

Maryland Head Start Association 2022 Annual Spring Conference

**Tuesday, May 10, 2022
2:00 pm -4:30 pm**

National Center for Parent, Family and Community Engagement Presents:

❖ ***Using the Relationship-Based Competencies (RBC) to Apply Professional Development Strategies***

In Head Start we take pride in understanding the power of positive relationships while prioritizing relationship-building. Join NCPFCE to explore the PFCE Framework and the Relationship-based Competencies (RBCs), which include a set of knowledge, skills, and practices, that staff can use to build strong and positive relationships with families. Participants will also learn how they can use the RBCs to enhance role-specific professional development opportunities using “real life” examples and scenarios.



Presenter: Brandi Black Thacker has served in Head Start communities on the local, state, and national levels for over 18 years, with last eleven having been dedicated to the National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement (NCPFCE). She has extensive experience in family and community engagement, relationship-based practice, resilience, collaboration, and program leadership as evidenced in her work as a director, educator, technical assistance specialist, university instructor, advocate, nationally recognized speaker, and leader. Brandi currently leads NCPFCE’s TTA work with the Office of Head Start supporting individualized capacity building, planning, and coordination of the training and technical assistance needs across the twelve ACF Regional Offices.

**Tuesday, May 10, 2022
6:00 pm – 8:30 pm**

❖ ***Networking Dinner: Celebrating Family Engagement***

Host: Simeon Russell, MHSA Executive Officer

Maryland Head Start Association 2022 Annual Spring Conference

Wednesday, May 11, 2022

9:30 am -11:30 am

Keynote Speaker: Ryan C Greene

MAKE IT MATTER! How To Create Unforgettable Impact & Abundant Fulfilment

What does it truly mean to live life? If recent times have forced us to do anything, it's forced us to re-evaluate two things about ourselves- the impact of our decisions and actions, and the fulfilment we feel from those choices. As society struggles to define its "new normal", the reality has hit many that "normal" is no longer an acceptable benchmark. People are looking at their lives and asking the same question, "Does any of this really matter?" In this training, attendees will learn the secrets to showing up their best each day and creating unforgettable impact for their clients while being abundantly fulfilled through their work.

Mr. Greene is the Founder of GreeneHouse Media LLC, a media company whose goal is to provide "Media With A Purpose" via radio, television, film, and books. Ryan is the author of eleven books, hosts and executive produces several podcasts and web shows, and the founder of Indie Author PRO, an author coaching company specializing in teaching authors how to monetize their content, automate their business and become top-revenue independent authors without being famous.

Wednesday, May 11, 2022

1:00 pm -3:30 pm

Attendees: Parents and non-Head Start Staff

Parent Café

Focus: Promoting Well-Being

1:00 pm -4:00 pm

Attendees: Head Start and Early Head Start Staff

A Deeper Dive into ERSEA

- **Equity Considerations for ERSEA (1:00 pm -2:30 pm)**
 - ◆ **Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment and Attendance (ERSEA)** as some of the most important activities performed by Head Start program staff. ERSEA governs how programs determine eligibility, enroll children, track attendance, and more. Equity is foundational to the Head Start mission and to securing fair and just access and treatment for all children and families. It also requires ongoing action. During this session participants will reflect, plan, and implement ERSEA activities that are grounded in equity.
- **Round Table Discussion (3:00 -4:00)**
 - ◆ **Who are your partners in recruitment?**
 - ◆ **What trends are you seeing in new applications?**

Maryland Head Start Association 2022 Annual Spring Conference

Thursday, May 12, 2022
9:00 am -10:30 am

❖ Father Focused- Building a Comprehensive Fatherhood Approach

Research shows that children do better in school and life when they have an engaged father/father figure. Father engagement is not a stand-alone program initiative, it is a vital and integrated aspect of parent, family, and community work. A system-wide integration of multiple activities builds a comprehensive father-engagement approach. Participants will review recent research, discuss strategies for promoting fatherhood in the program, as well as strengthen the role fathers have in their child's life.

Presenter: Joe Preece has served the early childhood community for over 22 years, 8 of which were in a local Head Start/Early Head Start program in West Virginia. In this role, Mr. Preece oversaw the provision of family services. Mr. Preece has been providing training and technical assistance services to Head Start programs since 2008. As an Early Childhood Specialist, he provides technical assistance on numerous topics including family engagement, school readiness goals, action planning and professional development.

Presenter: Mark Colaw has served the Head Start/Early Head Start community for more than 26 years, 4 of those years with the T&TA network. As a Grantee Specialist, he provides intense onsite technical assistance to recipients related to management systems with a strong focus on human resources that includes organizational structure, recruitment/retention of staff and recordkeeping. Mr. Colaw has also assisted recipients with a variety of data management including evaluation of progress towards expected outcomes and development of data management plans.

❖ Where Did My Money Go? Understanding how to manage money better.

