

EILA 4 (2008-2009) Graduates Bios

Mary Byrer is a Team Coordinator and Service Coordinator for Frederick County. She has worked in this field for 4 years. In this role, Mary coordinates a team of 10 colleagues, runs a weekly parent group, completes assessments, and works closely with families in the program who need extra support and resources. Her leadership style is one in which she asks nothing of her team that she would not do herself. She works alongside colleagues and leads “from the middle.” Mary is enjoying her leadership role and is eager to be a part of the upcoming expansion process.

Lisa Cochran is a Speech/Language Pathologist and Team Coordinator for the Frederick County Infants and Toddlers Program. She will be reaching her 10 year anniversary working as an SLP for FCITP this October and was recently promoted to Team Coordinator for Frederick’s new “East Team”. This past year has been very rewarding to her due to participating in and completing EILA, mentoring students and new SLP’s, as well as having the opportunity to take on a more formal leadership role in providing support and guidance to her coworkers. She is looking forward being a part of the leadership team as early intervention services moves forward with the expansion.

Katherine Dann is a special educator for Montgomery County Infants & Toddlers Program. In this role, she coaches parents, caregivers and other adults on how to help their child and family make progress on their IFSP outcomes. Katherine also supports parents' and other family members' experience of raising a child with a developmental delay. She has been enjoying and learning from her work in Early Intervention for the past 11 years. Katherine is especially interested in supporting social-emotional development and behavioral intervention.

Kellie Gearing Brown is a Special Instructor with the Frederick County ITP. She has been a special educator for 21 years working in the field of early intervention. In her position, Kellie conducts assessments and provides early intervention services to children and their families in home, community, and classroom settings. Kellie has a particular interest in working with children with autism and was part of a team that developed a center-based program for children with communicating and relating difficulties. Kellie believes in sharing her knowledge in the field with others. She has provided staff training, mentored new teachers, presented to local agencies, and at State early intervention conferences. Through continuing in her professional development, mentoring colleagues, and collaborating with leaders in the field of early intervention, Kellie aspires to be part of improving the State’s system of services for young children with disabilities and their families.

Sara Hammer is a physical therapist for the Montgomery County Infants & Toddlers Program at the East County site. In this role, she performs assessments and conducts sessions with children ages birth to 3 years old and their families to foster improvement in functional and gross motor skills. Sara has been a physical therapist for 10 years, has worked with children ages 3 to 21 for Montgomery County Public Schools as an Itinerant Physical Therapist since 2004 and has worked with the Infants & Toddlers Program since 2007. She has a Bachelors of Science in Physical Therapy from Daemen College, a Masters in Public Health with a certificate in Maternal and Fetal Health from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and a Doctorate in Physical Therapy from Boston University. She hopes to continue working with children and their families directly, as well as work with the Infants & Toddlers Program to facilitate family engagement and empowerment. She also hopes to promote research and documentation for evidence-based practice within the Infants & Toddlers Program.

Sue Hardy is an Occupational Therapist with the Baltimore County Infant and Toddler Program. In this role she services young children and their families within their natural home and community environments. Sue tries to help families realize their strengths and the possibilities for change and growth that are unique to each individual child and family. Sue's leadership philosophy is based on acceptance of individual differences, respect for the challenges we all face and appreciation of the human spirit. She would like to continue to "lead from the middle," within the context of a family-centered Infant and Toddler Program.

Kim Kallini is the resource teacher for the Howard County Office of Early Intervention. In this role, she provides support and professional development to parents, classroom teachers and therapists, as well as assisting in instructional programs and intervention plans for children. As a resource teacher, she also provides assistance with Part B and Part C procedural issues. She has worked in this field for 14 years and hopes to continue and further her leadership role and influences within the county.

Mary LaRue is a special educator and a team leader for the Montgomery County Infants and Toddlers Program. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Speech and Hearing at the University of Maryland, College Park Maryland and a Master of Science in Early Childhood Special Education at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. She has spent the last 12 years working directly with families and children in the Maryland Infants and Toddlers program in both Howard and Montgomery Counties. Working in the field of early intervention has given her the opportunity to look for ways to provide services based on the changing needs of families as well as build on each family's strength. Seeking new ideas and ways to provide services led her to complete her Supervision and Administration Certificate. In order to gain specific knowledge about early intervention she completed the EILA program through the Maryland State Department of Education in May of 2009. She is currently working in Montgomery County Infants and Toddlers program at a new site that opened in August 2009. She is looking forward to learning about the Extended Part C option.

Mary Anne Leginus is a physical therapist and Team Leader with the Prince George's County Infants and Toddlers Program. She graduated from the University of Maryland Baltimore School of Medicine in June, 1977 with a bachelor's degree in Physical Therapy. She has worked in early intervention since 1979, before there even was early intervention. In 1988 she began working for the Prince George's County Public Schools in the Infants and Toddlers Program. In 1994 she earned a master's degree in special education as an Infant Developmental Specialist. Primary responsibilities now include assisting families with learning how to care for and promote the development of their children with special needs, expanding community options and programs for children birth to three and providing training to other staff members on routines-based intervention, family interviews and building family and community capacity. She is also part of the county leadership team that is working on the new Extended Part C Option.

