

2013-14



Mid-Columbia Children's Council  
Annual Report

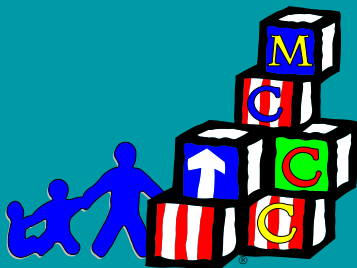


## It is Our Mission....

Educating children and families with innovative, high-quality early childhood learning opportunities and family partnerships to build better communities, one person at a time.

## Our Vision....

Nurturing children and families today, strengthening communities for tomorrow.



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## *From the Executive Director*

There is a unique flow to the work, classrooms, and services of Mid-Columbia Children's Council (MCCC). The ebb and flow of the life of a child, be it in a day or in a year, is similar to the Head Start program at Mid-Columbia Children's Council. There are times when the rhythm of day or the year is busy and moments when the pace slows slightly. There are times when we meet new people in life, such as the beginning of the new Head Start program year. Children meet new friends and their teachers, teachers meet parents, and I meet new Policy Council Members. An example of a busy time is at the beginning of the program year, with health and developmental screenings, child outcomes, check points and social emotional assessments, as well as in the classroom when the children are enthralled with learning activities.

The constant of Head Start is change. In the vein of change Mid-Columbia Children's Council applied for its first Five Year Grant, recovered from Sequestration Cuts, explored Early Childhood Education Assistance Program (ECEAP) expansion, and the Early Head Start Child Care Partnership expansion. A constant in our program is the consistent results as Mid-Columbia Children's Council improves school readiness outcomes, program systems and program services. These efforts are guided through the analysis of data and research from Head Start's National Centers of Excellence. Examples of these efforts include coaching and instruction being guided by data collected from the CLASS observation, a standardized observation tool used to evaluate the quality of teacher-child interactions and teacher instruction. Reflective Supervision supports Family Services, the strengthening of systems to support families with barriers to consistent child attendance, and the increased focus on the follow-up of children's health needs. These efforts result in better outcomes and increased quality of services.



The most recent change is regarding community collaboration and early childhood education on the state and federal level. Oregon Solutions Collective Impact support from the Governor's Office has facilitated a community wide effort to develop a Community Health Worker Hub, using existing Community Health Workers such as Mid-Columbia Children's Council's Family Health Advocates, Home Visitors, Health Coordinators, and Teachers to reach Oregon Health Benchmarks Community wide. What this looks like from the family's perspective is one person supporting your family with the many social determinants of health. Our Oregon Governor has also established Early Learning Hubs across regions of Oregon. Mid-Columbia Children's Council is included in two Early Learning Hubs: the Four Rivers Hub, which includes Hood River, Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam, and Wheeler Counties, and the Central Oregon Early Learning Hub made up of Jefferson, Crook and Deschutes Counties. The many functions of the early learning hubs are to improve school readiness, align education systems birth through career, and to increase and better coordinate the efforts of early childhood education. The greatest change in early childhood education is the effort of both Washington State and the Federal Government in developing a universal preschool program. Washington State has developed a plan to do so, and is using the ECEAP program as the foundation for the future universal preschool program in the state. President Obama is investing \$250 million in a universal preschool program through a competitive pilot program available to the states. The new Federal program uses a mixed delivery system much like Head Start.

Mid-Columbia Children's Council has been going through a lot of change as we all do in our journey through life. MCCC invites you to be a part of the early childhood education journey with us, and hope we are also invited to be a part of your early childhood education journey.

