



The Update

Winter 2003

Association for the Education of Young Children of Missouri

Outlook on the 2004 Legislative Session

With Missouri's budget shortfalls, elected officials will be making some very difficult choices during this legislative session around funding. In order to maintain current funding levels and position ourselves to seek additional funding when the budget allows, AEYC-MO, as Missouri's largest early childhood membership organization, must focus its collective energy on public policy and grassroots advocacy. This edition of AEYC-MO's Update is dedicated to this purpose. In this edition, you will find information critical to our field. We encourage you to become familiar information and to share it with colleagues.

AEYC-MO Public Policy Committee

*"We must accept finite disappointment,
but never lose infinite hope."*

Martin Luther King Jr.

What to Look For:

- ◆ The biggest issue of the coming session is the budget.

*AEYC-MO's Public Policy Goals for 2003-2004
(note: these goals are developed using the
public policy platform, see page 7)*

- ◆ Maintain current funding levels for early childhood services and programs.
 - ◇ Early Childhood Development, Education, and Care Fund (HB1519)
- ◆ Restore Child Care Subsidy for Families to 125% of the Federal Poverty Index.
- ◆ Support the Department of Health and Senior Services Rule Revisions as appropriate to AEYC-MO's mission and vision.
- ◆ Secure workforce development funding to enhance the provision of quality early learning.

What Early Childhood Advocates Will Need to Do?

- ◆ With the budget crisis, early childhood advocates must work hard to protect all early childhood funding, including the Early Childhood Development, Education and Care Fund (HB1519), which assists in providing quality early education to children in low-income families.
 - ◇ During last year's session, early childhood and veteran advocates reached a compromise on the distribution of the gaming admission fees, which increased the funding the veteran's group receives. However, there is some indication that the veterans may try to secure additional funds from the gaming admission fees. If the veterans are successful in this effort, it would reduce the funds available to the Early Child Development, Education and Care Fund.
- ◆ Continue to educate the nearly 100 newly elected officials about issues related children, families, and educators.
- ◆ Attend Child Advocacy Day!

From the President

A Very Happy New Year!

The winter holidays are behind us, the songs and conversations from our celebrations now just echoes in our memories. It's a brand new year - fresh as a blanket of new fallen snow - trackless and ready for us to make our marks upon it. And, oh! what marks we can make! How about a professional New Year's Resolution?

By now, you may have received AEYC-MO's newest membership benefit, a powerful little book called *Their Future is in Our Hands: Becoming an Effective Advocate for Early Childhood Education*. The introduction opens with a great quote from Pearl Bailey - "Everybody wants to do something to help, but nobody wants to be the first."

But don't you remember when you did want to be the first to make your mark? I can call up the image as if it were yesterday - waking in the early morning and looking out the window at a backyard covered with smooth, unmarked snow. I felt an enormous pleasure at the sight of all that trackless white and, yet, also longed with all my heart to put the first mark in it. Can you recapture a similar feeling from your youth? If not in snow, when did you want to take that first giant step into something new and unexplored?

I invite you to capture that memory and bring it into the present moment. Use the enthusiasm you had then to propel yourself into something new today - a new commitment to advocacy. In just a few weeks, on January 27th, 2004, you will have a chance to turn that new commitment into something very exciting! Last year 800 child advocates marched on the capitol, where we were met by the Governor. Would you like to make your new commitment to be one among 1,000 advocates this year?

Oh...you were there last year? Well, did you make appointments with and meet with all of your legislators in the house and senate? Perhaps that is the resolution you might make this year. Page 20 of *Their Future is in Our Hands* has some great tips about how to find out who your representative and senator are and build relationships with them. Please don't hang back in fear... Remember - these men and women are your neighbors. They live and work in your community or nearby and they put their pants on one leg at a time, just as you do!

Oh...you met with your legislators last year, have regular communications with them and a great relationship of mutual respect already established? Well...check out pages 33 and 34 in *Their Future is in Our Hands* for some advanced lobbying strategies. One tip found there is to "look for friends in unusual places." Maybe you could even start this strategy at home before you come to the capitol. Can you think of a local business owner or law enforcement official who might be helped to understand the importance of high quality early childhood programs to his or her work? Why not invite this "unexpected messenger" to come with you on Child Advocacy Day, to come along as you visit your legislators?

Or maybe you'd like to make sure that the local newspaper and radio stations in your town know about Child Advocacy Day. There's a sample press release on page 37 of *Their Future is in Our Hands*. If you'd like to know what's being planned for this year, to make sure your press release is accurate, contact the AEYC-MO office toll free at (877) 296-2852.

