

# The Correspondent

Early Intervention Program

Early Head Start

Wise Adult Day Health

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## Note from the Executive Director

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Welcome to the AHS semi-annual newsletter, full of news and pictures, an update on programming and planning!

Our program year is coming to an end, and we've enjoyed a successful one. We achieved many objectives in the last 12 months...all aimed toward enhancing service delivery, staff recruitment and retention, fiscal security, and public awareness. Specifically, we implemented a curriculum on Healthy Eating on a Budget, received a federal award for a new Early Head Start Child Care Partnership, instituted new safety protocols, designed a 5 week staff orientation process, began using e-records, distributed quality toys and books to promote literacy, expanded staffing and promoted talent...to name but a few. In addition, donations of money, corporate sponsorships and grants, as well as in-kind support, have been very generous! Whether on the program or fundraising level, we could not do it without you on the team—our clients, families, staff, board and funders. Thank you for a great year! And please visit our new website after July 1st, for further updates and to review our strategic plan for the coming year.



*Teamwork divides the task and multiplies the success. ~Unknown*

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# Wise Adult Day Health

## Friendship Day by Nancy Pereira

Recently, the participants and staff at Wise Adult Day Health program celebrated Older American's Month with their annual Friendship Day Celebration. The most anticipated Wise event of the year, Friendship day is an opportunity for the Wise participants to invite their special guests in thanks of their loving support and friendship over the years. This year, the program hosted a "Continental Breakfast Buffet" full of delicious breakfast treats. Entertainment was provided by Pamela Tietze, "The Singing Nurse" who absolutely captivated the crowd and made the day even more of a success.

Program Director, Nancy Pereira comments, "It's nice to see the times are finally changing to dispel the stigma attached to aging and to celebrate the aging process! Longevity is a privilege and we should all be profoundly grateful for every day. That's why attending programs like Wise Adult Day Health are so important. An individual is getting daily medical oversight by registered nurses, personal care by C.N.A.s, therapeutic activities, nutritious meals and snacks which are all key to preventive care. And when you factor in lots of laughter and the loving supportive friendships that keep us emotionally healthy as well, it's a win-win!"



Katherine and two friends share Friendship Day with her.

## Arianna's Quilt

Wise participants had an opportunity to create a beautiful quilt with college student Arianna Cabral. The participants each created a panel for the quilt with hand-



prints, flowers, or any design of their choosing. Arianna put it together for a school project and the quilt came out beautifully! The participants enjoyed working with Arianna and she did an amazing job making a wonderful program heirloom!



Linda, along with her friend, and Pat Burrows, Wise Care Coordinator, enjoy the Friendship event

Dottie colors beautiful floral pictures as part of our therapeutic arts and crafts programming.



## Adult Day Health Services

**Wise Adult Day Health** is a day support service for adults experiencing health care related issues or whose ability to function independently is limited. Wise is designed to provide quality services, including daily leisure, recreational and preventive health activities to aging or disabled individuals. An R.N. oversees all health-related activities, including restorative and maintenance therapies, nutritional consulting, and participant/caregiver training in preventive health. A nutritious lunch is served daily along with two snacks. In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, AHS will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. For more information or referrals, please call the Wise Program Director, Nancy Pereira, at 508-880-0202, ext. 327.

# Early Childhood Programs

Early Intervention

Early Head Start

## EHS Update

by Georgie Ouellette

**Early Head Start Child Care Partnerships:** AHS and Child Care partners from Fall River, New Bedford, and Brockton met in May to establish roles and responsibilities for providing comprehensive Early Head Start services in their child care centers. Contract was also finalized in May by our attorney and reviews from the Regional Office for Head Start program specialists. Contracts will be presented in June to Child Care Board of Directors to establish partnerships with AHS. Once contracts are signed, efforts will begin to provide upgrades and supports to bring centers up to compliance with Federal Early Head Start regulations and prepare the enrollment process for eligible families. Enrollment is projected to begin in August.

**New Hires:** Interviews were held for a new LSW position and PCA open position. Congratulations to Kim Correia our new Early Head Start LSW. Kim will begin her new role in mid-June providing family review and oversight to our home-based program as well as behavior management supports to our center based partnerships. This position is a great addition to how Early Head Start services support families and staff. Congratulations also goes to Kirstyn Cote on accepting a position as PCA, pending policy council approval, for our home-based program. Kirstyn will be providing home-based services to the Middleboro and Attleboro families.

Our **delegate home-based program** for Taunton and Raynham families continue their transition planning to its grantee agency Triumph Inc. Families have participated in discussions with their PCA regarding their role in easing transition anxiety for both children and themselves, and goal planning surrounding their child's needs for child care and socializations. Triumph staff have participated in family reviews with AHS staff to become familiar with children and families' needs and strengths. Families will have their first visit to tour the Riverway facility on June 4th. Families have also received (continued on next column)

## EHS Update

continued

communication from Triumph regarding upcoming activities available to them. The final date for transition to Triumph is June 15th, with a farewell activity planned at AHS on June 11th during the regularly scheduled socialization group.

