

# ENRICHING THE COMMUNITY

A monthly publication for friends of Family Enrichment Network

## **Enriching the Community through Head Start and Early Head Start Monitoring**

In March 2021, the Head Start and Early Head Start programs began their annual process of self assessment. This process evaluates the services offered to Head Start and Early Head Start families, which include early childhood development and special services; health; family and community partnership; and transportation. It also appraises program systems, which include program governance; program structure; human resources, training, and professional development; program management and quality improvement; and fiscal.

This assessment process works to effectively gain a better understanding of our systems and services because it includes parents, Policy Council members, Governing Board members, community members, and non-Head Start/Early Head Start staff. Each of the 15 subgroups review files and documents; interview staff at all levels of the program; and view program activities. From their assessment, they conclude program strengths, areas of weakness, and make other comments that will yield the most effective programming.

This year's assessment provided the programs with a record 80 areas of strength; 11 areas needing improvement; and five other comments. From this assessment summary, the Head Start/Early Head Start team will begin to identify recommendations for quality improvement. The Quality Improvement Recommendation Report will be submitted to the Policy Council and Governing Board this month for their review and approval. Once approved, each of the Quality Improvement Recommendations will become a Quality Improvement Plan, and the program will begin working to effectively meet the intended outcome/goal. The full report and quality improvement plans is submitted to the Office of Head Start with our Refunding Applications in August and October.

If you are interested in learning more about program monitoring or our monitoring instrument and process, please contact Network offices at (607) 723-8313



*The mission of Family Enrichment Network is to provide supportive services for the optimal development of children and families. We believe in coordinating children and family services using a comprehensive and collaborative approach to improve their quality of life while ensuring the greatest value for our investment in child, adult, and parent development.*