However many steps you've taken into advocacy in the past, this is a brand new year, fresh and waiting for you mark. What new mark will you make? What's your new year's advocacy resolution for 2004?

See you at the Capitol! - Dr. L. Carol Scott



Thank you!

*News from the Aeyc-MO Executive Director
Dee Ann Attaway*

Thank you, thank you, thank you! This message is sent to everyone who was involved in the AEYC-MO Annual Conference. It has been an exciting adventure to work with a group of dedicated and talented AEYC-MO members in preparing for this year's conference.



Thank you to this year's conference planners!

Julius Anthony and Julie Assata, Bridging the Gap Seminar
Marcia Hildebrand & Andrea Kientzy, Registration
Denise Mauzy, Public Policy & Advocacy Program
Amy Freshwater, Cover Art
Karen Kelley, Evaluations
Carol Scott, Faculty Institute
Loxie Stock, Exhibits



Thank you to our presenters!

This year's Conference and Faculty Institute had more than 50 volunteer presenters. AEYC-MO members and colleagues shared from their rich store of knowledge and experience. Thank you to each of you for the gift of professionalism!



Thank you to our exhibitors!

We were fortunate to have a wealth of information from our nonprofit exhibitors—

MO Head Start State Collaboration Office, The OPEN Initiative, Missouri Accreditation, MC + , MO Child Care Resource and Referral Network, Practical Parenting Partnerships, Project Construct, Student Made Thematic Books, and The University of Cincinnati. A special thank you to our commercial exhibitors for bringing new products to our attention and for contributing door prizes for our conferees.

Thank you to our Conferees!

Special thanks to our participants who supported the association and their own professional growth by attending the conference. The conference is an AEYC-MO member benefit and consumes countless hours of planning by the people listed above. We ask that you submit your conference evaluation (if you have not already turned it in) to our office in order that we can plan future events based on your needs.

The Update is published by the Association for the Education of Young Children of Missouri three times a year; Fall, Winter and Spring.

Dee Ann Attaway
Executive Director

Frances M. Coble
Graphic Designer
CobleStone Creations
CobleStone@mchsi.com

The Update accepts articles from classroom teachers, scholars, researchers, practitioners and students in early education childhood and related fields. Articles should be submitted to:

AEYC-MO Office
1400 Rock Quarry Road
Columbia, MO 65211-3280
Email: deeannatt@aol.com
Phone: 573 884-3374
Fax: 573-884-0598
Toll Free: 877-296-2852

The content of articles appearing in this publication is the responsibility of the author(s) and does not necessarily reflect the views of AEYC-MO. The Update serves as the primary communication from the State association and encourages diversity in opinions and experiences.

AEYC-MO, an organization for early childhood professionals, fosters excellence in early childhood systems and programs through advocacy, education and professional development.

22nd Annual Child Advocacy Day

Tuesday, January 27, 2004

9:00 a.m. Registration (Capitol Rotunda, Jefferson City
(Enter at the south carriage door)

9:30 a.m. Welcome and Overview of the Day
Opening Remarks

10:15 a.m. Participants Select One of the Following Activities:
◆ Workshops at the Truman Building
◆ Visit With Your Senator and Representative
◆ Visit the Exhibit Area

11:30 p.m. Lunch

12:30 p.m. Participants Select One of the Following Activities:
◆ Workshops at the Truman Building
◆ Visit With Your Senator and Representative
◆ Visit the Exhibit Area

1:20 p.m. March to the Capitol (Convene In Front of the Truman Building)

1:30 p.m. Rally for Children and Families (Former senator Simms - MC)
◆ Governor Holden (invited)
◆ Speaker Hanaway (invited)
◆ President Pro Tem Kinder (invited)
◆ Senator Gibbons (invited)
◆ Senator Foster (invited)
◆ Representative Riback-Wilson (invited)

2:15 p.m. CONTINUE VISITS WITH YOUR SENATOR AND REPRESENTATIVE

Workshop Topics Include:

- ◆ Advocacy 101
- ◆ State Budget
- ◆ Child Welfare
- ◆ Early Childhood Education
- ◆ Child Health
- ◆ Youth Development
- ◆ Juvenile Justice
- ◆ Income Security

Items to Remember

- ◆ You do not need to pre-register.
- ◆ You may attend Child Advocacy Day free of charge.
- ◆ Share this information with colleagues, students, and families that you work with. Encourage them to attend with you!
- ◆ Parking is available in the Madison Street Garage for a fee. Free parking is available on the west side of the Capitol (down the hill).
- ◆ Call your Senator or Representative in advance to make a 15-minute appointment. Find the name of your senator or representative on the internet at www.state.mo.us.
- ◆ Business casual clothing is suggested.

