

Orange  County
Head Start, Inc.



**Launching
Into A
Brighter
Future**



**2009-2010
ANNUAL REPORT**

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A Message from our Leadership



Colleen Versteeg
Executive Director



Paul Ramirez
Chairman of the Board

Orange County Head Start, Inc. (OCHS) has completed another successful year! We wish to extend our sincere appreciation to the Board, Policy Council, Parents, Community Partners, and staff that have assisted us in making a positive and lasting impact on the 4,951 children and families served during the last year. Our success is dependent on the partnerships we have with you!

Providing quality early education and family support services is one of the smartest investments we can make. We are excited to report that in 2010, we began serving an additional 148 pregnant women, infants, and toddlers through a grant funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. This expansion of services allowed us to generate new community partnerships and reach out to a greater number of pregnant and parenting teens, foster children, and homeless families (see page 8).

OCHS strives to make a positive impact on Orange County's children, families, and communities. Our child assessments show the significant impact the program has had on the children's development during their enrollment (see page 9). We also continue to hear directly from the families we serve on how OCHS has positively affected their lives (see pages 11 and 16).

We remain committed to providing high quality, early childhood education, and family support services that enhance each child's developmental, physical, emotional, and social well-being through center and home base services. We welcome you to join us in identifying and meeting the needs of our families and community. Call to meet with one of the management team members at our new Administration Office in Santa Ana, stop by one of our centers, and/or plan to participate in our 4th Annual Family Festival coming up in April (see page 12).

We hope to hear from you and look forward to joining forces as we continue to launch Orange County's most vulnerable children and families into a brighter future!

**2009 – 2010
Board
of
Directors**



Susie Valdez, Board member

The Board of Directors consists of members who are drawn from the local community and have expertise beneficial to Orange County Head Start. They have the legal and fiscal responsibility for administering and overseeing the agency. The Board participates in the development, planning and evaluation of OCHS. The Board is responsible for ensuring compliance with federal laws and applicable state and local laws.

- Paul Ramirez - Chairperson, Boys & Girls Clubs of Garden Grove**
- Paula Mathis - Vice Chairperson, Community Advocate**
- Miriam White - Secretary, Community Advocate**
- Anita McCarthy - Treasurer, Community Advocate**
- Lizette E. Bande, M.Ed., CLEC, NuPac Obesity Prevention Plan**
- Susan Drummy, Turner Development**
- Rebecca Hernandez, Help Me Grow**
- Maggie Julian, Home Mortgage Consultant**
- Gina Lau, Pharm.D., Otsuka America Pharmaceutical, Inc.**
- Todd Lundell, Snell & Wilmer LLP**
- Tu-Quyen Pham, Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP**
- Cathy Wietstock, Orange County Department of Education**
- Michelle Esquivel, Policy Council Director**
- Debbie Golanka, Corinthian Colleges, Inc.**
- Matthew VanEck, FMV Opinions, Inc.**
- Pamela Wasley, Cerius Interim Executive Solutions**
- Paul Westberg, Westberg & White Architects and Planners**
- Russell Bell, Public in Reach**
- Susie Valdez, One Great Town, Inc.**
- Faustina Palafox, Policy Council Director**

Guiding Principles



ADVOCACY – We advocate on behalf of the children we serve by providing access to resources and protection of their rights and interests.

EMPOWERMENT – We provide the tools and environment to empower children and their families.

LEARNING – We are an organization dedicated to learning at all levels, especially during the early childhood years.

PARTNERSHIPS – We deliver services through partnerships and collaboration.

QUALITY – We ensure the quality of our programs through continuous improvement and outcome-based practices.

RESPECT – We respect diversity and acknowledge the value it brings to our community.

WELLNESS – We are committed to the emotional and physical well-being of our staff, children, and families.

Mission, Vision & Goals



MISSION

We provide children and their families with quality childhood development programs and integrated support services.

VISION

Orange County Head Start, Inc. (OCHS) is the catalyst that launches children and their families to a brighter future.

