



Pennsylvania Head Start life changing education birth through five.

## Pennsylvania Head Start Association Monthly Update

April 2018

### April Spotlight - Pittsburgh Public Schools Head Start



The Male-Fatherhood Initiative is a subsidiary of Pittsburgh Public Schools' Early Childhood Program. When fathers are involved, children do better. One of the ways is the annual March DADness basketball tournament, the tenth of its kind held March 17 at Pittsburgh Obama. The nearly 30 African American fathers split into four teams, and held a three-game tournament to determine a winner. It's not just fathers who can be part of the Male-Fatherhood Involvement program. A person could be an uncle, a big brother, a cousin—the children almost always benefit from that positive “father figure” in their lives.

Left Picture: TYRESE GILBERT plays with his 3-year-old son Benaiah, at the 10th annual March DADness basketball tournament, March 17, at Pittsburgh Obama. (Photos by Rob Taylor Jr.)

Right Picture: BRANDON GREEN, KEITH JACKSON JR. AND ANWAN WESLEY played in the 10th annual March DADness basketball tournament, March 17. They each have a child in Pittsburgh Public Schools. Green's daughter is Amya Wise (Sci-Tech), Jackson's son is Kameron Jackson (Obama), and Wesley's daughter is A'Ivory Wesley (Dilworth). (Photo by Rob Taylor Jr.)

Excerpts and photos taken from <https://newpittsburghcourieronline.com/2018/03/28/black-fathers-playing-more-active-role-in-childrens-lives/>



**Would you like to see your program featured in next month's  
Spotlight Program?**

PHSA is looking for submissions for future Program Spotlight features. Tell us about the AMAZING, but everyday things that are going on in your program by emailing [michelle@paheadstart.org](mailto:michelle@paheadstart.org).

# SUPPORT THE PRE-K FOR PA CAMPAIGN!



Work with PHSA to advocate for your program's state funded Head Start and PA Pre-k Counts by joining the Pre-K for PA Campaign!

Use PHSA's new **Communications Sign Up Form** to make sure that you get the information that you want from PHSA. This form also allows you to join the Pre-K for PA Campaign. Sign up at <https://docs.google.com/a/paheadstart.org/forms/de/1FAIpQLSdgoBmOwb9dUUrLFlc106td0TiGljwxMmcGIPkFLF36Mjn6-g/viewform!>

For additional ways to get involved in the Pre-K for PA Campaign, please contact PHSA's Outreach Manager, Michelle Smith, at 717-508-4681 or [michelle@paheadstart.org](mailto:michelle@paheadstart.org).



## PHSA Happenings

**There is still time to come to Harrisburg and talk to your legislators!**

### Upcoming Capitol Caravans

Through our work with the PreK for PA campaign, one of our objectives is encouraging Head Start advocates to come to Harrisburg and meet with their legislators. Programs choose a session date and we set up meetings with their legislators and/or staff to share Head Start success stories, educate them on the importance of Head Start in the communities they represent, encourage them to support Head Start, and/or thank them for their support in the past.

PHSA Liaisons are working hard to gather groups of interested parents and staff to make legislative visits at the PA Capitol. Below are the remaining dates the House and Senate will be in session:

House and Senate	Senate Only	House Only
4/30/18-5/2/18	4/23/18-4/25/18	6/21/18
5/22/18-6/20/18	5/21/18	6/30/18
6/25/18-6/29-18		

Any programs interested in participating in a Capital Caravan please have your Liaison contact our Outreach Manager, Michelle Smith, at [michelle@paheadstart.org](mailto:michelle@paheadstart.org) for more information and she will begin setting up legislative visits. Also, please include names and addresses of all attendees because their office staff needs to make sure attendees are constituents of the legislator. If your program does not have a Liaison and you would like more information about the Liaison Program, Michelle can help you with that as well. Please contact her with any additional questions or to identify your program's Liaison.