Sponsored by Missouri Alliance for Children, Youth, and Families.
Call Peggy Pearl at (410) 836-5880 or email Michelle Mathews at
MathewsM@missouri.edu for further information.

Child Advocacy Day's - FAQ'S

What is Child Advocacy Day?

Child Advocacy Day is an event held in Jefferson City on the last Tuesday of January each year and is sponsored by the Missouri Alliance for Children, Youth, and Families. This year Child Advocacy Day is scheduled for January 27, 2004. It is an opportunity for child advocates to come together and show their support for children by participating in workshops, visiting exhibit booths to learn about new services and programs, discussing critical children's issues with their legislator, and networking with other child advocates.

Who can attend Child Advocacy Day?

Anyone who wants to support children through legislative action is encouraged to attend.

Is there a registration fee?

No, Child Advocacy Day is held free of charge. In fact, you do not even have to pre-register.

Where is Child Advocacy Day held?

This event is held in Missouri's capitol, Jefferson City. Advocates meet at the Capitol Rotunda (which is in the middle of the building) where they register and are given an overview of the day. Events throughout the day typically take place in the Truman Building and in the Capitol Building.

What can I do at Child Advocacy Day?

You are able to attend workshops addressing many topics that involve children and their families as well as workshops that will inform you about how to become more active in your advocacy efforts. Child Advocacy Day is an opportunity for you to meet and speak with your legislators about issues that affect children.

What can I do to prepare for Child Advocacy Day?

It is highly recommended that you call your Senator or Representative in advance to make a 15-minute appointment with him/her on Child Advocacy Day. You can find out who your legislators are by checking the Missouri State Home Page on the web at www.mo.state.us.

Do I have to talk to my legislators?

No, but there is ample opportunity to do so if you would like to. You will receive information that you may simply leave with your legislator instead of making a scheduled appointment. In addition, you can still show your support for children in other events and activities during the day. However, if you would like to meet with your legislators, it is highly recommended that you contact them ahead of time and set up an appointment (see previous question).

How do I find my legislators at the Capitol?

During the registration time (which is first thing in the morning at the Capitol Rotunda), there is a booth in which you will be able to locate your city/town on a Missouri map and people will assist you in figuring out which legislators serve your area. Then, people will also assist you in finding where your legislators offices are in the Capitol building.

Where do I get in the building?

It is most convenient for Child Advocacy Day participants to enter the Capitol at the south carriage door.

Where can I park?

Parking is available in the Madison Street Garage for a fee. Free parking is available on the west side of the Capitol (down the hill).

Meet AEYC-MO for Lunch at Child Advocacy Day!

*Truman Building, Room 500
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.*

The first 100 AEYC-MO members & their guests who stop by the AEYC-MO booth at Child Advocacy Day, will receive a ticket for free pizza. Present your ticket at Room 500 in the Truman Building at lunchtime. Take the opportunity to meet your state and local board members and introduce a friend to our organization.

Missouri's Budget Crisis

The Second Session of the 92nd General Assembly begins in January and our elected representatives will continue to be challenged by the Missouri budget crisis. For the first time in 50 years, Missouri is faced with declining state revenues. Unlike the federal government, Missouri is not allowed to run a state deficit; furthermore, the Hancock amendment prevents the state from saving for a rainy day. When the Missouri General Assembly votes on the budget for the upcoming fiscal year, they are making budgetary choices on a projected state income. This practice is done by all state governments as well as the federal government; however, it is a very complicated, complex, and risky undertaking.

During the past few years, Missouri's revenue assumptions did not become reality, and now the General Assembly and the Governor are faced with making the tough decision about where the cuts will be made. According to the Republican Leadership in the General Assembly, the state budget needed to be cut by \$400 million. And according to the Governor, the budget was out of balance by \$367 million when it was delivered to him. The main points of contention lie within four budget bills which contain 2/3 of the state budget. These bills contain funding for education, social services, and mental health which typically bring forth decidedly different opinions from either side of the aisle and each side has its own proposal on how to remedy these problems.

As for the upcoming year, the budget is bleak. The federal government gave Missouri one-time funds to help the FY 04 budget, but there is nothing guaranteeing Missouri those funds again, which places Missouri back in the same boat for next year. The Governor's office has already cut next year's budget projections by \$230 million due to the faltering Missouri economy. However, the Republicans do not feel that reduction is necessary. As you can see, looking at the same numbers does not always produce the same results. No one knows what the future budgets of Missouri will look like, but we can be assured that not everyone will agree on one common solution to any budgetary questions. Therefore, stay informed and in contact with your elected officials. For information on your elected officials or how to contact them, visit the Missouri State web site at www.state.mo.us.