2010-2013 GOALS

GOAL 1

Prevent and reduce the occurrence of childhood obesity.

GOAL 2

Enhance employability and earning power for families and the community.

Background



Head Start programs provide comprehensive childhood development services to children and families, with special emphasis on promoting children’s school readiness in the areas of language and cognitive development, early reading, science and mathematics, social skills and physical development. Parents are empowered to be leaders, teachers, and advocates for their families, their children’s education and their communities. Although Head Start began as a program to prepare three and four year old children for entering kindergarten, the Early Head Start (EHS) program has since been established to assist pregnant mothers to increase healthy birth outcomes. Also, in recognition of the mounting evidence that the early childhood years are critical to children’s overall growth and development, EHS serves children from birth to three years of age.

Locally OCHS, a nonprofit agency incorporated in 1979, serves preschool-aged children, infants, toddlers, pregnant mothers, and families throughout Orange County and the city of Hawaiian Gardens, including children with disabilities, homeless and foster families, and teen parents. Early Head Start and Head Start programs and services are offered through centers and home-based programs at no cost to qualifying families. The grantee is funded to directly serve 2,638 children and families. Funding is allocated to five local delegate agencies to serve another 1,501. These five delegate agencies are: Anaheim City School District, Irvine Unified School District, the City of La Habra, Orange Children and Parents Together, Inc., and Santa Ana Unified School District.

Early Head Start and Head Start Programs

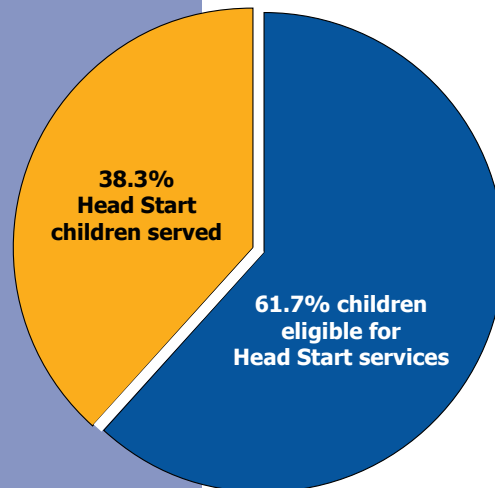


WHO DO WE SERVE?

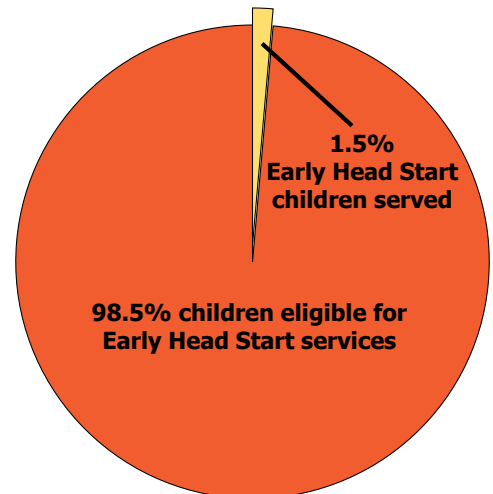
In Orange County there are 12,214 children who are income eligible for Head Start services, and 17,958 children eligible for Early Head Start services. Income eligibility is defined as those families who are at, or below the federal poverty level. In addition to establishing income eligibility, other eligibility criteria include: homelessness, children in foster care, families on public assistance, and children with disabilities. Our selection criteria for participation in the program ensures that children with the greatest need are served. For 2009 – 2010 the average monthly enrollment (as a percentage of funded enrollment) was 100%. Although OCHS is funded to serve only 4,139, due to attrition, the total number of children and families served was 4,951.

