

**NEW YORK STATE  
HEAD START COLLABORATION PROJECT  
End of the Year Report, October 2012**

Head Start Collaboration Director

**Patricia E. Persell**

NYS Council on Children and Families

52 Washington Street

West Building, Suite 99

Rensselaer, New York 12144

518-474-9352

[Patricia.persell@ccf.ny.gov](mailto:Patricia.persell@ccf.ny.gov)

Program Specialist

**Maya Thet Oaks**

Administration on Children and Families Region II

26 Federal Plaza

Room 4114

New York, NY 10278

212-264-2890 x126

[Maya.Thet@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:Maya.Thet@acf.hhs.gov)

Fiscal Specialist

**Amin Islam**

Administration on Children and Families Region II

26 Federal Plaza

Room 4114

New York, NY 10278

212-264-2890

[Amin.islam@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:Amin.islam@acf.hhs.gov)

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During the past year, the New York State Head Start Collaboration Project has continued to focus its efforts on fostering collaborations with state and local agencies and initiatives seeking to address a range of children and family issues including activities in the majority of the Head Start priority areas. At the same time, the Collaboration Project has worked to establish and maintain an appropriate role for Head Start in state policy deliberations while providing timely information to assist Head Start programs in adjusting to changes in state policies and programs. While much has been accomplished, and most short-term goals have been reached, more remains to be done. Below is a brief update since the last report, covering October 2011 – September 2012, on each national priority area.

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**PRIORITY AREAS**

**I. Health Care**

**Obesity Prevention** - The Collaboration Director serves as a steering committee member of the state's *Preventing Childhood Obesity in Child Care Settings Partnership (Partnership)* and serves as the lead on the Supporting Breastfeeding in Child Care subcommittee. The Partnership continues its' efforts with CACFP to establish more Breastfeeding Friendly Child Care Centers in the State. The Partnership together with the Promoting Healthy Development Work Group of the ECAC was also instrumental in including language in the QUALITYstarsNY program standards, the Core Body of Knowledge, the NYS Early Learning Guidelines, and the NYS Child Care Regulations to support breastfeeding friendly child care centers and homes, reduction of sugar sweetened beverages and screen time, and increased physical activity. The Collaboration Director has also been asked to serve on a new group, *New York State Pediatric Obesity Prevention in Health Care Settings Guidance Team*, which had its first meeting in September. The goal of this team is to guide the work of the pediatric obesity prevention initiative in the state.

**Developmental Screening** - Promoting Healthy Development Work Group of the Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) is working with the NYS Department of Health the New York Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatricians to promote routine developmental screening of all young children so that children experiencing developmental delays are identified as early in life as possible

**Dental Home Initiative-** Prior to the end of Office of Head Start Dental Home Initiative, the Collaboration Director had been in regular communication with Dr. Amr Moursi and Dr. Courtney Chinn to help meet the oral health needs of the families enrolled in Head Start and Early Head Start grantee programs in New York State. As part of that effort, Dr. Chinn presented at the May 2012 New York State Head Start Conference in Albany, NY.

In addition, the Collaboration Director attended the Oral Health Summit at the Region II Office of Head Start in September 2012. At that meeting, the Collaboration Director was able to connect with Elizabeth Best at the NYU College of Dentistry, who will work with the KWIC Team here at the NYS Council on Children and Families, to potentially add pediatric dentists to the KWIC maps as a resource on the CCF website <http://www.nyskwic.org/>. (For a description of KWIC go to page 8) KWIC now has data by county and online reports that individuals can run via the web. The 2012 Data Book includes county maps (with towns, cities and tribal nations) with rates of families living in poverty and other indicators of child and family well-being. In addition, the KWIC mapping effort is now being expanded to include locations of community assets. All Early Head Start and Head Start center locations have been included as on as part of the first set of resources that have been added to the site. **Hearing Screening Initiative** - The Collaboration Director spoke with the Director of the ECHO Initiative, Jeff Hoffman, about what the hearing screening needs and resources are for the Early Head Start children in the state. She put Jeff in

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contact with the Migrant and Seasonal Program in New York State to see if their children's needs are being met in terms of hearing screening and follow up. The Collaboration Director will also add a question to the next State Needs Assessment that will ask about what hearing screening equipment Early Head Start programs already have and what technical assistance they might need to using the equipment properly.

