

## Dear Early and Head Start Families,

Please take a moment to read about our Administrative Team. We all welcome you to the program and wish you a wonderful year ahead!



### **Head Start/Early Head Start Program Director Pam Wenner**

It has been an honor to serve as Ulster County Community Action's Head Start/Early Head Start Program Director for nearly 27 years. Prior to this I served as an Adoption Caseworker for 6 years at Ulster County Department of Social Services, and as the YMCA Youth Director for 11 years. I have worked with children of all ages and their families throughout my career.

As Head Start/Early Head Start Director, I oversee a team of approximately 76 dedicated Head Start and Early Head Start staff to ensure that we implement a comprehensive, quality Early Childhood Program in the Spirit of the Head Start Program Performance Standards. I work closely with and through our Head Start/Early Head Start Specialist team, consisting of an Assistant Program Director, Family and Community Partnership Specialist, 2 Education Services Specialists, and a Health Specialist to make sure that we use Research Based curriculums and Best Practice to implement our services to each of the children and families served by the Program. I work closely with Ulster County Community Action's leadership team to ensure sound fiscal management and human resource practices.

I am the communication link with the Head Start/Early Head Start Policy Council and UCCAC Board of Director's to ensure that Head Start / Early Head Start policies and required approvals support quality programing. This role provides a unique opportunity to work side by side with Head Start and Early Start parents and community representatives to engage in shared decision making. I am also the primary communication link with our Program Funder's, to ensure sound program oversight. I have primary responsibility for Head Start/Early Head Start Grant writing and ensuring that our program is responsive to community needs. We look forward to your participation in this year's program!



**Early Head Start  
Education Specialist  
&  
Early Head Start/Head Start  
Disabilities Specialist  
Jennifer Hammond**

My name is Jennifer Hammond and I am the Early Head Start Education Specialist and Disabilities Specialist for our program. I support our Early Head Start teaching team in providing high quality care for our youngest children using the primary caregiving model as well as High Scope Curriculum. I also work with teachers and families for those children who receiving therapeutic services at our program across Ulster County. I work close with Early Intervention and Preschool therapists to ensure children and families have the services they need to be meet developmental milestones and are school ready!

I began my Head Start career in 1999. During my years at Head Start I have been a Toddler Teacher, Education Coordinator, and Center Director. I value the Head Start approach that supports parents as the child's primary teacher and a comprehensive approach to school readiness: health and nutrition, family support and advocacy, as well as child development.

I am excited to partner with your family this year! You can reach me via email [jhammond@uccac.com](mailto:jhammond@uccac.com), or phone at 845-338-8750 ext. 232.



**Head Start**  
**Education Specialist**  
**Beckey Walter**

My name is Beckey Walter and I am the Education Specialist for our preschool Head Start program. I began my Head Start career in 2005. During my years here, I have taken on many different roles including home visitor, toddler teacher and preschool teacher. I have stayed with

the program because of the love and care each member of our Head Start community puts into each aspect of the program. Each piece of our program must rely on each other to be the most successful possible. This success begins with our amazing families who open their lives to us and involves the teachers, family workers and management team working together to make the most personal and successful Head Start experience possible. I, myself was a Head Start parent. My child was a special needs child and Head Start helped a great deal with making sure the program was the right fit for him and advocating for things to benefit him and make his experience the best it could be. They say it takes a village and Head Start was a wonderful, supportive addition to my village.

As the Education Specialist, I oversee the classrooms and the implementation of our Highscope curriculum. If you need any help or support especially around areas that involve the classroom and curriculum, please reach out to me and I would be happy to assist the best I can. I can be reached at [bwalter@uccac.com](mailto:bwalter@uccac.com) or by phone at 845-338-8750 ext. 212.

We are so happy to have your family as part of our community and look forward to partnering with you during your journey here at Head Start. Welcome to our Head Start village!



**Head Start/Early Head Start  
Family and Community  
Partnership Specialist**

**Victoria Schuster-Henshaw**

My name is Victoria Schuster-Henshaw and I am the Family and Community Partnership Specialist for our Early Head Start and Head Start programs. I have been with the agency since 2018 in a variety of capacities, starting off as a clinical intern on our

Behavioral Health team while I was finishing my master's program in Mental Health Counseling. I was then hired as a Family Worker and interim Center Director in our Plattekill center, and then lastly, was hired as the Family & Community Partnership Specialist. In addition to my role here, I am also a private practice therapist, working with children, adolescents, and adults.

Part of my role is overseeing our Family Workers, who do important work to support not only your child but your entire family as well. They can provide you with resources to achieve your goals and can help you overcome obstacles that may be in your way. I also work with the Asst. Program Director to process all waitlists and ensure families can be served by our program as soon as possible. Lastly, I am here to help further support the message that family wellbeing is an integral part of success, not only for the family itself but for our community as a whole.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you need anything- my email is [vschuster@uccac.com](mailto:vschuster@uccac.com) and my phone number is (845)338-8750 ext. 203. Looking forward to working with you and your family!



Head Start/Early Head Start  
**Temporary Health Specialist**  
**Michele Conklin**

My name is Michele Conklin and I am the temporary Health Specialist for both Early Head Start and Head Start as this position is currently vacant. I began my association with Head Start in 1982 volunteering in my mom's Head Start program. So, I am a second-generation Head Start staff member! In 1986 I came to UCCAC, Inc. as the Head Start Health Specialist. Since that time, I have served as the Early Head Start Manager as we brought Early Head Start County and then as the Assistant Program Director. Two of my daughters have carried on this tradition by both working for a time in Head Start. Head Start is my family business because there is great promise in the program, I am so happy you are a part of this great tradition.

This year, I continue my role as the Health Specialist until this position is filled. As the Health Specialist, I am responsible for assuring all our children are engaged in a system of quality health care which supports their overall health and development. Additionally, my responsibilities extend to you our families, the centers, and classrooms. Through observations on-site and direct support to our family services and education staff we provide health services across all levels of our Program.

Please reach out to me if you need additional information or support. I can be reached at [mconklin@uccac.com](mailto:mconklin@uccac.com) or by phone at 845-338-8750 ext. 217.

I look forward to seeing you on one of my center visits.

Regards,

Michele Conklin