

¿QUE PASA?



Con el Executive Management Team



Communication Update March-May 2008
Oregon Child Development Coalition

Featured Article>

Victor Chonteco, PC President, page 4

Hello everyone! This is the communication update of activities and news within the areas of the OCDC Executive Management Team.

1. **Governor's Summit-ECE** – The Oregon Governor held a “Governor’s Summit on Early Childhood” March 20, 2008 which Donalda Dodson attended. The purpose of this summit was to bring public and private entities together to help formulate a State agenda for Early Childhood Education. The information from this summit coupled with other input that will help inform the Governor’s budget preparation for this next biennium. It is also hoped to bring along other funders to fund early childhood such as businesses and foundations.
2. **Head Start Parent** - One of our OCDC parents, Juan Carlos Preciado, from Jefferson County and member of the State Policy Council, gave a wonderful and inspiring speech at the Governor’s Summit. Juan was the voice for all Head Start parents and he did a fantastic job! Several people commented how pleased they were that a parent had been included in the presentations at the Summit. Juan has also been elected as a board member of the National Migrant & Seasonal Head Start Association. Well Done Juan!!
3. **Oregon Head Start Association** - Donalda is now representing OCDC on the Board of Directors for Oregon Head Start Association. This came as a request by fellow Oregon Head Start Directors for Donalda to fill one of the officer roles.
4. **OPK Expansion 2008** – OCDC submitted seven (7) RFPs to Oregon Department of Education - 600 slots for the Oregon PreKindergarten (OPK) Expansion, and the State is going to award 1,100 – 1,300 slots. The counties included were Marion, Polk, Multnomah, Clackamas, Klamath, Jackson and Washington counties. We will hear later in May about the outcome of these requests.

5. **Management Institute** – The Management Institute took place in March 18-21, 2008 at the Embassy Suites in Tigard, Oregon. County Directors, EMT, Managers and Supervisors attended; the main topics were Effective Communication, Supervisory Practices, Harassment & Discrimination, Gossip and Favoritism. We received great feedback from staff. There will be a follow up with trainers going to the Counties to provide Gossip and Favoritism training to all employees. Thanks to Duke West, HR Director and to Tisa Bithell, SD Assistant, and to Susan Nelson, Travel Administrator, for all the work and effort in putting together this training.

6. **HEALTH** - OCDC has taken a step toward improving oral health outcomes for children that we serve. Health has introduced a new parent training on "What To Do For Healthy Teeth." The parent training addresses topics of tooth decay (esp. early childhood caries), prevention strategies, nutrition, fluoride, common oral health concerns, and restorative dental care. As dental decay is a preventable disease, and the oral health of children affects their overall health and development, it is very important to intervene early and engage the parents in prevention strategies. Another piece of the prevention is the application of fluoride varnish. Fluoride Varnish strengthens teeth and reduces decay an average of 40%. OCDC supported the Oregon House Bill 2867 that allows for trained health staff in WIC, OPK, and federal Head Start programs to apply fluoride varnish to enrolled children. OCDC has developed varnish application training for staff in conjunction with Dr. April Love and Dr. Kyle House.



7. **Family Services**, proudly reports that all Counties have received training in STATUS; which has proven to be a great tool for case management tracking and service monitoring. Family Services is excited to be developing their community partnerships, especially with the Department of Human Services and several programs at Portland State University. Through these partnerships we are able to collaborate to bring professional development and training opportunities to the staff. With the support of PSU staff will be provided with training in case management and home visiting skills. Work continues on enhancing the training curriculum as we provide quality training to all staff and parents in recognizing and reporting child abuse and neglect. The area of family services is supporting each County Director as they lead their staff in fulfilling the very important role of protecting our children.

8. **"Traveling Books"- "Libros Traveling Books"** is a project launched this year. Education and the Policy Council provided support to this new endeavor. Each month, books, materials and developmentally appropriate activities are being sent home to families. As families read and work with their children to complete the activities, both parents and children benefit from this time spent reading and



Viajeros" Project listening to high quality children's literature. After children have read and returned a given number of books, they qualify to receive a FREE BOOK donated by the First Book program! OPK parents will also receive calendars with developmentally appropriate activities to continue their child's learning over the summer as they prepare for kindergarten!

Due to the success of Traveling Books project in the counties that began early in 2008, the project has expanded to include the short-term programs over the summer! Plans are underway to bring this project to the OPK programs in Washington and Marion counties as well!



9. **Transportation** - Four (4) 2009 new school buses will be added to the agency's fleet in the first week of May. These buses meet the latest diesel emission standards as well as all the state and federal regulations. At OCDC we now will have 29 school buses with the larger capacity and 13 school buses with the smaller capacity.

