

Kids Quarterly Press

A Newsletter of Choices Child Care Resource and Referral

April, May, & June 2025

Remembering Awesome Alicia



Most in our field have already heard about the passing of our beloved coworker, Alicia Hundley. Alicia was an incredible presence in the lives of our Choices staff, Region 2 providers, and Infant and Toddler caregivers across the state. She was a mentor, teacher, friend, and advocate for our youngest children. Everyone who interacted with her learned something from her. Hundreds of us are better trainers because of her. Thousands of us are better caregivers because of her.

Our staff has found comfort reading the dozens of tributes to Alicia on social media and talking with others at her services. One thing we can know for sure, is that we will always be able to find a memory to smile and laugh about. Please continue to keep her memory alive by sharing stories and providing the best care to infants and toddlers. She would be proud.

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Choices CCR&R

4421 Emerson Ave,
Suite 102
Parkersburg, WV 26104
(304) 485-2668
(304) 485-7024 (fax)

Choices CCR&R

11 Chenoweth Dr,
Suite 200
Bridgeport, WV 26330
(304) 622-6528
(304) 622-6092 (fax)

Recognitions



For information regarding this initiative contact:

Chrissy Lafferty 304-622-6528 Alicia Mazariego 304-485-2668

The Advantages of having a Breastfeeding Friendly Child Care Designation:

- 1. Designation shows the community your commitment to quality care.
- 2. Child and Adult Care Feeding Program (CACFP) meal reimbursements are available when mothers breastfeed at the center or provide breastmilk for feeding their infant.
- 3. Designation can positively affect staff recruitment and retention as well as productivity and morale.
- 4. Sites achieving designation receive a bonus stipend, certificate of designation and recognition, and materials for start up.

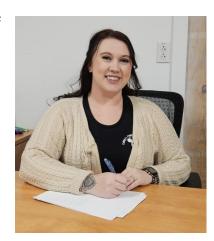
Click the link below to learn more about this designation and the 10-step process to becoming a breastfeeding friendly program.

https://www.wvit.org/breastfeeding-friendly-child-care-designation/



Congratulations to Quinn Snyder of Cubby's Child Care Center for earning her Endorsement as an Infant Family Associate!

The Infant Mental Health Endorsement is an internationally recognized credential that recognizes the abilities of professionals who work with pregnant people, young children, and their families. It is based on a set of competencies designed to support culturally sensitive, relationship focused practice within the framework of mental health. Someone who has achieved their Endorsement demonstrates that they have achieved these competencies through education, work, training, and reflective supervision.



Recognitions

Congratulations to Heart and Hands of Gilmer County and Growing Memories & Imagination Station of Harrison County on their Tier II approvals!

The Child Care Reimbursement System is a quality initiative that offers higher subsidy payments to programs that demonstrate they meet higher standards of care. Programs may apply for Tier II if specific higher quality standards are met. These providers receive a higher childcare reimbursement rate and are eligible for additional bonus payments.

Quality child care is essential to our state, communities, and families. Choices CCR&R is committed to supporting child care providers in their journey to Tier II and beyond. Please reach out to us with any questions and to find out more about quality initiatives in West Virginia.

If you are interested in becoming a Tier II program, contact your Quality Improvement Specialist.

Marcy Mueller

304-622-6528

Marcy.L.Mueller@wv.gov



WV Child Care Credential

The WV Child Care Credential is an initiative from the Division of Early Care and Education to recognize outstanding professionalism within the child care field. Applying for this recognition involves creating a professional portfolio highlighting professional development, beliefs, and work experience. A \$500 bonus payment and recognition certificate will be provided after the General credential is awarded.

Once the General credential is achieved, providers can apply for one Specialization credential that best represents their early childhood career. Currently, the Director, Preschool, Infant/Toddler, and Family Child Care Specializations are available. A \$250 bonus payment and recognition certificate will be provided after a Specialization is awarded.



For more information regarding the WV Child Care Credential contact Meagann.E.Morris@wv.gov

Or click the link below. www.choicescerr.org

Important Updates

Who's New At Choices?



