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## Early Head Start Success Starts With Own Staff

Parent, Family, and Community Engagement (PFCE) has been a big focus this year for the Early Head Start program at Carey Services. As I was looking at the new data collection system we have put in place to enhance the provision of these services and collection of data showing progress towards these efforts, I realized an interesting way to demonstrate the true benefits of these efforts.

At the present time, our program employs 38 regular and substitute EHS staff:

- 11 have been parents of children in Early Head Start services
- Four are grandparents of EHS children
- Five achieved a degree or child development credential while enrolled in EHS
- Six are attending college to gain higher degrees

Also, the current vice-chairperson of Carey Services' governing board is a past EHS parent, past EHS staff member, as well as a recent master' degree recipient!

What a testament to the benefits for families involved in Head Start/Early Head Start. The seven outcomes of the PFCE framework are listed below. You can see how these people have definitely met each and every one of these outcomes in a big way!

1. Family Well-Being
2. Parent/Child Relationships
3. Families as Lifelong Educators
4. Families as Learners
5. Family Engagement in Transitions
6. Family Connections to Peers & Community
7. Families as Advocates & Leaders

Whether getting an education or job in the early childhood field, or one of the many other ways possible through PFCE, the families of Early Head Start of Carey Services continue to work hard and gain personal achievements that are meaningful to each of their families. We are very proud of these people and their achievements, and feel blessed to be a part of the process.

Cathy Queen

Early Head Start Director