Becky Myers, Public Policy Chair - Central Missouri Affiliate Chapter

Calendar of upcoming AEYC events:

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2004
CHILD ADVOCACY DAY, STATE CAPITAL BUILDING,
Jefferson City, MO and The Truman Building

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 2004
MIDWEST AEYC PRE-CONFERENCE

APRIL 22-24, 2004
MIDWEST AEYC ANNUAL CONFERENCE,
"Listen to the Rhythm" Overland Park Convention Center, Overland
Park, Kansas (Greater Kansas City)

JUNE 20-23, 2004
NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT,
"Learning From Assessment" Baltimore Marriott Waterfront, Baltimore,
MD Registration materials at www.naeyc.org in February 2004.

AEYC-MO Public Policy Platform

AEYC-MO's Public Policy Platform identifies areas that need work in order to improve Missouri's early care and education system. It details essential programs and services that should be in place so that Missouri's young children have access to the highest quality early childhood experiences and programs.

A. Early Education Programs & Services (Quality, Availability, Accessibility, & Affordability)

1. A developmentally appropriate approach to screening, assessment, and curriculum that address the whole child in the context of the family and the knowledge of children, birth through age eight, as outlined by NAEYC.
2. Competent, educated early childhood teachers who implement developmentally appropriate practices.
3. Increasing availability of licensed early childhood services to families through government funding.
4. Increasing the limits of income eligibility for children of the working poor, crisis care, and for families with children with special needs.
5. The inclusion of children with special needs in integrated settings, with appropriate training, support, and resources available to staff.
6. Continuing/increasing funding for licensed early childhood programs to obtain necessary equipment, facility, renovation, and staff development.
7. Services for helping parents understand the necessity and importance of child development and developmentally appropriate programs as defined by NAEYC.
8. Use of a variety of facilities (including school buildings) for early childhood services including before- and after-school care.
9. Infant, toddler, and parent education programs implemented by qualified educators.

B. Health, Safety, and Nutrition (Prevention, Protection, Preservation of Children)

1. Increasing federal funding for continuation/expansion of nutrition programs for women, infants, and children (WIC) and USDA Child Nutrition programs for children of all ages.
2. Maternal and Child Health services readily accessible and financially supported for all mothers and children; proper prenatal and postnatal care essential to the healthy development of children.

3. The availability and financial assistance for families to access comprehensive health and dental services.
4. Strengthening laws, policies, and programs to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect to assure victims have access to adequate care, protection, and treatment; and a permanent nurturing family in which to grow.

C. Regulations and Support Systems (Licensing Requirements, Assistive Services)

1. Improving licensing standards that address group size, teacher/child ratio, education/training, and program criteria such as developmentally appropriate materials and curricula.
2. Mandatory licensing for all programs.
3. Creating manageable caseload assignments for licensing representatives.
4. Early education programs that obtain accreditation.
5. Provisions and financial support for parent education and support programs to assist parents in their ability to carry out their responsibility as nurturing adults.

D. Staff Recruitment and Retention (Incentives for Recruiting & Retaining Personnel)

1. The advancement of early childhood as a profession that is committed to the improvement of wage, benefits, and working conditions for early childhood educators.
2. The provision of economic incentives such as grants, low interest student loans, forgiveness of loans, increased compensation, and personnel benefits for professionals working in early childhood settings.

E. Staff Higher Education

1. The coordination of early childhood higher education initiatives throughout Missouri.
2. The formulation of articulation agreements between institutions of higher education.

Revised January 2003

The State of Missouri's...

Two-thirds of children from low income families have parents without any college education¹... currently, only 6.9% of families receiving cash assistance (TANF) have had more than 12 years of education.²

The poverty rate for children living with a single parent is 56%¹³...in Missouri 31% of children live in a single parent household.³

In a recent study, findings indicated that children born into poverty were 50% more likely to die before their 1st birthday than children in non-poor families.¹

Poverty and Children

While the federal poverty level for a family of four is \$18,100, the Missouri Department of Economic Development reports that it takes about \$28,000 for a family of four to meet essential needs in Missouri.²

- ◆ In 2002, 15.9% of Missouri's children lived in poverty, with 18.2% of children under six living in poverty.⁴
- ◆ In St. Louis City, 36.4% of the children are poor.²
- ◆ In Missouri, if your income exceeds 33% of the federal poverty level, then you do not qualify for TANF (Missouri ranks 47th in the nation in this category).⁴
- ◆ Missouri ranks 1st in the nation for affordability of rent.⁴
- ◆ In July 2002, 2,729 families with 7,848 children reached their lifetime of TANF (cash assistance); 58% of these children live in St. Louis city and another 21% live in St. Louis county.²

Violence, Crime, and Children

The teen violent death rate continues to decrease; in 2001, 365 of Missouri's teens died due to violence.²

- ◆ In 2002, 1,286 youth were committed to the Division of Youth Services.⁵
- ◆ Most teen deaths – 55.5% - are the result of car accidents. Homicides accounted for 22.4% of teen deaths and suicides accounted for 13.7% of teen deaths.³

- ◆ There were 28,912 juveniles arrested in 2002. And, there were 2,806 juveniles in correctional facilities.⁴

Teen Pregnancy

The teen birth rate continues to decline. In St. Louis City, the teen birth rate declined by 14.5% between 1996 – 2000.³

But despite this decline...