PERCENTAGE OF ELIGIBLE CHILDREN SERVED IN ORANGE COUNTY

HEAD START



EARLY HEAD START



Early Head Start and Head Start Programs



OCHS offers a variety of program options to meet family needs:

HEAD START:

Full Day : 6:30 AM-6:00 PM
Part Day : 8:00 AM-11:30 AM
12:30 PM-4:00 PM
4:30 PM-8:00 PM
Home Base

EARLY HEAD START:

Full Day: 6:30 AM-6:00 PM
Home Base

EDUCATION FRAMEWORK

In the classroom, the learning environment is arranged to accommodate a variety of children's strengths and needs, and to stimulate learning. OCHS Educational Framework...

- Ensures that the learning environment is developmentally and linguistically appropriate, recognizing that children have individual interests, temperaments, cultural backgrounds, and learning styles.
- Ensures that the learning environment supports the development of each child's social and emotional development, cognitive, language skills, and physical skills.
- Provides program services for infants and toddlers that encourages the development of a secure relationship between children and their teacher, and supports their social, emotional, and physical development.
- Involves parents in the program's curriculum and approach to child development and education, and in staff-parent conferences and home visits.

**Excerpt from the Head Start Bureau publication, "Revisit and Renew: Supporting Implementation of the Revised Head Start Program Performance Standards"*

OCHS provides high quality early childhood programming for children birth to five years old in several program options. Eligible families can choose between part-day, full-day or home-based programs. Home base services include: weekly home visits and two group socialization experiences per month. Facilities are licensed and staffed by early childhood professionals.

Early Head Start Program



THE EARLY HEAD START PHILOSOPHY

To promote healthy prenatal outcomes for pregnant women, enhance the development of very young children, and promote healthy family functioning.

EARLY HEAD START

OCHS offers an Early Head Start Program serving pregnant women and children ages birth to three years old. Services are provided in either a Home-based model or Center-based model. In Home-base, the services are designed to identify women in the early stages of pregnancy and provide initial support and ongoing Home-based services during pregnancy and after the child is born. All families receive comprehensive assessments and linkages to existing community resources.

EARLY HEAD START EXPANSION

Early Head Start Expansion was made possible under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-5). Funding has provided support for the enrollment of additional children and families.

During the process of expanding, OCHS collaborated with several community partners to provide services targeted at teen and homeless parents and their children.

New Centers/Programs under expansion:

- Tustin Family Campus – serving children under protective services through the Social Services Agency of Orange County.
- Buena Park Early Head Start—serving working parents in Buena Park and surrounding areas. The center is located at the Messiah Lutheran Church next door to the Whitaker Elementary where the Buena Park Head Start Center is located.
- Topaz Early Head Start – an additional Early Head Start class was added to the center already serving the Fullerton community.
- OCHS developed partnerships with Garden Grove Unified School District, Fullerton Joint Union High School District, and OCDE-ACCESS serving pregnant and teen parents. Also, a partnership was developed with Newport/Mesa School District to serve the high concentration of low income families living near the Matt Kline Head Start Center.

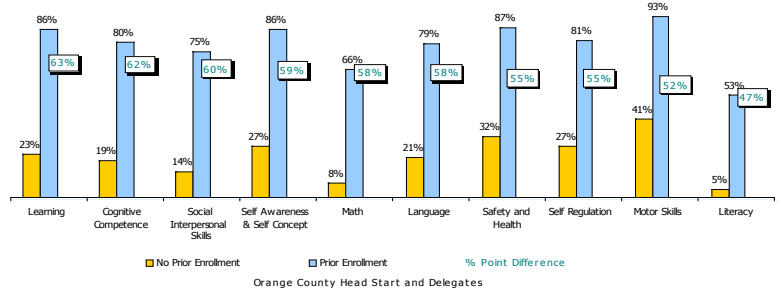
Head Start



SCHOOL READINESS

OCHS selected the DRDP-R Assessment tool in order to align our program assessment and curriculum with the California State Department of Education expectations and requirements as mandated in the Head Start Act. Child assessments were completed three times in the 2009 – 2010 school year (Fall, Winter and Spring).

