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*SCAECE Newsletter*



*President's Column*

Greetings and Happy New Year!

I am delighted to share that we are on the cusp of having legislation introduced by Representative Brian White that will require programs operating for 2 hours or more to be licensed. Also included in this bill is language that will require programs operating summer camps in which children can be enrolled and attend for more than two weeks to be licensed.

I want to extend a hearty thanks to board members and faculty from The Sunshine House, Adlerian Child Care Centers and Big Blue Marble for their participation in our Legislative Day activities. They reached out to the House of Representatives members in their respective districts to help the House Members understand the dilemma of the current lack of licensing and regulation. All of us are hoping to see the new bill introduced the first week of February. I realize that many of us struggle to leave our centers during the work day. That doesn't mean that you cannot help to move this legislation forward. I invite

each of you to write a letter asking for your House Member's support. You will find a downloadable flyer with talking points that you can include with your letter.

Equally exciting is that our annual conference set of February 7, 2015 has 550 participants enrolled. The conference theme is Parenting Partnerships: The Key to a Child's Success. Dr. Michael Popkin, founder of Active Parenting, is our keynote speaker. We have a terrific array of presenters and topics and hope that you will be joining us for an exciting and educational day.

Lastly, I wanted to share that our association has again been invited to the SC Lady Gamecocks Basketball 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Health and Fitness game scheduled for February 15. If you are attending the game, please make a point of stopping by our booth!

**2014 Fall Conference ~  
Another Success!**

The South Carolina Association of Early Care & Education held a Fall Leadership Conference on Saturday, November 8th, 2014. The meeting was success with 53 educational attendees. We would like to express our sincere appreciation to Ed Brashier with FCI Agency for sponsoring the Keynote Speaker, Greg Mayo and Pam Goude with Kaplan Early Learning Company for their sponsorship. We would also like to extend a thank you to the following exhibitors: Alliance Bus Group, FUNdamental Recreation /

Brookhurst Associates and Lakeshore Learning Materials.

Thank you to Greg Mayo, Keynote Speaker, whose educational topics focused on Motivational Leadership covering the following areas: How to establish a clear vision and direction, How to use the power of emotions, How to create stretch goals for your team, How to foster innovation and risk taking, How to encourage teamwork and collaboration, How to champion change.

Please welcome our newest  
SCAECE member!

HOPE Academy  
Mara Dunkin  
Columbia

[hopebca@yahoo.com](mailto:hopebca@yahoo.com)



Let's go for a winter walk!

## New Infant-Toddler Training and Technical Assistance Projects

By: Linda Smith, Deputy Assistant Secretary and Inter-Departmental Liaison for Early Childhood Development; Ann Linehan, Acting Director, Office of Head Start; and Shannon Rudisill, Director, Office of Child Care

It seems we learn more and more every day about all that our youngest children can learn. Research shows that a tremendous amount of brain development happens in the very first months of life. By the time children are 3 years old, the structures of their brains that influence later learning are mostly formed.

Millions of infants and toddlers across the country spend a significant part of their days in early care and education settings, including child care and Early Head Start. At the *Offices of Child Care (OCC) and Head Start (OHS)*, we have a responsibility to ensure that those children, their families, and their teachers get the best support we can offer. We have increased our focus on the youngest children in recent years, and we are pleased to announce that *OCC* and *OHS* are co-administering two new training and technical assistance (T/TA) projects that focus on infants and toddlers in early care settings.

### *National Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership T/TA Center*

This Center will support the effective implementation of new *Early Head Start – Child Care (EHS-CC) Partnership* grants that provide comprehensive high-quality services for infants and toddlers. The Center will provide training, resources, and materials to Federal staff, *OHS* and *OCC* T/TA partners, and *CCDF* administrators so that all are equipped to meet the needs of new *EHS-CC Partnership* grantees. The Center will work collaboratively with *OHS National Centers* and the *OCC Technical Assistance Network* to develop and present a series of orientation sessions around the country for the new *EHS-CC Partnership* grantees. This Center will also recruit and train a team of implementation planners and fiscal consultants who will be able to provide T/TA at the grantee level. The cooperative agreement for the *EHS-CC Partnership TA Center* is with ZERO TO THREE, in partnership with *Child Care Aware® of America*, FHI360, *Training and Technical Assistance Services at Western Kentucky University*, and mathematical policy research.