Hello. My name is Allison Draper and I have recently been hired as the new Behavioral Consultant at Choices CCR&R in Parkersburg, WV. I come to the team with close to twenty years of experience as a preschool teacher for young children and mentor for college level student candidates in the classroom setting. I graduated from Ohio University with a B.S. in Early Childhood Education and a M.S. in Child and Family Studies. I am from northeast Ohio, but have lived predominantly in Athens, Ohio since being an undergrad. Although I feel I am a passionate and knowledgeable teacher, I am at the point in my life where I feel my experience can be best utilized as a guide for teachers who need support. I hope I can be of service to the providers that Choices works alongside. I have appreciated everyone's outpouring of support and the mentoring I have already received. In my personal life I enjoy listening to and seeing live music, reading, playing music, doing puzzles and spending time with friends and my two little dogs, Roscoe and Sprocket.

Do you need help with your small business?

Choices CCR&R is working with community agencies and professionals to gather information and resources for family child care business owners. We are working to put together a guide with helpful information regarding budgeting, quality standards, and much more. You will be able to request this guide in the coming months.

If you need connected to state or local small business programs, we can coordinate this and put you in touch with these agencies to provide more personalized assistance. Below are a few links to get you started.

https://wvsbdc.com/training/ https://wvbusinesslink.com/events/

We are also collaborating with community partners on training for our staff to better support you moving forward! Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for more information. For the latest updates, "Like" and "Follow" our Facebook page Choices Child Care Re-

https:// www.facebook.com/ profile.php? id=100088156617478 &mibextid=ZbWKwL



Important Updates

Choices Child Care Resource and Referral has a new website!

Our new site aims to simplify access for families and providers, with everything in one place and not much extra. Families can find common forms and links for helpful resources. Providers can access frequently needed forms, see our current and past newsletters, connect with the Professional Development Team, and learn about ECE initiatives and opportunities. Please reach out to us with questions or if you need assistance navigating the page!



Visit our new site at www.choicesccrr.org!

West Virginia Early Childhood Quality Assessment Phase 2 Assessments

Over the last 5 years, Early Childhood Quality Evaluators have been completing assessments using environmental rating scales in child care programs across the state. In 2025, Phase 2 of these evaluations is being expanded to include all child care centers who have had their baseline assessment completed. The purpose of conducting the Phase Two assessments is to establish data on current child care center classrooms in WV. This will allow the Division of Early Care and Education the ability to evaluate and build the capacity of high-quality child care.

Click the link below for more information about this project and what to expect during your visit. https://drive.google.com/file/d/IpOgPzCE2iiTNurjigVEgnVWFwIITS9Ot/view?usp=sharing

How can Choices help?

After your Phase 2 assessment is complete, the report will be sent to Choices CCR&R or the Resource and Referral in your region. Your program can then reach out to our Professional Development Supervisor to request it 30 days after the assessment is completed. A member of our professional development team will meet with the director and caregivers to discuss the areas of strength and areas for growth. Programs can then request coaching for their classrooms to improve quality. The caregiver and coach will work together to set reasonable goals. Our team is excited to be working with programs who want to achieve the high levels of quality!

To request your report and meeting with one of our Coaches, contact Meagann Morris, (304)485-2668 or Meagann.E.Morris@wv.gov.

Important Update



RIVER VALLEY CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES



ACDS REGISTRATION

ABOUT ACDS

ACDS is a four semester apprenticeship program for individuals working directly with children birth to age 12 for a minimum of 20 hours a week. Classes are one evening a week for 15 weeks a semester. Virtual classes are available for counties that do not offer an in-person option.

PARTICIPATION

Registration for the fall term starts June 1 and for the spring term November 1 each year. Interested participants should follow the outlined steps to register for class each term.

REGISTRATION



STEP ONE

Visit the WV STARS training calendar and search self-paced courses for all ACDS orientations.



STEP TWO

Complete registration that is linked at the end of each orientation.



STEP THREE

Submit \$25.00 registration fee to ACDS program. Checks and cards are accepted. Credit card form is on ACDS website.



