The Tide

March 2010 *e-mail* edition

Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children

www.mdaeyc.org

Please note that this issue is going out by e-mail, as will future issues. Please send your mailing address to jsurr@verizon.net if you want to receive newsletters by mail.

URGENT

March Forth on March Fourth!

23 national organizations interested in young children have organized a national call-in day to Congress on Thursday, March 4, 2010, in support of increased funding for child care, Head Start, and child nutrition. President Obama has proposed a Budget that would provide significant increases in these areas, and Congress has begun its work to review it an pass appropriations for the fiscal year beginning October 1. Maryland is facing cutbacks in State financing in these areas, so it is vitally important that we make these calls. The more calls they get, the more pressure Congress will feel to support these vital programs. So please help spread the word by forwarding this e-mail to friends, family and colleagues, and please make the calls on Thursday!

If you live near the Capitol, you can call the Capitol Switchboard at (202) 225-3121, to ask to be connected to the offices of Senators Mikulski and Sarbanes, and to your Representative. If it's long distance, you can call toll-free 1-888-460-0813. Tell them that you're a constituent, and that you believe child care, Head Start and child nutrition are essential programs for children and families, that need Congress' support the increases for these programs as proposed in the President's budget. Thank you!

A Training Opportunity

Joyce Gerber, our Professional Development Chair, is seeking up to 4 other people to join with her in registering for the Margie Carter/Deb Curtis Institute on *Reflective Teaching* at the Blue Heron Center in Quiet Waters State Park in Annapolis, on May 6-8. If she can get 3 others to register with her, each can save $25 of the $425 registration cost. Joyce's brother's weekend cottage has space for 4 other people, without cost except for shared meals. Please contact Joyce right away at jgerberedd@verizon.net if interested, as the session is popular and may be fully booked soon.

MARYLAND'S EVENING FOR CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY RESCHEDULED FOR MARCH 22

MDAEYC is co-sponsoring an Evening for Children's Advocacy in Annapolis on Monday, March 22, 2010, rescheduled from February 8 because of Snowmaggadon. We would welcome you to come to Annapolis for visits with legislators when you get off work that day, then stay for a free box dinner and briefings and tours about the legislative process in Maryland. The evening will culminate with a visit to the General Assembly in session, with visitors being recognized by the House or Senate. Professional Development Units for the Maryland Credential will be awarded.

Even if you registered for the February event, please e-mail dmoore@friendsofthefamily.org to reserve a dinner by Monday, March 15, as spaces are limited. Those who had not registered for the earlier event will be accommodated as space permits. Please come and bring your colleagues!

DC METRO CHAPTER IS PLANNING WEBINARS

The DC Metro Chapter is well underway with its plans to conduct training webinars on topics of interest to our members throughout Maryland. The first of these webinars, planned for later this year, would focus on the theme, "Can the Right Kind of Play Teach Self-Control?" For more information, contact deannemarein@verizon.net.

Virginia AEYC Offers Member Rates for MDAEYC Members for its Annual Conference, March 18-20

As part of the regional collaborative, Virginia's AEYC, which has a large annual conference each year, will offer Maryland AEYC members its own member rates for registration for its upcoming conference, themed "The Power of Play", at the Richmond Marriott Hotel on March 18-20. See www.vaece.org/futureconference.

MDAEYC CHAPTERS CELEBRATE WEEK AND MONTH OF THE YOUNG CHILD

Another reason (besides the lack of snow) to look forward to in April will be that it is the Month of the Young Child. Several of our Chapters are planning and participating in their local celebrations. A list of those events follows:

P.G. Co. 13th Ann. Conf,"Celebrate Child Care!"
April 17, Upper Marlboro
Contact: 301-345-0874

Montgomery County Week of Young Child Celebration
April 10, Westfield/Wheaton Plaza
April 24, Lakeforest Mall
Contact: 240-777-1331

Montgomery County Early Childhood Celebration
April 21, Gaithersburg
Contact: 301-320-4565

In addition, Central Maryland AEYC is participating in the *CCBC 4th Ann. Conference,* this month:
March 13, CCBC Dundalk
Contact: 410-780-6178

Montgomery County's *Early Childhood Congress* will take place in Rockville from 9-12 noon on

Thursday, May 13, at the Visual Arts Center in Rockville.