- ◆ In 2000, there were 8,937 births to teens ages 15-19.³
- ◆ The rate of births to teens was over 90 per 100,000 in four of Missouri's counties: Wayne, Sullivan, Mississippi, and Pemiscot.³

Education and the Children of Missouri

The overall graduation rate in Missouri is 79.3%, however, for children with disabilities it is only 53.7%.³ Missouri spends 2.2 times more per prisoner than per student.⁴

- ◆ In 2002, the total enrollment for Head Start in Missouri was 17,718.⁴
- ◆ One in five births in Missouri is to an undereducated mother (with less than a high school diploma). Minority children are more likely to be born to an undereducated mother (27% vs. 17%).²
- ◆ In 2000, there were 46,312 children receiving subsidized child care.² There were 11,201 children who dropped out of high school in the 2000-01 school year.³
- ◆ Missouri has one of the lowest rates of child care subsidy eligibility in the country, providing subsidies only for families at or below 118% of poverty (\$8.55 for a family of 3).²
- ◆ The average cost for center-based child care for a four-year old is \$4,784 and the average cost for tuition at a public university is \$3,701.⁴

Children and Nutrition

- ◆ Twenty-two percent of Missouri's children live in families that receive food stamps.³

... Children 2003 - 2004

- ◆ There has been an increase in the number of students enrolled in the free or reduced lunch program in the past year; 37% Missouri's students were enrolled in the free or reduced lunch program.²

Child Health

Regarding uninsured children, Missouri has moved from 30th to 3rd lowest in the country. Missouri ranks 8th in the nation for children receiving early prenatal care.⁴

- ◆ The number of two-year olds properly immunized has declined from a high of 89% in 1997 to 78% in 2001.²
- ◆ Of all the babies born in Missouri, 8% were of low birth weight. This 8% accounts for 71% of all newborn expenditures.²
- ◆ Thirty-seven percent of Missouri's children are enrolled in Medicaid. It costs Missouri an average \$1,354 per year for each child on Medicaid, whereas, it costs an average of \$5,922 for each adult on Medicaid.⁶

Child Welfare

There were 1,265 children adopted from foster care in 2002; this is double the number of adoptions finalized in 1997 (631).² Children spend an average

of 13.1 months in foster care after parental rights have been terminated. The average age of an adopted child in Missouri is 7.14 years.⁷

- ◆ In 2001, there were 57,733 reports of child maltreatment involving 89,177 children; 11,317 of these children were confirmed as suffering maltreatment.²
- ◆ In 2001, 53,181 children were referred for a Family Assessment instead of an abuse or neglect investigation.²
- ◆ In Missouri, a child in foster care, spends an average of 25 months in an out-of-home placement and is in an average of 3 different placements.²
- ◆ There has been a sharp rise in the number of children in out-of-home placements. In 2001, there were 18,622 children in the custody of the Division of Family Services.²

*Kathy R. Thornburg
Sheila J. Brookes
September 2003*

Prepared by the Center for Family Policy & Research,
University of Missouri-Columbia-
<http://MUCenter.missouri.edu>

¹ National Center for Children in Poverty. (2003). The effects of parental education on income. Retrieved September 2003 from <http://www.nccp.org/media/pei03-text.pdf>

² Citizens for Missouri's Children. (2003). Kids count in Missouri 2002 data book. St. Louis: Citizens for Missouri's Children.

³ Citizens for Missouri's Children (2002). Kids count in Missouri 2001 data book. St. Louis: Citizens for Missouri's Children.

⁴ Children's Defense Fund. (2003). States of America's children. Washington, DC: Children's Defense Fund.

⁵ Missouri Department of Social Services. (2003). Quick facts about DSS. Retrieved September 2003 from <http://www.dss.mo.gov/webdata/qfact.htm>.

⁶ American Academy of Pediatrics. (2003). Missouri Medicaid facts. Retrieved September 2003 from http://www.aap.org/advocacy/washing/elections/mfs_mo.pdf

⁷ Administration for Children and Families. (2001). Foster care and adoption statistics current reports. Washington, DC: Administration for Children and Families.

