

CONCURRENT SESSIONS @ 2019 EARLY HEAD START INSTITUTE

Take advantage of educational training opportunities featuring regional and national experts. Our breakout sessions are held on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of the conference week. Session proposals will be posted in rounds on our website as confirmed. Sessions are tentative and subject to change. Visit us at www.rivhsa.org periodically for updates.

MONDAY – September 16, 2019 (As of August 30, 2019)

Scheduled date/time will be released as confirmed. Additional presentations will be added as confirmed.

KEY

1 | Early Learning/Development

3 | Parenting & Family Engagement

2 | Health/Well-Being

4 | Program Management/Governance

*** Sessions which are not eligible for CEU credits and state hours

SESSION TITLE AND DESCRIPTION	1	2	3	4
<p>1. Strategic Problem Solving and Decision-Making Head Start organizations face numerous high-level problems and decisions and problems as they focus on continuous quality improvement. The success of an organization lies in its ability to make sound decisions that are aligned with their organizational goals and to resolve problems as they occur. Members of an organization must utilize a common language for resolving problems and making decisions. Participants will leave this session with problem solving and decision-making models. By having a common model, team members remain connected, understand the process, participate in the process, and develop ownership of the outcome.</p>	●	●	●	●
<p>2. Teaching Character Education from a Father’s Perspective There is a misconception that fathers cannot or do not show empathy, consistently practice common courtesy, or display other good character traits usually associated with mothers. This session is designed to equip fathers with the strategies and techniques they can use to help their young children learn and adopt the basic components of good character such as empathy, gauging acceptable or inappropriate behavior, common courtesy practices, obeying rules, and other good character traits. Staff will learn how to make the school-home connection in order to continuously reinforce character skills.</p>	●	●	●	
<p>3. Harnessing the Power of Exploration, Play, and Wonder: Conducting Hands-On Investigations with 2-Year-Olds Two-year-old children are natural investigators, exploring their surroundings as they play with materials, wonder and ask why, and investigate their surroundings to learn more. Discover how you can encourage developmentally appropriate, hands-on exploration in your program to help children experience the excitement of discovery and develop their scientific thinking as they engage with the physical and natural worlds around them.</p>	●		●	●
<p>4. CORPORATE SPONSOR TOOLKIT *** Getting to Know GOLD[®] Are you new to <i>GOLD[®]</i> and interested in learning more? Get a guided tour of the new <i>MyTeachingStrategiesTM</i> platform: its features, its functionality, and how to navigate within it. You will discover how it can help you observe children with the curricular objectives in mind, understand what children know and can do and where they need to go next, and use that understanding to plan meaningful experiences that are appropriately challenging for individual children and your group.</p>	●			●
<p>5. Infant Mental Health Supporting Social and Emotional Growth in Young Children Infant mental health refers to how well a child develops socially and emotionally from birth to three. Understanding infant mental health is the key to preventing and treating the mental health problems of very young children and their families. It also helps guide the development of healthy social and emotional behaviors. This presentation is designed to support professional growth across the topics of infant mental health as well as social and emotional development to create a supportive learning experience for young children.</p>	●	●	●	

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TUESDAY – September 17, 2019 (As of August 30, 2019)