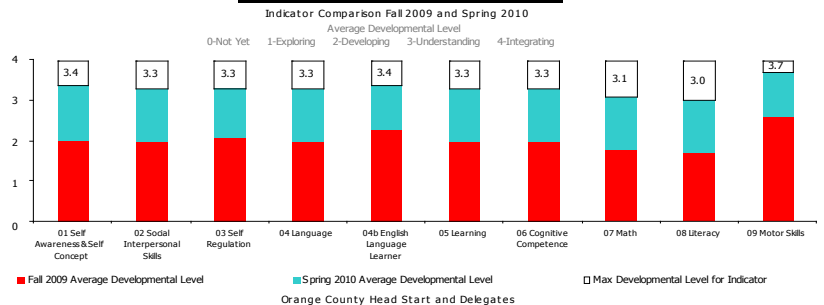
Orange County Head Start's Program Impact on Child Progress



PROGRAM IMPACT BY COMPARING SPRING TO FALL ASSESSMENTS CONTROLLING FOR AGE

- A regression analysis was completed by Child Care Results that holds constant variables like age, gender and other demographics to determine the relative impact of program participation.
- This graph compares assessment results from children who were four in the fall to children who were four in the spring.
- The two groups of children are all the same age, and have in common that they participated in the program.
- The biggest difference between the two groups is that the group that was 4 in the spring has had 6 months more experience in the program.
- The difference between the two groups is an indication of our program's impact on the child's development.

Average Developmental Levels for Preschoolers



Early Head Start and Head Start Programs



*Learning to Make
Healthy Food Choices*

NUTRITION SERVICES

Twenty-six percent of OCHS children were overweight in 2009-2010. This rate far exceeds the 14% of overweight preschoolers in Orange County. In an effort to reduce the rate of childhood obesity among OCHS participants and preschoolers county-wide, OCHS has placed a more intentional focus on preventative measures both internally and through community collaborations. OCHS has implemented “Let Me Play Head Start” across the agency, an initiative to support children and families in leading physically active lives.

The agency’s two central kitchens prepared and served over one million nutritious meals and snacks to children at Head Start centers throughout the county. These meals included a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables and avoided foods high in fat or sugar. Meals are served family style, a practice which has been shown to be associated with lower rates of obesity among preschool children.

OCHS has also continued partnerships with local community programs, including Healthy for Life/PE4Me, the Children and Families Commission’s Project LEAN Start (Lifestyle, Exercise, Attitude and Nutrition), Network for a Healthy California, and the local Cooperative Extension, to bring education about nutrition and physical activity to children, families, and staff. OCHS has taken many steps to combat childhood obesity and there are many more to come.

A Head Start Success Story



Mr. Chien Le & Helene

*Supporting the
Complete Needs of
the Family*

One of the first things most people notice about Mr. Chien Le is his infectious smile. His smile is at its brightest when he thinks about how OCHS has transformed his daughter Helene’s life. After only a few months at OCHS, Helene was coming home speaking English, singing songs and learning to do things on her own. Mr. Le recalls joyfully that Helene would come home from school and immediately run to the bathroom to wash her hands, never dreaming that personal hygiene would be a part of Helene’s curriculum. Her new-found self esteem, independence and self-sufficiency are only a few things Mr. Le is proud to boast about his daughter.

His daughter grew up in a Chinese-speaking home, but Helene is well on her way to becoming trilingual as she has learned both English and Vietnamese while in school. To his amazement, Helene came home one day discussing the weather, speaking in Vietnamese phrases Mr. Le had never taught. When asked about what he thinks are the best things about OCHS, he has no words—there are too many things for him to name.

OCHS has not only helped his daughter, but Mr. Le as well. He has learned how to budget and about proper nutrition through the classes provided by OCHS. Seeing how OCHS has changed his daughter’s life, Mr. Le has given back by volunteering before and after school, working around his ESL classes. He has been using his carpentry skills to fix equipment, monitoring the playground to ensure a safe playing environment for children and helping his daughter’s teacher set up the classroom each morning. His volunteer activities earned him the Lucia Palacios Parent of the Year Award this year. Mr. Le is happy to give back, especially when he thinks of every time he offers his help to his daughter and Helene tells him confidently, “Dad, I can do it.”

