



2009 Annual Report

A Letter from the Board President

Korlyn Williams



It's been a privilege to represent the community as President of the Lewis-Clark Early Childhood Program's board of directors in 2009. During this past year the board has provided guidance and oversight of the operation of this important community program. As a long time member of the LCECP board of directors I am intimately familiar with the internal operation of the agency and of the value the program's services bring to the community and to the families and children we serve. Being a retired educator with a master's degree in vocational education I believe I can offer credible assurance to the community that the program is operating efficiently, effectively and offers vital support to the children and families we serve.

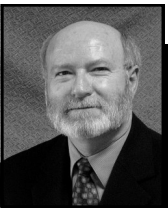
This past year the Board has made decisions we believe will benefit the community in the short and long term. By applying for and receiving additional federal dollars through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act I believe we have strengthened LCECP and enhanced our ability to serve the numerous communities where we offer service.

We're excited about the opportunity to serve additional Early Head Start children and families starting in 2010 and we are especially excited about serving those young parents with children attending the Clarkston School District's Educational Opportunity Center. We're looking forward to helping the infants and toddlers of these young student parents enter President Obama's "cradle-to-career educational pipeline" that Dorlan, our Executive Director, mentions in his accompanying article.

Although we've been presented with exceptional opportunities to improve the program this past year, these opportunities come with responsibilities. One of the responsibilities is the community match that is required when these funds are received. For every dollar of federal funding we receive a twenty-five cent community match is required. We currently receive tremendous support from the communities in which we operate, but to cite a familiar quote "to whom much is given much is expected". In order to continue current levels of service or expand them further we need not only continued, but increased, support from individuals and businesses throughout our service area. To find out more about how you can be of support please contact us directly or visit our website at www.lcearlychildhood.org.

Volunteering to serve as President of the Board for LCECP this past year has been an opportunity and a pleasure. I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve my community in this capacity and I invite you to join me in supporting this worthy community program.





2009 A Dark Year with a Silver Lining

Dorlan Hergesheimer, Executive Director

In spite of the 2009 world economic crisis with the many bank failures, housing foreclosures, rising unemployment, escalating national debt, and states on the brink of calamity; 2009 was one of the brightest periods in several years for Lewis-Clark Early Childhood Program. Along with a change in Administration at the national level came an increased awareness of how improving the quality and availability of early childhood education through programs like Head Start, Early Head Start and the Washington State funded Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program are part of the solution to the short and long term financial well being of the country and everyone who lives in it.

It takes the intelligence and ability of a financial surgeon to recognize that it takes many stitches to close a gaping wound like the financial wound the world has suffered; stitches such as those required to secure the banking industry from collapse; stitches to protect major industries from disintegrating; stitches to create jobs for unemployed workers; stitches to assist states from making devastating cuts in vital services. Although some might say we should “tough it out, let the wounds heal themselves; if the patient dies or is terribly disabled in the end it is nature’s way of weeding out the weak”, many are more inclined to seek a more civilized approach than one that relies on the survival of the fittest or most privileged. A skilled surgeon is likely to indicate that these, and many more stitches are required to assure our wounds are secured and that the healing process can begin and move towards a healthy recovery. Of course in America we always have the freedom to disagree, to critique our surgeons, and to disagree with their advice; and indeed we have exercised this freedom in the past several months. In the end however, we’re stuck with a hemorrhaging wound that could kill us or severely disable us if it’s not quickly and effectively treated.

One stitch in this massive surgery our country is undergoing was and is our Head Start program. Perhaps it takes the perspective, knowledge and understanding of a skilled surgeon to understand how Head Start is one of the necessary stitches in the surgery required to correct our nation’s injuries. Our current President and his financial surgical team see the continued maintenance and further expansion of Head Start and Early Head Start as an effective way of infusing money into local economies, of preserving existing jobs, creating new jobs, and supporting and sustaining the well being of lower income families and their children.

In 2009 we applied for and received stimulus funds authorized in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to expand our Early Head Start Program, make needed repairs and improvements to some of our existing buildings and facilities, and in taking strides towards catching up employees whose salaries had fallen significantly behind from years of inadequate funding from the federal government. The infusion of this stimulus funding enabled us to substantially upgrade our center and equipment in Craigmont, replace playground equipment in Kamiah, replace a failing heating system in one of our buildings at our Lewiston site, and add a protective playground structure (pavilion) on our Lewiston playground. In 2010 we will also be constructing a new Early Head Start Center on property next to the Clarkston School District’s Educational Opportunity Center to serve student parents of the EOC and other community parents with infants and toddlers.