## SAVE THE DATE!

**The PHSA Summer Administrators Meeting will be held July 10-11, 2018 in Harrisburg, PA. Keep an eye out for the registration email with the exact location. Hope to see you there!**

**READY SET  
GROW****Linking Pennsylvania Farms  
to Early Childhood Programs**

### **TASK FORCE UPDATES**

Despite being snowed out ... twice ... the third Ready Set Grow task force meeting was held remotely via Bluejeans web conferencing on March 22. Special thanks to Becky Mercatoris and Cheryl Moss for their thoughtful opening remarks. Thank you also to Jeff Capizzano and Soumya Bhat of the Policy Equity Group for co-facilitating the meeting.

Moving forward, Pennsylvania Head Start Association (PHSA) will be taking the lead in continuing the statewide task force while The Food Trust will take the lead on developing regional Communities of Practice. PHSA and The Food Trust will continue to work together to build grassroots momentum and engagement to advance support for farm to ECE activities across the state. We look forward to continuing to lift up promising models, build capacity on the ground and work with our partners to catalyze equitable state-level policy and systems change.

### **SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR GRASSROOTS ADVISORY BOARD**

The Food Trust is seeking members for a newly forming Advisory Board for its statewide Ready Set Grow Farm to Early Care and Education (ECE) Initiative. The Advisory Board will play a lead role in shaping regional strategies to advance statewide support for Farm to ECE. The appointed members for the Advisory Board will serve for 6 months, beginning late May or early June 2018. The Board members will represent a wide variety of Farm to ECE stakeholders, including but not limited to childcare providers, ECE & preschool teachers, Head Start staff, advocates (nutrition and/or early childhood), food-service workers, parents/family members of young children and farmers. The Food Trust seeks diverse membership including but not limited to race and ethnicity, gender, age, language, socioeconomic status, disability, and geographic location. Advisory Board members will be offered a stipend of \$500 and reimbursed for travel to an in-person meeting.

Please use this link for nominations: <https://bit.ly/2GDQWel>.

The open call for nominations for the Advisory Board runs until April 20, 2018. You may send in your self-nomination for the Advisory Board, or nominate someone who you think is suitable for this role. For more information on the Advisory Board nominations please contact James Kwele at 215-575-0555 x7121 or [jkwele@thefoodtrust.org](mailto:jkwele@thefoodtrust.org).

To see the rest of the April 2018 Ready Set Grow Newsletter, click [here](#).

# PA Early Ed News Announcement

*An inside look at Pennsylvania's early education system.*

The Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) has been hard at work developing the Child Care Development Fund and Block Grant (CCDBG) State Plan for Federal Fiscal Years 2019-2021. OCDEL would like to announce that three public hearings have been scheduled. These hearings provide an opportunity to learn more about what the State Plan is and why it is important, as well as to provide testimony regarding what is in the State Plan.

- **April 30, 2018** from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM at PaTTAN, [6340 Flank Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17112](#)

All are welcome to attend.

If you choose to provide testimony, we will ask that you **RSVP** no later than **close of business, Friday April 27, 2018**.

Please RSVP to [jsands@pa.gov](mailto:jsands@pa.gov), and use the subject line: RSVP: Harrisburg Public Hearing

- **May 8, 2018** from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM at [801 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107](#)

All are welcome to attend; however, this is a secure building. Please be prepared to show your ID upon entrance.

If you choose to provide testimony, we will ask that you **RSVP** no later than **noon, Friday May 4, 2018**.

Please RSVP to [jsands@pa.gov](mailto:jsands@pa.gov), and use the subject line: RSVP: Philadelphia Public Hearing

- **NEW! May 9, 2018** from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM at [475 East Waterfront Drive, Homestead, PA 15120](#)

There is a limit of 50 seats in this session.

If you choose to provide testimony, we will ask that you **RSVP** no later than **close of business, Monday May 7, 2018**.

Please RSVP to [jsands@pa.gov](mailto:jsands@pa.gov), and use the subject line: RSVP: Pittsburgh Public Hearing

All testimony should be prepared in writing and submitted at the end of each public hearing. This helps OCDEL keep a clear and accurate record of the testimony, comments, and questions.

If you cannot attend one of the public hearings, OCDEL will provide resources regarding what the State Plan is and how to comment. All comments are due for submission by **May 18, 2018**.

