previous tax years. ▲



California Head Start Association Leaders Advocate for Children and Families



CHSA Leaders Meet in Washington D.C. to Educate Congress.

Ms. Wassy Tessfa (center), CHSA's 1st Vice President, Public Policy/Government Affairs, Orange County Head Start parent Alicia Young (left), Head Star Director Frank Giangregorio (right), and CHSA's Executive Director, Edward Condon (not pictured) met with senior staff from California's Representatives Buck McKeon (R), Susan Davis (D), Lyn Woolsey (D), Adam Schiff (D) and well as Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger Washington DC staff. The advocate team shared information of how programs in California Head Start community are responding to the pressures of increased labor cost, expanded regulations and strident income legibility standards. ▲

\$2 Dollar Per Child

The California Head Start Association encourages all California agencies to join the \$2.00 per child campaign – help us raise over \$100,000 for NHTA's and CHSA's advocacy efforts. Raise your dollars and send them to CHSA next spring 2005. CHSA will pass \$1.00 of every \$2.00 it receives up to the National Association.

From our national reauthorization battle to the state policy debate over universal preschool, state budget and many other services – help us represent your interest in Washington DC and Sacramento!

For more information on \$2 per child campaign – contact CHSA at 916-444-7760.

FDA Addresses Lead in Mexican Candy

On March 25, 2004, the FDA issued a letter to manufacturers, importers and distributors of imported candy addressing lead in these products. In this letter the FDA states its intent to publish a new guidance document that will reduce the FDA guidance level for considering enforcement action against candy products containing lead. The FDA currently has a guidance level of 0.5 parts per million for lead in candy. The FDA also notes specific ingredients (in particular chili powder and tamarind) that may be an avoidable source of lead exposure, and highlights certain manufacturing and storage practices that may contribute to lead in candy. Below is the FDA statement issued April 9, 2004 regarding lead in Mexican candy, along with a link to the March 25, 2004 FDA letter to manufacturers, importers and distributors of imported candy. The letter is available online at <http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/pbltr.html>. ▲

Mark Your Calendars!

February 9-12, 2005

CHSA 7th Annual Conference, Pasadena, CA

June 27 & 28, 2005

Summer Teacher Institute
English Language Development
San Jose, CA

July 26 & 27, 2005

Summer Health Institute
Challenging Behaviors
Anaheim, CA

August 2 & 3, 2005

Summer Directors & Managers Institute
Oakland, CA

November 4 & 5, 2005

CHSA 4th Annual Parent Conference
San Diego, CA



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS – Fall Membership Drive –

CHSA's 2004-2005 Membership drive kicks off the fall of each year.

Membership applications are available on the website. For 2004-2005 CHSA membership will add special value in terms of discounts on all Association institutes, conferences and trainings.

Log onto:

caheadstart.org/

[MembershipApplicationr04-05.pdf](#)

Join today!



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FALL 2004 NEWSLETTER

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Please join CHSA today!

Go to the CHSA website and print out an application www.caheadstart.org and click on Membership, and look for CHSA membership form.

Save the Date!

California Head Start Association 7th Annual Conference Pasadena, CA February 9-12, 2005

Online registration now available for both pre-conferences institutes and the general conference. Go to www.caheadstart.org and click on Conference and Training.

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