The funding of these projects and activities has infused hundreds of thousands of dollars into our local economies; provided new jobs; sustained others in their current jobs; and improved and expanded education and services to needy families and their young children. This funding has obvious short term benefits and develops infrastructure for future years of service to young children and families throughout our region.

President Roosevelt once said that the “destiny of American youth is the destiny of America”. If we believe this is true then even in the worst of economic times we have to assure that we develop and protect those resources that secure the future of our youth and indeed our country. President Obama subscribes to a similar viewpoint to that of President Roosevelt when he describes the need to develop a “seamless cradle-to-career educational pipeline”; a pipeline that only works if children enter the pipeline to college at birth. Our Early Head Start, Head Start, and ECEAP programs are the entrance to the pipeline for many lower income children in our communities. We’re proud to be part of the solution; to provide the means for many families and children to enter the pipeline to future success.

Our Mission:

The Mission of Lewis-Clark Early Childhood Program is to strengthen families and prepare children for lifelong learning through the combined efforts of staff, parents, and the community.

School Readiness

Alice Weaver, Associate Director



School readiness is a buzz word often heard in educational arenas and the focus of many early childhood programs. While the term school readiness conjures up thoughts of reading and writing, academics is not the only focus for learning preparation.

If a child's basic needs are not met, if a child is experiencing unaddressed health issues, then that child is not able to move forward in their learning process. Lewis-Clark Early Childhood Program is a comprehensive child development program. As such staff work closely with families to assure their child is healthy and ready to learn. Each child enrolled receives a physical and dental examination and any follow up work that is needed.

Meeting the health and dental needs of each of the children is a group effort; staff and parents work in partnership to access available health resources. With the lack of private medical insurance, the complexity of Medicaid, and the limited number of providers who serve uninsured or Medicaid covered patients meeting these needs is a challenge.

This challenge of assuring a family receives needed health and dental services is best met through the partnerships with and efforts of multiple providers within our communities. The Smile Mobile for example through Asotin County has provided the dental screening for our Washington children over the past several years. Last year and continuing on this year the Dental Hygienist program at Lewis Clark State College has provided dental screens for many of our Idaho children. For medical care families are encouraged to access the Snake River Clinic in Lewiston which has become an invaluable resource in the last few years. This year we have experienced the support of two additional resources; The Lions Club Van, accessible to all our families, and the Community Health Association of Spokane, primarily serving our Washington children. It is through our partnerships with the State Health Departments we have been able to identify and access many of the above mentioned resources. We appreciate the support the community has shown and together with other partnering organizations we will continue to work towards addressing the health needs of our children.

Lewis-Clark Early Childhood Program

Board of Directors

President

Korlyn Williams
Business Educator, Retired

Vice-President

Natalie Flipper
*Business Owner
FamilyMan Leisure Co.
Past Head Start Parent*

Secretary

Linda Hall
*Student Services Director
Clarkston School District*

Policy Council President

Rebecca Cordoba
Current Head Start Parent

Members:

Dawn Heustis,
*Business, Finance
Community Bank
Past Head Start Parent*

Mike Haberman
*Special Services Director
Independent School
District No.1, Lewiston*

Dr. Beth Price
*Professor, Univ. of Idaho
Child Development*

Erika Striker
*Receptionist
Dennis G. Mountjoy M.D.
Past Head Start Parent*





Quality Services

Nancy Fontaine
Human Resources Director

There have been several changes and some exciting new goals in 2009 for Lewis-Clark Early Childhood Program (LCECP) in the arena of staff development. Through the 2007 Reauthorization of Head Start, Congress increased the requirements for Head Start teachers. Meeting these new more stringent requirements is both exciting and challenging for us. Exciting in that raising the educational standards of our teaching staff also increases the quality of education our program is able to deliver; challenging in the difficulty and expense involved in teachers furthering their education. New objectives now require that lead teachers have Baccalaureate (BA/BS) degrees. Fortunately, a high percentage of our teachers already meet this new requirement of 71%.

