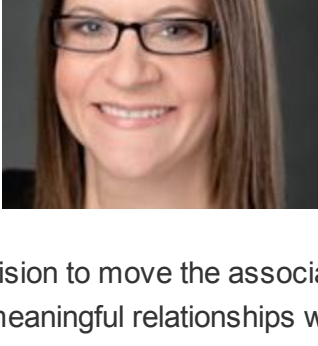




NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2017



The Florida Head Start Association Announces New Executive Director

March 30, 2017

The Florida Head Start Association (FHSA) Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Wanda Minick has been named as Executive Director. "Mrs. Minick is sure to provide FHSA remarkable guidance and success. FHSA needs a leader with a vision to move the association forward. The board has great confidence Wanda will develop meaningful relationships with FHSA members and our partners with the highest integrity. She is a leader who will ensure our mission to serve and advocate for Florida Head Start children and families will continue to prosper. [Read full release here.](#)

I am looking forward to hearing from you on ways we can work together to shape YOUR association. Associations are a wonderful thing. Being able to collaborate with people that do what you do everyday. I am eager to hear what you want from your association and find out what tools you need to help better serve your children and families. My door is always open so feel free to give me a call (850) 694-6477 or send me an email Wanda@FHHeadStart.org anytime. Let's make this journey together and continue the wonderful work you do for Florida's children and families.

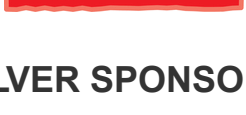
Thank You 2017 Conference Sponsors

FHSA would like to send a huge thank you to our sponsors for their support of our 2017 annual conference. Because of these providers they help offset the cost of conference so we can keep registration pricing low. Please patronize these company's and say thank you!

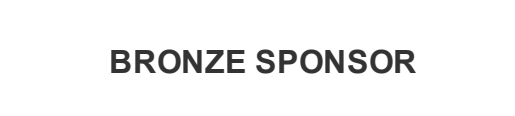
PLATINUM SPONSORS



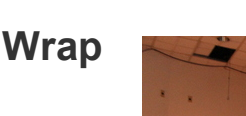
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2017 Annual Conference Wrap Up

This years annual conference, "Today's Leaders Impacting Tomorrow's Future" held March 14-17, 2017 in Orlando, FL was a great success thanks to all our sponsors, exhibitors, presenters and attendees. Our event hosted over 260 attendees, 30 sponsors/exhibitors. We are currently reviewing survey responses to help us start planning for 2018.

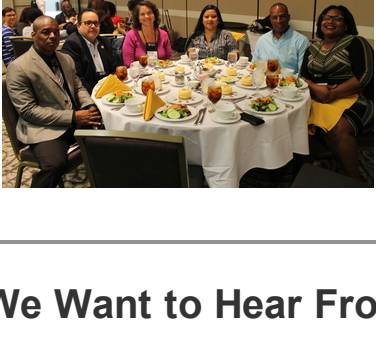


Town Hall Panel

SAVE THE DATE! We will be back at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Orlando, FL on **April 15-18, 2018.**

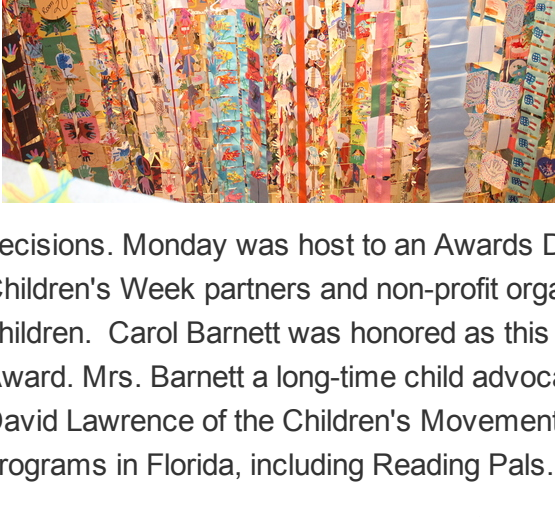
Take a look at some of the photos taken from the event by visiting our photo gallery. [Click here.](#)

If you are interested in volunteering to help work on our 2018 program send us an email at info@FHHeadStart.org.



We Want to Hear From You

The FHSA newsletter will be issued on the 5th of each month. We want to hear from you, our members on what you are doing, highlight your program and tell your story. If you would like to be featured in our newsletter please remit your article no later than the 20th of the month. Please remit information to Wanda@FHHeadStart.org.



Children's Week

March 26- 31, 2017 marked Children's Week at the Florida State Capitol in Tallahassee. Each year this event is kicked off with the official "Hanging of the Hands" which is ten of thousands of "hand art" hung throughout the Capitol Rotunda. The hands is a reminder to legislators and advocates of the many children that is affected by their decisions. Monday was host to an Awards Dinner and Reception to honor and recognize Children's Week partners and non-profit organizations which dedicate their lives to children. Carol Barnett was honored as this year's dinner with the Lawton Chiles Advocacy Award. Mrs. Barnett a long-time child advocate who worked closely with United Way and David Lawrence of the Children's Movement to establish some exemplary children programs in Florida, including Reading Pals.