**Professional Development:** Staff participated in the "26th Annual Partners in Perinatal Health Conference" on May 12, 2015. Partners in Perinatal Health is a state-wide partnership of non-profit organizations committed to improving the quality of health care available to childbearing families. Staff who participated were given opportunities to examine current health issues that impact infant survival and women's health, identify cultural issues affecting perinatal health care, share knowledge and exchange information among health professionals about perinatal health, and to examine model programs addressing the many conditions that put mothers and children at risk. These topics are helpful in providing quality services to our families at AHS.



## Early Childhood Programs ...

**Early Head Start Program** is a federally funded program that provides comprehensive services to families who are pregnant or have children between the ages of birth to 3 and meet income guidelines. Please call 508-880-0202, ext. 355 for more information or to make a referral.

**Early Intervention Program** is an integrated developmental service available to families of children, between birth and three years of age, for whom there are developmental concerns due to identified disabilities, certain birth circumstances, or environmental circumstances (e.g. cerebral palsy, prematurity, homelessness) or show a delay in one or more areas of development. Please call Zulmira Allcock at 508-880-0202, ext. 302 for more information or to make a referral.



# Early Childhood Programs

Early Intervention

Parent-Child Home Program

Early Head Start

## EI Updates by Zulmira Allcock



Congratulations to Andrea Cantin, Jennie Nelson and Kelly St. Laurent, for attending a 4 day intensive training on Infant Massage. They are developing two infant massage groups beginning on June 1st and both groups are already full. The groups will run for 5 weeks. We would love to continue to offer this on a regular basis. If you are interested in participating, please let your service coordinator know and we will develop another 5 week series in August. We look forward to them joining Keri Anderson who is currently certified in Infant Massage.

### Recognition of the Month

This month our EI Employee being recognized is Abby Smith! Abby was



hired as a Developmental Specialist in Early Intervention in October 2014 and in the short time that she has been here, she has already established herself as a caring, diligent and competent service coordinator. Abby came to us with over 8 years of experience as a Child Care Provider, and Family Support

Worker. She received the Greater Fall River Healthy Families Excellence and Resiliency Award in May 2014 and also the Statewide Healthy Families Resiliency Award in June 2014. We are fortunate to have Abby as part of our EI team with her positive outlook and dedication to her work.

## EHS Outcomes

### Parent, Family & Community Engagement Outcomes

Early Head Start staff researched and adapted a tool for collecting data that captures each family's status across 19 indicators in all of the 7 PFCE (Parent, Family & Community Engagement) outcome measurement areas. Once this was finalized, the Cleverex staff worked with us to develop a customized means of aggregating this data, and analyzing it at three checkpoints throughout the year. We have completed our baseline collection of data, and will record our second set at the June checkpoint. This system will enable us to analyze data and design program goals and activities based on the growth and stability of our families in the following areas of Parent, Family & Community Engagement:

- \* Family Well-Being
- \* Parent-Child Relationships
- \* Families as Lifelong Educators
- \* Families as Lifelong Learners
- \* Family Engagement in Transitions
- \* Family Connectedness to Peers and Community
- \* Families as Advocates and Leaders

### School Readiness Outcomes

Early Head Start has implemented the use of the Brigance Assessment tool to measure child outcomes in relation to school readiness. The Brigance Assessment captures child progress across all five areas of School Readiness, including Language, Motor, Cognition, Social-Emotional, and Approaches to Learning. Parent Child Advocates completed the Brigance Assessment along with families over the first checkpoint period. This information was then entered into the PROMIS Database system to aggregate the data and measure progress, not only individually but programmatically. The second checkpoint will be completed in September, and the results will be compared and analyzed to show growth and areas that may need development. At the next checkpoint Early Head Start will be looking for increased progress in the area of Language and Literacy.

# Resource/Information Page

## It IS Easy Being Green

by Chrissy Collins, Early Intervention Counselor

Shoes, we all wear them, and they have served us well for thousands of years. For myself, shoes can be a source of joy; buying them that is. But for most of us, shoes are used for basic comfort and practicality.

Some cultures have been leaving their shoes by the door for centuries. Why shouldn't we do the same?



### Comfort and Peace

Change into slippers or spread your bare feet! This can become a ritual that marks you are home. This ritual will trigger peace, safety and relaxation.

### Bacteria

Your shoes pick up all kinds of bacteria on the ground, restrooms, work place and in stores. Researchers have found viruses and e-coli can be brought into the home this way.

### Toxins

Through my own research, I have found our shoes are most exposed to lead dust and pesticides on a regular basis. We are trying to rid our home of toxic chemicals, and we can start by removing our shoes.

### Dirt

Keeping the dirt out means using less cleaning products. Who doesn't want to have more time for fun and spend less time cleaning?

### Wear and Tear

By removing our shoes, our carpets, tile and hardwood floors have a longer life in our homes.

Practice this at home and you may find that you take less time to relax. How can that hurt? Let me know how it goes at Chrissy1@cox.net.