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6. Designation Renewal System: How to Stay Out and What to Do Now If You Are In The implementation of the Designation Renewal System (DRS) transformed the Early Head Start landscape. In this new environment, grantees must adopt strategies to avoid DRS. If grantees are triggered for DRS, they must lay the foundation for a successful grant competition. This session will provide three concrete strategies for avoiding DRS, and three steps to take if your organization is triggered for recompetition.				●
7. Applying Strategies from the Pyramid Model to Support Social/Emotional Growth and Prevent Challenging Behaviors The Pyramid Model is a conceptual framework of evidence-based practices for promoting young children’s healthy social and emotional development. Come share your challenges and successes but also leave with some strategies that can be implemented immediately in most settings.	●	●	●	
8. Ask an Implementation Planner The role of the Implementation Planner (IP) is not always clear in descriptions of Early Head Start - Child Care Partnerships (EHS-CCP). If you are setting up or in an EHS-CCP, here’s an opportunity to take advantage of the expertise of actual IPs. Bring your questions and come away with answers.	●	●	●	●
9. Getting Fathers to See Their Value Earlier in Their Children's Lives Fathers add value in the lives of their children. This session is designed to help staff to engage fathers and encourage them to seek leadership roles at the center and program level. Come learn fresh ideas to get more men involved in your Head Start program and show how they can contribute to the vital work and own the great results.			●	●
10. ERSEA Requirement (Part 1 & 2) Families receiving the most efficient and effective services ensure that we are creating a pathway for children to be provided with the best quality education that is available. The information and resources provided in this training allows Head Start staff to take ownership of the success of their agency. Their understanding of the components of ERSEA and how they play a significant part in the Head Start agency leading this effort and enables them to comply with all federal regulations.			●	●
11. The ABCs of Early Head Start and Family Child Care Homes 2.0 This focus of this presentation is to share the personal touch and familiarity of a home-based environment without compromising educational opportunities.	●			●
12. Infants and Toddlers: High Quality Care & Environment Infants and toddlers need a safe and healthy environment with warm supportive interactions. Young children require a great deal of personal attention in order to thrive. In this session, participants will learn and understand how to provide learning opportunities and build positive relationships with infants and toddlers for successful development.	●	●	●	

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<p>13. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE/FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE WIC and Early Head Start Working Together to Serve Our Families The Women, Infant and Children Program (WIC) is an integral part of the community dedicated to improving the health of low-income women, infants, young children and their families. Did you know WIC provides benefits and services to many of the same families enrolled in Early Head Start (EHS)? This session will highlight WIC resources as well as innovative ways WIC and EHS can collaborate.</p>		•	•	•
<p>14. What's Your Focus Game Plan? So many questions to be answered regarding the alignment process for 2019-2020. What is the process? What is expected this year? What's going to take place and how will that work? What changes do I need to make? How will I prioritize? Come, get the facts to provide you with clear strategies for Focus 1 and 2. This session will give you the tools to avoid the review pitfalls and put your program on a steady path.</p>				•
<p>15. Home Visitor and Family Advocate Safety Join Head Start leaders from a regional home-based program to discuss various health and safety concerns encountered when working in the community and within the homes of enrolled families. From personal safety to program management issues surrounding safety participants will also learn strategies to stay safe.</p>	•	•	•	•
<p>16. Foundations for Life: Being Emotionally Responsive for Young Children During this training, we will discuss our role in a young child's development and how it connects to social emotional skills. We will consider brain development when defining ourselves as facilitators of social emotional development and employ hands-on strategies that support a child's independence.</p>	•	•	•	
<p>17. Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports for Very Young Children This interactive session will introduce a simple, three-step process for understanding and addressing challenging behaviors in young children. Audience members will learn ways to better understand why challenging behaviors are happening, how to prevent these behaviors, and how to replace unwanted behaviors with positive behaviors through function-specific reinforcement.</p>	•	•	•	
<p>18. Farm to Table Learning Experiences for Infants and Toddlers Infants and toddlers learn primarily through sensory experiences and active exploration of the world around them. Learning about food, gardens, and farms through farm-to-early care and education (ECE) provides children with rich opportunities for hands-on discovery and sensory engagement. A young infant may respond to the bright colors and shapes in the garden or listen to the sound of a rattle made from a gourd. A mobile infant might fill and dump containers of soil or experiment with pulling up on a bale of hay. Toddlers can help water the garden, scrub and mash yams, or do a dance fluttering like butterflies and wiggling like worms in the garden. This session will explore educating young children about how we get our food from the farm to the table at school and at home.</p>	•		•	