Sincerely,

*Matthew Solomon*

Executive Director

# *Serving Oregon & Washington*

**Administrative Office**  
1100 E. Marina Way, Ste. 215  
Hood River, OR 97031  
541-386-2010

**Maupin Center**  
308 Deschutes Avenue  
Maupin, OR 97037  
541-395-2665

**Belmont Center**  
2168 Belmont Drive  
Hood River, OR 97031  
541-386-1955

**Parkdale Center**  
4880 Van Nuys Drive  
Parkdale, OR 97041  
541-387-5721

**Carson Center**  
441 Hot Springs  
Carson, WA 98610  
509-427-5815

**Petersburg Center**  
3855 15 Mile Road  
The Dalles, OR 97058  
541-370-2536

**Country Club Center**  
820 Country Club Road  
Hood River, OR 97031  
541-386-3269

**The Dalles Center**  
1717 West 10th Street  
The Dalles, OR 97058  
541-298-8801

**Goldendale Center**  
920 South Schuster  
Goldendale, WA 98620  
509-773-3091

**Wahtonka Center**  
3601 West 10th Street  
The Dalles, OR 97058  
541-370-2636

**Klickitat Center**  
PO Box 54  
Klickitat, WA 98628  
509-369-3800

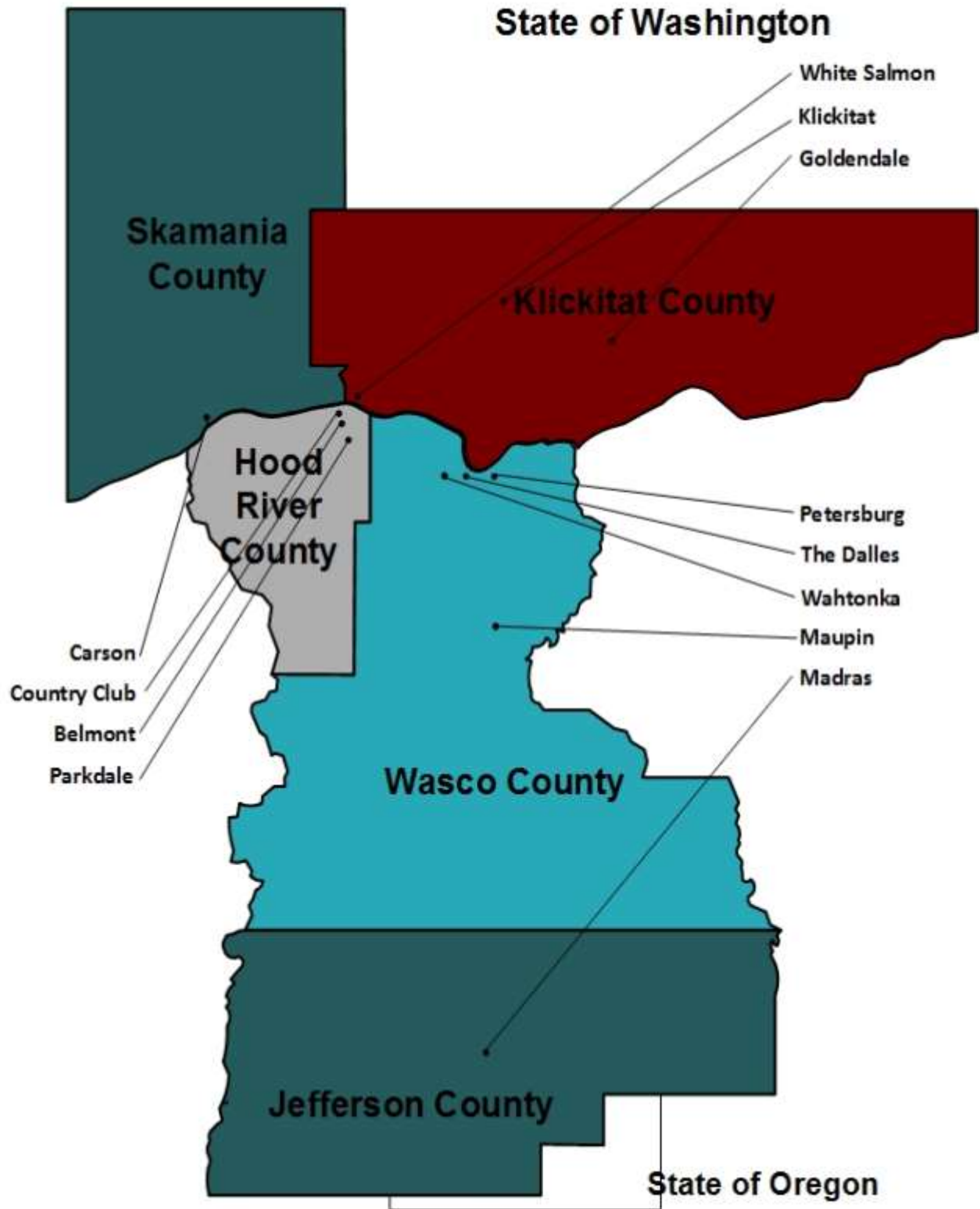
**White Salmon Center**  
555 NW Loop Road  
White Salmon, WA 98672  
509-493-2666