OCDEL anticipates the State Plan will be released for public consumption and comment on **April 26, 2018**. When it is posted, another announcement will be released with additional details on how to provide comment.

OCDEL looks forward to hearing from you!

For more information, [please view the announcement on the PA Key website](#).





## What's New On ECLKC:

Explore the content posted to or distributed by the [Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center](#) (ECLKC) last month. These resources and email announcements may be helpful for Head Start programs and other early childhood staff. Find tools and information related to your work with children and families including T/TA resources for early childhood development, EHS-CC partnerships, health, family and community engagement, and program management. Below are some upcoming events for April:

## News from the Office of Head Start:

[Head Start Program Facts: Fiscal Year 2017](#)

[REMINDER: Provide Feedback on Proposed Changes to the PIR \(email\)](#)

[ACF's 2018 National Research Conference on Early Childhood \(NRCEC 2018\) – Registration Now Open! \(email\)](#)

[Federal Register Alert: Request for Public Comments on Head Start Program Information Report \(email\)](#)

[Grant Notice: Refugee Family Child Care Microenterprise Development Program \(email\)](#)

[MyPeers Orientation Webinar Sessions – Register Online Now! \(email\)](#)

[Explore the ECLKC Virtual Workshop Series: Welcome to the ECLKC – Register Online Now! \(email\)](#)

## Upcoming Webinars for April:

[April 23: Implementing Otoacoustic Emissions \(OAE\) Hearing Screening and Follow-up: A Four-Session Interactive Web Class](#)

[April 23: MyPeers Orientation](#)

[April 24: Spotlights on Innovative Practices: Learning Management Systems—Sharing and Accessing Professional Development Resources](#)

[April 26: Healthy Homes and Programs: Health and Safety Standards for Early Childhood Providers](#)

[April 30: Culture and Language Resources for All](#)



## What is MyPeers?

MyPeers is a virtual learning network where you can brainstorm, exchange ideas, and share resources with early childhood colleagues from across the country. It was created by the Office of Head Start (OHS) to help you connect and learn with peers who share your interests and program responsibilities. These informal connections can be a great source of encouragement and insight.

## Who is on MyPeers?

Your peers! Over 10,000 Early Childhood Professionals from every region in the nation. They are from Head Start, Early Head Start and Child Care—growing every day.

## Sample Communities:



## Why would I join MyPeers?

We all have questions. MyPeers is a positive and supportive community. You and others will share valuable information, ideas, and resources with Head Start loving people from all over.

## How do I sign up?

Enter MyPeers into any major search engine! Or scroll to the bottom of the ECLKC homepage and click on MyPeers. This page will take you to either the sign up or login page. Anyone can sign up with an email address.

## Where do I access it?

You can access it directly at MyPeers.org with your email address and password. Or join us from your smartphone or tablet and download the MangoApps app for iPhone or Android.

## By the Numbers:

MyPeers has **10,000+ members** from every state and territory in the nation. It launched in June 2016.

Members participate in more than **40 open communities** and **53 closed workgroups**. Communities are led by grantees, state leaders, regional TA, and Collaboration Offices and National Centers.

MyPeers is active! Members have made more than **750,000 views, 37,000 comments, 29,000 posts and 10,000 likes**.

**Communities are open to all members of MyPeers to view, post in, or join.**

**Workgroups are smaller, invitation-only groups that tend to be a cohort, task-focused or time-limited.**

## Sample Comments:

*"This is so awesome. It has helped me to realize that other states are having many of the same concerns and we are such wonderful resources for each other. Thanks so very much!"* – Ronald P.

*"I am really receiving a ton of helpful information through the Coaching/Mentoring Community. I love this app!"* – Karla

*"I love that you can find others across the country in your field and share minds."* – Adrienne M.