Lauren Mangrum, M.S. CCC-SLP is a Speech-Language Pathologist with 5 years experience working for the Montgomery County Infants and Toddlers Program (MCITP). Prior to this, she worked in the school setting with preschoolers and school aged children. She graduated from Howard University in 2002 with a Master's of Science in Speech-Language Pathology. Mrs. Mangrum is passionate about the work she does coaching families who participate in the infant and toddlers program. Her passion has grown out of her work with the Hanen program she facilitates. The Hanen program is an innovative early language intervention program that empowers parents to promote their child's language development during everyday interactions. She is certified to teach the following Hanen programs; "*It Takes Two to Talk*", "*More than Words*" and "*You Make the Difference*". She is a graduate of the Early Intervention Leadership

Program (EILA); a program designed by Maryland State Department of Education in an effort to build leadership skills of local Infant and Toddler Program directors and potential directors. Mrs. Mangrum enjoys spending time at home with her husband of 10 years, John, and her two children, John, age 11, and Jazmine, age 7.

Inez R. Marvel is the Coordinator for the Carroll County Birth to Five program. In this role, she supervises and coordinates the Infant/Toddler, special education early childhood and community based preschool staff. This is her second year in this position. Prior to this she was the special education consulting teacher for the Birth to Five program for 3 years. Before coming to the Birth to Five program, she was a speech-language pathologist for 17 years in the public schools servicing children ages 3 to 21 years. Ms. Marvel's focus is to lead the Carroll County Birth to Five Program, in partnership with community and general education, toward developing a comprehensive system of services for children and families. She is committed to providing staff with quality professional development to help them meet the needs of Carroll County's youngest learners.

Sheila Myers is the Infants and Toddlers Specialist for Calvert County Infants and Toddlers Program. In this role, she coordinates the local program. Sheila has worked in early intervention for 12 years, first as a special instructor and then as a Teacher of the Visually Impaired. In her current leadership role, she would like encourage service providers to reflect on the best practices in the field of early intervention in order to ensure the most positive outcomes for the children and families in Calvert County.

Alice O'Daniel is a special educator and Site Assessment Coordinator for Prince George's Infant Toddler Program. In this role, she ensures that assessments are scheduled and conducted in a timely manner. She also provides special instruction and implementation of the IFSP for children in the program. Mrs. O'Daniel has worked with PGCITP for a short five years, but brings the experience of running her own childcare to the program as well. Her goal is to complete a master's degree in the area of Early Childhood Special Education with a focus on Infant Development.

Frances "Franny" Stone is a Special Education teacher/Team Leader for the Prince George's County school system. Franny has been teaching for 23 years with the last 6 years being as an early intervention specialist. She received her BS in Special Education from the University of Maryland in 1986 and her MS in Special Education/Early Childhood Education from Johns Hopkins University in 1996. Franny showed a desire and aptitude for working with special needs children long before she decided to teach. As a teenager she spent summers working at Camp Shenandoah for Special Children. This experience helped her to envision the concepts of early intervention and thinking outside the box as can be applied to teaching. Using these insights, Franny wants to help her team embrace the best practices of early intervention while ensuring that the families' needs are met.

Michelle Varipapa is a Special Educator for the Baltimore County Infants & Toddlers Program. In this role, her primary responsibilities include eligibility assessments as well as writing initial IFSPs with families. She has worked in the field of Special Education since the early 1980s and is beginning her 11th year with the Infants & Toddlers program. She has a bachelor's degree in Special Education and a master's degree in Early Childhood Development. She believes effective leadership includes organizing and energizing people as they endeavor to assist families and children in their effort to celebrate their strengths, address their needs and maximize their potential including independence, self-reliance and competence within their communities. She strongly believes that an effective leader creates an environment that

nurtures and supports these empowering qualities in children, families, as well as in service providers and support staff.

Mary Boylen Wichansky is the Program Manager for the Montgomery County Infants and Toddlers Program (MCITP). In her current role, she is responsible for the following program areas: personnel development, public awareness, intake and contract management. She has benefited in her current position from the knowledge and skills gained by completing an undergraduate degree in Business Admin, a master's degree in Social Work, and completion of several post-masters certificate programs. Her current position has allowed her to blend soft and hard skills on a daily basis. Her interest in leadership began when I was a research assistant for the book, *The Healthy Company*. This work allowed her to interview and study various leadership styles and examine how they contributed to healthy organizations. EILA provided another opportunity to study leadership in a different way and to identify current opportunities in MCITP to enhance leadership of others. Her primary belief about leadership is that it requires the ability to tap the hidden potential of others including oneself.

Claudia Hapner Young is a special education teacher and service coordinator for the Wicomico County Infants and Toddlers Program, and is beginning her ninth year in this position. She has been a special education teacher for almost thirty years, having had the opportunity to live and work in several states throughout the northeast. She has a master's degree in Special Education with bachelor's degree in Speech Pathology. The EILA experience has provided the opportunity to more fully understand the whole Infants and Toddlers process and has helped to develop a much larger and extensive set of skills. The knowledge and subsequent confidence that this experience has provided will hopefully be an asset to the Wicomico Infants and Toddlers Team. She will be going back to school to pursue a certificate in Educational Administration in January, 2010.