



# Even Start News Bulletin

June 2010

## Mark Your Calendar

**June 16 - Zero to Three Webinar**

**June 25—Deadline for Even Start Annual Meeting Registration**

**July 19-21— Reading Institute Conference, Anaheim, CA**

**July 27—New State Coordinator Orientation, Hyatt Regency, Chicago, IL**

**July 28-29—State Coordinators Annual Meeting, Hyatt Regency, Chicago, IL**

## *Vital to Know*

### **Annual Meeting to Be Held July 28-29 in Chicago**

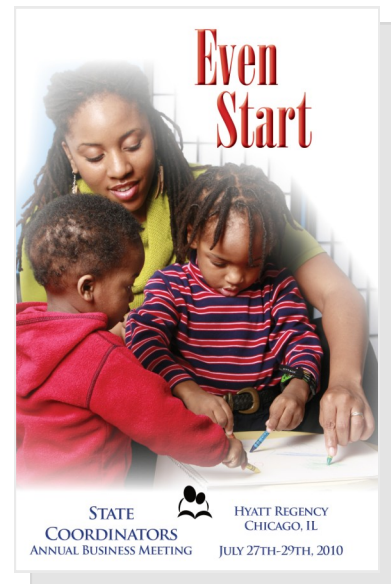
Time to gear up for the 2010 Even Start Annual Meeting! The meeting will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Chicago, IL, this year on July 28 through 29. The New Coordinator Orientation will precede the meeting on July 27.

**If you have not registered yet, now is the time to do so! See below for registration and reservation information.**

Major themes this year will include working with English Language Learners (children and adult) and with birth to 3-year-olds. Children from birth to age three make up about 40 percent of the children served by Even Start.

We are bringing in nationally-recognized speakers to address these populations and to facilitate discussion about state and program implications (see article on speaker announcement). The meeting will also provide you with federal updates, summary data from the last Consolidated State Performance Report, a panel discussion on early learning standards, and built-in opportunities for state-to-state sharing and facilitated discussions with experts.

The Hyatt, located on the famous Chicago Loop, has given us discount rates that extend before and after the conference, so you may wish to extend your stay and see all of the sites surrounding the hotel.



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## Registration and Reservation Information

Unfortunately, ED is not able to cover travel costs this year, and attendees must make their own reservations.

To register for the 2010 Even Start Annual Meeting (July 28-29) and Orientation (July 27), go to: [www.windwalker.com/2010EvenStartRegistration](http://www.windwalker.com/2010EvenStartRegistration)

Room reservations must be made by calling the hotel directly at 800-233-1234. Be sure to mention the 2010 Even Start State Coordinators Annual Business Meeting to secure the special group rate of \$119 plus occupancy taxes, for single or double accommodations. You can find all of this information at the online registration site through the link cited above, but please note room reservations cannot be made through the online site.

## *Vital to Know*

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### Annual Meeting Speakers Announced

The speakers for July's annual meeting have been confirmed. The speakers include nationally recognized early childhood researcher and author Craig Ramey from Georgetown University, youth language minority researcher Nonie Lesaux from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and adult ELL expert and researcher Robin L. Schwarz from Lesley University.

Dr. Ramey is a Distinguished Professor of Health Studies and Psychiatry at Georgetown University. His extensive work has focused on children's health learning, especially learning development in children with physical disabilities. He and his wife Sharon have coauthored several books on early childhood education. He has appeared on numerous radio and television programs to discuss his work.

Ms. Schwarz is currently working towards her Ph.D. at Lesley University. Her doctoral focus is on learning disabilities and other causes of learning difficulty in adult non-native speakers of English. She has worked extensively in the fields of adult ELL and of learners with disabilities. She has worked as an ESOL teacher with the Peace Corps in West Africa and currently teaches TESOL courses at several universities. She was also the keynote speaker at an Even Start conference in New York last year.