## Abundant Hope Diaper Center

### Abundant Hope Diaper Center Beginning June 22nd!

Abundant Hope PRC is pleased to announce the grand opening of a Diaper Center located at 182 East Street, Attleboro MA. The Diaper Center will supply diapers from size newborn to size 6. The Diaper Center will serve all clients in need on a monthly basis, opening the 3rd week of every month for the following hours: Mon 10am-12am, Thurs 5pm-8pm, and Sat 9am-11am. Families in need are encouraged to apply! For more information call Abundant Hope at (508) 455-0425. If you are interested in volunteering or donating, please contact Carrie Tino at (508) 455-0425, rC.Tino@AbundantHopePRC.org.



Mentoring a high school student regarding potential career choices is not only fun, but very rewarding! The Taunton Area School to Career Mentor Program uses professional volunteers, like AHS' Executive Director Kit Tunney, to mentor local students. Kit has been a mentor for 8 years. Her current mentee, Laura, completed the program and received her certificate in late May. Congratulations Laura!

## FREE FUN FRIDAYS!

### 70 MUSEUMS & CULTURAL VENUES

### 10 WEEKS OF FUN THIS SUMMER

<p><b>APRIL 26<sup>th</sup></b></p> <p>TANGLEWOOD HOBAN ROCKWELL MUSEUM THE MOUNT EDITH WHARTON HOME WOOLSTER ART MUSEUM MIT MUSEUM PEABODY ESSEX MUSEUM THE HOUSE OF THE SEVEN GABLES</p> <p><b>APRIL 3<sup>rd</sup></b></p> <p>BOSTON CHILDREN'S MUSEUM HERITAGE MUSEUMS &amp; GARDENS FALMOUTH MUSEUM ON THE GREEN BERGSHIRE MUSEUM AMELIA PARK CHILDREN'S MUSEUM NAUMKEAG TRUSTEES OF RESERVATIONS OLD MANSE, TRUSTEES OF RESERVATIONS</p> <p><b>APRIL 10<sup>th</sup></b></p> <p>EDWARD M. KENNEDY INSTITUTE CAPE COD MARITIME MUSEUM NEW BEDFORD WHALING MUSEUM CHILDREN'S MUSEUM AT HOLYOKE VOLLEYBALL HALL OF FAME DANFORTH ART NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY</p> <p><b>APRIL 17<sup>th</sup></b></p> <p>MUSEUM OF FREEDOM, BOSTON LAKE ANDERSON ART MUSEUM THE FORT MUSEUM CAPE VIN MUSEUM CHILDREN'S MUSEUM IN EASTON FITCHBURG ART MUSEUM TOWER HILL BOTANIC GARDEN</p> <p><b>APRIL 24<sup>th</sup></b></p> <p>COMMONWEALTH INDEPENDENCE COMPLEX ASHFORD ARBOR ETIM OF HANSON UNIVERSITY BATTLES HIRCOVE EDWARD GOREY HOUSE PEOPLES HALL MUSEUM FRUITLAND MUSEUM MUSEUM OF RACIAL IDENTITY</p>	<p><b>THE INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART BOSTON SANDWICH GLASS MUSEUM CAPE COD MUSEUM OF ART GARDEN IN THE WOODS WYHAM MUSEUM AMERICAN TEXTILE HISTORY MUSEUM THE ERIC CARLE MUSEUM</b></p> <p><b>BOSTON HARBOR LANCE NATIONAL PARK THE GREENWAY CAROUSEL THE OLD STATE HOUSE CONCORD MUSEUM WOOLSTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM SPRINGFIELD MUSEUM HANCOCK HAKER VILLAGE</b></p> <p><b>JOHN F. KENNEDY PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY &amp; MUSEUM USS CONSTITUTION MUSEUM CAPE COD CHILDREN'S MUSEUM FISH CRAFT MUSEUM THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF GREATER FALL RIVER HISTORIC DEERFIELD MARANNE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER</b></p> <p><b>FRANKLIN PARK ZOO THE FREEDOM TRIAL MUSEUM MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY DISCOVERY MUSEUMS BUTTERNUT PARK ZOO EMORY OCEANOGRAPHY MUSEUM JACOBS FOLKLORE FESTIVAL</b></p> <p><b>OLD STURBRIDGE VILLAGE PLIMOTH PLANTATION CLARK ART INSTITUTE MASS MOCA ECOTARIUM GRIFFIN PHOTOGRAPHY MUSEUM CAPE COD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY</b></p>
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Cut along the dotted line and include with your donation.

## Annual Campaign

### Lifelong Learning Fund

The **Lifelong Learning Fund** provides additional support to children, adults and seniors in our community who are enrolled in AHS programs, but may not have access to sufficient resources. Examples of what Lifelong Learning Funds are used for include....Early Intervention Equestrian Therapy, Early Childhood Safety Equipment (car seats, gates, outlet covers), Early Head Start Family Nights, and Wise Adult Day Health Therapeutic Programs (Visits from Barn Babies, Yoga, Music)

Please consider making a tax deductible donation to the AHS Lifelong Learning Fund to help the children, adults, seniors and families we support. Send your donations to:

Associates for Human Services, Inc.  
ATTN: Debbie Howland  
68 Allison Avenue  
Taunton, MA 02780