**Madras Center**  
650 NE A Street  
Madras, OR 97741  
541-475-4870

**White Salmon EHS**  
553 NW Loop Road  
White Salmon, WA 98672  
509-493-21902



# *Service Area*



# Financial Report

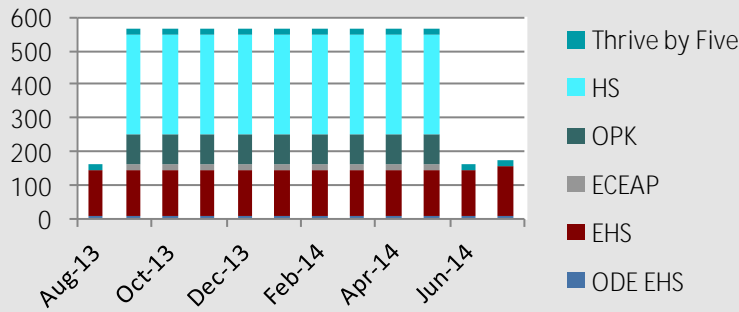
## Fiscal Year Ending November 30, 2014

	For Year Ended 11/30/2013 Audited*	For Year Ended 11/30/2014 Audited*	For Year Ended 11/30/2015 Budgeted
<b>Support and Revenues</b>			
US Department of Health & Human Services	4,109,568	4,365,112	4,412,481
Oregon Department of Education	676,982	797,389	830,866
Washington Department of Early Learning	320,092	326,262	307,629
US Department of Agriculture -Child Care Food Program	189,238	199,011	212,000
Other Program Income and Grants	17,694	24,784	7,428
Kinder Connections	55,711		
Private Grants		94,123	90,000
Loss on leasehold improvements	(5,200)		
Private Cash and In-Kind Contributions	146,504	159,830	160,000
<b>Total Support and Revenues</b>	<b>5,510,589</b>	<b>5,966,511</b>	<b>6,020,404</b>
<b>Budgetary Expenditures</b>			
Personnel	4,343,403	4,406,276	4,796,214
Program Supplies & Services Management , General Supplies and Services	1,027,406	1,168,788	1,114,013
Property and Equipment Additions	127,226	117,691	110,177
	29,549	138,831	0
<b>Total Budgetary Expenditures</b>	<b>5,527,584</b>	<b>5,831,586</b>	<b>6,020,404</b>

\*The independent auditors' reports on the financial statements expressed unqualified opinions for the years ended November 30, 2013 and 2014. The independent auditor's reports on compliance with requirement of major programs expressed unqualified opinions for the years ended November 30, 2013 and 2014.