**Mental Health-** The NYS Head Start Collaboration Office, in collaboration with the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems grant, has promoted a web-based training resource for child care health consultants to ensure that they are informed about Early Head Start and Head Start resources and issues. In addition, the two projects collaborated on a presentation conducted by a child care health consultant at the NYSAEYC conference, in Buffalo, NY, April 2012. The session focused on how licensed centers can better utilize the skills of their Child Care Health Consultants.

## II. Welfare

**WIC Services** - The Collaboration Director is in the process of making connections to establish more on-site Women Infants and Children (WIC) offices to reach the approximately 1,500 Early Head Start and Head Start children that are eligible for WIC but are not currently enrolled. She also sits on a WIC Enrollment Advisory Board that is working on retaining children in WIC after they turn one year old. These efforts continue.

## III. Child Welfare

No new activity

## V. Education *(This section includes activities related to Head Start Priority Area #2- Seamless Transitions)*

**Early Learning Standards Alignment** - The Collaboration Office researched, produced and disseminated a 24 page booklet entitled, ***New York State Early Learning Alignment Crosswalk***. This seminal document aligns the different practice guidelines in the state (the Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework, The New York State Prekindergarten Foundation for the Common Core, and the New York State Early Learning Guidelines) into one coherent and practical guide or 'crosswalk' for early childhood professionals. The goal of this booklet is to help the field of early childhood providers understand how the three sets of standards can be used together to support all young children in the state with school readiness. The crosswalk booklet was provided to all Head Start and Early Head Start programs in the state, and was presented at the New York State Association for the Education of Young Children Conference in Buffalo, NY in April 2012. It was also given to all participants at the May 2012 NYS Head Start Association Conference in Albany, NY, and to participants at the NYC Kindergarten Transition Forum, June 1, 2012, Manhattan, and at the Head Start In-service Day, August 28, 2012 in Albany, NY. The document can be found here <http://ccf.ny.gov/HS/hsResources/Crosswalk.pdf>

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**Kindergarten Transition Forums** - The Collaboration Director has met with representatives from the State Education Department, The NYS Head Start Technical Assistance Manager, the New York City Department of Education and the ACF Regional Office to coordinate a series of kindergarten transition forums around the state. Using the New York City Transition Forum, held on June 1, 2012, as a model, the Collaboration Project will support additional transition forums around the state in the coming year. Planning has begun in Rochester, Syracuse, Long Island, Rensselaer County, and the six counties served by the Capital District Child Care Coordinating Council.

**Prekindergarten MOUs** -The Collaboration Director has met with representatives from the State Education Department and the NYS Prekindergarten Administrators' Association to help resolve some of the issues around the development of successful and meaningful Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) between Head Start programs and school districts implementing Universal Prekindergarten. The Collaboration Project also continue to disseminate a template and tip sheet to aid Head Start grantees in this process, which was emailed to all Head Start Directors and Prekindergarten Administrators in the state, along with a letter from the NYS Education Department of Early Learning.

## **VI. Professional Development**

(This section includes activities related to Head Start Priority Area #1 – Collaborations with Institutions of Higher Education)

**Professional Development** - The Collaboration Director is taking a number of steps to address professional development issues for staff in Early Head Start and Head Start programs. This work includes efforts to establish a loan forgiveness program for time spent teaching in Head Start and Early Head Start, working towards a policy change that would allow teaching in a Head Start or Early Head Start program to count towards Birth – Grade 2 teacher certification, and working with the Office of Head Start to establish that the NYS Infant and Toddler credential meets or exceeds the Office of Head Start requirement for Early Head Start teachers to possess a CDA or related credential. This policy work is ongoing.

**System Development** - The Collaboration Director is a member of the **Early Childhood Advisory Council's Workforce Development Work Group** which is continuing to work on the following components of a comprehensive early childhood professional development system:

- Launching an early learning staff registry (called **Aspire**) for the state's early learning workforce which contains individual's qualifications and a professional development tracking and validation service. Currently, each of the programs that are participating in QUALITYstarsNY are joining Aspire.
- Disseminating and developing training on the *New York State Early Learning Guidelines* and the *New York State Core Body of Knowledge*.
- Helping to prepare the workforce for the implementation of QUALITYstarsNY, by encouraging early childhood trainers in the state to obtain the Early Childhood Trainer Credential.
- Revising the *NYS Early Learning Guidelines* to include children up to 8 years of age.

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- Developing a NYS Early Learning Guidelines book for parents and Family Child Care providers.

### **VII. Community Services**

In New York, efforts to support parents are led by the *New York State Parenting Education Partnership* (NYSPEP), with the Council on Children and Families staff providing significant leadership.