The event was not complete without "Children's Capitol for a Day" activities attended by thousands of children while the Children and Youth Cabinet held a youth town hall meeting, fielding questions from youth from YMCA's and youth committees across the state followed by a Press Conference on the steps of the Historic Capitol to share the mission/vision and priorities of the cabinet with regards to children issues and teen town hall meeting sponsored by The Children's Trust Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) focused on youth violence.



Calendar of Events

April

[6 - 10 - NHSA Annual Conference, Chicago, IL](#)

May

[9 - 13 - FACA 37th Annual Training Conference, Jacksonville, FL](#)

[16 - FHSA Board of Directors Conference Call](#)

[19 - Head Start Advantage Annual Awards & Luncheon, St. Petersburg, FL](#)

VPK Updates in the Family Portal

As of March 31, 2017, the Family Portal has been updated to include the VPK Re-enrollment Application and the recent revisions to Rule 6M-8.201, F.A.C., which includes the revised Voluntary Prekindergarten Handbook (OEL-VPK 07) and slight modifications to the Child Certificate of Eligibility (OEL-VPK 02).

Re-enrollment

Starting Monday, April 3, 2017, parents seeking a VPK re-enrollment for their child must apply on the Family Portal. Early learning coalitions can assist any parent requesting assistance with the application. Once the coalition approves the VPK Re-enrollment Application, the system will generate the Certificate of Eligibility for Re-enrollment (OEL-VPK 04) for the parent to print and bring to their desired provider.

For re-enrollment requests that involve a guardianship change, in which the child's original Family Portal application is not accessible to the new guardian may be handled outside the Family Portal until guardianship change functionality is built into the portal. Please see attached guidance for more information.

Coalitions may contact the OEL Service Desk at service.desk@oel.myflorida.com or (850) 717-8600 for technical assistance with the portal. [Training videos](#) about re-enrollment portal process are available on the Coalition Zone, as well as a [user guide](#) for the changes to the portal.

Voluntary Prekindergarten Handbook

Parents applying for their child to attend VPK will now be given the opportunity to review the revised [Voluntary Prekindergarten Handbook](#) on the Family Portal. The revised handbook includes information about the changes to VPK age-eligibility and updated links and resources.

Child Certificate of Eligibility (COE)

The only change to the COE was the "VPK class" field is no longer optional and the date on the bottom of the form was updated to February 2017. Coalitions and providers may accept either the February 2017 or the May 2016 COE for enrollment for the current program year or 17-18 program year. Any parent that printed or saved their child's COE prior to today will have the May 2016 version. Any COE accessed on the Family Portal now will have the updated February 2017 version.

If you have any questions, please contact the VPK Policy and Program Unit at vpkquestions@oel.myflorida.com or 1-866-447-1159.

National Child Abuse Prevention Month

April is National Child Abuse Prevention month, a time to remember that we all play a part in preventing child maltreatment. Learn how you can build community and hope with children and families. Raise awareness this April and all year long:

- Visit the [National Child Abuse Prevention Month website](#) to find useful resources.
- Download the [2016/2017 Prevention Resource Guide: Building Community, Building Hope](#).
- Distribute the [tip sheets](#) ranging in topics from bonding with your baby and making healthy connections, to developing strong communities, managing your finances, and ways to be a better Dad. The tip sheets are available in both English and Spanish!
- Share [three activity calendars](#)—available in English and Spanish—with activities related to the six protective factors.
- Access and share [videos from our gallery](#) to your social networks featuring State and national child abuse prevention programs.
- Download [outreach materials](#) to promote National Child Abuse Prevention Month in your community.
- Post [widgets](#) to your website and add them to your email signature.
- Join the conversation on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) with #PreventionMNC and #NCAPM2017

Visit the 2017 National Child Abuse Prevention Month website and [take survey!](#) For more information on Prevention Month, contact Child Welfare Information Gateway at [1-800-394-3366](tel:1-800-394-3366) or info@childwelfare.gov.

Don't forget to Renew Your Understanding of Infant/Toddler Development!

Renew Your Understanding of Infant/Toddler Development is a 15-hour Early Head Start online training offers teachers, home visitors, and supervisors the opportunity to enhance their child development understanding and and to new gain ideas. Content is also appropriate for infant and toddler staff working for programs other than EHS.

Training Topics

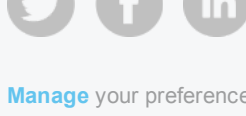
- * Understanding Pre-Natal Development;
- * Infant-Toddler Development;
- * Managing Behaviors in the Infant-Toddler Classroom;
- * Health, Safety, and Nutrition; and
- * Relationships with Families.

[Get More Info](#)

CONTACT US

info@FHHeadStart.org | (850) 694-6477
1700 N. Monroe Street Suite 11-148 | Tallahassee, FL 32303 US

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