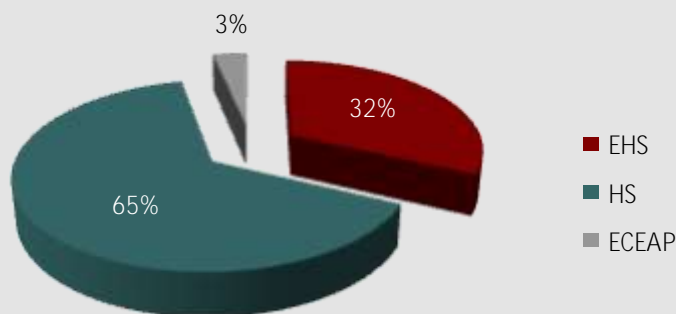
# ERSEA & Parent Education

## 2013-2014 Average Funded Enrollment



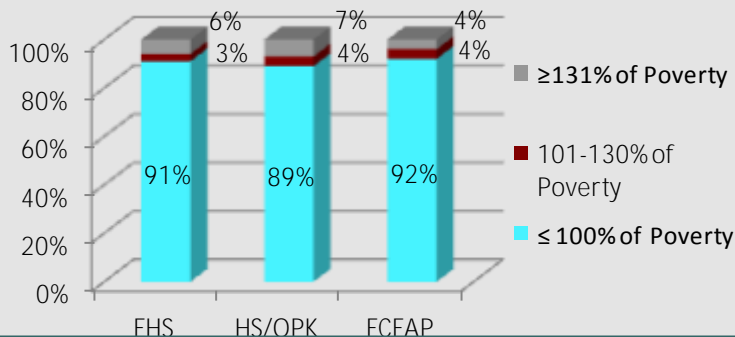
Mid-Columbia Children's Council is partnering with New Parent Services (NPS) to provide parenting classes at The Dalles site. Joel Pelayo and Nancy Paul from NPS presented the Opening Doors curriculum to both Spanish and English speaking parents. For the class, both child care and an evening meal is provided to the parents and children that attend each session. Opening Doors is a best practice curriculum that supports parents in understanding how to make sure their children have what they need to be successful in school and society.

## Cumulative Enrollment 710



Above, participants are performing a skit about parent attitudes regarding helping children in their development including: a positive point of view, a procrastination point of view, and a negative point of view.

## Percentage of Children Below 100% of Poverty 2013-2014



Parenting  
Parenting  
Education

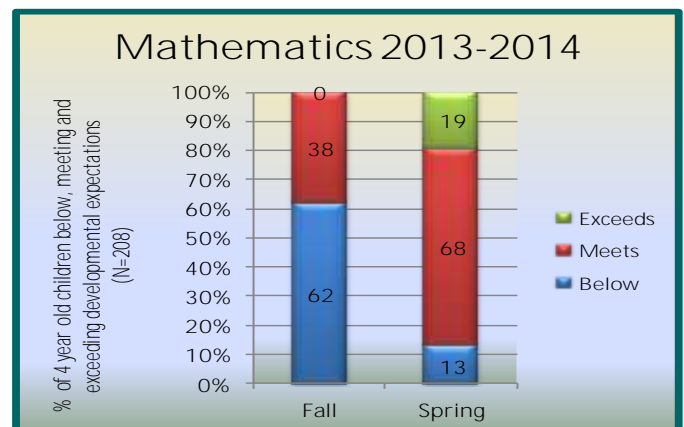
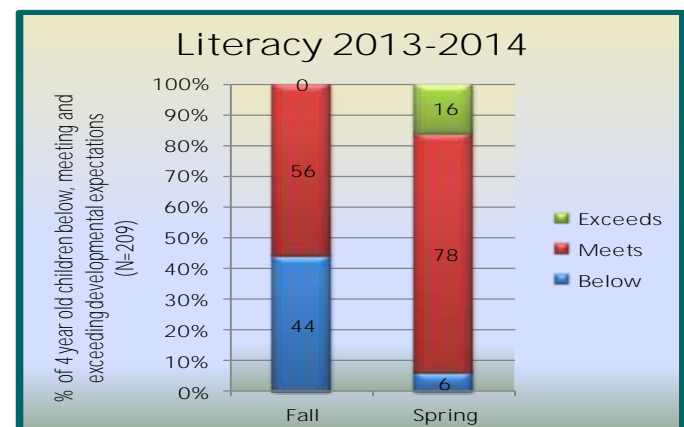
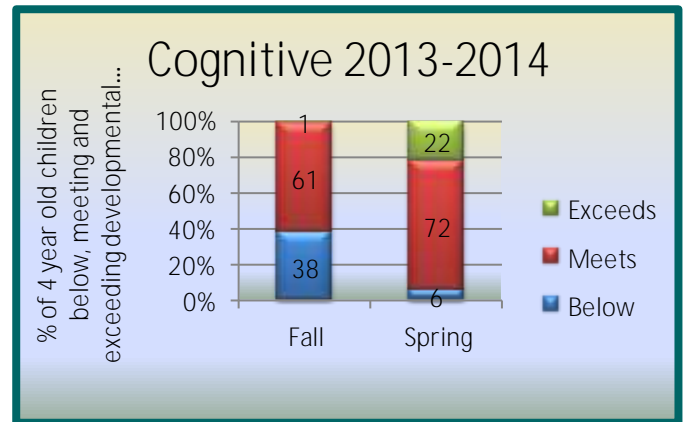
# Early Childhood Education