[www.parentingeducationpartnership.org](http://www.parentingeducationpartnership.org)

The Collaboration Director distributes regular emails to the Early Head Start, Head Start, Migrant and Seasonal and American Indian grantees to keep them up-to-date on the work of the NYSPEP. (See page 14-15 for more information on NYSPEP)

### **VIII. Family Literacy**

No new activity

### **IX. Children with Disabilities**

No new activity

### **X. Homeless Families**

The Collaboration Director made a connection with the New York State Technical and Education Assistance Center for Homeless Students (NYS-TEACHS) and has emailed information on McKinney-Vento training opportunities and resources to all grantees and delegates, most recently, *McKinney-Vento 101: Rights of Students in Temporary Housing*. NYS-TEACHS provides technical assistance to school districts, social service providers, shelters, families, youth and others about the rights of students experiencing homelessness in New York State. NYS-TEACHS is funded by the New York State Education Department and is housed at Advocates for Children in New York City.

## **COLLABORATION GRANT ASSESSMENT**

The Collaboration Director has regularly assessed the projects and activities of this grant in several ways. They include:

### **Assessment of 5-Year Plan**

Upon formal acceptance of New York's five-year plan by the Office of Head Start, the Collaboration Director attended cluster meetings around the state to discuss the Head Start Collaboration Project and its 5-year plan. This process also provided an opportunity for obtaining feedback on the direction of the project as well as providing information on project activities. The cluster meetings also provide an opportunity to identify representatives from Head Start programs to serve on work groups. Information obtained from program directors and cluster meetings will be used to modify the plan and activities.

The following meetings were attended by the Collaboration Director:

- NYSHSA Board meeting: HSSCO summary of activities, received specific feedback on the Five-year Plan, Albany, 1/10/12

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- Quarterly Meetings conducted by the Regional Office with the RPM, TA, and State Collaboration Directors
- NYS Head Start Association Conference, Albany, NY May 17, 2012
- In-service Head Start Event, Albany, August 28, 2012

**Assessment of Collaboration Project Activities**

Assessment strategies include interviews of project participants to assess effectiveness of individual activities. In addition, the Collaboration Director's attendance at cluster meetings provides an opportunity to discuss project activities and the extent to which they are supportive of Head Start programs' efforts to meet the needs of the children and families they serve.

**Grantee and Delegate Needs Assessment**

Biannually the Collaboration Director updates the grantee needs assessment and works closely with the NYS Head Start Association in planning all needs assessment activities including data collection efforts, instrument development, and data analysis. This planning took place again in December 2011 after the release of the updated national state needs assessment toolkit (created by the Office of Head Start and a work group of State Collaboration Directors, Bob Frawley was on this national work group).

In partnership with the Regional Office of Head Start, the NYS Head Start Collaboration project will have access to a policy intern who is a second year student at Columbia University School of Social Work. The primary focus of her studies is social work policy; she will assist in the Collaboration Office with the final steps of the grantee Needs Assessment, and will provide an outside perspective on the data analysis. This graduate level policy intern will be with the ACF Regional Office for 3 months.

**Regional Office/ National Priorities**

The Collaboration Director communicates regularly with the Regional Office and all Head Start and Early Head Start grantees and delegates in the state by email, sharing relevant state and national policy changes, announcements and resources to support their programs. Such communications recently included FEMA resources, crib safety requirements, upcoming state conferences, and other training and professional development resources.

- **Fatherhood Involvement:** The ACF Fatherhood Initiative Coordinator for Region II was a member of New York State Parenting Education Partnership (NYSPEP). NYSPEP also has a strong connection with the joint Fatherhood Initiative out of the Office of Temporary Disability and Assistance and the Office of Children and Family Services, and shares some membership.
- **Healthy Marriage:** No new activity

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- **Head Start Technical Assistance Network:** The Collaboration Director has monthly meetings with the State TA Manager to ensure two-way communication of state initiatives and grantee needs. There is also a TA team representative on each of the six Early Childhood Advisory Council Work Groups: Workforce Development, Data Development, Finance, Promoting Healthy Development, Strong Families, and Quality Improvement.
  
- **Professional Development:** The Early Childhood Advisory Council's Early Learning Workforce Development Work Group is building the core components of an early childhood career development system for the state. This will necessitate working with college and university early childhood education programs and professional associations to ensure that instructional programs are aligned with the needs of professionals working with children birth through 8 years of age. An important goal of this effort is to support the development of a range of educational opportunities that support early childhood staff advancing their knowledge and skills. Other system components being developed include a multi-dimensional career lattice, staff registry, and a trainer's certification and registry.
  
