

AAEYC News

The Austin Association for the Education of Young Children
825 East 53rd 1/2 St.
Austin, TX 78751

Letter from the President by Amanda Hernandez

Dear AAEYC Members:

It is a great honor to serve as your President for the 2002-2003 year. I would like to thank the membership for your vote in supporting me in serving as your President again for this upcoming year. I look forward to the many upcoming events in serving our membership and community areas.

I am grateful to the Austin Association for the Education of Young Children Board members and committee members that have supported the advocacy efforts of the organization. We have built strong collaborations throughout the community to better serve our members, children and families in the local and rural areas. I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize Austin Families, The South Austin Professional

Home Child Care Association, Rural Capital Area Workforce Development Board, Rural Capital Area CCMS, WorkSource and the Texas Department for Protective and Regulatory Services for their collaboration efforts with our Week of the Young Child Annual Awards Reception and annual spring conference. We have also joined Connections Resource Center in assisting with the Celebrations of Families event held yearly.

In this upcoming year, our membership will be going through our state restructuring process. If you are a current member, you will be receiving information from NAEYC on the new membership fees structure. For more information on this, you may contact our membership chairperson.

If you would like to serve on a committee or inquire about becoming a board member, please do not hesitate to call. We have included in our newsletter a Board Contact Information list to assist you with contact information.

Mark your calendars for the Week of the Young upcoming events in April and our annual spring conference in May of 2003. I look forward to working with the incoming AAEYC Board members and all of you in the upcoming year ahead.

Sincerely,

Amanda R. Hernandez
President, AAEYC

Fall 2002

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Accreditation Reinvention by Sue Gartner

If you have been following the articles in the Young Child about NAEYC Accreditation, you know that changes are taking place. As directors and staff of NAEYC Accredited Child Care Centers, you may have noticed some changes already. At our annual NAEYC Conference in New

York City in November, we will hear details about the proposed changes.

AAEYC would like to invite anyone who is interested in the NAEYC Accreditation process to participate in a local network of directors and others interested in sharing informa-

tion, resources and accreditation success strategies. If you would like to share in this conversation, please call to leave your name and contact information with Sue Gartner, 223-5202 (work); 288-2014 (home).



Special Point of Interest

- P.D. Jolley is the new member-at-large on the AAEYC board; members may contact her at :
- pdjolley@austin.rr.com or by calling 447-8973.
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Restructuring by Mary Jamsek

What's All This Talk About Restructuring?

If you have had any contact with National or State AEYC recently, you've probably heard talk of restructuring. It's on everyone's minds, and part of every conversation at every level of AEYC. What exactly, you may ask, is Restructuring, and how will it affect me? Good question. This article will attempt to answer it.

What Is It?

Restructuring is a reorganization, at every level, of our Association for the Education of Young Children.

As you are aware, membership in Na-

tional AEYC has grown by leaps and bounds in the past 10 years. This growth in members has been accompanied by an increased demand for services. The old model of service provision by National no longer worked, so for the past several years, National has revamped the way it provides services in addition scrutinizing what those services will be. One change that many members notice is the new way membership is processed. You can get information about membership through NAEYC's web page (www.naeyc.org), as well as the many other services and products that NAEYC has available.

Some of these include the Early Years are Learning Years bulletins, conference information for national and links for many state and local conferences, and member bulletin boards.

You may also notice new terminology including customers, service, and products. These new terms indicate NAEYC's commitment to meeting the needs of its members, as well as providing services to the early childhood community at large. NAEYC is committed to becoming a High Performing Inclusive Organization (HPIO). This means that diversity in every way is absolutely

necessary.

How Will It Affect Me?

Now that National has a sense of what will help it become more responsive to membership needs and maintain and enhance its presence as the pre-eminent voice for young children, it is now State and Affiliate Chapter's turn to look at our structure.

The restructuring process will help us strengthen our own group, and keep us

ready to respond to the changing needs of the membership.