The early learning years are essential for later school success. Mid-Columbia Children's Council prepares young children for success in school and engages parents as their child's first teacher. MCCC established school readiness goals with input from parents, teachers, and school district partners. These goals are the expectations for children's progress in language and literacy development, cognition and general knowledge, approaches to learning, physical health and well-being, motor development, and social and emotional development that will improve readiness for kindergarten.

Using research-based curriculum and best practices, our teachers and home visitors provide rich learning experiences for children ages 0 to 5 that build a foundation to last a lifetime. We are committed to providing quality teaching and educational opportunities that help children enter kindergarten self-confident and ready to learn.

MCCC uses the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) to strengthen teacher practices shown to improve children's readiness for kindergarten in all areas; social, emotional, cognitive, language, literacy and math. CLASS is conducted through direct observation by certified Education Coordinators and the results are used to support on-going improvements in teaching practices.

The MCCC Education Team uses the Widely Held Expectations Reports from the GOLD assessment tool to compare information about the knowledge and skills of children. This report groups children's assessed ratings on the developmental continuum into three categories: below, meets, or exceeds typical expectations. Data results shown in the Fall 2013 to Spring 2014 School Readiness graphs shows that the majority of children entering our program do not have the skills expected for their age. However, by the end of the year they make tremendous growth, with 87% to 94% acquiring the expected skills. The charts provided show significant progress in the areas of literacy, math, and cognition. This strong knowledge and skills foundation sets the stage for children's readiness and success in school.





# School Readiness Outcomes



Children's skills for a variety of developmental objectives are assessed three times a year using the Teaching Strategies GOLD assessment tool. The assessment system is aligned with *The Creative Curriculum* used in Head Start, Oregon Prekindergarten, ECEAP and Early Head Start programs. GOLD meets the assessment standards of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). It is aligned with Oregon and Washington Early Learning Standards and the Head Start Early Learning Framework. Teachers and home visitors use assessment data to plan for individual children and to support group learning in classrooms, at play groups and on home visits. Administrators use outcome data generated by Teaching Strategies GOLD to guide on-going program improvement, including professional development activities, to ensure all children are ready for kindergarten.

## Family Fun Family Fun Math Night



# Health Services & Mental Health

## Health Stats

### Health

99% of Early Head Start children had health insurance by the end of the year

99% of Head Start children had health insurance by the end of the year

89% children 0-5 were up-to-date on medical exams

### Dental

100% of Head Start children were up-to-date on preventive oral health care

95% of Head Start children were up-to-date on dental exams

### Nutrition

25,501 breakfasts were served

43,009 lunches were served

22,817 snacks were served



## Healthy Children

Children need to be physically and emotionally healthy to learn and grow. MCCC works with parents to help each child be up-to-date on their medical care and also provides a variety of screenings to see if children have vision, hearing or dental needs.