This interactive workshop examines the importance of positive money management. Topics include budgeting, debt management and understanding your credit score. Ms. Lacy will provide insight using her own personal journey and why positive money management is a necessity for everyone. At the conclusion of the workshop, participants will receive valuable resources to take home and implement in to their own personal financial journey.

Presenter: Wanda Lacey operates as the founder and principal owner of Belle Financial Services, LLC- a consulting firm dedicated to helping others understand the importance of financial literacy. For the last 10 years Wanda continues to work in IT and has always had a passion for teaching others how to take control of their money. Ms. Lacey became a student of financial competencies and used those skills to pull herself out of mountain debt and a low credit score. Belle Financial Services LLC is a licensed in the State of Maryland as a Credit Services Organization and is a membership service partner of the Maryland Head Start Association.



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Thursday, May 12, 2022
10:45 am -12:15 pm

❖ Responsible Co-Parenting

Responsible Co-Parenting will discuss how parents that do not live together navigate topics such as education, discipline, holiday, religion and many more topics that people take for granted. This workshop is interactive and will have real life discussions. Resilience of parents and how they engage each other is important to the well begin of the child and the family.

Presenter: Keino Stephenson of We Are Parents, has over seventeen-year experience as a human service manager. Mr. Stephenson has a bachelor's degree in political science. Mr. Stephenson currently works at the Baltimore County Department of Social Service as a Human Resource Specialist and worked for over five years as a case manager for the child support agency in Baltimore City. Keino started We are Parents in 2010 and is a former Head Start Parent and Policy Council President

❖ Connection vs Perfection

It only takes 30 percent of attunement with an infant or toddler to form a secure attachment, the other 70 percent is where mistakes or challenges within a relationship may occur. Young children crave authenticity within their relationship just like we do, and with authenticity comes "oops". In this training participants, will explore how our "oops" can a more connected relationship with ALL the little ones we care for. This session will focus on examining how chosen connection over perfection can be the answer to supporting strong relationships.

Presenter: Stephanie Cooper is the Infant and Toddler Lead Coach with Abilities Network Project ACT. In this role Stephanie provides coaching, mentoring, and training for educators who care for our littlest ones. She has been working with children from infancy up to elementary school for over 17 years. She received her undergraduate degree in Early Childhood Education from Stevenson University and her Graduate degree in Early Childhood Special Education from Johns Hopkins University.



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1:30 pm – 2:45 pm

❖ ***Raising a Reader: Using Culture Responsive Books to Support Family Engagement***

What does it mean to be “culturally responsive” and how do I include it in my work with families? This workshop will define what it means to be culturally responsive, including the investigation of family engagement practices and tools that acknowledge and appreciate the home cultures of all families. We will explore how to assistance families with selecting and building a library of books that represents the interest and diversity of families. We will also review the Raising a Reader program, a family engagement and early literacy program that has demonstrated positive results in changing family behaviors, as a case study for including responsivity in your family engagement initiatives.

Presenter: Rebecca Armstrong: as Assistant Vice President of Program and Affiliate Stewardship, Rebecca is responsible for overseeing program growth as well as the program quality of Raising A Readers National Affiliate Network. Ms. Armstrong leads the selection of Raising A Reader’s book collection, including over 3,000 titles that represent the families served by the program. In addition, Rebecca serves as a leader for RAR’s race, equity, and diversity agenda. Rebecca began her career as a special education teacher for children in grades 2-7. She earned her bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education from Towson University and completed her graduate studies in special education at John Hopkins University.

❖ ***Asthma Education: Preventing Symptoms***

In this interactive workshop, participants will study the various ways to prevent asthma symptoms from occurring. Big topics will include how to eliminate asthma triggers, including secondhand smoke. Participants will discuss and explore tips, tricks, and strategies for getting most out of doctor visits.

Presenter: Lauren Brown is a senior research coordinator with John Hopkins Adherence Research Center (JHARC) and has a master’s degree in Teaching. She uses her knowledge to enhance the asthma education program. Ms. Brown has designed workshops with interactive techniques to ensure that staff and families are able to not only enjoy learning about asthma, but to practice management techniques in a safe environment until they are confident, they can handle asthma exacerbations in the real world. The JHARC has worked closely with Head Start programs for the past twenty years.



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3:00 pm -4:30 pm

❖ *Express Yourself: Creative Dance and Me?*

Families will explore the elements of dance and specific movement strategies that will empower parents, guardians, and caregivers to use and facilitate movement-led teaching and learning experiences with their children. Parents will be encouraged to take risks with their children, join in on singing activities, and positively encourage their children to explore their bodies and their voice. Participants will learn how dance can be used as a form of non-verbal communication, to create a fun space, encourage movement and exercise within the home, and build deeper relationships. We will explore how our bodies can move in and throughout the space together!