Early Head Start and Head Start Programs



*Community Partnerships:
Working Together*

Each year, the Family Festival provides an opportunity for over 3,000 children and families to receive health screenings, learn about community resources, and experience a day filled with interactive parent-child activities and entertainment.

Over 100 booths hosted by a variety of community agencies filled the Delhi Community Center and the surrounding park offering information and activities. The USC School of Pharmacy conducted osteoporosis, blood pressure and diabetes screenings, and the Hurtt Family Health Clinic performed children's dental screenings. For the first time, the event featured an Ask the Experts speaker series focused on topics related to parenting and raising healthy children.

OCHS hopes to bring the festival to new communities each year providing families and communities throughout the county an opportunity to participate in the event. Key benefits of this event include not only bringing valuable resources to families, but also presenting opportunities for community agencies throughout the county to form partnerships in providing services to these families.

Early Head Start and Head Start Programs



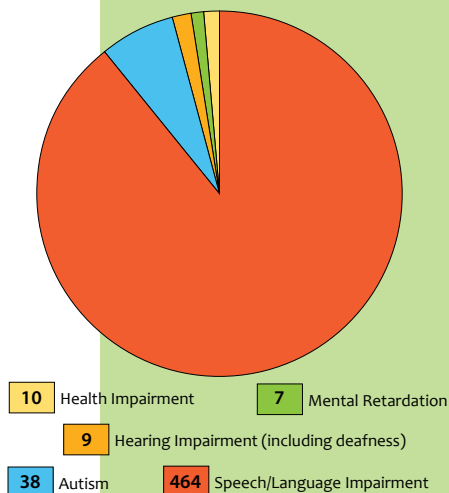
FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

The Social Services team works closely with Head Start families to identify family strengths and needs, to develop family partnership agreements, and to help families identify realistic goals that can be accomplished during their tenure in the Head Start program. By providing referrals, resources, and support, Family Service Advocates work with their families to improve their literacy and community outreach skills. Such skills will assist families as they transition to the public school system. The Family Service Advocates also track each family's progress. Tracking "Family Outcomes" was identified as an "exemplary practice" by the Federal Review Team during the 2010 Federal Review.

DISABILITIES SERVICES

Through partnerships with other agencies, i.e. United Cerebral Palsy of Orange County, Regional Center of Orange County, Orange County Department of Education, YMCA, United Way, and Help Me Grow, the number of children with disabilities enrolled in OCHS increased 20% in 2009 – 2010. The philosophy for the upcoming program year continues to be to expand its outreach to enroll children with more severe disabilities. This continued practice has established OCHS as a model for providing high quality, inclusive educational environments for children with disabilities.

Children with Special Needs



Early Head Start and Head Start Programs



Committed to Wellness

HEALTH SERVICES

OCHS staff works closely with the Women, Infant and Children Program (WIC) and CalOptima during the enrollment process to help families sign-up for health insurance and food programs. OCHS continues to strengthen its ability to provide comprehensive health services for children and families by partnering with an extensive network of medical providers. In addition to the services provided by the Head Start Health Staff, a strong relationship with community partners provides a seamless system of care for Head Start and Early Head Start children and families, linking them to on-going sources of continuous health care. For the 2009-2010 school year 100% of enrolled children received medical exams.

DENTAL SERVICES

Working with Community Outreach Staff and Center Directors, the Health Services staff was able to identify the dental needs of families during the OCHS enrollment fairs. OCHS expanded partnerships with private dentists and the Healthy Smiles of Orange County Clinic to increase services and outreach to families without insurance or dental providers. Also, with the help of the Health Education Liaison Program (H.E.L.P.), many parents attended classes on the importance of preventive oral health care. These parents were then able to share this information with other parents resulting in 96% of enrolled children receiving dental exams.