One of the goals for the program is to model good nutritional habits in the home and at school. We serve only healthy meals and snacks which minimize salt, sugar and fat and emphasize whole grains, fresh fruits, vegetables, protein and dairy products at our sites. Meals are served family style which help children develop positive attitudes toward nutritious foods, share in group eating situations and develop good eating habits.



## Mental Health

The focus of the Mental Health Component at MCCC is to support the social and emotional development of children in our programs. This is achieved through classroom and child observations, consultations with staff and parents, trainings for staff and parents, as well as collaboration with community partners. The effectiveness of our



work in supporting social-emotional growth and development is measured by the Devereux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA). This is an excellent assessment tool that is used by the teachers in the Fall to get a baseline, and again in the Spring to measure growth over the

program year. These ratings allow us to assess our strategies, both on an individual and classroom level. There are many approaches teachers utilize in encouraging social-emotional growth. Some of the curriculum used includes: Second Step, Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS), High Scope Conflict Resolution, and Pocketful of Feelings.

# Parent Leadership and Involvement

Each year Mid-Columbia Children's Council has the opportunity to work with parent leaders. The article below is a wonderful example of how parent leaders mentor and encourage others to participate. Rebecca Boyer wrote this article for the parent newsletter to help encourage incoming parents to volunteer for Policy Council.

## What is Policy Council?

Policy Council is the decision making group made up of mainly Head Start parents (as well as some community members) who are responsible for the direction of the Head Start program. Policy Council is a great opportunity for parents to increase their leadership and advocacy skills.

## What does Policy Council do?

Policy Council must approve or disapprove, policies and procedures including: Strategic Planning for MCCC, the Annual Self Assessment, decisions to hire or terminate, serve as a link to the parent committees and have the opportunity to travel and speak out and advocate for their states early childhood programs.

## How do I join?

Come to the first parent committee meeting. During the first parent committee meeting elections are held amongst the parents. Each site elects a Policy Council representative for Head Start and Early Head Start according to the size of their site.

## Do I need to know how to be on a council?

No. An all day orientation and training is provided on a Saturday.

## When do the Policy Council meetings take place?

Every last Thursday of the month at 6pm, at the Hood River central office.

## What about childcare or traveling expenses?

A childcare and travel reimbursement is provided.

## Where can I find out more information?

Contact the Parent Involvement Coordinator @ 541-386-2010 ext. 211 or ask your center coordinator for details.



Rebecca Boyer

Policy Council Chair



# USDA and MCCC are Equal Opportunity Providers and Employers.

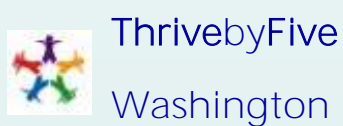
## Board of Directors

Bud Lacey: Chair  
Anthony Connors: Vice-Chair  
Marilyn Butler: Treasurer  
Joella Dethman: Secretary  
Jane Gray: Member  
Trudy Townsend: Member  
Vicki Prendergast: Member  
Kim Granville Taylor: Member  
Sheila Blackburn: PC Chair



## Policy Council

Sheila Blackburn  
Karen Brown  
Rocio Gonzalez  
Sasha Halm  
Patty Latimer  
Cecilia Little  
Kariann Lomboy  
Marisa Marquez  
Emily Miller  
Amber Pantages  
Leslie Phetteplace  
Inez Rodriguez  
Alina Slight  
Roseann Sosa  
Alexandra Ueland  
Tommy Willett  
Alexis Wright  
Michael Wright



### **Approved:**

Policy Council: April 30, 2015  
Board of Directors: May 7, 2015

