

## CEPS Partners with Business Development Groups

Nearly 60 family child care providers from the Annandale area turned out on a Tuesday evening in December to attend the new workshop “How the Affordable Care Act Can Benefit Family Child Care Providers.” The Office of Public Private Partnerships coordinated this workshop in partnership with Community Education and Provider Services, Business Development Assistance Group, and Northern Virginia Family Service. This collaboration was met with an overwhelming response from providers.

The workshop provided valuable information about the Affordable Care Act and how it applies to family child care providers. Speakers answered questions such as:

- What is the Affordable Care Act and how does it affect individuals?
- Who is eligible to sign up for Affordable Health Care Coverage?
- How do I register for Affordable Health Care Coverage?
- What is the Health Insurance Marketplace?

CEPS Director Catherine Sauer explained, “Many of our county’s child care professionals are self-employed, small business owners who can benefit from recent legislature that makes health care more accessible to them. We are very pleased to be able to partner with other community organizations to bring valuable program information to family child care providers.” Given the positive response to this first workshop others are being planned to take place in the coming months.

## Workshops Engage Mentors and Educators

The Office for Children Virginia Preschool Initiative is sponsoring workshops for early childhood educators that will help them explore how to integrate drama, music and creative movement with math and spatial relationships.

This unique instructional approach called “Moving through Math” was created by Marcia Daft, a nationally known educator and artist. Her approach to teaching brings to life conceptual parallels between music, movement and math concepts.

Daft shows early childhood educators activities that make the language of math accessible to young children.

Educators learn to lead grouping games and finger plays that teach the vocabulary and concepts of position such as above/below and beside/between. They experience “Moving through Math” stories that model the vocabulary of attributes, and integrate creative movement with counting, language and symbol recognition. Participants will receive books and math materials to use in their child care programs.



VPI child care specialists are attending the sessions along with early childhood educators so they can be a resource as educators use the approach in their programs. An additional session is scheduled for mentors from various other OFC programs including Early Head Start, and the Institute for Early Learning so that they can share “Moving through Math” with early childhood professionals throughout the county.

## SACC Attends Expo

Saturday, Jan. 25, SACC staff participated in the first Reston Camp Expo. Even though it is still winter, many camp programs begin filling up quickly, and that can leave families without many affordable options in the spring. This year, a variety of nonprofit and governmental programs came together to bring information about Reston area summer camps directly to families.

More than 600 people attended this event. Families were able to decide and enroll in programs on the spot or take with them a comprehensive guide featuring enrollment information for each of the programs. Serving Reston Youth, a community initiative comprised of local non-profit organizations and Fairfax County government agencies, organized this event held at the Reston Community Center.

Other county agencies participating included the Fairfax County Park Authority, Public Schools, Rec-Pac, and Neighborhood and Community Services to name a few.

This family friendly event featured interactive activities for children, demonstrations of typical camp activities, door prizes and refreshments. Children in attendance experienced SACC Camp Discovery activities including soccer agility drills, making tea light creations, and watching a short skit and dance performance by children from Lake Anne SACC.



Photo courtesy of Reston Community Center

## CEPS Measures Up - RBA

This month, "Grapevine" features the Community Education and Provider Services division in its series on RBA or Results Based Accountability. CEPS's RBA measures track customer results in the area of Successful Children and Youth.

CEPS regulates county permitted child care homes in Fairfax County, administers the USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program, and provides professional development opportunities for family child care providers.

CEPS supports 1,863 county-permitted providers, and 842 county-permitted and state-licensed providers who participate in the USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program.

CEPS staff members are dedicated to the providers they serve. They provide timely processing of permits and accurate and timely processing of reimbursement payments to providers who participate in the USDA Food Program. In house and field staff develop strong, supportive relationships with the providers in their areas and encourage providers to participate in CEPS programs and other OFC initiatives or programs such as the Portage Program, CDA, VPI and Early Head Start.

Research shows that the quality of child care improves as a direct result of increased regulation and with professional development opportunities afforded providers. Bearing this in mind, comprehensive changes made to the Child Care Ordinance in February 2013 were designed to ensure the safety of children in child care and improve the quality of care offered by Fairfax County providers.