10. **Information Technology (IT)** – Information Technology recently purchased and deployed new firewall, increasing security of the agency's Internet connection. SPAM has been cut by at 93%. IT also purchased an archive mail system and deployed to ensure agency's compliance of new federal rules. Greg Funk, IT Manager and the Network Technician team, Brad, Ben, and Ana, have all done an extraordinary job!
11. **STATUS** (Services, Transportation & Attendance Tracking Unified System) - With the start of the 2008 program year, STATUS was set up in all counties and in several new service areas. The work of the Database team, Phil Rogers and Azad Ratzki, on STATUS continues to increase its reliability and availability to all services.

12. **New Babies** - Welcome two new **baby girls!** Lilli Carrillo, HS Coordinator has a new baby girl, "Patricia Marianna" - born on February 8th; and Megan Fox, Health Specialist, had her first baby girl, "Madelyn" - born on March 12th. Congratulations to both Lilli and Megan and their new bundles of joy!



13. **Pesticide Exposure Video is NOW on OCDC Website** - A few years back, OCDC partnered with OHSU/CROET (*Center for Research on Occupational and Environmental Toxicology*) to address the need for culturally appropriate and effective educational intervention to reduce pesticide exposure in migrant and seasonal farmworker communities. This resulted in the development of one such intervention. The process involved identifying an optimal educational method and content, evaluating existing educational materials on pesticides, developing the selected educational tool, and assessing the effectiveness of the tool as an intervention. The tool is a video that has proven effectiveness in preventing children exposure to pesticides. The video can now be streamed right on our website, which makes this important tool available to anyone (in the world). Be sure to visit the OCDC site.
14. **National Fatherhood Institute Capacity Building Grant** - OCDC was one of twenty organizations in the nation awarded a Capacity Building Grant by the National Fatherhood Initiative. The competitive process included more than 250 applications. The grant will allow OCDC to sustain state-wide efforts on behalf of fathers by identifying and promoting leadership with fathers through Mentor fathers, Promoting the issue of responsible fatherhood throughout the state, helping us to continue and improve our Father friendly processes and environments, helping us develop the transformational model of learning of PODER so it can be used in all counties, and promoting the concept of responsible fatherhood -and involved parenting in general- with funders.

Featured Article:

VICTOR CHONTECO, President of State MSHS Policy Council

By Tadeo Saenz-Thompson

Victor Chonteco remembers wondering if he could ever entrust the care of his infant son to a stranger. It seemed unimaginable. Yet, what was he to do? He was a single dad, having lost first one wife to an untimely death, then another. To continue getting a paycheck as an agricultural worker, he would need to find a place for the younger of his two children.

A friend told Victor there was a place where babies could be cared for, where Spanish was spoken, and a community existed. Apprehensive yet hopeful, he visited OCDC – and found it all to be true. His son thrived. Victor did well, too, learning English and taking two years of junior high school classes through OCDC. “The program helped me so much,” he says. “It showed me how to express myself.”

Now, seemingly everyone knows Victor Chonteco. He’s the one who provides orientation sessions for parents. He’s the one who represents OCDC at out-of-state conferences. Most importantly, he’s become the parent representative on the Policy Council – he is the President of the Migrant & Seasonal Head Start Policy Council. “I am the voice of the parents so [the agency] can hear the words that are necessary,” he says, with obvious pride. To Victor, the role he plays is more than representing parents, or facilitating communication. It’s his way of reaching into decades he may never see. “Together with parents we talk about services continuing not only for our children,” he explains, “but for all the children of the future.”

Board of Directors and PC Meetings 2008

15. Board of Directors and Policy Council meetings

2008 dates for your information:

Board of Directors: July 11-12, September 12-13, and November – TBA; location Central Office. For information contact Linda Torres, Executive Assistant, ext. 1006.

16. MSHS Policy Council: - May 16, 17, 18, at Central Office; June-no mtg., July 18, 19, 20, Family Retreat; August TBA; September 26, 27, 28. For information contact Karelia Harding, Program Governance Coordinator, ext 1057.

That’s all the news for now, enjoy the spring/summer time!

Linda Torres, Executive Assistant



EMT

Donalda Dodson, Executive Director	Ext 1004
Holly Whittleton, Head Start Director	Ext 1007
Donald L. Horseman, Director of Financial Services	Ext 1002
Duke West, Human Resources Director	Ext 1005
Tadeo Saenz-Thompson, Resource Development Director	Ext 1017