

## Head Start and ECEAP 101

November 2009

### Policy Council Leadership Conference

#### WSA Basics

- Office in Kent, WA [www.wsaheadstarteceap.com](http://www.wsaheadstarteceap.com) or (253)373-9100
- Joel Ryan and Katy Warren ([joel@wsaheadstarteceap.com](mailto:joel@wsaheadstarteceap.com) and [Katy@wsaheadstarteceap.com](mailto:Katy@wsaheadstarteceap.com))
- Membership organization of ECEAP and Head Start programs in WA
- Advocate for ECEAP and Head Start programs
- Provide high quality training opportunities

#### Basics of Head Start and ECEAP

- Head Start/Early Head Start/Migrant-Seasonal HS/Al-AN Head Start
  - Started in 1965
  - Serves about 1 million children and families nationwide (16,000 in WA)
  - Federal to local structure
- ECEAP
  - Started in 1986 - modeled after Head Start
  - Serves 8,053 children in WA
  - State funded program

#### Core Values of Head Start and ECEAP

- **Quality** (striving to consistently provide the highest level of service to children and families)
- **Inclusion** (building a community where each child and adult is treated as an individual while maintaining a sense of belonging to the group)
- **Empowerment** (believing that people can identify their own needs and interests and are capable of finding solutions and making changes)
- **Collaboration** (building relationships among children, families, staff, and the larger community)
- **Learning** (creating for children, parents, and staff a culturally sensitive environment in which enhancing awareness, refining skills, and understanding are valued and promoted)
- **Advocacy** (reaffirming that personal responsibility is critical to change, while acknowledging that social and economic factors negatively affect the lives and promise of children and families)
- **Wellness** (embracing a comprehensive vision of health for children and families)
- **Nurturing** (supporting the physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development of each child)
- **Diversity** (recognizing and embracing the idea that all members have roots in many cultures)
- **Continuity** (creating a continuum of care, education, and services from birth to age 8)

### **Head Start and ECEAP Work**

- **Head Start Research**-Every \$1 invested in Head Start will return at least \$7 to taxpayers.
- **ECEAP Research**-In a 12-year longitudinal study of ECEAP (1988-2000), researchers found that ECEAP children made significantly greater academic gains, displayed more positive behaviors, enjoyed school more, and had fewer health problems than non-ECEAP children.

### **Recent Head Start and ECEAP Challenges**

- Both programs faced cuts. ECEAP funding cut in 2001 and flat funding for years. As a result services able to deliver decreased.
- Head Start funding cut and/or flat during the Bush Administration.
- Head Start Reauthorization
  - Block grants
  - Religious discrimination
  - Role of the policy council

### **Legislative Successes**

- 2,000 more ECEAP slots available in past two years
- Creation of Department of Early Learning
- Head Start reauthorization positive changes

### **Upcoming for Head Start and ECEAP**

- Opportunity for more funding for Head Start
- Early Head Start
- Possible cuts to ECEAP in this state legislative session
- Washington Head Start
- Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Tool
- QRIS
- Child Care Subsidies
- Early Childhood Education Systems

### **Opportunities at WSA**

- Parent ambassador program
- Success story campaign
- Parent newsletter