Dr. Lesaux is currently Marie and Max Kargman Associate Professor in Human Development and Urban Education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Her doctoral thesis was a five-year longitudinal study of the development of reading in children from diverse linguistic backgrounds. She has a wide range of further studies and publications under her belt.

### *Vital to Know*

#### **Tanielle Chandler to Leave Even Start**

The Even Start community will be sad to hear that Tanielle Chandler, who has worked with Even Start for 10 years, is leaving the program for a new position that will allow her to spend more time with her daughter.



During her time with Even Start, Tanielle has conducted numerous monitoring visits to nearly all of the state programs. She has also worked as Program Manager for a discretionary grant program called the Even Start Statewide Family Literacy Program, and she has served as Project Manager for contracts that dealt with Improving State Accountability Systems. She has also monitored the Tribal Even Start program, and many other programs within the Early Childhood and Reading Group.

Tanielle says that her favorite part of working with Even Start has been visiting the state programs and getting to see the children learning in the Even Start centers, since she does not get this kind of hands-on connection very often while working in Washington, D.C.

Her new position involves fiscal monitoring at the Federal Student Aid office. While she will miss the work and the people at Even Start, her priorities have changed since the arrival of her daughter, Kasey, now 18 months. The new position will not require her to travel, allowing her to spend more time with Kasey. The many state coordinators who know Tanielle and regularly ask her how Kasey is doing will surely understand this desire for change.

It is an emotional leave-taking for Tanielle, as it will be for many who have worked with her over the years. Everyone, of course, wishes her the best.

### *Good to Know*

#### **ED Hosts Summer Reading Institute**

The U.S. Department of Education's 2010 Reading Institute will be held in Anaheim, California, on July 19-21, 2010. This Reading Institute is a key part of the Department's strategy to support the efforts of schools that receive federal funding to improve literacy instruction and to assist state and local policymakers and program administrators to develop effective, comprehensive pre-kindergarten to third grade literacy programs. Keynote speakers will include Thelma Melendez de Santa Ana, Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education at ED, Michael Kamil from Stanford University, and Catherine Snow from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

In addition to State Coordinators, local Even Start program directors and staff are invited to attend. To register, and to find more information, visit: <http://www.mikogroup.com/2010readinginstitute/>.

## *Good to Know*

### **Zero to Three and ED Produce Literacy Webinar**

Zero to Three and ED are producing a webinar on the state of early learning and development for children from birth to three years. This webinar will highlight the importance of starting from birth when supporting learning, development, and future school achievement. It will outline the U.S. Department of Education's view on the role of early education in the birth-to-career continuum and provide an overview of the importance of the first 3 years in setting the stage for learning and literacy. Speakers will provide examples of ways to build and align systems that support the birth-to-age 8 learning continuum and will make recommendations for future directions to strengthen early learning systems.

ZERO TO THREE invites you to join them on Wednesday, June, 16 2010 at 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm Eastern (12:00 pm Central, 11:00 pm Mountain, and 10:00 am Pacific) for a webinar on systems that support early learning for children birth to age 8. This program is funded in part by the U.S. Department of Education.

[Click here](#) to register!

#### **AGENDA**

Welcome and Opening Remarks	<b>Janice Im</b> Senior Director of Programs ZERO TO THREE
	<b>Rosemary Fennell</b> Program Manager, Early Childhood and Reading Group U.S. Department of Education
Special Remarks	<b>Jacqueline Jones</b> Senior Advisor to the Secretary for Early Learning U.S. Department of Education
Facilitator and Discussant	<b>Florence Nelson</b> Project Director of State Policy Initiatives ZERO TO THREE
Presenters	<b>Ross Thompson</b> Professor of Psychology University of California, Davis
	<b>Peter Mangione</b> Co-Director WestEd Center for Child and Family Studies
	AND

Recommendations and  
Future Directions

**Carolyn Stevens**  
Senior Program Analyst, Military  
Community & Family Policy

**Florence Nelson**  
Project Director of State Policy Initiatives  
ZERO TO THREE

Register for the Webinar at <https://zerotothree.ilinc.com/register/bxthrrf>.