Restructuring has three phases and five teams. State AEYC is going through the same process at the same time as local affiliate chapters are, and is always available as a resource.

"One way restructuring will affect us immediately is with the elimination of the local member."

The five areas that Restructuring addresses are:

-Organizational. This group will address areas such as mission and vision statement for the organization and legal matters such as tax exempt status.

-Governance. This group will address issue related to the people working for the organization such as by laws, and job descriptions.

-Membership. This group will identify membership issues and work on recruitment and marketing and determining member needs.



-Programs and Services.

This group addresses topics such as conferences and other issues related to what we can provide in the area of early childhood education, as well as meeting the needs of membership as determined by the Membership group.

-External Assessment. This group is concerned with assessing the effectiveness of the AEYC as a HPIO (High Performing Inclusive Organization).

Once the initial process has been completed, it will be updated on a regular basis through the use of yearly plans and goal setting.

How Will It Affect Me?

One way Restructuring will affect us immediately is with the elimination of the local member. Local memberships are prohibited by National AEYC. Being a member of the Association for the Education of Young Children means membership at each of its levels- local chapter affiliate, state, regional (for Texas this is SECA), and national. Because many services flow from Na-

tional through State to Chapter Affiliates, membership at each level is necessary to fully benefit from all NAEYC has to offer. Of course, full membership is a financial commitment. Look for scholarship and membership subsidy plans in upcoming newsletter articles. Be assured that many NAEYC services are available to non-members as well. Please contact us with any concerns or ideas regarding membership.

As an Affiliate Chapter, we must participate in the restructuring process in (continued on next page)

About the Austin AEYC Board



Amanda Hernandez, President Cindy Gamez, Co-VP of Support; Newsletter
Kathleen Bradley, President–Elect Marti Burris, Co-VP of Support
Mary Jamsek, Past President Sherre Reynolds, Co-Chair VP of Training
Kim Kofron, Secretary Suzie Plyler, Co-Chair VP of Training
Charlotte Bird, Treasurer Kathy Winfrey, Affiliate Interest Group
P.D. Jolley, Member at Large Cheryl Weiner, Publications Chair
Sue Gartner, VP Community Relations Tommi Aleman, VP Membership

Amanda R. Hernandez is currently an Associate Professor for Austin Community College. She is also a CDA Representative for the Council for Professional Recognition and serves as an NAEYC Academy Validator. Amanda has served the Austin AEYC in various committees, President Elect and President. You may contact Amanda at 512.223-5203.

Sue Gartner, a member of NAEYC for over 30 years, has served on various state and local affiliate AEYC Boards. Sue, employed by the ACC Child Development Program for over 8 years, is the Child Care Quality Improvement Project Coordinator and an occasional adjunct instructor. She has been an instructor and lab school teacher of preschool children in Colorado and Iowa, taught in other early childhood settings in Austin, has been married almost 27 years and is the mother of four and grandmother of two.

Mary K. Jamsek is a teacher at the Priscilla Pond Flawn Child and Family Laboratory at the University of Texas as well as an adjunct instructor at Austin Community College in the Child Development Department. She has been involved in AEYC at the national, state (New York and Texas), local levels, and has served as Member at Large (TAEYC) and as President (Ithaca affiliate and Austin) and currently serves as the TAEYC

Cindy Gamez is currently the Quality Initiatives Coordinator for *WorkSource—Child Care Solutions*, where she manages the Quality Initiatives Program and the Travis County Child Care Training Project. She works on several community collaborative projects and sits on various advisory councils and committees to promote quality in early childhood environments. Cindy received a B.S. in Child Development from the University of Texas at Austin and was formerly a Head Start teacher of preschool children.

