My name is Bieke Opgenhaffen. I am a full-time student at our local community college. I am in my third year on the Champaign County Head Start/Early Head Start Policy Council. I have a 6 year old son who attended Head Start Preschool and is now doing very well in first grade because of it.

I also have a 3 year old son who attended Early Head Start classes and is currently in a Head Start collaboration classroom and he absolutely loves school and learning and everything else that comes along with the program curriculum.

I have been overall quite satisfied with the program nationally, but I especially appreciate how our Head Start Program runs itself. I am a proud member of the Policy Council and feel like it’s a great way to be involved in your child’s education, and that is especially important during these times of budget cuts and major lack of funding resources. I think we have a good group of people on our council who are genuinely concerned with the future of our nation’s children.

I only wish more people would get involved in supporting early education whether by volunteering in the classroom or being on the policy council or, when their child is in public school, joining the PTA or attending school district meetings etc. It’s important to give back equally when you are given something as powerful as knowledge.

Bieke Opgenhaffen

2010 Policy Council members

Mashanda Humphrey  Alison Jami
Karina Hernandez   Bieke Opgenhaffen
Emmi Novotorov    Matthew Gladney
Judith Wade       Karen Foster
Edward Godia      Pius Weibel
Jianping Wang     George Hovorka
Amanda Good       Harriet Kersh
Maria Martinez    Maggie Rodriguez-Nieto
Champaign County Head Start Mission

The mission of Champaign County Head Start/Early Head Start is to support the diverse children and families of our community in reaching their fullest potential by providing comprehensive services and developing partnerships that enhance child and family development, health and education.

Champaign County Head Start Goals

- Developing partnerships with parents and families, agencies and organizations, businesses and industries;
- Linking parents and families to community services;
- Providing services that enhance social/emotional, intellectual and physical development;
- Supporting parents and families to meet self-identified goals and needs.

About Champaign County Head Start

- Head Start/Early Head Start is a Federal program for child and family development;
- Focuses on ensuring children’s cognitive, social-emotional and health readiness for kindergarten;
- Promotes family strengths for long term benefit to child and family;
- Serves families with children from birth to kindergarten age and pregnant mothers.
Operating Statistics

- $5 Million Budget: Head Start, Early Head Start, IL State Board of Education (ISBE), Child-Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), Full-day Child Care, Champaign County Developmental Disabilities Board.

- Private grants and donations totaled $9,929. Volunteer time and other in-kind (non-cash) contributions totaled $1,598,483.

- 132 Staff: 83 teaching staff, 13 family advocates, 6 bus drivers, 5 cook staff, 4 clerks, 3 partnership mentors, a mental health specialist, a secretary and 16 supervisors.

“*The Head Start program is great! I would not have made it the past couple of years without it!*”

*A HS/EHS Parent*
Head Start / Early Head Start
FY 2010-2011
Budgeted Federal Revenue

Head Start, $3,000,123 = 58%
Early Head Start, $1,097,928 = 21%
Early Head Start Expansion, $1,061,744 = 21%

Total Federal Revenue = $5,159,795
Head Start / Early Head Start
FY 2010-2011
Budgeted Expenditures

- Personnel, $2,467,150 = 48%
- Indirect, $361,929 = 7%
- Other, $766,249 = 15%
- Child Services, $304,991 = 6%
- Fringe Benefits, $858,968 = 17%
- Travel, $4,371 <1%
- Equipment, $23,000 <1%
- Supplies, $373,137 = 7%

Total Expenditures = $5,159,795
Developing our children...
Serving Our Community

The total number of children and families served during the program year that started September 1, 2009 was 528.

The total number of Head Start funded enrollment was 435 and the average monthly enrollment was 100%.

The total number of Early Head Start funded enrollment was 93 and the average monthly enrollment was 97%.

Enrollment of Children 2009-2010

Funded enrollment = 528

(Actual Enrollment includes replacement enrollments due to families leaving the program.)
Head Start/Early Head Start
Enrollment Options

- Full Day (10 hours) Classrooms
- Part Day (3 ½ hours) Classrooms
- School Day (6 hours) Classrooms
- Home Base
- Collaborations with Child Care Centers
- Collaborations with Family Child Care Homes
- Collaborations with School Districts
- Expectant Families

Head Start/Early Head Start
Eligibility & Enrollment

- Family must have income at poverty level or below and child(ren) must be age-eligible. Family must complete enrollment forms and provide documentation.

- Families seeking full-day services must be working and/or attending school/training at least 30 hrs/wk during hours of program operation.

- While Head Start/EHS services are free, families using full-day services must pay for child care. Child care fees are based on family size and income.

