Manzano was raised in the South Bronx, where her involvement in the arts was inspired by teachers who encouraged her to audition for the High School of Performing Arts. She was accepted there and began her career as an actress. A scholarship took her to Carnegie Mellon Univerisity in Pittsburgh, and in her junior year, she came to New York to star in the original production of the off-Broadway show Godspell. Within a year, Manzano joined the production of Sesame Street, where she eventually began writing scripts for the series.

Sonia Manzano knows a thing or two about determination. Now a twice nominated for an Emmy for Outstanding Performer in a Children's Series, Manzano didn’t have a lot of resources as a child growing up in the South Bronx. Immensely talented, Sonia never gave up, and within a year of graduating college, Manzano found herself on Sesame Street.

A staunch advocate for education, Manzano shares her extraordinary talent to help children to succeed. A fearless trailblazer, Manzano opened the doors for Latinas on screen. Infusing humor and charm into her presentations, Manzano inspires audiences with her passion, strength and insight into success. Whether speaking out for literacy, diversity, or addressing the issues children face in our media-saturated life, she is a familiar, engaging voice that brings new light to her roles and to our lives.
Program Descriptions

Big Ideas in Math: Sets and Sorting (Early Math Session One)
Cathrine Brubaker, Early Childhood Specialist, Jackson County Intermediate School District

Wondering why your kids can't count? In this session we will pull back your mathematical lens and get to the root of mathematics with young children and focus on sets and sorting. In addition to, how this sets a child up for success and a fundamental mathematical understanding to build from.

Big Ideas In Early Math: Subitizing (Early Math Session Two)
Jean Allison, Early Childhood Specialist, Jackson County Intermediate School District

Participants will explore the early math concept of subitizing, why it is critical to children's early math development and where it can happen easily in a preschool classroom. Participants will have a working understanding of why subitizing it us critical to future mathematics development. In addition, participants will identify where subitizing happens in the preschool classroom in both teacher directed and child directed environments.

Directors’ Track: “Region V Office of Head Start”
Heather Wandereski, Regional Program Manager, Office of Head Start, Administration for Children and Families

Big Ideas in Early Counting (Early Math Session Three)
Wendy Bell Early Childhood Specialist, Jackson County Intermediate School District

Participants will gain a working understanding of how counting fits into the early math learning trajectory and will be shown how counting is used to find out "how many" in a collection. Participants will also learn the four key principles or "rules" of counting that apply to any collection.

Learning through Play; The Multiple Intelligence Way
Todd Greenbaum, Early Childhood Preforming Arts Specialist, Neighborhood Child Care Center (NC3)

Through active participation attendees will dive deeper into the Theory of Multiple Intelligence and discover ways to support your students unique styles of learning through music, movement and dramatic play.
Poison Prevention and Household Safety

Denise Kolakowski, Community Outreach Educator, Michigan Poison Center/Wayne State University

The presentation will introduce the Michigan Poison Center and the services we provided to all residents in the state of Michigan. After this session, participants will have an increased awareness of services provided by Poison Centers and awareness of the effects of substances and medication on children and best ways to avoid exposure. The final portion of the presentation will be focused on medication/drug safety in the home and how medications/drugs intended for adult use effect children.

Navigating Education and Career Pathways with T.E.A.C.H.

Dianna Erickson, T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship Counselor and Data Specialist, Michigan AEYC/ T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood

Participants will be provided with an overview of available credentials and degrees in early childhood education that are available in Michigan and how they tie to Michigan’s Early Childhood Education Career Ladder. In addition, scholarship opportunities to support professional development needs and educational goals will also be explained.

Data Driven Coaching: Using Child Assessment to Inform Professional Learning

Lance Reed, Early Childhood & Assessment Consultant, Highscope Educational Research Foundation

Ever feel as if your teachers are simply collecting child assessment data because it's a requirement and then promptly forgetting about it until family conference time? This session will explore coaching strategies, techniques, and support systems to be implemented at the classroom level in order to assist teachers in using child assessment to drive instruction. Join us as we uncover ways to demystify data for our teachers and develop coaching plans that are individualized to be the "right-fit" based on their own knowledge and motivation to change. With the goal of increasing child outcomes, this session will focus on how coaches can build capacity within their educators as they partner together to explore best practices within the field of early childhood. At the end of this session participants will be able to uncover ways to demystify data for our teachers and develop coaching plans that are individualized to be the "right-fit" based on their own knowledge and motivation to change.