304-523-0433



www.wvacds.org



wvacds@rvcds.com

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Date and Time	Title and Presenter/Description	Core Competency	Location
Harrison County Professional Development Calendar			
April 7, 2025	Planning Your Professional Growth	Marcy	Mueller
9:00am-11:00am	This training focuses on professional growth of early education providers and how to identify goals for the future.	PL/AM	Choices
May 4, 2025	Professionalism: Time to Ask the Tough Questions	Shanno	n Valles
6:00pm-8:00pm	This 2-part series will define what professionalism means in child care. We will discuss behaviors, ethics, professional portfolios, & other elements necessary for appropriately representing the field of early child-hood care & education. (Must attend May 4 & 14 and a TA visit.)	PL	Choices
May 6, 2025	Implementing Family Style Dining in FCC	Ashle	y Jobes
6:00pm-7:00pm	Family childcare providers will learn how to incorporate family style dining into their daily routine. Providers will gain knowledge about how family style dining promotes learning and development.	Various	Choices
May 20, 2025	Building Better Lesson Plans	Jennife	r Powell
6:00pm-8:00pm	Providers will learn how to create individualized lesson plans for children 0-36 months of age, plan activities for mixed ages, modify activities, and align the standards with each activity to meet the needs of all children.	EC	Choices
June 4, 2025	WV Early Learning Standards Framework for Pre-K Modules 🕍	Shanno	n Valles
6:00pm-8:00pm	This 3-part module series provides an in-depth look at the WV Early Learning Standard Framework. Participants will also become more intentional by creating a lesson plan using the framework. (Attendance is mandatory for all sessions. Session dates: June 4, 12, & 18)	Various	Choices
June 7, 2025	Exploring Social Emotional Development in Infants and Toddlers	Chrissy	Lafferty
10:00am-12:00pm	During this training we will explore the social emotional development of infants and toddlers.	Various	Choices
June 7, 2025	Helping Infants and Toddlers Develop a Sense of Self	Chrissy	Lafferty
1:00pm-3:00pm	During this training we will explore what influences a child's identity and how they develop a sense of self.	Various	Choices
June 10 & 11, 2025	Creative Curriculum for Family Child Care	Jennife	r Powell
6:00pm-9:00pm	FOR FAMILY CHILD CARE ONLY. Providers will learn about Creative Curriculum for Family Child Care and how to implement it into their program. To receive full credit, participants must complete both sessions.	EC	Choices
June 17, 2025	Active Supervision	Jodi F	ortney
6:00pm-7:30pm	This training will define active supervision, describe it as a strategy to keep children safe and explore ways to include it in your program.	HSN	Choices

In-Person Professional Development Policies

- Anyone with symptoms of any illness will not be permitted to attend training.
- You must register at <u>www.wvstars.org</u> at least 24 hours in advance.
- Children are not permitted to attend training sessions.
- Participants who arrive more than 15 minutes late will not receive WV STARS credit.
- Training sessions may be cancelled due to low enrollment or weather.