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<p>19. Focus Area 2 Monitoring Review: Let's Get Ready, Let's Always Be Ready! The Head Start Program Performance Standards require that Head Start and Early Head Start programs develop a continuous quality improvement process and use data from ongoing monitoring to plan and adjust the services delivered to children and families. Do you have such a system in place? Are you ready to share with reviewers how you monitor and how you use the results to guide service delivery? Join us for a conversation on Federal reviews and how to be review ready.</p>				•
<p>20. Coaching in the Home-Based Option Our Programs Experience Join Head Start leaders from a regional home-based program as they share their journey of adapting a research based coaching model into a home-based option. This session will include opportunities for interactive group discussions about the challenges and successes of implementing coaching in a home-based program. Sample procedures and forms will be provided.</p>				•
<p>21. Developing SMARTer Systems for Analyzing Child-Level Assessment Data to Direct Continuous Child Outcome Improvements This session is designed to address Head Start requirements for analyzing child-level assessment data to direct continuous improvement. Participants will engage in the application of SMART System tools and protocols for creating goal-focused improvement plans that assure every child has equal access to highly effective teaching and learning practices.</p>	•			•
<p>22. CORPORATE SPONSOR TOOLKIT *** How SMART is your Head Start? SMART Learning Systems has trained and coached educator teams for two decades in the use of our five-step process for continuous improvement. Join us to learn about the process and discover tools for self-assessing your team's readiness.</p>				•
<p>23. It Takes A Village: Schools and Families Partnering for Learner Success Our students and early learning programs are best served when parents and families are involved and connected to the type of learning that happens in their child's classroom. But creating partnerships can sometimes be challenging. With clearer understandings of why we do what we do, parents are more likely to become knowledgeable partners and invaluable resources rather than obstacles, critics or adversaries. This session focuses on home-school connections and effective strategies for communicating with families.</p>	•		•	
<p>24. Opioid and Other Controlled Substance Abuse: The Epidemic Effects on Children With more than 30 million Americans struggling with opioid addiction and other substance use disorders, households and communities face the daunting byproducts of such a deadly epidemic. Of all the byproducts, the most saddening is the dissolution of families and often the neglect, abuse and maltreatment of children whose parents are addicted to drugs. This session addresses the opioid epidemic facing the family and children we serve. The presentation also includes information on Medicaid, recertification and community engagement.</p>	•	•	•	•

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25. J.U.M.P. the Hurdles of Fatherhood This session will help participants to establish a practical and sustainable plan to enhance fatherhood engagement. Participants will replace outdated fatherhood perceptions with a deeper sensitivity to the fatherhood experience and innovative strategies related to positive communication to increase engagement.			●	
26. Webbing the Head Start Early Learning Objective Framework with the Parent Family Community Engagement Framework for Successful Head Start School Readiness Outcomes Participants will gain an applicable understanding of how-to crosswalk the Early Learning Objective Framework (ELOF) foundational school readiness domains in lesson planning, interest-based family goal setting in home based, group socialization and other learning environments. Participants will web together state early learning standards for successful outcomes in the Head Start School Readiness Skills Initiative. Participants will also gain a deeper understanding of engaging families further in engagement strategies by webbing together Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework domains in conjunction with Parent Family Community Engagement framework (PFCE). <i>This session is a prelude to the following breakout: "Keeping Family Partnership Agreements Interest Based".</i>	●	●	●	
27. Tenacity: The Power of Passion and Perseverance in Achieving Success This interactive session will help participants move from chaos to clarity and the power of passion and perseverance in achieving personal and organizational goals. Participants will be guided through a decision-making process to eliminate or reduce stress and develop a plan for sustainable success.	●	●	●	●
28. Motivating Strategies and Developing Partnerships to Help Save Our Children, Save Our Schools The best way to encourage children to learn is to develop a home-school-community partnership between parents, teachers and the community presenting a united front. Partnerships and collaboration between families, school and community can be effective in helping children deal with emotional, social and/or learning issues.	●	●	●	●
29. Decrease Student and Teacher Absenteeism Caused by Sickness and Pests Sickness prevention is key to decreasing both student and teacher absenteeism. Facility design, educational programs as well as a comprehensive sanitizing and hand washing program reduces germ exposure. The keys to reducing germ exposure include surface sanitizing, item sanitizing both hard and soft goods, hand washing, and keeping hands away from faces.	●	●	●	●