Charlotte Bird has been teaching 3 year olds at All Austin Cooperative Nursery School for the past four years. She has been in the Early Childhood field since “forever”. She presented workshops on the sensory table, light table, art activities and children’s literature on the local and state level. She graduated from Georgia College, Milledgeville with a B.A. in Elementary Education (ECE minor) and from California State University, Sacramento with a MA in Elementary/Early Childhood Education. She is a member of NAEYC, TAEYC and AAIEYC. For the past two years, she has been the TAEYC Affiliate Representative. She is saving up for another trip to Reggio Emilia, Italy. Bellissimo! Ciao!

Suzie Plyler has lived in Austin all her life. (40 Years!) She began her career in Early Care and Education 17 years ago. She owned her own center for 10 years, directed a Non-profit center for 4yrs and is now currently working for Fund for Child Care Excellence, Child Care Career Center, as a Mentor Coordinator. She is grateful to be a part of a community that is working hard and collaborating to support the many issues we face in the Early Care and Education Field.

Marti Burris is currently the Child Development Specialist Supervisor with WorkSource—Child Care Solutions. She has taught adults in an undergraduate course in Development Program Planning and offered many hours of in-service training for early childhood professionals and parents. Marti graduated from Kansas State University with a B.S. degree in Early Childhood Education. She has been a member of NAEYC and its affiliates and is currently a NAEYC Academy Validator.

P.D. Jolley is currently a teacher at the University of Texas Laboratory. She is also an Adjunct faculty member at Austin Community College, an instructor at the University of Texas and a trainer for conferences and workshops. She has held previous positions with the Austin AEYC as Vice-President of Support, Public Policy Co-Chair, Quality, Compensation and Affordability Designee, Conference Co-Chair and Conference Interest Session Co-Chair. P.D. has a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Child Development and Family Relationships from the University of Texas.

Kathleen Bradley is currently the Director at Future Stars Child Development Center. She is also a member of the South Austin's Director Group, NAEYC and the Directors for Change. Kathleen has a Child Development Associate Credential (CDA), an A.A.S. in Child Development and is enrolled in the MA/ABLE program at Pacific Oaks College working on her Bachelors. She is currently serving the Austin AEYC as the Co-Vice President of Training 2001- Present.

Kim Kofron is currently the Educational Specialist for The Children's Courtyard Austin Region. She is also an Adjunct Faculty member with Austin Community College and teaches Child Development Associate training classes. Since 1991, Kim has been working with young children, families, and professionals who work in Early Childhood Education. She has a B.S. in Human Development and Family Studies—Child Development from the University of Illinois and a Master of Education from University of Texas.

Tommi Aleman is the assistant director of programs at a non-profit, Christian based, early childhood center. She has served children and families at this center for the past three and a half years. She has a CDA and a Professional Administrators Credential. She is currently pursuing her Bachelors in Child Development.

Kathy Winfrey is known wherever she goes as a true professional. She knew from an early age that teaching would be at the center of her lifetime career. She began her career in Business Finance after attending the University of Texas at Austin, and was employed for ten years at a major financial institution. Although her position as a Financial Advisor was quite comfortable, she longed to become an educator. Kathy pursued her teaching career by becoming a lead Pre-K teacher at an NAEYC accredited learning center while attending Austin Community College. She earned her CDA a year later and has currently received her certification as a Day-care Director through the state of Texas. Kathy is currently employed at The Children's Courtyard and continues to motivate other educators in their pursuit to provide a quality education for young children. She believes that one of the best decisions she has ever made was becoming a member of NAEYC and states that the most rewarding aspect of being a child development specialist is seeing the smiles on the faces of the children and their parents.

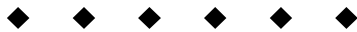
Restructuring (cont. p.2)

order to remain part of the AEYC structure. Groups who do not complete restructuring will no longer be a part of the AEYC organization.

Each member of our board is serving on one of the five teams. How can you help you ask-especially without getting on the board? Volunteer to work on one of these teams. We need people for short-term commitments with expertise in each of the team areas. This is a great way to contribute to the growth of the affiliate and the well being of early childhood professionals.

We are boldly stepping into this new process to help us be a stronger organization and a more effective voice for children and the adults who care for them. Join us!