Early Head Start and Head Start Programs



*Reading Together
Opens a Child's World*

FAMILY LITERACY

OCHS is a Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) Family of Readers program participant. The program is designed to help parents develop the skills and self-confidence needed to help their children read and learn. Family of Readers also gives children books to own and engages them in motivational reading activities that parents help plan and conduct. Through the Family of Readers program, children come to love books and to think of themselves as readers. This past year, over 9,000 books were provided to children enrolled in the program. Three times during the 2009 – 2010 school year, each child was allowed to select his/her own book for their family library. In addition, the center staff, parents and community volunteers engaged the children in literacy activities prior to them selecting their books. Two thousand, two hundred Head Start families participated in the “Twice Upon A Time Reading Challenge” to encourage reading a certain amount of hours over a two week period. Many of the families chose to continue with the challenge beyond the two weeks. The Center Directors provided RIF Orientation and three literacy workshops related to the importance of reading to 3,150 parents. Over the course of the school year 2,525 parents volunteered in the RIF program. Community Involvement is strongly encouraged, and 166 members of the community also assisted. This comprehensive approach intentionally engages parents and children in an array of educational experiences separately and together to strengthen the learning bond to foster lifelong learning within the family.

Another Head Start Success Story



Librada Garcia & Shailly

*Learning and Sharing
the Gift of Language*

Ms. Librada Garcia came to Brea Head Start three years ago when her son, Brandon, and then later her daughter, Shailly, started attending class at the site. She volunteered her time to assist the teachers and staff in their work in the classroom and offices. However, Ms. Garcia was only able to communicate to the staff in Spanish as she had no English language skills. This, along with her desire to help her children with their homework motivated her to learn English. Ms. Garcia found free ESL classes through the parent notification board at Brea Head Start. With the support and direction provided by the staff at Brea Head Start, she attended classes and now is fluent in the English language. She has used these skills to further assist at the Brea Head Start center, even though her children have graduated from the program. She has an active role providing help to Spanish speaking parents and attending Head Start meetings and workshops. Not only is she an irreplaceable asset at the Brea site, but Ms. Garcia now also volunteers at Laurel Elementary, where her children currently attend school. There, she assists in her children's classrooms and provides a bilingual resource to the school for Spanish speaking parents. With access to the resources provided by Head Start, and her determined perseverance, Ms. Garcia was able to successfully gain a skill that has benefited her, her children, and Head Start. She was chosen as the Lucia Palacios Parent of the Year in 2010. As for Brandon and Shailly, Ms. Garcia indicated their involvement in Head Start provided an educational foundation for the next level, and great friendships which have continued into their new school.

Financial Management



PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FUNDS

OCHS received a total of \$39,280,231 from the following sources:

Head Start Grants.....	\$34,248,805
In-Kind Donations.....	\$3,434,833*
Child and Adult Care Food Program (USDA).....	\$1,430,937
Moskowitz Grant (annual private donation).....	\$10,000
Reading is Fundamental Grant	\$16,276
E-Rate.....	\$80,428
Other.....	\$58,952
TOTAL	\$39,280,231

Additional In-Kind contributions of \$5,139,563 for volunteer services are not included in the audits financial statement as they do not meet the criteria for recognition under ASC 958. They do, however, meet the requirements for Head Start non federal share.

** In-kind or non-federal share is the community's contribution to the local head start program. Accordingly, Head Start programs are required to generate 20% of their total budget amount through local contributions. In-kind includes donated supplies, reduction in lease payments, and professional and parent volunteer services.*

BUDGETARY EXPENDITURES

Personnel And Related Costs	\$27,074,291
Physical Space	\$5,510,119
Classroom Supplies, Office Supplies, Equipment.....	\$4,546,764
Contractual.....	\$1,684,552
Training And Technical Support.....	\$464,505
TOTAL	\$39,280,231

Financial Management



Reported expenditures were in line with our budget for 2009-2010 and supported our program goals and objectives. The agency will continue with its emphasis on developing new facilities as we transition our centers to identified geographic areas of greatest need for Head Start services.