- 35% of enrolled families can have income from 100% to 130% of the poverty guidelines. Up to 10% of enrollment can be families with income greater than 130% of the federal poverty guidelines.

- At least 10% of enrollment must be offered to children with disabilities, inclusive of income-eligible and over-income families.

- Enrollment is NOT first come-first served. The national Head Start Program Performance Standards require that, among the families seeking first-time enrollment, the family with the greatest need receives services first, no matter the date of application for enrollment.
Types of Families Served 2009-2010

- Total Number of Families: 630
- Single Parent Families: 483
- Two Parent Families: 147

“The Head Start program is a great program! I hope it lasts for a long time!”

A HS/EHS Parent
For a brighter future!
Heritage Celebration - held March 2010. Families and staff shared foods, music and traditions of some of the nationalities and ethnicities of families enrolled in the program.

Balloons and Spoons Event – held April 2010. Families from the home-based option, family child care option and expansion programming came together for food, fun and games and a chance to develop family to family relationships.

Bowling Night Father/Male Involvement Event – held May 2010. Fathers and other male role models went bowling with their child. Families enjoyed supper, bowling and speakers who talked about the importance of positive male role models for young children.


Read Across America – held May 2010. Staff and families participated in this nationwide event during the annual Week of the Young Child. Families enrolled in the family child care option made cards for their child care home provider.

End of Year Celebrations – held May 2010. Head Start/Early Head Start centers held end-of-the-year celebrations with children and parents. Family Committees at each site made suggestions for their site’s celebration. The food and fun usually has a carnival theme with children’s games and prizes, a “bounce house,” etc.

Swim Party – held August 2010. Families enrolled in home-based services and the family child care option enjoyed their year-end celebration with supper and swimming.

Baseball Game Father/Male Involvement Event – held September 2010 –– fathers and other male role models attended a University of Illinois baseball practice with their child. After the U of I practice game, families joined the team on the field for some whiffle ball fun.
Preparing Children for Kindergarten

- All children receive developmental screenings and ongoing assessments.
- Parents receive Child Progress Reports during home visits and parent-teacher meetings.
- About 88% of the children, including any with a disability, who went on to kindergarten were assessed to be kindergarten-ready.

“I feel my child is prepared for kindergarten and has been taught very well by my child care provider.”

A HS/EHS Parent
Health and Dental Achievements

- Since 2006, SmileHealthy Dental Clinics at Rantoul and Savoy Head Start sites have provided over 800 exams and treatments to enrolled children and their families.

- Seven staff are certified Hearing and Vision Technicians.

- Awarded Blue Cross - Blue Shield Playground Improvement Grant to increase health and wellness for children and staff

- 90% of the children ended the year up-to-date for preventive health care

- 99% of the children ended the year current for immunizations

- 97% of the children received preventive dental care; 90% received needed follow-up treatment

“I have been so pleased over the year with the Head Start/Early Head Start program. This has helped my children and family!”

A HS/EHS Parent
To the families, agencies, units of government and community members of Champaign County:

I am pleased to announce that Champaign County Head Start/Early Head Start, administered by the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission, was one of 24 Illinois programs awarded Early Head Start expansion in late 2009. Early Head Start programming is for pregnant women and families with infants, toddlers, and 2-year-olds.

With this expansion, Champaign County Head Start/Early Head Start has increased staff to 132 full and part-time staff. The 2010-2011 annual budget of about $5.2 million in Federal funding is primarily spent in the community for salaries and benefits. Another $1.3 million is generated for the program in donations and in-kind contributions required as match for the Federal funding.

Services to Head Start eligible families have been in Champaign County since the inception of Head Start. In 1994, the County of Champaign government received the federal award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to operate Head Start in Champaign County. In 1998, HHS also awarded the original grant for Early Head Start to the County.

Eligibility for Head Start/Early Head Start services is based on family income. The program strives to maximize a family’s strengths, provide each child a rich and nurturing learning environment and ensure children’s medical and dental health needs are met. Champaign County Head Start/Early Head Start is a partner with families to prepare children for success in their home, school and community.

Thank you for taking the time to look over this report on our program from the 2009-2010 program year.

Kathleen Liffick
“The program has been helpful to my child and our family. Keep up the good work and the good spirit!”

A HS/EHS Parent

Financial Audit

The firm of Bray, Drake, Liles & Richardson LLP, certified public accountants, conducted the annual financial audit for Champaign County for the year ending November 30, 2009. The auditors issued an unqualified opinion with no financial compliance findings related to Champaign County Regional Planning Commission. The audit was completed in compliance with the requirements described in the U.S. Office of Management Budget (OMB) Circular A-133, to the Head Start program.