Date and Time	Title and Presenter/Description	Core Competency	Location
Wood County Professional Development Calendar			
April 8, 2025	Person-Centered Trauma Informed Care	Olivia	Horne
6:00pm-8:00pm	This course will be presented by Westbrook Health Services. It will define Person-Centered Trauma Informed Care. The session will discuss ACES and how to implement tools to help children in childcare.	CGD	Choices
April 22, 2025	WVIT II Relationship Based Care	Alicia N	lazariego
5:00pm-8:30pm	This course is the continuation of WVIT. This course focuses more deeply on attachment, primary caregiving, observation and assessment and the uniqueness of each child. The class will meet in person for 10 weeks. (Session dates: Apr. 22, 29, May 6, 13, 20, 27, Jun. 3, 10, 17, & 24)	All	Choices
April 23, 2025	WV Early Learning Standards Framework for Pre-K Modules	Abigai	l Carter
6:00pm-8:00pm	This 3-part module series provides an in-depth look at the WV Early Learning Standard Framework. Participants will also become more intentional by creating a lesson plan using the framework. (Attendance is mandatory for all sessions. Session dates: April 23, 30, & May 7)	Various	Choices
April 24, 2025	Building Better Lesson Plans	Jennife	r Powell
6:00pm-8:00pm	Providers will learn how to create individualized lesson plans for children 0-36 months of age, plan activities for mixed ages, modify activities, and align the standards with each activity to meet the needs of all children.	EC	Choices
May 1, 2025	ITPBIS Caregiver Module Training	Jodi F	Fortney
6:00pm-8:00 pm	This module training is for those that work with infants and toddlers. We will review the Pyramid Model and discuss how to help prevent and manage challenging behaviors. (Session dates: May 1, 8, 22, 29, & June 5)	Various	Choices
May 5, 2025	Quality Counts	Marcy	Mueller
10:00am-11:00am	This session takes an in-depth look at program support that is necessary to achieve and maintain quality childcare and the important role Early Childhood educators play within the process.	PL/AM	Choices
May 28, 2025	Emergency Preparedness 🌋 🙇	Abigai	l Carter
6:00pm-8:00pm	This course provides information on developing and implementing an emergency plan in a childcare setting. Participants will be re-quired to complete a Technical Assistance visit (to be scheduled with specialist).	HSN	Choices
May 31, 2025	Foundational Principles of Conscious Discipline	Alicia M	1 azariego
10:00am-12:00pm	This training introduces Conscious Discipline strategies to support the social-emotional development of infants and toddlers. Participants will learn about "I Love You Rituals" and Baby Doll Circle Time.	CG&D	Choices
June 2, 2025	Understanding ACES 101	Allisor	n Draper
6:00pm-7:30pm	ACES 101: This webinar will provide a brief overview of Adverse Childhood Experiences through awareness and education.	CGD	Choices
June 18, 2025	Implementing Family Style Dining in FCC	Ashley	y Jobes
6:00-7:00 PM	Family childcare providers will learn how to incorporate family style dining into their daily routine. Providers will gain knowledge about how family style dining promotes learning and development.	Various	Choices

Date and Time	Title and Presenter/Description	Core Competency	Location	
	Online Professional Development Calendar			
April 8, 2025	Person-Centered Trauma Informed Care	Olivia	Horne	
12:00pm-2:00pm	This course will be presented by Westbrook Health Services. It will define Person-Centered Trauma Informed Care. The session will discuss ACES and how to implement tools to help children in childcare.	CGD	Online	
April 9, 2025	WVIT II Administrator's Course	Alicia N	lazariego	
10:00am-12:00pm	The Administrators Modules are designed to provide administrators with the information and guidance needed to support their staff to successfully complete WVIT II and to implement new knowledge into their work with infants and toddlers.	PL	Online	
April 10, 2025	Understanding ECERS 3	Shanno	n Valles	
6:00pm-8:00pm	This training will provide an overview of the Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale including its purpose and how to use the scale to improve the quality of preschool environments.	EC/PL	Online	
April 28, 2025	ITPBIS Director's Overview	Jodi F	Fortney	
12:00pm-1:00 pm	This is an overview of the Pyramid Model and ITPBIS, intended for directors and others in leadership roles, who have staff enrolled in the IT-PBIS Series.	CGD	Online	
June 3, 2025	Dialogic Reading	Abigai	l Carter	
6:00pm-8:00pm	This course focuses on how to's for story time, the use of stories for engaging in meaningful conversations with preschoolers about the book being read, asking and answering open ended questions and developing an interest in book reading.	EC	Online	
June 23, 2025	RR Spreading HOPE	Jodi F	Fortney	
12:00pm-1:30pm	The course is based on Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences (HOPE). We will discuss the importance of positive childhood experiences and research of the mitigating effect on ACESs.	CGD FCR	Online	

Online Professional Development Policies

- You must register for each training in WV STARS and on the registration links provided.
- Each participant must individually register and log in to the training to receive credit.
- Device/screen sharing is not permitted for WV STARS credit.
- Participants who call in to the training by phone without also logging in to a computer, smartphone, or tablet will not receive credit, as this type of attendance cannot be tracked.
- Participants who miss more than 15 minutes of a session will not receive credit for attending.
- Participants who do not meet the minimum proof of learning/participation requirements will not receive credit for attending.
- All participants are expected to remain active in each session by participating in polls, discussions, post-tests, etc and not navigating away from the webinar on their screen.
- Technical issues should be brought to the trainers attention as soon as possible so they can be resolved.