Presenter: Valerie Branch graduated magna cum laude from the University of Maryland College Park with a bachelor's degree in Dance. She has experience touring as a performing and teaching artist both nationally and internationally. As a Master Teaching Artist with Wolf Trap Institute for Early Learning Through the Arts, a Young Audiences National Credentialed Teaching Artist and Regional Director of MD Wolf Trap Early Learning with Arts for Learning Maryland, her mission is to use dance as a catalyst to empower children to find value and greatness in the impact that their voice can have on their life and others. She is the Founder and Artistic Director of VB Dance Ensemble, a professional contemporary dance company focused on bringing social and cultural awareness and change through the power of dance into schools around the nation.

Presenter: Hana Morford is a musician and educator dedicated to empowering youth through the creative arts. She currently serves as Education Director of Statewide Initiatives for Arts for Learning Maryland, where she oversees their early learning initiatives, as well as supports a roster of teaching artists in delivering arts integrated programming throughout the state of Maryland. Previously, she oversaw the educational programming for over 1,200 youth as part of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra's OrchKids program, an El Sistema-inspired initiative. Also, a classically trained violist, Hana serves on the string's faculty of the Peabody Institute, and holds degrees from the Cleveland Institute of Music, Rice University, and the Peabody Conservatory, as well as a certificate from the New England Conservatory's Sistema Fellows program.

❖ *Resilience for Grownups*

Resilience for children is a hot topic in the field of ECE, and for good reason. Resilience for grownups is also important, yet so often overlooked, because we are busy focusing on the needs of the children. This session will focus on using the DARS (Devereaux Adult Resilience Survey) to build our own resilience as adults, including a deeper understanding of what self-care is and how to implement it to strengthen our resilience.

Presenter: Angie Sparks is an Inclusion Specialist with Abilities Network/Project ACT. She promotes high quality, inclusive early childhood education experiences for children of all abilities by providing training and consultation services to early childhood professionals. Through coaching, mentoring, advocating, and the provision of resources, she supports educators and families in fostering healthy social-emotional development and addressing the mental health and behavioral needs of young children. Angie has served as a Pre-K teacher and director, a fifth-grade teacher, and a Curriculum Writer/Education Specialist for a for-profit corporate childcare. She has worked in urban, suburban, and rural locations, which gives her a diverse perspective of children, families, and teacher.

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9:00 am -10:30 am

❖ **Panel Discussion**

- Blueprint for Maryland (Parents and Community focused)
- What is the Summer Gap?
- Transitioning to Kindergarten- KRA and more.

Panelist: to be announced

Friday, May 13, 2022

11:00 am -12:30 pm

❖ **Reframing Family Engagement**

Research shows that many people feel that family engagement is dependent on how much the adults in a child's life – especially parents and teachers – “care,” and that lower-income families do not engage because they do not value education. This is a big problem for advocates who are trying to gain support for well-structured family engagement programs and strategic policies that have the potential to advance equity in our early childhood and education systems, and ultimately close the achievement gap. The National Association for Family, School, and Community Engagement (NAFSCE) and the FrameWorks Institute conducted groundbreaking research on how the public thinks about family engagement and what can help to expand that understanding. In this session, participants will learn about the results of the research and the barriers that prevent the public from understanding family engagement. The session will provide participants with specific strategies and tools to communicate about family engagement more effectively.

Participants will also be given access to NAFSCE's newly created Reframing Academy, a virtual course with 10 different modules that will extend their learning after the conference.

Presenter: Sherri Wilson is a nationally recognized expert and consultant in family engagement. Currently, she serves as the Director of Training and Engagement with the National Association for Family, School, and Community Engagement (NAFSCE). Formerly, she served as the Director of Consultative Services at Scholastic and was a founding partner of the Center for Active Family Engagement (Café). Prior to that, she served as the Senior Manager of Family Engagement at the National PTA. During her time at the National PTA, Sherri oversaw the implementation of the National PTA Standards for Family School Partnerships and led the Urban Family Engagement Initiative. Ms. Wilson was the Co-founder of the Alabama Parent Education Center and served as Alabama PIRC Director for over fourteen years. She has served on a wide variety of national, state, and local boards and committees and was a founding board member for NAFSCE.

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❖ Asthma Education: Preventing Symptoms

In this workshop, we introduce basic steps to manage asthma, including symptoms, medications, and how to manage symptoms when they occur. Over the course of an hour and a half, we will study early signs to look out for, the basic differences in medications used to treat asthma, and exactly how to administer an inhaler with a spacer and mask.

Presenter: Lauren Brown is a senior research coordinator with John Hopkins Adherence Research Center (JHARC) and has a master's degree in Teaching. She uses her knowledge to enhance the asthma education program. Ms. Brown has designed workshops with interactive techniques to ensure that staff and families are able to not only enjoy learning about asthma, but to practice management techniques in a safe environment until they are confident, they can handle asthma exacerbations in the real world. The JHARC has worked closely with Head Start programs for the past twenty years.