## NEW Pennsylvania Health Network Community Now on MyPeers!

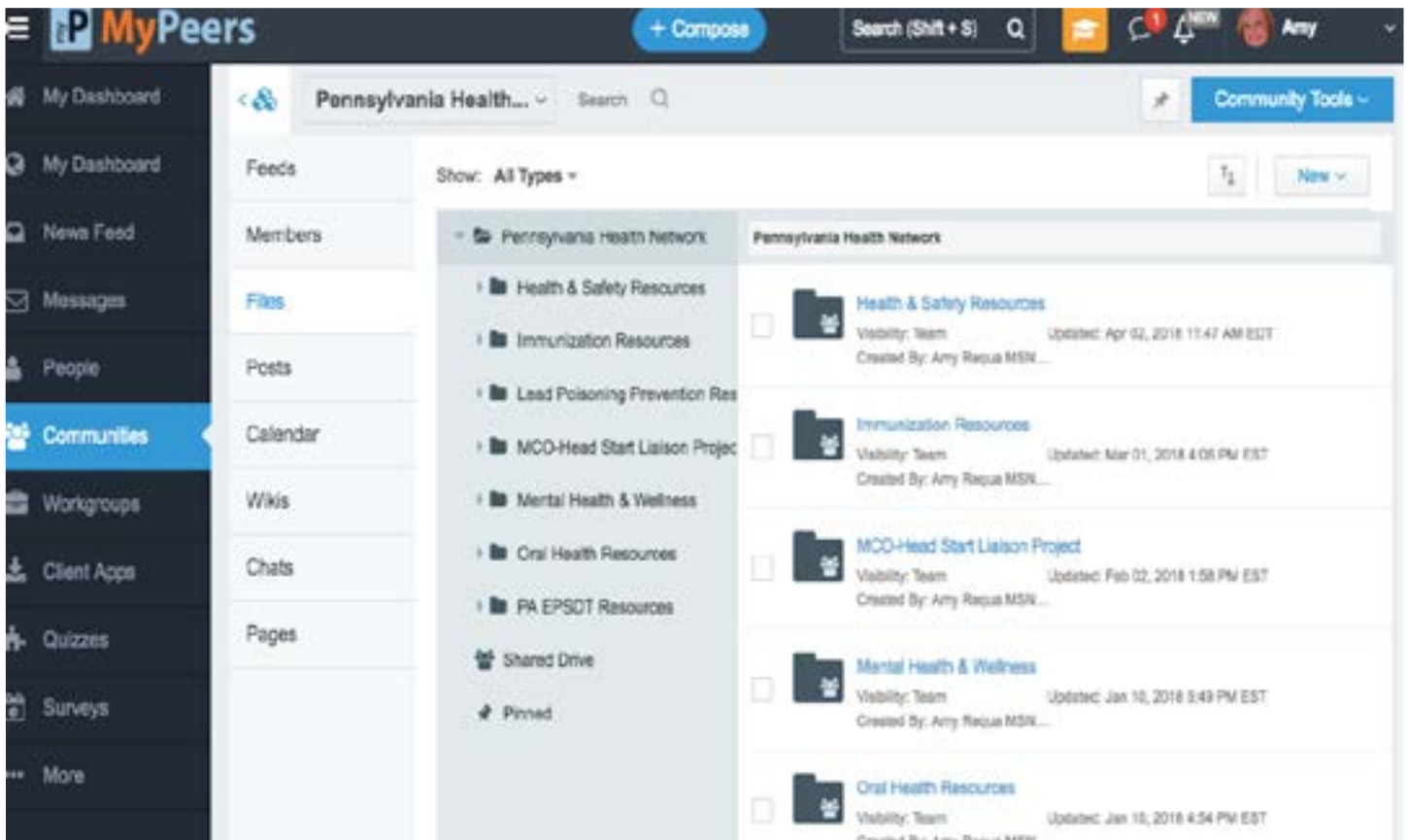


### We have our own Pennsylvania Health Network!

Step #1 First, join the MyPeers Network

Step #2 - Select “Communities” on the Menu

Step #3 - Select the PA Health Network to join our Community



You will find many helpful state-specific resources on our  
Pennsylvania Health Network Community Page!  
Contact Amy Requa with Questions: [amy.cpnnp@gmail.com](mailto:amy.cpnnp@gmail.com)





## **REGISTER NOW FOR MAY 10th PITTSBURGH MEETING!**

**PA Head Start Healthy Smiles Task Force**

**Healthy Smiles, Happy Children:  
A Dentist for Every Child**

**A Collaborative Initiative of  
The Region III Office of Head Start,  
PA Head Start State Collaboration Office,  
PA Head Start Association,  
Key Partners and Stakeholders**