- **Community Action Agencies:** the new Executive Director of the New York State Community Action Association has been added as a member of the New York State Early Childhood Advisory Council.
  
- **New York State Head Start Association:** The Collaboration Director has a strong collaboration with the NYS Head Start Association. The Collaboration Director assists the Association in planning the state conference, present at each other's meetings and this year (along with TA) we formed a joint committee on teacher qualifications.
  
- **New York State Head Start Association Conference:** The Collaboration Director helped to arrange for state speakers at the May 2012 conference, including presenters on the following topics: fingerprinting, licensing, and Kids Count Data.  
The Kids' Well-being Indicators Clearinghouse (KWIC) Project Coordinator presented an overview of KWIC. The data indicators on KWIC are organized by the Touchstones framework of life areas: economic security, health, family, civic engagement, education and community. The common set of goals and objectives within Touchstones cuts across all service systems and allows individuals and organization with diverse missions to come together to improve conditions for children and families. Touchstones data on KWIC can help focus planning and decision-making by providing an overview of the well-being of children, youth and families; comparing their current status to that of the past; describing changes over time; and providing benchmarks. Providing an overview of KWIC and its relevance to local planning, we hope that Head Start program directors will be able to use KWIC data in their annual community assessment and other grant proposals, to show the needs and strengths of their community in relation to child well-being indicators.

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- **Child Care Support for Military Families Located off Bases:** In order to assure proper support of military families living off military bases the Collaboration Director is building a relationship with the Office of Military Affairs. This helps to support the communication with military case managers in understanding how to help military families apply for Early Head Start and Head Start in their areas.
- **Support of the Coordination of Head Start Services to AIAN and Migrant and Seasonal Head Start programs in New York State:** There is a Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Executive Director on the New York State Early Childhood Advisory Council. The Head Start Collaboration Director helps to ensure that the technical assistance efforts in the state also include the AIAN and Migrant and Seasonal programs. The Collaboration Director sends out e-mail communication to publicize technical assistance activities.

**Head Start Collaboration Office and the New York State Early Childhood Advisory Council**

**Bob Frawley**, The Deputy Director, of the NYS Council on Children and Families, is the Co-Chair of the full Early Childhood Advisory Council and the Data Development Work Group, and member of The Finance Work Group, and oversees the activities of all Early Childhood Advisory Council work groups and the Early Childhood Advisory Council Steering Committee. Mr. Frawley is the direct supervisor of the Collaboration Director.

**Patricia Persell**, The NYS Head Start Collaboration Director, is a member of the Early Childhood Advisory Committee and is an active member on the following work groups: Workforce Development, Quality Improvement, and Promoting Healthy Development and is a member of the Early Childhood Advisory Council Steering Committee. She was actively involved in the creation of the revised QUALITYstarsNY center based standards and commissioned a crosswalk and analysis of the Head Start Monitoring Protocol and Performance Standards and the QUALITYstarsNY standards. She is currently the chair of the QUALITYstarsNY Standards subcommittee and is a member of the Implementation subcommittee.

**Summary of the NYS Early Childhood Advisory Council Work Groups' Recent Activities**

All of the six work groups have been working hard to supply QUALITYstarsNY with resources and guidance for each of the center based and family childcare standards.

**1. Promoting Healthy Development (PHD) Work Group**

The Promoting Healthy Development Work Group has been engaged in a variety of projects that continue to incorporate health and social-emotional development into the overall work of the Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC). This work includes: compiling best practices and research-based resources on social-emotional development; infusing information on social-emotional development promotion, prevention and intervention into the training of professionals who work with young children and their families; and developing strategies for integrating screenings and evidenced-based curriculum and other program supports into early care and education and primary care settings.

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In addition, the work group has been working to establish a system for universal developmental screening for all children in New York. Work group members are also working with the American Academy of Pediatrics to integrate health into early care and education. The work at this point has been influencing national standards that will trickle down to state standards over the next year.

The Promoting Healthy Development Work Group is also beginning to work closely with efforts to strengthen Child Care Health Consultation. In addition, the work group continues to incorporate the work of the Centers for Disease Control's Healthy Child Care project of the New York State Department of Health. The project is working on reducing screen time in child care settings, creating a breastfeeding friendly child care center designation and promoting nutrition and physical activity initiatives. The Promoting Healthy Development co-chairs have also engaged with the Children, Youth and Families Task Force of Health Care for All New Yorkers that is working to ensure that the Affordable Care Act is implemented in New York in a manner that will benefit all children. This work will inform the work group's upcoming efforts to connect early care and education to health care and medical homes.