Beware the Pink Bunny Syndrome

Early childhood professionals are nice people. Most of us have great affection for young children and know how to communicate with them very effectively. We learned early on in our development as early childhood professionals not to raise our voice to the children or ever be rude or threatening. Children respond best to nurturing support that guides them to appropriate behavior while bolstering their budding self-esteem. We also know that children respond to cute. They like stuffed animals, cartoon characters, bright colors, toys, dolls and so on. Many of us “dress the part” when we work with the children.

The problem is that often outside our classrooms the nice person in bright colors, with jewelry that looks like toys who speaks with a lilt in her voice is not taken seriously. This is particularly true in the public policy arena. If we want to be listened to and taken seriously as a profession we have to look and act like the perception the political world has of a professional and present our information that way. If we do not make that differentiation between how we are with the children and how we are in the adult world, we are seen as “nice ladies who play with kids” who do not understand how the world outside the classroom works.

If we are going to get the attention of decision-makers and influence their decisions, we have to free ourselves from the “Pink Bunny Syndrome”. When you write a letter, be straightforward and tell them what we want

and do not send it on stationary that has a border that looks like painted handprints. Instead of trying to appeal to their love of children, talk about how investing in early education saves money by reducing special education costs, helps families get off welfare, and grows the future workforce.

When speaking to a decision-maker, have a professional appearance, nothing “cute” and definitely not jeans. You are an adult with a serious and legitimate agenda that elected officials have a responsibility to address. Be polite but assertive. Explain that not investing in early education will only cost the State (City, County or Country) more in the long run. If you are a family child care provider or an owner of a center, refer to it as “my business” rather than “my day care”. Most politicians are concerned about the needs of small businesses and do not perceive child care as a business at all. If you are in a non-profit center, refer to it as “my school” or “my program”. These terms sound more business-like as well.

It is, precisely, because we do love children that we have to look and behave differently when we are not with them. It does not matter if the politicians love children, only that they do the right thing. So let us leave the pink bunny at home or in the classroom and take on the polished professional image when we advocate for them.

*By Andi Schleicher
Public Policy Chair-Rivers Bend AEYC*

The Missouri Child Care Resource and Referral Network, Bureau of Child Care, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, State Library, Parents As Teachers National Center, AEYC-Missouri and Missouri Head Start-State Collaboration Office would like to announce Winning Teams via the Heads Up! Network. Winning Teams will be offered in place of Heads Up! Reading this year. We encourage you to participate in this opportunity and to recruit as many early childhood educators and parents as possible.

Winning Teams® is a 27-hour course produced by RISE Learning Solutions that partners teachers and parents in the care and education of children from birth to 6. RISE offers three 9-hour series, Nurturing the Young Learner, Guiding Behavior, and Learning to Read and Write.

February 17, 24, and March 2

Guiding Behavior brings to life effective strategies for working with challenging behaviors while increasing adults' confidence and competence in guiding the behavior of young children.

March 9, 16, and 23

Nurturing the Young Learner focuses on understanding developmentally appropriate practices, which in turn helps children start school ready to learn.

April 13, 20, and 27

Learning to Read and Write is based on the latest research in early childhood development, which shows that the process of learning to read and write actually begins at birth. The series will help parents and teachers learn how to support the development of early literacy skills in young children both at home and in childcare settings.



Participating in Winning Teams can qualify the learner for continuing education units from participating state governments and professional-development groups in early childhood education.

If you are interested in participating in Winning Teams please contact your local Child Care Resource and Referral Office for registration information.

NAEYC Affiliate Council Update

A key component of the NAEYC restructuring process has been the establishment of the NAEYC Affiliate Council. The Council was created in 2001 in response to a need expressed by both affiliate leaders and NAEYC Governing Board and staff that there be an intermediary advisory body to serve as a communication link between affiliates and the NAEYC Governing Board.

The mission of the Affiliate Council is to support the transformation of the NAEYC affiliate structure into a high performing, inclusive organization. It does this by working to identify and develop a strong inclusive leadership, and by developing an effective communication system among membership, NAEYC, Regional Affiliate Alliances, State Affiliates, and local affiliate chapter governing boards.

Affiliate Council Organization

The Council is made up of representatives from the State Affiliates. Each state has one representative with the ten largest states (on the basis of membership) having a second seat on the Council. Affiliate Alliances, like Midwest AEYC, each have an ex-officio, non-voting representative to the Affiliate Council.

