



Welcome Catherine

Catherine Sauer's career has come full circle. Formerly a family child care provider who participated in the USDA Food Program, she now directs the county program that issues permits to child care providers and administers the USDA Food Program.

Sauer is the new director of the Office for Children's Community Education and Provider Services program. She succeeded **Moe Gaines**, who retired in December. "I'm excited about the opportunity to work with a program that is so integral to the overall mission of OFC," **Sauer** said.

Sauer came to OFC after five years in the Department of Family Services' Children, Youth and Family division. Before that, she worked in OFC for 20 years in the Child Care Assistance and Referral program, the School Age Child Care program, and in CEPS.

"I'm excited that **Catherine** is working with us again at OFC," said OFC Director **Anne-Marie Twohie**. "She has a great respect for and knowledge of family child care."

Sauer's educational background is in child welfare and social work. A native of Aberdeen, North Carolina, Sauer is a newlywed who enjoys biking with her husband and their Yorkshire Terrier, Chloe.

OFC Participates in National Project

The Office for Children has been selected to participate in the Early Head Start for Family Child Care Project. This demonstration project, lead by ZERO TO THREE, under the auspices of the national Office of Head Start and Office of Child Care, will design, implement and evaluate a replicable framework that supports a partnership between Early Head Start and family child care providers. Fairfax County is one of 22 Early Head Start grantees in the country selected to participate in the project.

Expected outcomes of the project include enhanced quality of care for young children and strengthened collaboration between federal, state and partners.

Head Start Director **Jennifer Branch** and Child Care Assistance and Referral Director **Carol Keil** are representing OFC in the project and will work closely with both programs. This will be a year-long project, concluding next December.



Winter Wonders



In keeping with this year's curriculum focus on technology, the SACC winter program featured experiences that brought photo magic to life.

CCAR Survey

Recently, the Child Care Assistance and Referral program completed their first-ever vendor survey. The 200 child care centers and 800 family child care providers who participate in the subsidy program received the survey in December.

CCAR staff received high ratings for being pleasant, communicating clearly, giving accurate information and sending payments on time. Ninety-nine percent of respondents from child care centers, and 96 percent of family child care respondents, reported being satisfied with the services received from CCAR.

"We're very gratified to have received such high ratings from our first vendor survey," said CCAR Program Administrator **Carol Keil**. "We are reviewing the comments received from our vendors and will be responsive to their concerns and suggestions."

Many survey respondents wrote positive comments about their interactions with staff.

"We are extremely proud of our relationship with the CCAR and of our common goal in serving working families and their children. Thank you for your wonderful service and attention."

"Working with CCAR service is a true pleasure. All staff that I have worked with have proven to be knowledgeable, pleasant and a real resource to me."

"CCAR is just like family helping other families in a very professional and secure way."

"They are dedicated employee[s] who like to help day care providers to improve their business."



VPI

The Virginia Preschool Initiative is a state-sponsored program for 4-year-olds from families with low incomes. VPI provides support for children's school readiness that results in smooth transitions to kindergarten, and provides comprehensive services, including health and mental health screenings. VPI also offers the children's families workshops, family literacy programs, and resource materials. The Office for Children administers the county's VPI program.

Of the 969 children currently served by the county's VPI program, 774 of the children are served in preschool classrooms in Fairfax County Public Schools; 164 are served in child care centers, and 31 are served in family child care homes.

"We're very excited because this is an increase from a total of 876 served last year," said OFC's new VPI Director **Carol Osborn**.

Family child care providers who care for children in the VPI program receive on-site visits, coaching and mentoring by OFC child care specialists; and classroom supplies that support the curriculum.

This support and guidance is appreciated by participants. As one child care provider reported to OFC staff: "I wish every provider had the opportunity that I had." "Now I feel more confident about the care I give," she continued. "Thank you for the VPI program."

Congratulations, Grads!

Two additional cohorts of School Age Child Care staff have completed the 138-hour school age credential program.