### *Career Pathway Portal for Great Infant-Toddler Teachers*

The *Career Pathway Portal for Great Infant-Toddler Teachers* project will create a Web-based, one-stop portal of existing federally funded, public domain, online training programs. This portal will support the child care and *Head Start* workforce as they progress on an established career pathway. The work will span child care, *Early Head Start*, *Head Start*, prekindergarten and early childhood mental health. It will have multiple points of entry, from preservice to master teacher, consultant, or coach. The portal will include research-based resources for higher education, State licensing, and credential agencies. The project will design a mechanism to assess how curricula and educators can better target positive caregiver/child interaction using a framework that will be grounded in learning, reflective feedback, focused observation, and planning for improvement. Professional development systems will be able to use a cost-estimation tool to plan investments that support the infant-toddler workforce. The contract for the project is with *ICF International* and will be supported by subcontracts with ZERO TO THREE and the *National Association for the Education of Young Children*.

Parents and teachers work hard to care for and educate children from birth, and we are eager to support them. We believe these projects are a key step in improving quality in infant-toddler early care and education settings nationwide.

*This article was originally posted to the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) blog. To read more blogs from ACF, visit "The Family Room Blog" at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/blog>*



### What To Do During Freezing Temperatures in Southern Climates

Water damage from frozen pipes that burst can be a major problem for homeowners in southern states, maybe even a bigger problem than in the colder north. Home builders in the south often do not consider the threat of freezing weather and thus place water pipes in vulnerable locations. In addition, houses built on slab foundations, common in the south, frequently have water pipes running through the attic, an especially vulnerable location. In the north, by contrast, home builders know freezing is a threat, and they usually do not place water pipes in unheated portions of a building or outside of insulated areas.

Southern homeowners should be aware that pipes in attics, crawl spaces and outside walls are all subject to freezing and bursting. If these pipes don't have insulation or heat to protect them, a strong overnight freeze can cause trouble.

Homeowners in the south need to be alert to the damages of freezing and bursting water pipes when the outdoor temperature threatens to drop to 20 degrees F. Although 20 degrees F is well below the freezing temperature of water, two factors make this the critical outdoor temperature:

1. The temperature of an unheated portion of a house is almost always at least a few degrees above the outdoor temperature. For example, an insulated attic may be at 37 degrees or 38 degrees F when the outdoor temperature is 32 degrees F.

2. Water "supercools" several degrees below freezing before any ice begins to form. In research tests at the University of Illinois, water pipes placed in an unheated, insulated attic consistently started forming ice when the outdoor temperature dipped just below 20 degrees F.

These suggestions for homeowners in southern states will help them prevent freezing pipe damage:

- Pipes in attics and crawl spaces should be protected with insulation or heat. Pipe insulation is available in fiberglass or foam sleeves. Home centers and hardware stores have sleeves providing 1/8 to 5/8 inches of insulation; specialty dealers have products that provide up to 2 inches of insulation.
- Heating cables and tapes are effective in freeze protection. Select a heating cable with the UL label and a built-in thermostat that turns the heat on when needed (without a thermostat, the cable has to be plugged in each time and might be forgotten).
- Doors on cabinets under kitchen and bathroom sinks should be left open during cold spells to allow the warmer air of the room to circulate around the pipes.
- Exterior pipes should be drained or enclosed in 2-inch fiberglass insulation sleeves.
- Pipes leading to the exterior should be shut off and drained at the start of the winter. If these exterior faucets do not have a shut-off valve inside the house, have one installed by a plumber.
- Hoses should be removed and stored inside during the winter.
- Let faucets drip slowly to keep water flowing through pipes that are vulnerable to freezing. Ice might still form in the pipes, but an open faucet allows water to escape before the pressure builds to where a pipe can burst. If the dripping stops, it may mean that ice is blocking the pipe; keep the faucet open, since the pipe still needs pressure relief.