Child Care Credential

Child Care Nurse Health Consultant Trainings

Date and Time	Training Topic	Trainer
4/1/25 6:00-8:00 PM	Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome	Kelly Amos
4/3/25 5:30-8:30 PM	Medication Administration	Candace Morgan
4/8/25 12:00-1:00 PM*	Morning Health Checks	Allison Taylor
4/10/25 6:30-8:00PM	Diabetes in Child Care	Candace Morgan
4/16/25 5:30-8:30 PM	Medication Administration	Kelly Amos
4/17/25 6:00-8:00 PM	All About Allergies	Lisa Galford
4/22/25 5:30-8:30 PM	Medication Administration	Lisa Galford
4/29/25 6:00-8:00 PM	Communicable Diseases	Brittany Parsons
4/30/25 5:30-8:30 PM	Medication Administration	Allison Taylor
5/2/25 6:00-8:00 PM	Creepy Crawly Creatures	Kelly Amos
5/6/25 5:30-8:30 PM	Medication Administration	Candace Morgan
5/10/25 8:00-11:00 AM**	Medication Administration	Lisa Galford
5/13/25 6:00-8:00 PM	All About Allergies	Lisa Galford
5/14/25 6:30-8:00 PM	Diabetes in Child Care	Candace Morgan
5/16/25 5:30-8:30 PM	Medication Administration	Kelly Amos
5/21/25 6:00-8:00 PM	Summertime Safety	Allison Taylor
5/28/25 5:30-8:30 PM	Medication Administration	Allison Taylor
5/30/25 6:00-8:00 PM	Creepy Crawly Creatures	Kelly Amos
6/2/25 6:00-8:00 PM	Communicable Diseases	Candace Morgan
6/4/25 5:30-8:30 PM	Medication Administration	Candace Morgan
6/9/25 5:30-8:30 PM	Medication Administration	Lisa Galford
6/11/25 6:00-8:00 PM	Summertime Safety	Allison Taylor
6/17/25 5:30-8:30 PM	Medication Administration	Allison Taylor
6/23/25 6:00-8:00 PM	All About Allergies	Lisa Galford
6/26/25 6:30-8:00 PM	Diabetes in Child Care	Candace Morgan
* Lunchtime Learning ** Saturday Morning		N RSE HEALTH CONSULTANTS Language and the definition to the

For the most up to date information from the Nurse Health Consultants, follow their Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/WVNurseHealthConsultants.

Child Care Health Educators Online Trainings

CHILD CARE HEALTH EDUCATOR ONLINE TRAININGS

APRIL 2, 2025 12:00PM-1:00PM

Nutrition Basics

APRIL 14, 2025 6:30PM-8:30PM

Safe Sleep Practices

APRIL 30, 2025 12:30PM-1:30PM

Infant Feeding

MAY 12, 2025 6:30PM-8:30PM

New Recipe Ideas 1

MAY 20, 2025 12:30PM-1:30PM

Childhood Obesity

MAY 29, 2025 6:30PM-8:30PM

New Recipe Ideas 2

JUNE 3, 2025 6:30PM-8:30PM

Stress Management

JUNE 10, 2025 6:30PM-8:30PM

Indoor and Outdoor Safety

JUNE 24, 2025 6:30PM-8:30PM

Breastfeeding Basics

WV Child Care Health Educators

Face-to-face and online trainings are available. Please contact Renee or check the WV STARS calendar for more information.

Renee Y. Stonebraker, RS Bruceton Mills, WV 26525 Call/Text: 304-710-9695 rstonebraker@rvcds.org www.wvearlychildhood.org



CPR & First Aid Training



Choices CCR&R 11 Chenoweth Dr., Ste. 200 Bridgeport, WV 26330

Saturday May 10, 2025 9am-3pm



304-622-6528



Jacklin.S.Moats@wv.gov Jodi.L.Fortney@wv.gov Choices CCR&R 4421 Emerson Ave., Ste. 102 Parkersburg, WV 26104

Saturday May 17, 2025 9am-3pm



304-485-2668



Jennifer.S.Powell@wv.gov Ashley.N.Jobes@wv.gov

Course is \$25.
Contact
CHOICES for
payment
details.