To join the webinar, your computer must have an Internet connection. You may listen to the conference over the Internet or by telephone. To ensure your web browser compatibility, please test the iLinc meeting manager prior to the event at <https://zerotothree.ilinc.com/systest/bxthrrf>.

Space is limited. If multiple people in your office would like to participate, we encourage you to have only one person register and your group can view the webinar together.

For questions about the webinar, please contact Kavita Kothari at [kkothari@zerotothree.org](mailto:kkothari@zerotothree.org).



## State Coordinator's

Corner

### Vermont's Wendy Ross Gets Her Participants "Ready for School, Ready for Life"

Vermont State Even Start Coordinator, Wendy Ross, is very proud of her state's program and of the people who work within it. She has excellent, motivated staff who have worked with limited materials to improve the lives of Vermont's most at-risk families. She says of the families she works with, "Their success is my success."

According to Wendy, all of the Vermont program sites are mature, long-term, high-quality programs. Wendy took on the role of state coordinator in 2000. Prior to that she worked with adult basic education for 8 years, and, as Director of Adult Education for the

Vermont Board of Education, she worked closely with the Even Start coordinator at that time. While Director, she recognized that adult education is an important part of family literacy, and thus Even Start, and this encouraged her to continue this critical work.

Vermont Even Start operates within the existing adult education system, and adult educators receive support and development both from that system and from Even Start. Early childhood education is provided by local Head Start programs, one of which is nationally award-winning.

There have been changes recently in the Vermont Even Start programs, both for good and for bad. First, the good.

Wendy has been excited by the requirements to develop state indicators and by moves to improve programs since the reauthorization of Even Start. The Vermont program recently created an Even Start Evaluation and Planning Framework, which defined a common set of goals and program characteristics to ensure that all programs are providing high-quality services. The Framework incorporated federal requirements and state indicators within one plan so that now all programs have common goals and a common language on how to provide high-quality services.

Wendy is proud that the local program directors are proactive when it comes to initiating program change and program improvement strategies. They also had strong evaluators who assisted in implementing the program improvement plan. She says of her staff, "We work as a team."

Another new program is called Parenting for Learning in Early Years (PLEY). This program grew out of the parenting education profile, which was a research-based assessment tool. The staff then created material to be used by parents to support early literacy skill development in their children, and for parents to assess their progress in providing this support. PLEY has been so successful that some Title I schools are beginning to use the tool with parents of children in Kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade.

After finding that "some students sabotage their own success" because they

assume they will fail, Vermont began focusing on the social and emotional development of its program participants, as well as integrating group mental health services into all components of its programs.

Wendy was disappointed when funding was lost for a program called Even Start for the New American Community. This program served 40 Somali Bantu refugee families in Burlington. There were many agencies participating in the program, and there was even a waiting list for enrollment. It was a true loss, because Wendy thinks it was a national model for Even Start to be used to integrate refugee families into American society.

Wendy also appreciates the support her program receives from the U.S. Department of Education. The program has benefited from the monitoring and from the feedback it received from Melvin Graham's visit.

Wendy's proudest achievement is the quality and integration of Even Start services, the intensive work with families, and seeing significant outcomes from families. Staff members know what they're supposed to be doing and who they are serving, and "we've created a system that supports good work."

The ultimate goal of the Vermont program is to create literate homes. Wendy and her staff's work can be summed up in the motto plastered across all of the program materials: "Ready for school, ready for life."

You can correspond with Wendy Ross at [wendy.ross@state.vt.us](mailto:wendy.ross@state.vt.us).

*State Coordinators interested in sharing the story of your Even Start program, please contact [Melvin.Graham@ed.gov](mailto:Melvin.Graham@ed.gov).*