Additionally, Classroom Aides will be required to have a Child Development Award (CDA) by 2013. A CDA is a basic early childhood certification developed by Head Start. Again, this new requirement will further improve the quality of our classroom services.



Fortunately, with government stimulus funds we were able to develop an in-house CDA program and beginning in the fall of 2009 we have enrolled 6 classroom aides and by 2013 we anticipate we will have met the new requirement. Stimulus funds were also utilized to enroll some of our Head Start teachers in college courses in early childhood education to move them closer to achieving their BA/BS degrees.

In addition to increasing educational levels of current staff, stimulus funds were utilized to provide an increase to staff salaries that had fallen behind in recent years. These wage adjustments will help us recruit and retain qualified staff.

Our program services have always been of high quality but we're proud to be moving to even higher levels under these new requirements and with the additional stimulus funding.



Counties Served by LCECP:

In Idaho: Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis and Nez Perce Counties

In Washington: Asotin County

For Enrollment or Volunteer Information

Please Contact :

1816 18th Avenue
Lewiston, ID 83501

Phone: 208/743-6573

Fax: 208/743-9211

Toll Free # 1-866-965-2327

www.lcearlychildhood.org



THANK YOU, LCECP

Rebecca Cordoba
Policy Council President

I would just like to begin by thanking LCECP for all of the hard work they put into our children and families. Please allow me to tell you briefly how much they impact my family. My husband is a LCSC student and I am a stay at home mom raising our two boys; Jorge is five, and Isaiah is three. Having my children go through this program, volunteering at the school, going to parent meetings, and being a member of the Policy Council has changed our family for the better.

For example, my oldest boy, Jorge, excels in reading and writing because of the schooling he has received at LCECP. My youngest son, Isaiah has Down Syndrome and always is treated just as any other child. I was worried with Isaiah, as he mostly communicates through sign language. I gave the teacher signing videos and books to study, making it easier to communicate with Isaiah. She incorporated the books into the library for all the kids to use. Now almost all the children in his class sign colors, everyday signs, and the signs for manners.

This year I have been elected to become a member of the Policy Council, voted in by the parents from our school's parent meetings. Policy Council is a recognized group made up of currently enrolled parents and members of the community. Our purpose is to share in the governing of LCECP with the Board of Directors by approving policies and other decisions.

My husband and I were fortunate enough to go on a STEPS training (Steps To Economic and Personal Success) provided by LCECP. The STEPS program impacted us in such a way that at the end of the weekend we left enriched with a more positive outlook on life. We learned new tools to help us achieve goals for our life, jobs, and school.

At parent meetings we learned the Five Love Languages. The Five Love Languages helped my marital relationship as well as the relationship between us and our children.

The Lewis-Clark Early Childhood Program is incredible and I recommend it to all parents with children age birth to four. Without dedicated support from the community, volunteers, staff, teachers, and parents, this program might not be here. I am truly grateful for all of their continued support!

2009 Program Information

Family Support Service

- Funded Enrollment — **457**
- Actual Enrollment/Families Served — **542**
- Average Monthly Funded Enrollment — **100%**
- Percentage Served of all Eligible Children in the LCECP Six-County Service Area — **44%**
- Pregnant Mothers Served — **11**
- Families who Received Assistance Services — **465**
- Children who Received Disability Services — **103**
- Unemployed/Retired/Disabled Individuals — **191**
- Parents who Received Adult Education — **104**
- Parents who Received Job Training — **84**
- Parents who Received ESL (English 2nd Language) — **6**
- Homeless Families Served — **43**

Medical and Dental Services

- Children who Completed Medical Examinations—**88%**
- Children who Completed Dental Treatment/Exams—**88%**

Program Logistics

- LCECP Volunteers — **1,816**
- Volunteers who are Current/Former Parents — **913**
- LCECP Classrooms — **28**
- Sites Operated — **13**





An Up Year In Funding!