FINANCIAL AUDIT AND FEDERAL OVERSIGHT

Our recently concluded independent audit was performed by the firm of Rossi, Doskocil & Finkelstein, LLP., Certified Public Accountants. The audit covered the financial position of OCHS activities through June 30, 2010. The audit found that OCHS complied, in all material respects, with the terms of its funding, and the conditions of OMB Circular A-133 Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations.

OCHS underwent a successful triennial Federal Review by the Office of Head Start (OHS) in April 2010. A Certificate of Compliance was awarded to OCHS by OHS that acknowledges full compliance with all applicable Head Start Program Performance Standards, laws, regulations, and policy requirements.

Volunteer Opportunities



2009-10 Policy Council

POLICY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

The Policy Council is comprised of parents who have children enrolled in Head Start and three Community Representatives. The Policy Council meets monthly to make decisions, and is responsible for the direction of OCHS, including program design, operation, long and short-term planning goals and objectives. Policy Council members serve as a link to the center Parent Committees and the community.

DADS MATTER

OCHS provides a fatherhood program to promote and support the importance of fathers. Dads Matter is a unique and innovative fatherhood program focusing on characteristics that every father needs, and covers the universal aspects of fatherhood so that men from all backgrounds can benefit. Fathers learn about themselves and the important role they have with their children and families.

SAFETY ASSISTANT MONITOR (SAM)

Safety Assistant Monitors work in collaboration with staff to monitor safety practices at OCHS centers. Parents review classrooms and outdoor areas on a monthly basis to ensure that safety practices are in place and also attend a monthly class/meeting held at the OCHS office in Santa Ana. SAM parents must have a child currently enrolled in Head Start and can receive one college credit for their participation.

Volunteer Opportunities



Engaging Parents in Their Children's Learning

PARENT NUTRITION ASSISTANT (PNA)

Parent volunteers promote healthy eating and physical activity. Parent Nutrition Assistants are enrolled in a college course, and receive one college unit for completing the course.

HEALTH EDUCATION LIAISON PROGRAM (H.E.L.P.)

The Health Education Liaison Program (H.E.L.P.) provides health training and information to enable volunteers to give demonstrations to the children in the classroom and to parents at parent meetings. Health staff and health provider trainings help families learn the importance of early prophylactic dental care, signs and symptoms of illness, when to contact their doctor, and other health alerts and practices.

HUMAN RESOURCES INTERVIEW PANELS

Parents participate on interview panels to help assure that OCHS hires the most qualified staff. They also acquire skills to help them become great interviewers.

HEALTH SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (HSAC)

The HSAC helps OCHS establish ongoing collaborative partnerships with community organizations to make it easier for children and families to access health services.

Early Head Start and Head Start Facilities



STANTON HEAD START
This year OCHS moved the Costa Mesa facility to a high need area in Stanton. This facility has been renovated including landscaping and a new play structure.



All of the OCHS facilities meet applicable state and local licensing requirements. The facilities provide a physical environment responsive to the needs of the children and families served. Our quality facilities provide a learning environment that supports children's growth in language, literacy, mathematics, science, social and emotional functioning and physical skills.

Every OCHS classroom is designed to provide a safe and developmentally appropriate learning environment. Classrooms are organized into functional areas that are recognized by the children and allow for individual activities and social interactions.

BUENA PARK EARLY HEAD START. OCHS received funds for Early Head Start Expansion and renovated a portion of Messiah Lutheran Church to serve as the new Buena Park Early Head Start Center, with two classrooms.

AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) With additional funds from ARRA, OCHS purchased new shade structures, pour

in-place surfacing and playground structures for the following centers: Jeanne Hardy, Walter, Stanton, Buena Park, Topaz EHS, Evelyne Lobo Villegas, Brea and D.L. Wood, as well as upgraded the landscaping at several of our other sites.

 *Orange County Head Start, Inc.*



Empowering Children & Families

Administration

Orange County Head Start, Inc.

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