Directors’ Track: “Michigan Department of Education Update”

Scott Koenigsknecht, Deputy Superintendent, P-20 System and Student Transitions, MDE

Lisa Brewer-Walraven, Director, Child Development and Care, MDE

Reneé DeMars-Johnson, Director, Office of Early Childhood Development and Family Education, MDE
Connecting Early Childhood to Elementary Performance with MI School Data

Jennifer Pricco, MI School Data Analyst, *Center for Education Performance and Information*


Come on a guided tour of the MI School Data portal, the home for Michigan's educational data. Explore the Early Childhood menus to access demographic and performance data. See how to search students by early childhood program and explore their educational success. Check out the new features to connect PK programs to 3rd grade M-STEP with assessment and performance comparisons.

Early Head Start Partnership-A Roadmap to Collaboration

Dana Staser, President, *Dana Stasser Consulting, LLC*

Are you currently collaborating in an Early Head Start Partnership or thinking of expanding your partnerships? Are you wondering how to get the most from this collaboration or how to train the workforce around the Performance Standards? Early Head Start Partnerships-A Roadmap to Collaboration is an opportunity for participants to review concrete steps to building and sustaining an effective partnership and to have small group discussions to think more deeply about what their next steps will be in their programs.

The Smile Factor: Helping Families to Have Something to Smile About!

Susan Deming, Early Childhood Oral Health Specialist, *MI Dept of Health and Human Services*

Oral health has been shown to impact how families live, work, and play. Having poor oral health may cause an adult to have trouble finding work, or a child to relate to friends. This session will highlight how families can improve their oral health by preventing oral disease, build self-esteem, and confidence in themselves and their children. Participants will learn the importance of maintaining oral health as a child and also as an adult. Keeping primary (baby) teeth healthy and in the oral cavity as long as possible can greatly increase a child's chance for success in school, making friends, and improving their overall self-esteem.

Strengthening Connections: Infant Mental Health in the Context of Home, School & Childcare Setting

Danielle Rice, LMSW, Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Specialist, *Development Center*

Kelsi M Podgorski, LMSW, IECMH-E®, Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Specialist and Early Childhood and Family Services Clinical Therapist, *Development Center*

This presentation will introduce the foundation of infant mental health, focusing on 1.) defining infant mental and its core principles 2.) how caregivers and professionals can utilize IMH tenets to promote optimal early childhood development.
Together We Can: Creating a Healthy Future for Our Family

Courtney Aldrich, Program Instructor, Michigan State University Extension

Participants will actively engage in creating family goals, identifying a network of support for their child, and creating parenting agreements. Attendees will practice communicating through conflict and active listening. Participants will leave having a greater sense of priorities and support systems for their children and themselves. This will be an interactive session that will encourage parents to be intentional in their parenting with their children.

Supporting Attachment with Infants and Young Children

June Hall, LMSW, IECMH-E(IV-C)

Attachment is a complicated dance between caregivers and infants/young children. Caregivers bring their own history to the relationship with their child which influences their capacity to provide caregiving that supports attachment. The infant/young child, as an active participant in the attachment relationship, bring their own unique capacities for attachment. This workshop will focus on ways to increase attachment between caregivers and children.

Directors’ Track: EHS-CCP Building Supply and Access to Quality Infant Toddler Programs

Linda Langosch, Systems Specialist, Head Start Training & Technical Assistance Center Region V, STG International Inc

Susan Rohrbough, Office of Child Care TTA

EHS-CC Partnerships bring together the most beneficial parts of Early Head Start and childcare to leverage resources to increase access to high-quality comprehensive services, meeting the needs of eligible families. These high-quality programs support the development of infants and toddlers through relationship-based practices and positively impact all children attending an EHS-CC Partnership setting. During this session, you will have the opportunity to reflect on why building supply and access to quality services matters and how to use relevant information and resources to improve systems and services for successful implementation through EHS-CC Partnerships.

How to Incorporate Conscious Discipline© in Home Base

Barbie Dupras, Conscious Discipline in Home Based Settings, Community Action Alger Marquette Head Start

We will learn how to use the 7 Powers and 7 Skills of Conscious Discipline© in the home. Conscious Discipline© structures and philosophy can easily be incorporated into a home based setting helping parents learn life long skills. Participants will learn how to work with parents in building safety, connections, attachment, and attunement through the use of Conscious Discipline© structures.
Emerging Research on Early Brain Development

Ky Lindberg, Regional Lead - Early Childhood Partnerships, *LENA*

Research on early brain development has accelerated in the past few years, using a variety of technologies, including LENA technology. Among the key findings are that conversational turns – back and forth interactions between adults and children – are even more important than just the number of words. Participants will explore the use of LENA technology as a tool for parents/caregivers to measure interactive talk and create an action plan for increasing interactive talk, a key component of early brain development, in your community.