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30. Keeping Family Partnership Agreements Interest Based Head Start programs must offer individualized family partnership services that collaborate with families to identify and achieve their interests, needs, and aspirations. This collaboration includes the establishment and implementation of a family partnership agreement process. During this seminar, participants will learn effective ways to engage families in creating their own interest based activity and how it applies to their family partnership agreement. <i><u>This session complements the following breakout: “Webbing the Head Start Early Learning Objective Framework with the Parent Family Community Engagement Framework for Successful Head Start School Readiness Outcomes”.</u></i>	•		•	
31. Making Connections through Intentional Instruction We will address intentional teaching strategies within five learning domains to achieve the most out of children’s play and guide them to school readiness. Together, we will consider the physical environment, daily schedule, and interactions that are both child and teacher directed. These curriculum neutral strategies are an integral part of lesson plans and teachable moments.	•	•		
32. <u>POLICY & ISSUE FORUM</u> Town Hall Meeting on the Designation Renewal System The Head Start Designation Renewal System (DRS) was created in 2011 as an accountability system to determine whether Head Start grantees are delivering high quality and comprehensive services and to implement a competitive grant making process in communities where they are not. Join Federal leadership for a discussion of system mechanisms, national and regional data, quality improvement, as well as other DRS dimensions and experiences.				•
33. Infant Toddler Engineering Together, we will demystify engineering by clarifying what it is and identify ways engineering is already happening every day in infant/toddler learning environments. We will examine how young children are natural engineers and how important it is to view and interact with them as competent and sophisticated thinkers at early ages.	•		•	
34. Math, Science, Language and Literacy at Lunch More than 20% percent of the day in an average Early Head Start classroom is directly related to food experiences or mealtimes. Mealtime routines lend themselves to learning structure and using language and social skills. Together, we will explore some of the other learning opportunities that can happen during mealtime and beyond – math, science, language and literacy - to increase the effectiveness of lesson plans.	•	•		
35. Maximize Your Data Don’t let default settings and fields place limits on your data. Come explore the many ways your program can customize ChildPlus for optimal data collection and reporting.				•

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36. Power of Self-Regulation: Helping Children Manage Emotions, Impulses and Behavior Self-regulation is the ability to control impulses, manage emotional upset and exercise self-discipline. These skills help children to pause and think, reducing impulsive, inappropriate behavior. Based on principles of positive discipline and brain-based learning, this session overviews skills needed to coach children toward greater social behavior and self-discipline.	●	●	●	
37. Meeting Performance Standards through Farm-to-Early Care and Education Farm-to-early care and education (ECE) supports learning across the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework and improves child health while educating staff, children and families about local food, nutrition, and wellness. Join this dynamic session to learn how farm-to-ECE can assist programs in achieving Head Start Program Performance Standards and school readiness goals.	●	●	●	
38. Think Babies™ NC: How to Be a Big Voice for Babies! Think Babies™ NC is an initiative to increase public awareness and policymaker support for what all infants, toddlers and their families in North Carolina need to thrive: healthy beginnings, supported families, as well as high-quality early care and learning experiences. Attendees will learn more about the Think Babies™ NC initiative, the last statistical profile of infants and toddlers in North Carolina and the 2019 Think Babies™ NC public policy agenda. Together, we will explore the practical lessons and advocacy implications that can be applied in your local community or at the state level.				●
39. FEDERAL TOOLKIT SESSION *** Individualized Professional Development Portfolio: Infant and Toddler Learning Pathway The Individualized Professional Development (iPD) Portfolio is an online platform created to support ongoing professional development for staff in Head Start and childcare settings. The iPD contains accessible, self-paced CEU bearing modules for multiple staff roles and interests. Join us for a hands-on session to review, explore and engage with the infant and toddler pathway. Review and learn about the benefits of using the iPD as part of your professional development strategy. <u>Bring your own laptop and we'll walk you through the learning platform</u> – from how to set up an account to accessing the full course catalogue. At the end of the session, we will review a unique professional development approach in which Region IV participants will be the first in the nation to pilot. Be a trendsetter.				●
40. Support Using the Infant Toddler Environmental Rating Scale This session will explore quality in the classroom that comes from an intentional physical environment and purposeful interactions. We will consider social emotional and other learning opportunities that complement observational measures used to rate your classroom. Quality vocabulary will also be identified and used to inspire hands-on activities.	●	●		