Space is limited to 12 participants per session.



Save the Date

SUMMER LEARNING SUMMIT

SPRING 2025

PRESENTED BY CHOICES AFTER SCHOOL & EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIALISTS

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON

COMING SOON

LEADERSHIP SUMMIT:
PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION TOOLS FOR HIGHER QUALITY

Attention Child Care Directors!

Please join our Quality Improvement Specialists for a one day professional development summit discussing us of the Program Administration Scale to improve overall program quality.

Date and location to be announced soon!



Save the Date

Provider Appreciation Paint with Choices

Join us for a free event showing our appreciation for all you do for children and families.

Attendees will be able to paint a tote bag and enjoy refreshments and raffles.

Space is limited! Contact Meagann Morris at (304)485-2668 to sign up.

May 2, 2025 6-8PM Wood Co. Office 4421 Emerson Ave. Suite 102 Parkersburg, WV 26104

May 9, 2025 6-8PM Harrison Co. Office 11 Chenoweth Dr. Suite 200 Bridgeport, WV 26330



This event is open to child care providers in Region 2: Wood, Harrison, Gilmer, Calhoun, Ritchie, Doddridge, Pleasants, and Wirt Counties. <u>This is an adults only event,</u> children are not permitted to attend. Page 15 Kids Quarterly Press

Save the Date

WEEKOFTHE YOUNG CHILD



KICK-OFF SATURDAY



MUSIC MONDAY





TASTY TUESDAY



WORK TOGETHER WEDNESDAY



ARTSY THURSDAY





FAMILY FRIDAY

NAEYC's Week of the Young Child is a great opportunity to think outside the box and celebrate our littlest minds! Each day's theme invites you to try something new with the children in your care.

Choices Child Care Resource & Referral will be sharing information and giveaways on Facebook all week, as well as contacting providers to visit your program! Please share the ways you are celebrating WOYC25 with us for additional opportunities for free resources!

Food and Fun

Breakfast Tacos

Materials: Pre-prepared pancakes, chopped fruit of your choice, vanilla yogurt or peanut butter (be mindful of allergies).

Instructions: Have children choose the toppings for their breakfast taco. Children can spread vanilla yogurt or peanut butter on their pancake. Fold the pancake up and add chopped fruit in the center. You can change this recipe to fit the dietary needs of the children in your care.



Mud Pie Play

Materials: water, dirt, cooking utensils, baking pans

Instructions: Allow children to mix dirt and water into a thick mixture. Children can pat out the mud into shapes or add them to baking pans. Children can find flowers or nature items to add to their mud pies. Messy Play has so many benefits for sensory, fine motor, and social emotional development. Embrace the mess and let them learn!



Outdoor Painting

Materials: paint, cardboard, paint utensils

Instructions: Place cardboard on the ground or attach it to a fence or wall outdoors. Allow children to use cardboard as a canvas for their paintings. Fingers, brushes, sponges, and nature items can all be fun tools to use while creating their masterpiece! Almost anything we can do inside, we can modify for outside. Let's make this summer fun!





Have You Checked Out TRAILS?

The Choices TRAILS van offers developmentally appropriate toys, games and books for the use of children in family childcare homes, facilities, and centers. To schedule an appointment to see all of the items TRAILS has to offer contact Jennifer Powell or Ashley lobes at 304-485-2668.

Child Care Food Program

Wood County: 304-485-9238 ext 18 Harrison County: 304-905-9867 <u>www.frac.org</u>

Benefits to child care providers include:

- Reimbursement for food costs
- Nutrition education & support
- · Meal and snack planning
- Workshops & newsletters



West Virginia WIC provides nutrition & health education as well as other services free of charge to pregnant women, postpartum women, infants, and children up to the age of five.

https://dhhr.wv.gov/wic/

West Virginia Children's Health Insurance Program www.wvchip.org



Health care for children & expectant moms

Apply online at www.wvinroads.org

Choices Child Care Resource and Referral 4421 Emerson Ave, Ste 102 Parkersburg, WV 26104 304-485-2668 or 1-866-966-2668 www.choicescerr.org