Increase Male Involvement Within Programs

Torena Gehrett, Associate Teacher, *Mid Michigan Community Action Agency*

Shannon Wilson, *Mid Michigan Community Action Agency*

Learn how to increase male involvement within a program and provide opportunities to encourage positive male role models in the classroom. Attendees will not only leave with knowledge on how to get male role models into the classroom but they will have the opportunity to share ideas with one another on ways to increase involvement.

Innovative Practice: Whole Child MTSS Implementation

Erin Bradley, Compliance Manager, *Genesee Intermediate School District*

Katrina Burnham, GISD Social Emotional and Disabilities Manager, *Genesee Intermediate School District*

Rhonda Tata, GISD Coordinator of Health Services, *Genesee Intermediate School District*

Learn how one Head Start/Early Head Start grantee focuses on the whole child by using an innovative multi-system data team to examine academic, attendance, behavioral health, disabilities, and health data within an MTSS structure. Participants will understand the benefit of regularly examining whole child data to make data-driven decisions that positively impact the child and his or her family and be able to articulate the “why” for moving toward a whole child approach. They will also evaluate current data sources, focusing on areas of strength and areas where additional data might be beneficial to their own program. Lastly, participants will also identify potential barriers within their own program, and brainstorm possible solutions to those barriers.
**Trauma Among Head Start and EHS Parents and Their Children Using a Group Stabilization Model**

Amy Dorow, Social Worker, *Community Action Agency*

Bretta Leazier, Psychologist, Early Childhood Specialist, Co-Creator/ Co-Facilitator of Building Resilience, *Community Action Agency*

Emma Schaff, LMSW, IMH-E, Early Childhood Specialist, Co-Creator/ Co-Facilitator of Building Resilience, *Community Action Agency*

A group called Building Resilience was created to address the unmet needs of Head Start and Early Head Start Parents with high ACE scores in Jackson County. Learn how this type of group might be beneficial to your students, and how a group like this would work for your county. Participants will learn how group intervention with parents can address unmet needs of adults and children in their programs who have experienced trauma. Participants will receive information about the group created in Jackson County. We will discuss the structure of the group and how a measurable reduction in symptoms of PTSD can be achieved through this facilitated connection between parents. We will also provide information about how parental stabilization positively impacts Head Start and EHS students.

**Directors’ Track: “Networking Session for Directors”**

Robin J. Bozek, Executive Director, *Michigan Head Start Association*

**FAME "Fathers And Men Engaged" for Children, Families and Communities**

Mike Kildee Family, Engagement Coordinator, *Genesee Intermediate School District*

James Patrick, Family Engagement Advocate, *Genesee Intermediate School District*

Children thrive when both parents are actively engaged in their child’s education and life. This workshop will explore effective ways for our staff to engage with fathers and male caregivers so that they are actively engaged in their child’s early education, growth and development. Presenters will share what is currently being done at GISD through the FAME program and together, we will share our ideas so that we can reach more fathers and men to benefit the children and families we serve.

**Play Safe! Be Safe! Fire Safety For Young Children**

Michael O. McLeieer, APIO, President / Lieutenant, *E.S.C.A.P.E. Inc.*

Over 300 children die each year in home fires. Children do not learn by repeating catchy phrases about fire safety or by experiencing scare tactics. Children learn through repetition and play. This session applies the principal of child development and early childhood education best practices to fire safety.
Sleep: Getting children More Sleep for Good Health, Better Behavior, and School Readiness!

Ann Raftery Director of Sleep Programs, *Sweet Dreamzzz Inc.*

Sleep is critical to a child's health, development, and school readiness skills, yet over half of preschoolers do not get enough. Parents often lack knowledge and bedtime routines. Sweet Dreamzzz is out to change that. Learn about the importance of sleep, a healthy bedtime routine, and strategies for sharing information with parents, preschoolers, and teachers. CFOC national standards now include SLEEP!

**Circle of Courage**

Ara Hachigan, Director of Operations & Special Needs Services, *Detroit Institute for Children*

The Circle of Courage is a model of positive youth development based on the universal principle that to be emotionally healthy all you need is a sense of belonging, master, independence and generosity.

*More to be posted soon!*