Verlin Blum
Assistant Director of Finance

In 2009, federal funding opportunities, including funds authorized in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), were made available to supplement base grants for Head Start and Early Head Start. LCECP applied for and was awarded funds for:

- * A permanent COLA increase of 3.06% - \$95,781
- * An ARRA COLA increase of 1.84% - \$57,587
- * Quality Improvement - \$152,493
- * One-time Program Improvement - \$196,000
- * EHS Expansion Grant - \$471,390

The permanent COLA and ARRA COLA (awarded for the period 7/09 thru 6/10) increases were designated exclusively for increases in salaries and benefits of employees and will ensure that we are better able to attract and retain qualified staff. We remain hopeful that the ARRA COLA increase will continue to be funded after June 2010. Funds available under Quality Improvement (temporary funding awarded for the period 7/09 through 9/10) were/will be utilized in three areas: a temporary increase in salaries and benefits; to provide education and professional development to improve staff skills and expertise in accordance with 2007 Head Start Act; and to substantially upgrade our center and equipment in Craigmont. One-time program improvement funds were utilized to replace playground equipment in Kamiah, replace a failing heating system in one of our buildings at our Lewiston site, and to add a protective playground structure (pavilion) on our Lewiston playground. Program Improvement funds granted also included \$115,000 to remodel the basement in our Lewiston center. EHS Expansion Grant funds will be used to construct a new Early Head Start Center on property next to the Clarkston School District's Educational Opportunity Center. Funds provided, however, will not cover the entire cost of the project and a bank loan or other funding will be needed to fully complete the project.

We are grateful to our many volunteers who have contributed their time and services enabling us to more than meet the match (i.e. the value of allowable donated time, goods and services the program receives from the local community) requirements of 20% of federal funding. With the continued support of our many contributors (financially and through the volunteering of time and services) as well as additional increases in governmental funding, we look forward to serving low-income children and families for years to come.

LEWIS-CLARK EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Fiscal Years ended 12/31/08 and 12/31/09

(audited)

12/31/2008

12/31/2009

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION		
Assets		
Cash	\$ 109,423	\$ 130,907
Grants Receivable	208,607	266,092
Accounts Receivable	1,890	3,006
Prepaid Expenses	15,061	24,782
Property and Equipment, Net	1,922,876	2,004,375
Total Assets	\$ 2,257,857	\$ 2,429,162
Liabilities & Net Assets		
Current Liabilities	\$ 348,169	\$ 444,171
Notes Payable	560,821	525,292
Net Assets	1,348,867	1,459,699
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$ 2,257,857	\$ 2,429,162
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES		
Revenue		
Grant Revenue	\$ 3,891,068	\$ 4,222,369
Program Income	88,762	55,751
In-kind Contributions	555,226	552,866
Total Revenue	\$ 4,535,056	\$ 4,830,986
Expenses		
Personnel Expenses	\$ 2,813,484	\$ 2,981,825
Other Operating Expense	1,168,279	1,185,463
In-kind	555,226	552,866
Total Expenses	\$ 4,536,989	\$ 4,720,154
Change in Net Assets	(1,933)	110,832
Net Assets at beginning of year	1,350,800	1,348,867
Net Assets at end of year	\$ 1,348,867	\$ 1,459,699

Independent Auditor's Opinion

(Excerpts from the Independent Auditor's Report issued June 8, 2010)

"In our opinion, the financial statements...present fairly, in all material aspects the financial position of the Lewis-Clark Early childhood Program, Inc. as of December 31, 2009 and 2008, and the changes in its net assets and cash flows for the years then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America."

LEWIS-CLARK EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM
Revenue - Public and Private Funds

Fiscal Years ended 12/31/08 and 12/31/09
(audited)

12/31/2008 12/31/2009

Grant Funds		
Head Start	\$ 2,678,767	\$ 2,849,250
ARRA/QI – Head Start	-	100,573
Early Head Start	494,906	509,682
ARRA QI - Early Head Start	-	8,686
ECEAP	503,499	539,207
TANF	64,995	58,977
USDA (Child & Adult Food Prog.)	<u>148,901</u>	<u>155,993</u>
Total Grant Revenue	3,891,068	4,222,368
Program Income	72,152	40,934
Corporate	16,610	14,818
In-kind Contributions	<u>555,226</u>	<u>552,866</u>
Total Revenue	<u>\$ 4,535,056</u>	<u>\$ 4,830,986</u>

LEWIS-CLARK EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM
Proposed Budget for FY-2010