## **2. Quality Improvement Work Group**

**QUALITYstarsNY** is being implemented in 400 child care sites and homes located near the 67 Persistently Low Achieving schools. These sites will be funded by the State Education Department through their original Race to the Top grant. In addition, using ECAC funding, implementation will also include approximately 70 sites that participated in the field test that are not located in a community surrounding a persistently low achieving school. The Collaboration Director is a member of the Quality Improvement Work Group and chairs the **QUALITYstarsNY** Standards Subcommittee and is a member of the Implementation Subcommittee that meets every two weeks to resolve issues that come up during the implementation of **QUALITYstarsNY**.

### **Current accomplishments and activities include:**

- Recruitment of 400 child care centers, family and group family child care homes, and group homes to participate in the implementation of **QUALITYstarsNY**, **65 of these are Head Start or Early Head Start providers.**
- In October 2012 40 Universal Prekindergarten classrooms in persistently low performing school districts were invited to enroll in **QUALITYstarsNY**.
- Universal Prekindergarten programs (operated by a school district) have an abridged set of standards, which recognize the uniqueness of how these programs are administered as opposed to other early childhood education programs such as program administration, benefits and budget development process
- **QUALITYstarsNY** program standards for center based and family child care have been aligned with K-12 learning standards and have been cross-walked with Head Start program performance standards, the National Family Child Care Accreditation and the National Association for the Education of Young Children accreditation standards. This allows centers and family child care homes that are already accredited or in full compliance with Head Start performance standards to only answer to the standards that are not included in the specific accreditation.

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**3. Workforce Development Work Group**

The Workforce Development Work Group is organized to advance the components of an “Early Learning Professional Development System” and respond to related issues such as coordination of pre-service education in early childhood (i.e., articulation agreements among institutions of higher education); recruitment, staff retention, continuing education and compensation.

Work group members are working to create and implement a competency-based professional development system through a variety of related activities. They have completed the following projects in partnership with the NYS Council on Children and Families and the NYS Head Start Collaboration Office:

- Produced and disseminated the new Early Learning Guidelines;
- Revised the Core Body of Knowledge;
- Launched an online Workforce Registry (called Aspire); and
- Continuing to research the issues of transition between two and four year colleges.

**4. Data Development Work Group**

The Data Development Work Group was established to design a statewide early learning longitudinal data system that helps state and local agencies and others identify trends, answer policy questions, and plan for program development. Given the scope of the initiative, current efforts have been focused on establishing an early learning portion of what is hoped to be a much larger data system. Plans are to extend this effort to other early childhood service systems and to link each of these data systems to the P-20 student tracking system being developed by the New York State Education Department. Staff members of the Data Development Work Group are actively participating on the Steering Committee and Project Team of NYS Education Department’s P-20 Data System Project, and have been successfully working on the inclusion of available early childhood data in the P-20 Data System. When this data is combined and then connected to the New York State Education Department data, there will be a much fuller picture of the early childhood education system in New York State, including the program and providers, staff members and the children and families they serve.

In New York State, there are 12 different data systems being used in 7 different public and private organizations that are involved in early childhood education. Unfortunately, even with all of these disparate data systems, there are a large percentage of children in New York State for whom we have no information. In 1-3 years, we could have a data warehouse that would be able to link data from a number of different systems which would allow us to get information on:

- Regulated and licensed child care facilities and family child care homes
- QUALITYstarsNY ratings on these facilities and child care homes
- Legally exempt providers who serve children receiving subsidized child care services
- The demographic, education and training history of staff providing early childhood education services

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- Demographic, attendance, and assessment data on children receiving some sort of publicly funded early childhood education services:
  - Subsidized child care
  - Early Intervention
  - Head Start/ Early Head Start
  - Preschool Special Education
  - Universal Prekindergarten

**5. Finance Work Group**

The Finance Work Group is working with the firm of Augenblick, Palaich and Associates, Inc. (APA) to develop the **New York State Early Childhood Cost Model System**. The system will be defined by domains (Early Learning, Strong Families, Healthy Children, and Coordinated and Responsive Systems) which are consistent with the ECAC focus areas, and cost elements supported by program and service funding/data information. The cost model, which is expected to debut in December, will provide information and analysis for determining alternative financing strategies for early childhood services; allow for maximizing existing resources to support the goals of a coordinated and comprehensive service system; and identify barriers associated with early childhood services.