*Thank you to FCI Agency for this informative article and photos!*



**503 Old Boiling Springs Road  
Greer, SC 29650  
864-334-1200**

**Register now to Attend! All ABC Scholarship Recipients Must Register!**

*SCAECE 2015 Annual Conference*  
Saturday, February 7, ~ 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

*Taming the Spirited Child: Strategies for Parenting Challenging  
Children without Breaking Their Spirits*



*Keynote Speaker, Dr. Michael Popkin of Active Parenting, Atlanta, GA*





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*Our Mission Statement*

The South Carolina Association of Early Care and Education is a team of professionals who join together to promote licensed, privately-owned child care and early education opportunities for the children of our state. We have members (individuals, large and small centers, and schools) in every county. We represent our membership at all state-level legislative functions by employing a professional lobbyist and having a dedicated, hard-working Board of Directors. We have members on many committees in South Carolina which deal with early childhood issues such as the South Carolina Child Care Advisory Board, state & county First Steps Boards, and the First Steps/United Way Quality Task Force.

**We're on the Web!**

Visit us at:

<http://www.scaece.com>

What did the Gingerbread Man put on his bed?

*A cookie sheet!*

What do you call an old snowman?

*Water!*

**Team Building 101**

Give some attention to your strengths. Spend some time identifying each team member's strengths, and in response create ways to encourage their contributions for the team/workplace in new and rewarding ways.

# Legislative Update

## Closing the Loopholes in the Child Care Licensing laws of the State

We are three weeks into the 2015-16 legislative session and there have been many successful conversations with legislators concerning needed statutory changes to address the loopholes in the childcare system. Right now, neither parents nor State regulators have a clear sense of which centers currently have or should be required to have state oversight. Therefore, there is a great disparity in the level of health and safety protocols from one child care setting to another. As you know, many child care settings have absolutely zero state oversight or minimum level of state health and safety regulations required of them.

With the continued explosion of people in the business of child care who are exploiting the 4 hour loophole and stacking three week summer sessions to avoid DSS licensing, legislators are more readily seeing the need to make sure all facilities have the same protocols in place no matter the setting or the number of hours children spend in the settings. In addition, legislators are starting to see how unfair it is for one group to be required to comply with stringent but appropriate state regulations while a whole other segment of the childcare industry engaging in the very same business has no state regulation or oversight whatsoever.

Representatives from Adlerian Child Care, Big Blue Marble, The Learning Care Group and Sunshine House have already made trips to Columbia this year to visit with their respective legislators, both in their capacity as constituents and small business owners. These one-on-one meetings, while a little nerve wracking for these providers at first, have proven to be very productive and impactful. Constituents taking the time to meet with their legislators is the key to success in Columbia. While it is not easy to have a valued staff member out of a facility for most of a day to come to Columbia, there is simply no substitute for the value of such meetings in this legislative effort. Even with the participation of these 4 centers, we have covered only a fraction of the members of the General Assmebly.

If coming to Columbia is beyond your reach, then a meeting back home with the legislator that represents the place you live and also the legislator where your center is located is just also an important way to have your voice heard. Even though our argument of child safety and fairness to everyone in the business of child care makes great common sense, we have to understand that there are powerful organizations that wish to continue to operate without state oversight and they have great resources locally to make their case.

You must take the time to connect with your local legislator. The SCAECE has readily available talking points that can be downloaded to take with you. Use the information contained in that document and your own personal experience start the conversation and you will be amazed at how easily the conversation flows from there. You can readily look up who your legislator is by entering your home address and then the address of your child care facility using this link - <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/legislatorssearch.php>.

Representative Brian White, Chairman of the powerful Ways and Means Committee, remains fully committed to pursuing legislation that will end the confusion for parents, improve the safety of children and create a level playing for everyone in the business of caring for children no matter the setting. We must support Rep. White's effort to date by telling the story to your local legislator.

There is one other recent development to help bolster your own story. Although not publicly distributed yet, we hope that The SC Citizen & Legislative Joint Committee on Children will dedicate a portion of its 2015 Annual Report to the regulation of child care facilities. Our members, concerned parents and other providers spoke to this key committee during their recent public hearings around the state. Comments made there included regulations dealing with family home licensure, family home basic health and safety training, and currently exempted programs like before and after school, summer and holiday camps.

With this three pronged approach – your personal political activism; a key legislative partner who will file and champion proposed legislation to remedy these inequalities; and a policy group whose sole mission is to promote best practices for SC's children – we can spread our message, offer solutions and see an end to unsafe conditions for SC's children and the un-level playing field that is growing by the day.