

Audio Workshop

Office for Children staff **Jennifer Miller** and **Helen Webster** were facilitators in the statewide audio conference “Early Intervention Services for Infants and Toddlers” offered by the Infant and Toddler Specialist Network in March.

The audio conferences are a unique training opportunity for the child care community. Participants can call in to the workshop from any phone, or meet with others to take the training together by conference call.

About 30 providers gathered at the Pennino building to participate in the training with **Miller**, while others met with **Webster** on the Northern Virginia

Community College campus in Loudoun County.

“At our Pennino location we were pleased to have Service Coordinator Carol Morasch, Speech/Language Pathologist Mary Hodapp, and Licensed Clinical Social Worker Kathleen Gilliam from the Infant Toddler Connection join the group for the audio conference,” **Miller** said. “Following the call, providers had the opportunity to ask the Infant Toddler Connection staff specific questions about the local resources, supports and services for early intervention. This opportunity for collaboration highlighted the important role that



Jennifer Miller and Helen Webster

child care providers play in supporting the early learning and developmental needs of infants and toddlers and helping families to access community services.”

The ITSN plans to offer an audio conference on summer safety June 2, at 1 p.m.

SACC Grads

Last month 18 SACC teachers graduated from the 138-hour school-age credential program that enables them to meet Virginia licensing standards for site directors. The teachers were honored at a graduation ceremony held in the Pennino building. The graduates were:

Left to right: **Judy Moore, Sherri Owen, Lorenzo Megginson, Angel Miller, Shannon McCarthy, Amy Benner, Josh McQuiston, Sonja Willis, Mary Sheehan, Christine Chmielewski, Andrew Ames, Chris Lamkin, Ayebea Ashong and Julian Gaither.** Not pictured: **Patricia Cantu, Melanie Richey, Damon Terrell and Wendell Washington.**



OFC Shapes Up

Office for Children staff are participating in Fairfax County's Shape Up and Live Well 2010 Challenge. In this health-promotion program, county employees compete to see which teams can exercise the most hours, lose the most weight, and/or walk the most steps in 12 weeks.



Above: Back row, starting with woman with sign: **Debbie Mills-Harris, Stacie Talbot, Wendy Bellinger, Kathy Uhrich, Alexa O'Flynn.** Front Row: **Sue Zimmerman, Zoraida Arze.**

Left: left to right: **Christine Scibetta, Bonnie Arjona, Latasha McClain, Juanita Lazo, Dorie Irby, Karle Finley.**

Lines of Service

The Lines of Service project was launched last spring to identify ways to improve the Department of Family Services' efficiency and effectiveness. Over the past year, 20 Lines of Service teams have analyzed the agency's programs, policies, procedures, systems, staffing, organizational structure, budget and contracts.

In the final stages of the work conducted by Lines of Service teams, each team is developing action plans that will be folded into how we do our work, how we meet customer expectations, and how we improve services and performance.

The Community Education and Provider Services team has created action plans to address:

- Revising the Fairfax County family child care ordinance;

- Recruiting more residents into the field of family child care;
- Retaining current family child care providers.



The Child Care Assistance and Referral team has created action plans to improve:

- Communication with OFC programs;

- The partnerships with the TANF/VIEW program;
- The staffing of regional offices;
- Resources about quality child care available to parents and providers.

The Head Start team's action plans will help staff to:

- Increase the percentage of children with completed immunizations and physicals;
- Track children's educational progress into the public school system;
- Identify services families receive through other Fairfax agencies.
- SACC will finalize their Lines of Service action plans this month.

New Classes

This summer the Office for Children's Institute for Early Learning will offer more than a dozen new courses to the Fairfax County child care community. Most of the new classes will be presented by IFEL instructors **Bronwyn Dean, Maria Gallagher, Marshann Snyder** and **Karen Quist**.

Two of the new classes will be taught by School Age Child Care staff. SACC Regional Supervisor **Denise Reid** will present "Healthy Food Choices," which will show participants how to read the nutrition labels on food containers, learn ways to create healthy meals using foods from local grocery stores, and understand which popular foods may not be healthy.