CEPS' focus on customer results

has yielded some very positive outcomes in the RBA area of Successful Children and Youth. There are more than 9,000 permitted child care

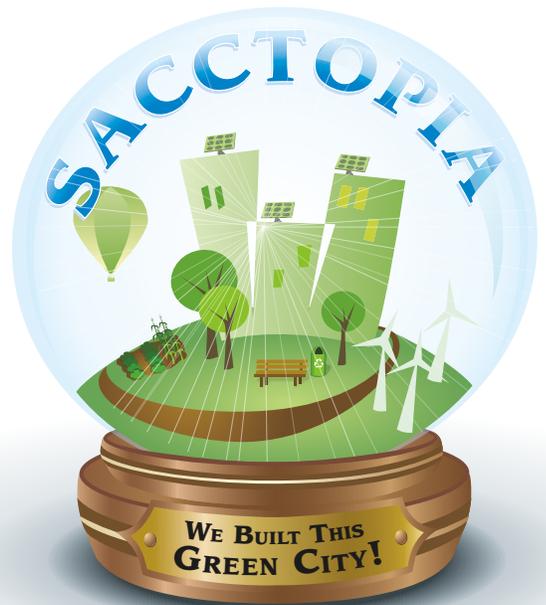
slots available to Fairfax County families. More than 4,500 children are served each month through the USDA CACFP program and more than 2,300 providers attended professional development events in FY 2013.

CEPS has a 98 percent satisfaction rating among providers. CEPS experienced an increase to 29 percent of permitted providers participating in the food program, and this year 100 percent of permitted providers who were mentored through the Quality Improvement Program improved the quality of care they offered by meeting their stated goals.

**98%**  
**Satisfaction**  
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# 2013 SACC Winter Program

SACCTOPIA, the SACC winter program, was a fun opportunity for children to develop their own green, environmentally friendly cities. Acting as architects, city planners, athletes, elected officials and many other roles, children designed and built models of unique communities including homes, transportation systems, businesses, parks and playgrounds. Children also enjoyed establishing each city's culture and traditions, motto and mascots, history and attractions. SACCTOPIA was held at 22 locations throughout the county.



# Length of Service

Fairfax County recognizes staff who have reached service milestones of 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 or more years of employment with the county. Here are Office for Children staff who reached milestones in 2013.

## 10 Years

Bonnie Arjona  
Tara Barningham  
Alia Bowen  
Patricia Cantu  
Heather Carey  
Pamela Drakeford  
Donald Easley Jr.  
Tamia Fleet  
Emma Frederick  
Chris Galindo  
Melissa Hill  
Sharon Hobson  
Tiffany Howard  
Maryanne Martonik  
Joshua McQuiston  
Lorenzo Megginson  
Margo Richardson  
Lauren Roy  
Dennis Winn  
Martha Yarboro

Laurentia Blay  
Tai Chan  
Latoya Dunkley  
Lonya Graham  
Juan Loayza  
Everludis Lopez  
Tayanda Nesbitt  
Samantha Nichols-Whitfield  
Shirley Palmer  
Tonya Saules  
Chanel Wright

Rocio Sotil  
Celia Williams

## 25 Years

Susan Allen  
Gale Baker  
Mary Caskey  
Gulalai Es-Hag  
Cassandra Furbush  
Maria Gallagher  
Terry Johnson  
Carol Keil  
Joanne Kennedy  
Elizabeth McNair  
Sherri Owen  
Susan Randall  
Julianne Remer  
Kenya Russell

## 20 Years

Lidia Abdelwahed  
Suman Abrol  
Andrew Ames  
Lee An  
Sharon Austin  
Helen Brewer-Irons  
Shirley Carter  
Lawrence Clark  
Michelle Diggs  
Sharon Gamache  
Kamini Jassal  
Denise Reid

## 15 Years

Angela Archie  
Tina Bell

## 30 Years

Jean Dennis  
Susan Deremer