

February 2019
Liaison Call
1-717-836-1406

In attendance: Shirley Reagle, Mercer County Head Start; Adamary Sosa, Norris Square; Suzanne Christian, Luzerne County Head Start; Jodi Thomas, Bradford-Tioga Head Start; Katie Klein, Somerset County Head Start

Program News:

Do you have any advocacy efforts to report? What have your programs been doing?

[NHSA's Center on Advocacy](#), [Advocacy Calendar](#), [Advocacy Toolkit](#)

Shirley - Started planning end of year chinese auction/literacy carnival, Rep. Mark Longietti will be involved with that.

Suzanne - car seat safety check with state trooper coming in, State Treasurer Joe Torsella came in for Keystone Scholars, getting more feedback from classroom-based teachers as to any visitors they have had, scholarship opportunities for former head start students.

Jodi - legislative breakfast in April collaborative effort with several organizations in the county inviting Sens. Casey and Toomey, Gov. Wolf, Rep. Owlett, and Sen. Scarnati; changing up how they do things by selecting different categories or topics being more intentional on asking questions (hoping to have education be a topic included) and they may also do a luncheon the same or different day to piggyback off of that.

If you have any resource to add to our advocacy tools above, forward them to me and I will add them to our notes and to the liaison [webpage](#). If you would like to add anything to the Advocacy Calendar that your program does and could work for others, let me know and I will get those added.

Legislator Connections:

Is there a new legislator in your district to meet? Any connections made?

If the legislator remained the same, take an opportunity to learn more about them. These are links to the lists of legislators and their contact information: [PA House Members](#), [PA Senate Members](#). These links can be used to find out legislators for particular address: [Senate](#), [House](#).

I will be setting up Capitol/District Caravans this spring!! If you would like to bring a group of parents/children and staff to the Capitol to meet with legislators let me know and I will support you with getting that set up. If coming to Harrisburg is not an option for your programs and you would like to set up district meetings, I will help with that also by setting up the appointments, providing handouts, and coming with you to the meetings. Let me know how I can support you with these efforts.

An example from another program is they have an Advocacy Day and are scheduling visits with their legislators. A week before that, they are holding a Pre-Advocacy Day Party for families to teach them more about advocacy, what to expect when meeting with legislators, how to tell their

story, and how to write a letter to their legislators. I will be going to the party and helping out with their presentation and then will be accompanying them on their visits.

Opportunities

1. Government-related Activities:

We are “sending the love” to Governor Wolf! In response to his proposed increases for Pre-K programs, the Pre-K for PA campaign is asking for programs to send Valentine’s cards to the governor thanking him for his continued support (\$40M add’l for Pre-K Counts and \$10M add’l for Head Start Supplemental). We are doing this throughout the month of February. Adopt this as would fit for your program, whether one general one from your program, have it be something for the children to do as a classroom activity, a parent activity during a meeting, etc.

[Address to send these to:](#)

508 Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Now that Governor Wolf has released his budget proposal and given his address, local papers have written articles on it. The Pre-K for PA campaign is looking for Letters to the Editor written in response to these articles. When you find an article (or if you tell me what your local papers are I can do a search for the articles and share them with you), this [template](#) can be used send in an LTE. Anyone can do this (staff on own time, parent, community member, etc.) and usually just involves getting on the newspaper website and clicking “Submit Letter”, or something along those lines.

2. If your program has home visiting, the Childhood Begins at Home campaign is asking for parents who would like to do a short video about the value of the home visiting experience. Great opportunity to promote home visiting to others and throughout PA. I have received 6 videos (4 parents, 2 staff) so far so thank you! What the video can be used for - the campaign will be putting the videos on the website, using them in email blasts, and using them to educate legislators and community members about Home Visiting. Programs can use these videos during enrollment time and as education tools for their communities by submitting them to their local tv stations and/or public television stations. Here is an example of [parent](#) and [staff](#) videos I have received so far to give you an idea of what we are looking for.

3. Jacquie Hultquist (CAHS Liaison) and I are facilitating a workshop at the [PHSA Conference](#) (4/11-4/12) on the Liaison Program. It will be geared towards programs who would like to know more about it, parents/staff who want to be involved in advocacy and could take this idea back to their directors, or Liaisons who want more ideas/information on how to further their advocacy efforts. We would like to have a panel of Liaisons who could answer questions or talk about what they do. If you have never been to one of our conferences this would be a great professional development opportunity to come meet other liaisons, share ideas, network, and

get further training from the many other workshops offered. Any ideas you feel would be important for Jacquie and I to include please let me know.

4. My Family's Plate Latino Edition, cooking demonstrations and events are a great way to welcome families into the program or add to an upcoming community event (ie, Three Kings Day Celebration). Partnership with Aetna Better Health
Contact: Kara McFalls, kara@paheadstart.org, [My Family's Plate](#)

5. I am revamping the [Liaison Page](#) on the website. It is completely overwhelming and cumbersome. At some point, please go and take a look at it and provide feedback on what you feel is important to include and what can be removed, i.e. "for more information look at this form" and link to the form that goes into greater detail rather than putting it all on the page. I really would like for this page to be a useful tool for you all to continue to use so I am looking to make it as user-friendly as possible.

Next call will be 3/15/19 at 11AM.

Respectfully,

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