Mary Jamsek, TAEYC Representative



The Fund for Child Care Excellence

Dear AAEYC Members:

The Child Care Career Center (CCCC) is a program of the Fund for Child Care Excellence (FCCE). The primary goal of the CCCC is to address the need for consistent and quality child care services. An emphasis is placed on the recruitment of trainees, entry level training, job placement and support to child development programs that are in the process of hiring and retaining qualified workers.

We are highly committed to helping individuals start their career path in the fun and exciting childcare profession The Career Center offers entry level training to those candidates who:

- Successfully complete a childcare screening and assessment process
- Demonstrate a genuine interest in working with young children
- Meet eligibility requirements for Texas Minimum Standards for Child Care Licensing Entry level child care training is scheduled on a twice-monthly basis through December 2002. Graduates will receive

job referrals from our job bank, a graduation certificate and a \$135.00 bonus upon completion of the training.

Please visit, www.fundforchildcare.org or call 458-9437 for more information about the training schedules, career center orientations, entry level curriculum, job bank or mentor program.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Hillman.

Director
Child Care Career Center

Patricia A Hillman
Executive



Week of the Young Child

by Sue Gartner



You are invited to help plan for:
WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD
April 6-12, 2003

Do you remember how Week of the Young Child used to be in Austin? Have you come to Austin with great ideas from WOYC celebrations else-

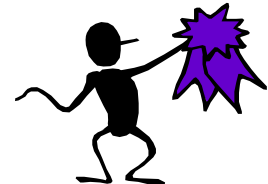
where?

Would you like the Austin Week of the Young Child 2003 Calendar of Events to include more choices than in 2002?

If your answer to any of these questions is yes, then we invite you to join in an informal group of interested providers, professionals and resource agencies. If you are a director, child care provider, or provide support to parents, providers and professionals, we would like to hear your ideas. This interest group evolved from discussions at the Taking On Turnover Director Training provided by Austin Families. Representatives from the Austin Association for the Education of Young Children, the Public Awareness Com-

mittee of the Austin Child Care Council, and The Fund for Child Care Excellence are currently attending meetings.

We invite you to help plan the next Week of the Young Child and hope to include your child centered agency events and activities as we develop a calendar of events celebrating the Week of the Young Child. The next meeting is scheduled for October 30th at 10 a.m. at Hyde Park Baptist Child Development Center. E-mail Ginny Braden at



**The Austin Association
for the Education of
Young Children**
825 East 53rd 1/2 St.
Austin, TX 78751

**Proud to be a local affiliate
of NAEYC**

Director Training Opportunities

Mark Your Calendars: WorkSource—Greater Austin Area Workforce Board has received a Regional Collaboration Grant to provide training for Directors in 2003. The first of two three day symposia will be held at The Hyatt Regency

Hotel—Townlake on **MARCH 27-29,**



2003. Be sure to reserve these days for this exciting training opportunity. The second Symposium is being planned for early Fall 2003 to help you meet your specific training needs.

Partners include: WorkSource—Child Care Solutions, AAEYC, Austin Community College, Austin Families, Inc., Connections Resource Center, The Fund For Child Care Excellence, TDPRS Child Care Licensing, Raising Austin and Rural Capital Area Workforce Board. Be on the lookout for registration packets to be mailed soon! Questions? Call Cindy Gamez at 381-5111.

Schedule of Events

- 10/29 WorkSource—Child Care Solutions Provider Meeting
- 11/1 TAEYC Newsletter/Ballots
- 11/11 AAEYC Board Mtg.
- 11/12 City of Austin Child Care Council Mtg.
- 11/19-11/23 NAEYC Conference in New York, NY
- 12/10 City of Austin Child Care Council Mtg.
- 1/13/03 AAEYC Board Mtg.
- 1/14/03 City of Austin Child Care Council Mtg.
- 1/28/03 WorkSource—CCS Provider Mtg.