"I think this topic is important for providers because they should be aware of the growing concerns about childhood obesity," **Reid** said. "Becoming aware of the ingredients used in prepared foods, and how the media influences food choices, can

help child care professionals offer better food choices to children."

SACC Regional Supervisors **Kathy Uhrich** and **Kelvin Claytor** will present the new class "Understanding School-Age Children." They will explore the physical, social, emotional and intellectual characteristics of children in kindergarten through sixth grade.

"Although children develop at their own pace, being aware of certain milestones in growth and development can help child care professionals understand the children they work with. It's important for providers to understand these ages and stages in order to offer creative activities and learning experiences appropriate for school-age children," **Claytor** explained.

"Board Games and Math" is one of the new classes **Snyder** will present this summer. "We'll take a look at the concepts about numbers and operations that may be learned through everyday play experiences,"



Snyder said, adding, "We'll analyze the skills board games promote using the standards in a joint position statement published by the National Association for the Education of Young Children and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics."

More than 60 other courses are outlined in the summer training catalog, including classes for family child care providers that will be offered by the Office for Children's Community Education and Provider Services division.

The 2010 Census

United States
**Census
2010**



Please encourage the parents, teachers and child care providers you work with to fill out the U.S. Census form this month. The more complete the count, the more federal funding Fairfax County receives for community services. The county received \$359 million in fiscal year 2008 based on the last Census.

It's important to encourage "hard-to-reach populations" to fill out the Census. This includes low-income residents and people who live in apartment buildings. Residents should fill out the Census whether or not they are citizens. Please let your contacts know that Census information will be kept completely confidential.

By federal law, information from census forms cannot be shared with any local, state or federal government agency, including Fairfax County. Census workers also take an oath for life to keep Census information confidential. Census employees who break the oath are subject to fines of up to five years in prison, up to \$250,000 – or both.

Check with your supervisor to learn about your program's plan to make Census posters or flyers available to your contacts. If you have any questions about the Census, check out Fairfax County's Census page at: **www.fairfaxcounty.gov/census**.

Length of Service

Each year the Board of Supervisors and the Department of Human Resources honors staff who have reached 10, 15, 20 years or more of employment with Fairfax County. Here are this year's Office for Children honorees.

10 Years

Michelle Marvelene Barrett
Marci Lynn Blansitt
Karen Ann Butler
Christine Chmielewski
Angelique Lee Combs
Kim Donzella Dempsey
Tanya Eason
Tonja Fuller
Roxana Guzman
Angelis Hoffman
LaRephia Jackson
Tina Lee
Joseph James Edward Lowe
Maria Elena Martinez
Antonio Carnell Meredith
Mariam Nadi
Farhat Agha Najam
Safia Omar
Pilar Otoya
Goher Pirzada
Jill Ann Robinson
Mary Anne Tressler Shea
Shannon Cathleen Stotlar
Anne-Marie Twohie

Shawn Tonia White
George Wollam

15 Years

Michael Asihene
Angela Bacote
Linda Bentlin
Gina Adair Cornelius
Tammi Daniels
Jennifer Davis
Marilyn Frost
Renee Monique Gilmore
Maria Mairena
Patricia Ann Miller
Garry Moore
Raymond Morton
Kristen Nicklas
Beverly Ann Peterson
Mary Sheehan
Mary Dolores Turner
Partick Weekes

20 Years

Jane Brown
Christine Colligan

Ruth Ann Crowder
Lisa Curtin
Lois Rene Kemerer Hermann
Susan Jackson
Sharina Jagoonanan
Debra Marshall
Kevin Mathews
Mary Merriam
Steve Miller
Carol Robinson-Huntley
Carole Rose
Nancy Sawyer
Verna Scales
Marshann Snyder
Amy Voss
Mary Wright

25 Years

Beth Leggat
Julia Brigham Olson
Pat Quevedo
Avis Tyler

30 Years

Sushma Kohli