PUBLIC POLICY REPORT

Federal: Since our January issue, President Obama has presented his proposed FY 2011 (starting 10/1/10) Budget to Congress, with some good news for us. He proposes an additional $1.6 billion for the Child Care & Development Block Grant (CCDBG), which would replace the stimulus money that has to be spent in the current fiscal year, and add some more to permit subsidies to reach more low income families so that they may work. He also proposes a $989 million increase for Head Start/Early Head Start. See page 1 to get this passed! The President's Budget also would increase child nutrition funding by $1 billion, which is needed. It also proposes to extend the Child & Dependent Care Tax Credit to more families, with higher amounts.

The Early Learning Challenge Grant, which could give Maryland major resources with which to improve its early childhood system, is still stuck in the Senate behind Health Reform, awaiting a final vote before going to the President for his signature. It is part of the Student Loan Bill that is the subject of fierce lobbying by private lenders who would have to forego profits if the Bill is passed.

Legislation to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA, or No Child Left Behind Act), the CCDBG, the Child & Dependent Care Tax Credit, and the Child Nutrition Act are pending, but they might not get completed in this election year.

On February 2 and 3, MDAEYC's Tracy Jost, Flora Gee, John Surr, Shannon Dungan, Lakisha Eason, and Brigid Moran participated in NAEYC's National Public Policy Forum, including a visit to Maryland's Delegation on Capitol Hill, meeting with Senate and House staff to push for legislation for young children, including that described above.

Maryland: The big news this year, as expected, is the enormous gap between tax revenue and spending needs that has to be filled somehow. The Governor's Budget has made major cuts to many agencies and programs we care about, such as the Local Management Boards, but its impact directly on the Early Childhood Division of MSDE is relatively limited. Already for the current fiscal year, the amounts previously appropriated were reduced substantially for the State employees, including furloughs and some attrition, that has made licensing inspections fall off their schedule, credentialing applications get processed very slowly indeed, and even child care subsidy payments and other processing get hung up. In addition, the Child Care Resource & Referral Network has had

progressive cuts, as have the State's Family Support Centers. The Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Project took a 10 percent cut earlier this year, and the proposed budget does not replace it. Child care subsidies have had increased demand, especially from people getting Temporary Cash Assistance, but the amount put into next year's Budget would drop by almost $10 million, reflecting the ending of Federal stimulus funding but not the President's Budget increase. If demand for subsidies continues to grow, MSDE/ECD might have to take unhealthy/unpopular measures to reduce subsidy costs. We are fighting that prospect in our testimony on the State Budget.

The Bills of interest to us in the General Assembly include two Bills that would give MSDE the General Assembly's backing in submitting an application for funding under the proposed Early Learning Challenge fund (see above), and would ask MSDE to prepare more comprehensive annual reports about all the agencies active in the Judy Hoyer programs. The Service Employees International Union (SEIU) has introduced a Bill to formalize its bargaining status under State law and to allow it and MSDE to negotiate about deducting SEIU service fees from child care subsidy payments in family child care. Amendments have been proposed to prevent those negotiations or to require that any service fees so negotiated would not reduce net payments to providers. For all of this, stay tuned.

At the Budget hearings on February 25, State School Superintendent Nancy Grasmick told the Senate Budget & Tax Committee that the progress in school readiness reported in previous years is continuing for the current academic year, according to the preliminary data received by MSDE.

MSDE APPROVES NEW 3-5 YEAR OLD CURRICULA IN CHILD CARE

At the beginning of February MSDE announced that it had expanded the list of vendors of approved commercial curricula for 3-5 year olds. The selected programs now include:

- Abrams Learning Trends – *Let's Begin with the Letter People* and *Land of the Letter People*
- CORE Knowledge – *Preschool Sequence and Kindergarten*
- High Reach Learning – *Curriculum for Threes/Curriculum for Pre-K/Passports: Experiences for Pre-K*
- Houghton-Mifflin Harcourt-Houghton Mifflin *Prekindergarten/Kindergarten*
- MacMillan/McGraw Hill – *Little Treasures/Treasures*
- McGraw-Hill Wright Group – *DLM Early Childhood Express*
- Pearson Early Learning – *Opening the World of Learning*
- *Success for All – Kinder Corner*
- Teaching Strategies – *Creative Curriculum*

MSDE also established a separate category for curricula of historic significance and merit in the field of early childhood education: High/Scope, Montessori, and Waldorf.

The Early Learning Branch of the Early Childhood Development Division also is conducting training and technical assistance for the approval of individual curricula. Details are available at this website:

http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/divisions/child_care/preschool_curriculum/overview.