The SACC credential is part of a comprehensive system developed to promote quality services for children and families and support the professional growth and expertise of SACC staff. The SACC credential consists of six core competency areas: child and youth development; families and communities; curriculum; program administration; professional development; and health, safety and accountability.

To date, 42 staff have been awarded the SACC credential.



Above

Left to right: **Nate Epkin, Chanel Wright, Nannette Riley, Tonya Saules, Mozone Kelly, Ramiro Cortez, and Chris Barker.**

Left

Back row: **Richard Fatherree, Elijah Harshbarger, Ember Taylor, Tonja Fuller, Renee Gilmore, Roselyn Neal, Louise Trammell, Jimmy Bernardez.**

Front row: **Mariama Balde-Diallo, Wendy Bellinger, Angel Combs, Robyn Legree.**

Not pictured: **Gale Baker, Ruth Crowder, Jemar Bellfield, Dionne McAdoo.**



Milestones

The Department of Human Resources has produced a publication called "Milestones" which lists employees reaching 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 or more years of service with Fairfax County government. Here are Office for Children staff who reached employment milestones in 2010.

10 Years

Nelly Araujo, ECCC
Zoraida Arze, SACC
Harriet Assaf, SACC
Sarah Ayanam, SACC
Antoinette Benton, SACC
Johnny Carmichael, SACC
Rhonda Cuffey, CEPS
Deon Eaddy, SACC
Lori Foster, SACC
Shannon Grayson, SACC
Jennifer Guzman, SACC
Shirley Harper, SACC
Diana Honesty, SACC
Renda Ifert, CCAR
Latanya Johnson, SACC
Debra Kirton, SACC
Christopher Koenig, SACC
Christina Konstas, SACC
Sonia Lazo, Head Start
Juan Leon, SACC
Latoya Marshall, SACC
Kimberly McCollum, SACC
Johnnie Mikel, SACC
Ada Mitchell, Head Start
Kali Pellegrino, SACC
Ilyonne Pinkney, CEPS
Simran Saigal, CEPS
Ivory Smith, Head Start
Damon Terrell, SACC
Abeba Tzeggai, CEPS
Nicole Umpierrez, SACC

Samsia Usman, SACC
Donna Varela, ECCC
Wendell Washington, SACC

15 Years

Angela Anderson, Head Start
Nancy Blang, SACC
Timothy Bratcher, SACC
Tierra Cooper, SACC
Patricia Fuller, SACC
Susan Goettl, Head Start
Susan Hansell-Davis, CCAR
Mozone Kelly, SACC
Lois Kirkpatrick, Directors Office
Christine Lamkin, SACC
Andrea Lesane, SACC
Jeaneen Loudon, SACC
Tracy Minarczik, CEPS
Judy Moore, SACC
Beverly Moore, SACC
Louise Trammell, SACC
Derrick Tucker, SACC
Andrzej Turski, SACC
Karmentrina Yancey, Head Start

20 Years

Teresa Barker, SACC
Amy Benner, SACC
Jimmy Bernardez, SACC
Maribeth Bretschneider, CEPS
Laura Carter, SACC
Emma Celis, SACC

Karle Finley, Head Start
Maureen Galvin, SACC
Judith Garrett, Head Start
Rose Gilliam, SACC
Jennifer Green, SACC
Alease Haynes, CCAR
Barbara Hyman, Head Start
Deloris Lawrence, SACC
Diane Lawson, SACC
Cordelia Maweni, SACC
Myra O'Leary, Head Start
Patricia Washington, CCAR

25 Years

Monica Bilyeu, CEPS
Beth Byham, SACC
Veronica Letsinger, SACC
Patricia Makel, SACC
Sandra Mauldin, SACC
Linda Swinson, SACC
Anne Taggart, Head Start
Vicki Wood, SACC

30 Years

Irma Castro, SACC
Cynthia Gonzalez, CEPS
Anita McElhiney, SACC
Rosa McPhail, CEPS