**Thursday, May 10th, 2018 (10am-3pm)**

**[Register on PHSA Website \(Events Calendar\)](#)**

**PaTTAN Pittsburgh**

**3190 William Pitt Way, Pittsburgh, PA. 15238**

**<https://goo.gl/maps/1mE7VcGHk6q>**

## PLEASE RSVP!

### Head Start/Early Head Start Health & Managed Care Organization (MCO) Partnership Regional Roundtables

Please join us for an opportunity to:

- Discuss opportunities for collaborations between HS/EHS Programs and MCOs;
- Identify specific resources and health services for children and families provided by the MCOs;
- Share best practices and successes from programs currently partnering with the MCOs;
- Develop strategies for “MCO Liaisons” to assist HS/EHS to meet health performance standards and improve services to children and families.

Lunch will be provided

Sponsored by the PA Head Start State Collaboration Office

**RSVP to Amy Requa at [amy.cnpn@gmail.com](mailto:amy.cnpn@gmail.com) by the deadlines below:**

Date	Location	Address	RSVP Deadline
May 9 (10-3)	Pittsburgh	PaTTAN 3190 William Pitt Way Pittsburgh, PA 15238	April 30th
May 15 (10-3)	Wilkes-Barre	Woodlands Resort 1073 Highway 315 Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702	May 7th
May 16 (10-3)	Harrisburg	PaTTAN 6340 Flank Drive Harrisburg, PA 17112	May 7th



## SAVE THE DATE!

### Head Start – Early Intervention Regional Roundtables

Please join us for an opportunity to:

- Increase your understanding of these two important programs and the services that they provide to PA children and families;
- Hear about successes and best practices from successful PA HS/EHS and EI Partnerships and discuss barriers;
- Discuss strategies for improved collaborations between PA HS/EHS and Early Intervention and develop an improvement plan with your local EI or HS/EHS provider.

Lunch will be provided

Sponsored by the PA Head Start State Collaboration Office

All Meetings will be held from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm.


RSVP to Tracy Duarte at [tradua@pakeys.org](mailto:tradua@pakeys.org) by July 2nd.

Date	Location	Address
July 11	Philadelphia	PaTTAN 333 Technology Drive Malvern, PA 19355
July 12	Harrisburg	PaTTAN 6340 Flank Drive Harrisburg, PA 17112
July 13	Wilkes-Barre	Woodlands Resort 1073 Highway 315 Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702
July 18	Pittsburgh	PaTTAN 3190 William Pitt Way Pittsburgh, PA 15238

## Events to Watch

Date	Event	Location
April 23-27, 2018	2018 NHSA Annual Conference	Anaheim, CA
April 25-27, 2018	2018 National Farm to Cafeteria Conference	Cincinnati, OH
May 10, 2018	PA Head Start Healthy Smiles Task Force	PaTTAN Pittsburgh, PA
May 17, 2018	PHSA Monthly Parent Call	1-800-309-2350, ID# 327-1119 9:30AM-10:30AM
May 18, 2018	PHSA Monthly Liaison Call	717-836-1406, 11AM-12PM
May 23, 2018	PHSA Monthly Update Call	717-836-1406, 1PM-2PM
July 10-11, 2018	PHSA Summer Administrator's Meeting	Harrisburg, PA
July 11-12, 2018	PHSA Summer Board Meeting	Harrisburg, PA
October 15-17, 2018	2018 PA ECE Summit	State College, PA
November 1, 2018	PA Head Start Healthy Smiles Task Force	Allentown, PA





### Join us for one of PHSA's Monthly Calls!

Call	Purpose	Date/Time
Monthly Update Calls <b>717-836-1406</b>	Get updates on current Federal, State and PHSA specific issues.	1:00PM - 2:00PM the 3rd Wednesday of each month
PHSA Parent Call Toll Free Number <b>1-800-309-2350</b> <b>327-1119#</b>	Connects parents to PHSA Board and advocacy efforts.	9:30AM-10:30AM the 3rd Thursday of each month