**6. Strong Families Work Group**

It is the goal of this work group that all families of young children are supported in their parenting and have the knowledge, skills, confidence, and resources they need to raise their children in healthy and nurturing environments. This workgroup strives to increase opportunities for all families to gain the knowledge, skills, confidence, and social supports needed to nurture the health, safety, and positive development of children.

**Accomplishments and activities include:**

**Promoting Evidenced Based Parenting Education** - The ECAC Strong Families Work Group, through collaborative efforts with the New York State Parenting Education Partnership (NYSPEP), has supported several initiatives aimed at providing a framework of professional development for parenting educators and increasing the availability and accessibility of parenting education resources for families. As an innovative public private partnership between the Office of Mental Health, the Office of Children and Family Services, the Council on Children and Families, and Prevent Child Abuse New York, NYSPEP serves as a membership organization of parenting educators and state policy makers that work together to promote evidence based parenting education practices and programs. Within the last 18 months, NYSPEP has carried out the following activities:

- NYSPEP held four regional Strong Roots full day professional development workshops for parenting educators. Topics include Social Emotional Development; Parenting Styles; Communication Skills; and Group Facilitation. Online webinars were also held on topics including Adverse Childhood Experiences.

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- Completed efforts to define the core competencies of parenting educators and began work to establish a four -tiered Parenting Education Credential. Completed and pilot tested the first two tiers. To date, 35 credentials have been issued to parenting educators throughout the state.
- Allocated funds to 13 communities to increase local access to evidence-based parenting education programs. These grants were awarded on a competitive basis and will be used over the next nine months to increase the number and location of parenting education classes and reimburse families for child care or transportation.

**New Parent Kit/Parenting Education Campaign** – The Strong Families Work Group and NYSPEP have made significant progress to develop a comprehensive Parent Kit that will offer families information on parenting and the resources they need to provide their new baby with a nurturing environment and promote their child’s healthy development. Stakeholders met in the spring of 2012 to develop the concept and key goals for a Parent Guide, which will be the core component of the Parent Kit. A professional writer and parenting education expert have been hired to develop the Parent Guide. Sample chapters have been drafted and will be reviewed by a panel of experts and key stakeholders before being presented to parent focus groups for feedback.

**Community Cafés** - In addition to parenting education efforts, the ECAC Strong Families Work Group and NYSPEP have been working on a project aimed at strengthening families and engaging communities through the Community Café approach of building parent leadership and community capacity. With the support of the New York State Head Start Collaboration Project, and the National Alliance of Children’s Trust and Prevention Funds, NYSPEP will build on past efforts to bring the Café approach to New York State. To carry out its work to support Community Café, NYSPEP issued a request for proposals asking community organizations to form Community Teams comprised of community partners and parent leaders. A total of 16 Community Teams were selected to participate in regional Community Café trainings that were held across the state in September, 7 teams are from Head Start programs.

**Home Visiting** - The ECAC’s Strong Families Work Group continues to work with the Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy, the Department of Health, which is the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Grantee (MIECHV) for New York State, and other stakeholders as members of the New York State Home Visiting Coalition. Current Coalition activities aimed at identifying families in need of services and expanding home visiting services for these families include:

- Supporting the development of the NYS Department of Health’s Healthy Mom-Healthy Baby Prenatal and Postpartum Home Visiting (HMHB) program, a pilot program in 6 high-risk counties that is designed to develop organized community systems of maternal and infant health and home visiting services. HMHB programs are promoting use of the Department’s Medicaid Prenatal Care Coordination form to facilitate identification of high-risk pregnant, Medicaid eligible women early in pregnancy; assess their risks and healthcare needs; and make referrals to appropriate services including home visiting services.

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- Working with the Department of Health to expand home visiting services through the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting grant program.
- Supporting the Department of Health's inclusion of home visiting in its Medicaid waiver application.
- Releasing a policy brief on financing options for a comprehensive, state-wide home visiting system.

## Conclusion

During these times of great change in early childhood programs simultaneously with great national and state reforms within the health care service delivery system, the New York State Head Start Collaboration Project has focused its efforts on strengthening collaborations with state and local agencies and to keep early childhood education a priority. At the same time, the Collaboration Project has worked to establish and maintain an appropriate role for Head Start in state policy deliberations while providing timely information to assist Head Start and Early Head Start programs in adjusting to changes in state policies and programs. The Collaboration Project has been and remains open to new endeavors that benefit early childhood professionals, families and New York's youngest citizens.