In order to give voice to regional issues and concerns, states are grouped into 10 regions on the basis of the HHS regional structure. Missouri is part of Region 7 that also includes Iowa, Kansas, and Nebraska. Each region selects a representative to the Affiliate Council Executive Committee, which serves as the leadership arm of the Council. The Executive Committee develops and implements the agenda for Council meetings as well as appointing and overseeing standing and ad hoc committees. It also acts as the official communication link to the NAEYC Governing Board.

Much of the Council's work is carried out by the four standing committees: Affiliate Grant Program, Re-Affiliation Process, Nominating, and High Performing Inclusive Organization. The Affiliate Grant Program committee reviews and makes recommendations regarding grant proposals submitted by affiliates for affiliate development. AEYC-MO has been the recipient of two Affiliate Development grants.

Affiliate Council Meetings

The Affiliate Council meets twice yearly – at the NAEYC Annual Conference and at one other leadership event, like the Leadership Conference or Policy Seminar.

For the first time, the November 2003 meeting included a “Speak Up!” period. This was an opportunity for Council reps to express regional and state opinions as well as identify issues needing consideration. Council members expressed appreciation for the tools and support that NAEYC has made available during re-affiliation, but also saw a need for on-going support once the re-affiliation process is over. Strategic planning is only the commencement of the work. Implementation is very important – and continued support from NAEYC is vital to the successful implementation of the plans.

Accreditation was another big topic, both during the “Speak Up!” and as an issue for discussion by the regions. Council reps think that affiliates can support accreditation by helping promote its importance and value, but they also want follow through from the NAEYC Academy of Early Childhood Programs in terms of making sure that the accreditation process is efficient and timely with “wait-time” minimized especially for validation visits. Executive Committee members took note of these and other items and will use them for possible future action and planning.

The next Affiliate Council meeting will be in March 2004 in conjunction with the NAEYC Policy Seminar to be held in Washington, D. C. March 31-April 1. Judy Kulczycki is finishing up a three-year term on the Council and Dr. Mary Beth Mann will be the Missouri representative to the Affiliate Council starting in January.

By Judy Kulczycki



AEYC-MO Advocacy T-shirts

In preparation for Missouri's Annual Child Advocacy Day, AEYC-Mo members designed a T-shirt to wear that will mark your affiliation with the organization. The shirts are forest green and long-sleeved with white lettering. The front left chest will carry the AEYC-Mo logo. The design for the back of the T-shirt is featured here. To order, please complete the form below and send with payment to the state office.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____



Medium; Quantity _____ Large; Quantity _____
 XLarge; Quantity _____ XXLLarge; Quantity _____
 Check Money Order

Total Amount Enclosed: _____
(Please add \$3.00 per shirt for shipping.)

Medium & Large
\$10.00
XL & XXL
\$12.00

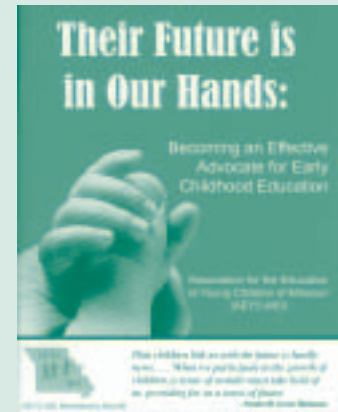
Send completed form and payment to:
AEYC-MO Office 1400 Rock Quarry Road Columbia, MO 65211-3280

✂ please cut along dotted line and mail to the address shown.

AEYC-Mo Handbook

AEYC-Mo is proud to announce the release of *Their Future is in Our Hands: Becoming an Effective Advocate for Early Childhood Education*, edited by Michelle Mathews and Denise Mauzy. This advocacy handbook represents an overview of the legislative process and contains important information that every member should know when advocating for a fully-funded early childhood system for Missouri.

This handbook is dedicated to Kathy R. Thornburg and Peggy Pearl who served as AEYC-Mo's Public Policy Co-Chairs for more than 20 years. The association would like to extend its gratitude to Kathy and Peggy for their unflinching devotion to increasing Missouri policymakers' awareness about children's issues. Through their work, AEYC members are more informed about the issues facing young children and families and the appropriate measures advocates should pursue.



You will receive your copy of this handbook as a membership benefit in January 2004. We hope that you find this handbook useful in your work on behalf of the association.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____
 Check Money Order

If you would like to purchase additional copies of the *Their Future is in Our Hands: Becoming an Effective Advocate for Early Childhood Education*, please complete this order form and return it to the AEYC-Mo office. Copies are \$10, plus \$3.00 for shipping.

Number of handbooks: _____
Total Amount Enclosed: _____
(Please add \$3.00 per handbook for shipping.)