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41. Encouraging STEAM in an Early Learning Environment We will discover STEAM learning opportunities in an early learning environment as we encourage infants and toddlers to use their senses to engage the world and challenge them with cause-and-effect experiences. This hands-on session will offer strategies you can use while being a partner in play.	•		•	
42. DATA & PRACTICE LAB Early Head Start - Child Care Partnerships: An Intriguing Data Story of Our Past, Present and Future Join us to explore where have we been, where are we currently and where are we going with regards to Early Head Start - Child Care Partnerships (EHS-CCP). This interactive session will take a look at the intriguing data story of the partnerships inclusive of child care and family care settings. During this time together, we will look at the trends, identify gaps and work together to identify lessons learned, ongoing challenges, successes and available resources. Take advantage of this opportunity to gain a better understanding of how data trends impact partnerships and individual programs as well as to identify exemplary practices and create an action plan for application locally.	•	•	•	•
43. Measuring Quality: Is Your Program Offering High Quality Head Start Services? How Do You Know? Over the past two years working with various grantees, we found ourselves going back to one question: Could a numeric system with standardized proficiency scales and benchmarks provide us with sufficient data to determine supervision, coaching, training, and evaluation needs that measure our effort of continuous quality improvements? And, can this system also identify the excellence of instructional staff for much deserved recognition, acknowledgements, and mentoring opportunities? We want to share the answers found to date.				•
44. REGION IV OFFICE OF HEAD START: REGION IV T/TA NETWORK (ICF INTERNATIONAL) Healthy Fathers, Healthy Children In this session, participants will be actively engaged in a variety of ways around the importance of men’s physical, mental, and emotional health; effect of paternal health on their child’s health; correlation between a strong relationship with their father and a child’s brain development; and importance of the father child bond to the child’s physical and social development and enhancement of their coping skills throughout life. Facilitators will share research findings, strategies for father engagement in Head Start programs, and resources for program enhancement and father-child relationship building.	•	•	•	

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45. CORPORATE SPONSOR TOOLKIT *** Turning Prospective Families into Enrolled Families IntelliKid Systems helps early childhood organizations increase their enrollment in the new reality of digital marketing. Leaders will understand how to efficiently utilize technology to identify prospective families and convert them into enrolled families.				●
46. Fatherhood Challenges, Issues and Solutions In this highly interactive workshop, participants will gain a better perspective of the important role fathers fulfill in their families and communities. Participants will learn how to engage fathers and support their role as nurturer, teacher, and advocate for their children. This session also provides practical, impactful mentoring and coaching strategies.	●	●	●	
47. Parent Engagement with A Twist Join this fast-paced, hands-on workshop designed to facilitate a true understanding of why parent engagement is important and how to capitalize on every aspect of engagement with your program. The training will assist participants in understanding the strategies necessary to tie mission, marketing, and movements to the organizations bottom line.			●	●
48. Effective Partnerships and Enhanced Blended Funding Strategies for Ensuring High-Quality Early Learning Programs This forum will explore definitions, strategies, and benefits of collaborative Early Head Start programmatic and funding partnership models from various states in the region that will promote expanding access for children and families while supporting capacity building and planning for partnering with child care programs within the local community.				●