Underpaid Early Childhood workers:
Finding the Path to Better Pay

(*From an NAEYC Radio Press Release)*

This month's NAEYC Radio segment features Marcy Whitebook, Ph.D., who discusses early childhood workers' wages and ways to find better pay. Dr. Whitebook directs the Center for the Study of Child Care Employment at the University of California at Berkeley.

Rae Pica and Mark R. Ginsberg interviewed Dr. Whitebook in this month's segment of NAEYC Radio, a program brought to you by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and the BAM Radio Network.

In this segment, Dr. Whitebook says that most child care professionals make less than parking lot attendants. In fact, on average child care providers make about $15,000-$20,000 a year depending on where they live and what age group they care for. Dr. Whitebook says the reason for such low pay is that the United States never placed the same value on early childhood education as it has for the rest of the K-12 spectrum. While she says some attitudes have changed some, especially based on research of brain development in the early years, attitudes haven't changed enough to make a significant impact on wages.

One way to push for higher pay is to push for higher standards, Dr. Whitebook says. Higher standards usually mean more training, more education, and more pay. She also recommends teachers become educated about the profession and find the best fit for them regarding pay. Typically elementary school and Head Start teachers have higher salaries than others in the field.

"It's not that you can't be in the early childhood field and never earn a professional salary, but as you feel the return on your investment in your education should go up, you have to be thinking about where are the sectors, where are places in the field where you're likely to be compensated in a more professional way," says Dr. Whitebook.

NAEYC welcomes Dr. Jerlean Daniel as the next Executive Director of the Association.

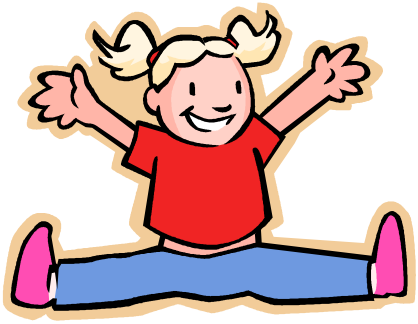
(*NAEYC Press Release)* The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) is pleased to announce the promotion of Jerlean Daniel, Ph.D. to become Executive Director Designate of the Association. Daniel will replace outgoing Executive Director, Mark R. Ginsberg, Ph.D. on July 1, 2010. NAEYC President, Sue Russell made the announcement on behalf of the NAEYC Governing Board.

Currently, Dr. Daniel serves as a Deputy Executive Director of the Association and is also a distinguished elected past-president. Daniel has been an active NAEYC member and Association leader for more than 30 years. She has been a staff member for five years, joining NAEYC after a 21-year career at the University of Pittsburgh where she served as a child care center director as well as a faculty member. Immediately prior to joining the national staff in 2005, she was Chair of the Department of Psychology in Education in the School of Education.

"I am thrilled that Jerlean has accepted the position to become the next Executive Director of NAEYC. She is one of the most respected members of the Association and is experienced as a member of the Association's executive team", commented NAEYC President Sue Russell. "Her appointment, together with a six month period prior to Mark's departure, will facilitate a seamless transition in the executive leadership and management of the Association" Russell also remarked.

Dr. Ginsberg will leave his position as the Association's Executive Director on June 30 to become Dean of the College of Education and Human Development at George Mason University. He has served as NAEYC Executive Director since January 1999. Under his leadership, among other accomplishments, the Association has nearly doubled in budget and in the size of the national staff; enhanced its capacity and influence as a policy advocate; significantly grown its professional development and publications portfolio; successfully reinvented the National Academy for Early Childhood Program Accreditation and strengthened its higher education accreditation activities including developing an accreditation system for associate degree granting programs in early childhood education; and acquired a new headquarters facility. NAEYC President, Sue Russell commented, "Mark is an outstanding leader who led and managed NAEYC during a critical period. The entire field of early childhood education respects his abilities and thanks him for his stewardship of the association. We are very excited for him as he returns to higher education as the Dean at George Mason. Our loss will certainly be a gain for the University."

NAEYC thanks Mark for his many efforts on behalf of the Association and the field of early childhood education, and looks forward to Jerlean's tenure and the inspired leadership and vision for the future of NAEYC that she will bring to her new position. Founded in 1926, the National Association for the Education of Young Children has nearly 90,000 members worldwide. The association is the largest and most influential voice for early childhood education professionals and the field of early childhood education in the United States.



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