Message from Executive Director

It has been a year of opportunities for MA Head Start Association and its member programs. Coming off a year of celebrations of 50 years of Head Start, MHSA looked toward the future and began to work with programs on shaping new opportunities that the association could offer its members.

This was a great year of growth for our parent group. Our enthusiastic parent board members along with the parents who regularly attended the MHSA meetings developed an exciting advocacy tool that they brought to the State House to display for Early Childhood Advocacy Day. Helping Hands for Head Start was a huge banner and sign with the hands of children and adults from all Head Start and Early Head Start programs representing the educators and staff from programs who had an impact of the lives of the children and families they served. The intention was to raise awareness for support of the workforce to acknowledge the need for better pay equity. The amazing display brought life to the Gardner Auditorium that day, and was also shared at the New England Head Start Association Annual Conference in Newport in the spring. The parents continue to work on new ideas to engage more of their peers in the work of the Association and we are thankful for their contribution.

MHSA was also able to offer some professional development opportunities for members. Partnering with MASSCAP in the spring of 2016, we brought back Dr. Donna Beegle to follow up on her first presentation and provided resources and workshops related to financial literacy. In the fall, in response to the release of the Head Start Program Performance Standards, over 100 program staff attended a workshop with Zoe Beckerman to help them begin the process of implementation of the updates to the HSPPS. We look forward to continuing to offer relevant conference and workshop opportunities in the future for both parents and programs.

And speaking of the new Performance Standards, MHSA will be continuing its work with both state and federal partners as we all continue to work toward the development of the best systems possible for providing high quality early education and care opportunities for our most vulnerable families. As transitions that began late fall continue to unfold, we will embrace them with renewed determination to continue to ensure that Early Head Start and Head Start services are available to our families, continue to fight for our workforce and the acknowledgement of the great work that they do, and continue to strengthen our bonds with our partners. We look forward to this step into the ‘next 50 years’ and we thank you our programs for the good work you do, and we thank our community for the ongoing support of us to continue to provide for our children and their families!

Thanks for reading,

Pam Kuechler
MHSA Executive Director

www.massheadstart.org
Highlights from Our Year

Our New Website is Live!

This year, we launched a new website with better editing tools to allow us to deliver up-to-date information to association members and the public. Some of our favorite features include the “Find a Head Start Program” and the ability to list upcoming trainings and workshops across New England.

www.massheadstart.org

The Hands Project

Holding Hands 4 Early Education is a advocacy effort created by the parents participating in the Massachusetts Head Start Association. They worked tirelessly to produce a strong enough statement that will help legislators understand the urgency and importance of Head Start, early education programs and after-school programs. These parents united over several weeks to ensure that the powerful impact on children, families and staff, are heard across the states.

www.massheadstart.org
We Hosted Two Conferences This Year!

On May 10, 2016, MHSA and Masscap partnered to bring Donna Beegle back to Massachusetts as the keynote speaker at the Creating Opportunity and Empowering Families Through Strong Financial Futures Conference. Over 80 people attended the full-day event. Dr. Beegle is a national expert on poverty.


This full-day conference covered the changes in the Head Start Performance Standards and informed programs of ways to adapt programming to meet the new standards. Zoe Beckerman is an expert in working with organizations that receive federal funding.

We Continue to Advocate . . .

MHSA members visit our delegation on Capitol Hill
Who We Serve: Our Families

35% of families are two-parent families
65% of families are single-parent families

Of the two-parent families:
- In 1,110 families, both parents/guardians are employed
  - In 505 families, both parents/guardians are in job training or school
- In 2,909 families, one parent/guardian is employed
  - In 993 families, one parent/guardian is in job training or school

Of the single-parent families:
- In 5,093 families, the parent/guardian is employed
- In 2,005 families, the parent/guardian is in job training or school

Parent/Guardian Education Level
1,243 have an advanced degree or a bachelor’s degree
3,760 have an associate’s degree, vocational school, or some college
5,911 have a high school diploma or GED
3,195 have less than a high school diploma

25 families have at least one parent/guardian who is a member of the United States military on active duty.
50 families have at least one parent/guardian who is a veteran of the United States military.

50% of HS families experiencing homelessness during the enrollment year acquired housing during the enrollment year!

98% of children had a medical home at the end of the enrollment year

10,394 children received preventative dental care

4,392 children received transportation
How We Do It: Our Staff

- 8.5% have an advanced degree
- 69% have a bachelor’s degree
- 58% have an associate's degree
- 57% have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential

How We Do It: Our Staff

- 13% have an advanced degree
- 51% have a bachelor’s degree
- 14% have an associate's degree
- 3% have a family-development-related credential

Average Teacher Salary
$29,513

Average Home Visitor Salary
$31,520

18% of our staff are proficient in a language(s) other than English! Of them,

⇒ 7% are proficient in more than one language other than English
⇒ 64% are proficient in Spanish
⇒ 8% are proficient in European & Slavic languages
⇒ 6% are proficient in East Asian languages

... among others!

Staff Turnover

36% of Teachers who left their positions, went for higher compensation/benefits package in the same field

10% of Teachers who left their positions, 10% changed their job field

24% of all Head Start staff are current or former Head Start or Early Head Start parents!
What We Do: Comprehensive Services

Disability Services: In 2016: 852 of Early Head Start Children had an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)

1,240 Head Start Children had an Individualized Education Plan (IEP)

THE HEAD START ADVANTAGE

Head Start and Early Head Start Programs across the country, as part of the Standards they are required to follow, measure children’s progress over the course of the program year.

Outcomes: Using research-based tools, children’s progress is measured in several domains at multiple times throughout the year with parents’ input include: Social Emotional, Physical—fine and gross motor skills, Language, Cognitive, Literacy, and Math. Teachers use these assessments to create the most effective environment for children to succeed – making individualized adjustments to meet the needs of each child.

We saw an improvement in all domains this year.

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