Revenue	
Head Start	\$ 2,762,417
ARRA/QI – Head Start	66,756
Early Head Start	510,110
ARRA/QI - Early Head Start	26,772
ARRA Early Head Start Expansion	471,390
ECEAP	537,825
TANF	61,866
USDA (Child & Adult Food Prog.)	<u>160,000</u>
Total Grant Revenue	4,597,136
Program Income	50,000
Corporate	2,277
In-kind Contributions	<u>818,132</u>
Total Revenue	<u>\$ 5,467,545</u>
Expense	
Personnel	\$ 2,478,912
Fringe Benefits	680,598
Travel	3,200
Supplies	
Food Services	241,027
Classroom, Office, Other	204,847
Contractual	65,531
Construction	325,920
Other	
Occupancy	341,968
Training/Staff Development	131,241
Minor Purchases/Other	176,169
In-kind Contributions	<u>818,132</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 5,467,545</u>

Parent Involvement Activities at LCECP

In 2009, Lewis-Clark Early Childhood Program offered a variety of parent involvement opportunities.

LCECP Parent Survey:

This survey was conducted in January to solicit parent input about the program and the services they receive. Their input on this survey impacts future planning.

Community Assessment Parent Survey:

Parents were invited to respond to a survey listing the needs that they see in the community related to early childhood and family support. Their input on this survey contributes to the findings in the agency Community Assessment.

Topics of Interest Survey:

At the beginning of the school year, our classroom staff conducted a parent topic survey to gain understanding of the subjects that parents would like to address at parent meetings or at other training opportunities. Staff also utilized this information to equip the family resource areas in each center with educational topics that interest parents.

Policy Council:

The Lewis-Clark Early Childhood Program's Policy Council is a representative group made up of currently enrolled parents and members of the community whose purpose is to share in the governance of LCECP with the Board of Directors by approving policy and other decisions defined as areas of responsibility by the standards and regulations of Head Start and the Washington State Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP). In 2009, an average of 23 parents participated as a voting member of the Council.

Parent Committee Meetings:

All parents were invited and encouraged to participate in monthly parent meetings. Parent meetings provided every parent of an enrolled child with the

(Parent Involvement continued)

opportunity to assist in the development of activities addressing their interests and needs and that support the education and healthy development of children.

Participation in Children's Classrooms:

Because LCECP believes that parents are the first and primary educators of their child all parents were offered opportunity to be involved in the classrooms. Their involvement included activities such as: Demonstration of a hobby, skill or talent, Assist in the set up and facilitation of art, music, or science activities, Assist in cleaning up, Help with lunch and snack activities, Read to the children, Assist on the playground in outdoor fun, Hold a child's hand while going for a walk, Be the greeter/security person for the classroom or center. Some parents were also provided activities that could be completed at home. These included: Color stories, Make visual aids, and Help construct games, Cut out curriculum materials; Stuff packets, Repair broken toys, Read Family Literacy books as well as other educational stories to children.

Parent Officers:

Each LCECP class/center parent group voted in a President, Vice President, Secretary, and other officers as needed.

Volunteering and In-kind Training:

Parents were offered orientation and training in understanding the value and procedures for nurturing an ongoing volunteer program throughout the agency.

Steps to Economic and Personal Success (STEPS)

Events:

In 2009, STEPS was offered in April and in December. Both dates offered a three day retreat format reaching out to an average of 30 parents. The STEPS program helped parents to increase their decision-making ability, and to be a more successful and contributing member of the community by developing the skills, attitudes and beliefs which contributes to making family life a great experience.

24/7 DAD - Fatherhood Program:

Lewis-Clark Early Childhood Program began offering the 24/7 DAD curriculum for fathers in 2009. The 24/7 Dad curriculum is "a unique and innovative fatherhood program developed by a team of nationally and internationally recognized fathering experts and fatherhood practitioners. The 24/7 Dad program focuses on characteristics that every father needs and covers the universal aspects of fatherhood so that men of all cultures, races, religions, and backgrounds can benefit from the program."

Training Offered to Parents through LCECP's In-service Training Plan Included:

Circles, Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, Family Self-Sufficiency, Creative Curriculum, Enhancing Family Mealtimes, I am Moving - I am Learning, Inclusion of Children with Disabilities, Stress Management and Dealing with Change.



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LCECP is primarily supported by:

Head
Start



&



Washington State Department of
Early Learning