

April 2011

MDAEYC Tells Capitol Hill: Save Child Care Quality and Subsidies!

By Tracy Jost, MDAEYC Co-President

On March 29th & 30th, MDAEYC members Shannon Dugan, John Surr, Flora Gee, Tracy Merriman Jost, Lakisha Eason, and Mary Kate Burke attended the NAEYC Public Policy Forum and advocated for early childhood initiatives on the Hill. We asked our members in Congress and the Senate to pass a continuing resolution that does NOT reduce current investments in the Child Care & Development Block Grant, Head Start and Early Head Start. We emphasized that the draconian cuts to HR1 (if adopted) would cause 368,000 children to lose child care, Head Start, and Early Head Start services.

For Fiscal 2012, starting next October, we made recommendations that Congress adopt the President's request for an increase of \$1.3 billion for the Child Care & Development Block Grant, \$866 million increase for Head Start and Early Head Start and a \$50 million increase for IDEA Part C (infants/toddlers early intervention), and \$350 million for the Early Learning Challenge Fund. In addition, Increase Title I funding so that school districts have the flexibility to expand the use of these funds for younger children in high quality settings and schools, for joint professional development, and comprehensive services and to expand the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit and index the credit to inflation and make it refundable.

The current Continuing Resolution is in effect until April 8th. It is still uncertain what the next outcome will be for funding. We will continue to update you on the status of the Federal budget and what it will mean for children, families, and jobs.

Statewide School Readiness Shows Improvement

On Tuesday, March 22, the Fall 2010 Kindergarten Readiness results were released to the public, showing an overall increase in "fully ready" Kindergarten students in Maryland from last year's figure of 78 percent, to 81 percent this year. For more information, go to http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/msde/newsroom/publications/school_readiness. Far more detailed information, including data for each jurisdiction, is available from <http://www.readyatfive.org/facts/mmsr.aspx>

Carrol County Community College Student Chapter in May's Young Children

Carole Williamson reports that the Student Chapter will be featured in the May issue of NAEYC's Young Children, as part of an article about the Student Interest Forum. Look for *Supporting the Next Generation of Early Childhood Educators: Connecting with Today's College Students*

The ECE Club also has a facebook page. See:

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/pages/Carroll-Community-College-ECE-Club/199444950067055>

Eastern Shore Chapter Plans Week of the Young Child Event

By Donna Satterlee, President

MDAEYC Eastern Shore Chapter is sponsoring the Early Childhood Fair at the Centre in Salisbury on April 16th, from 10:00 to 4:00. Please come and explore the activities available with your children! This day is also a good day to network with other early childhood professionals. If you need professional activity units for credentialing and if we still need volunteers, or if you know of or are a non-profit organization that is primarily interested in early childhood and would like to have a table to display materials, please contact Monica Fontaine at tytole@yahoo.com . See you at the fair!

Save the Date!

Register for the Prince George's County Early Childhood Conference!

Contact Carolyn Cunningham car3.cunningham@pgcps.org

New Car Seat Recommendations

The American Academy of Pediatrics has come out with new car seat recommendations. Here's a really helpful YouTube video explaining the changes - with the biggest being for toddlers up to age 2.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ULJ8Vx79Vv4>

Maryland and Local Budgets and Bills: What to Expect, How You Can Help

As we go to press the Maryland Budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1 is still up in the air, pending negotiations between the Senate and the House of Delegates. But both versions included essentially the Governor's proposals regarding child care, with flat funding for most programs, a continuing hiring freeze, and big cuts (based on a lack of replacements for the Federal stimulus funds) for child care subsidies, and for the Child Care Resource and Referral Network and the Family Support Centers. The subsidy funding shortfall is especially worrisome, because demand for those subsidies is increasing, particularly among those who get preference for them because of participation in Maryland's Family Investment Program.

Among the Bills of interest to us in the General Assembly, which ends its 2011 Session in mid-April, it appears that the Bill to require an annual report on the Judy Hoyer Programs, HB 712/SB104, might be passed if time permits, as is a Bill to repeal an obsolete registration amnesty for family child care

providers, SB 282, and a Bill to allow for a new category of Large Family Child Care Homes, SB 925.

This also is the season in which Maryland's local jurisdictions prepare and hold hearings on their budgets for the coming fiscal year. The Counties face the same kind of revenue shortfalls as the State government, but they also have added uncertainties about what the State and Federal governments will do with the funding the local jurisdictions need for their own programs. If your jurisdiction has some funding to help child care that might be up for cuts, please contact Shannon Dungan, our State Public Policy Chair, at creolasd@hotmail.com for help in how to save that money.

NAEYC Election Results and Ballot

Beginning in June, Gera Jacobs will be our new President-Elect, and Jim Lesko, Amy O'Leary, and Ginger Marie Swigart will join her on the Governing Board.

In mid-April NAEYC will e-mail you a ballot referendum to change its Articles of Incorporation to bring them into compliance with new IRS Regulations. NAEYC needs a quorum to adopt the change and keep its not-for-profit tax advantages, so please vote! Thank you.