Send completed form and payment to:
AEYC-MO Office 1400 Rock Quarry Road Columbia, MO 65211-3280

MO's Professional Achievement and Recognition



The Professional Achievement and Recognition System (PARS), administered by the OPEN Initiative, is a database that verifies and tracks teachers' qualifications for various professional roles and recognizes educational achievement on Missouri's Career Lattice.

Teachers and directors working with children birth through school age are encouraged to enroll in the Professional Achievement and Recognition System. For more information, please call the OPEN office (toll free number: 1-877-782-0185). OPEN recognizes and congratulates the following professionals who have furthered their education and advanced at least one level on Missouri's Career Lattice:

Congratulations!

Cathryn Ackerman of Hand in Hand Learning Center in Columbia (Boone County) has submitted her renewed CDA Certificate and moved to Level 2a on Missouri's Career Lattice.

Concetta Bieser of Webster Child Care Center at Laclede Groves in Webster Groves (St. Louis County) has earned her Certificate of Proficiency in Early Care and Education from St. Louis Community College and moved to Level 2b on Missouri's Career Lattice.

Anna Bouwhuis of Home Away From Home Child Care Center, Inc in St. Louis (County) has earned enough college credits to move to Level 2b on Missouri's Career Lattice.

Shivon Coney of Genesis Development Center in St. Louis (City) has earned enough college credits to move to Level 2b on Missouri's Career Lattice.

Alicia Goode of Childgarden Child Development Center in St. Louis (City) has earned enough college credits to move to Level 2b on Missouri's Career Lattice.

Jenifer Grove-Milligan of Henny Jenny's Enrichment Center in Marshfield (Webster County) has earned enough college credits to move to Level 3a on Missouri's Career Lattice.

Kiesha Hyder of Henny Jenny's Enrichment Center in Marshfield (Webster County) has earned enough college credits to move to Level 2a on Missouri's Career Lattice.

Lisa Ketsenburg of Hinkson's Children Center in Columbia (Boone County) has earned her Child Development Associate (CDA) credential.

Gloria Ray of Stella Maris Child Center in St. Louis (City) has completed enough early education hours to move to Level 2a on Missouri's Career Lattice.

Beverly Scheer of Henny Jenny's Enrichment Center in Marshfield (Webster County) has earned her Child Development Associate (CDA) credential and moved to Level 2a on Missouri's Career Lattice.

Stephanie Shockey of Lebanon Head Start Center in Lebanon (Laclede County) has completed enough credit to move to level 2b on Missouri's Career Lattice.

Haralyn Smith-McNeil of YWCA Kinloch Headstart Center in St. Louis (County) has completed enough early childhood credits to move to Level 3b on Missouri's Career Lattice.

Raquel Taylor of YWCA Jennings Head Start Center in St. Louis (County) has earned enough college credits to move to Level 3b on Missouri's Career Lattice.

Tracy Williams of Daruby Early Learning Center in St. Louis (County) has earned enough college credits to move to Level 2b on Missouri's Career Lattice.

Beatrice Wilson of YWCA Jennings Head Start Center in St. Louis (County) has earned enough college credits to move to a Level 2b on Missouri's Career Lattice.

*Congratulations and thank you to these wonderful early education professionals.
Your dedication to professionalism and continuing education is an inspiration to us all!*



Congratulations to the first recipients of the...

Kathy R. Thornburg Leadership Fund

Nine AEYC-MO members—leaders and potential leaders—received the first scholarships from the Dr. Kathy R. Thornburg Leadership Fund. The fund was established during the summer of 2003, to honor Dr. Thornburg's leadership in the field of early childhood education, at the local, state and national levels. AEYC-MO congratulates the following leaders and wishes each of them well as they travel their own path to leadership working within their own affiliate chapters, in AEYC-MO, and beyond.

Scholarship recipients were announced at the AEYC-MO Annual Meeting on Saturday, November 22, 2003, during the annual conference—Kim Bailey, Courtney Daviess, Antoinette Faulkner, Mary Goché, Avila Hendricks, Erin Kespohl, Darlene Margrabe, Elaine Noltie, and Marcy Wedemeyer.

The Thornburg Leadership Fund scholarships will make it possible for leaders and future leaders to attend AEYC state and national conferences in years to come. The growth of the endowment fund depends entirely on the generosity of members, leaders and friends of AEYC-MO.



*Will you consider making a tax-exempt gift to this fund in order to promote the growth of new early childhood leaders? Send your gift today to:
AEYC-MO, 1400 Rock Quarry Road, Columbia, MO 65211-3280.*

2003

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Kathy Poelker - Saturday Keynote Speaker



Participants in Kathy's Presentation



Conferees enjoy Saturday's Keynote and Luncheon



Conferees browse through the exhibits



AEYC-MC

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