

WNCSource CEO Report

September 12, 2024

Office of Head Start Letter and Full Enrollment Initiative

On August 26th Board Chair Ellen Steele received a correspondence from Heather Wanderski, Director, Division of Operations for the Office of Head Start. That letter is attached to my report. The letter explains that while WNCSource is designated as under enrolled, we have made significant progress and will not see a reduction in funding at this time. The Office of Head Start (OHS) will review our progress again in six months. If we can get to 97% enrollment and maintain it for six consecutive months “a Chronically Under enrolled Designation Removal Letter will be issued.”

We have made great progress over the last eighteen months through:

- Increased employee compensation and bonuses
- Internship, trainee, apprenticeship and after school programs
- Change in Scope applications
- Employee and participant recruiting efforts

By the end of August 2024, we will be at 97% enrolled in our traditional grant. When the Columbus Early Head Start Center opens, and is fully operational, we will be at 97% enrolled in our combined EHS Partnership and Expansion grant.

Getting to this point has taken a great team effort. In the last year we have added more than forty employees to our Children’s Services Department. Hiring managers, Human Resources, Finance and our Development Director have all gone above and beyond to make this happen. The support of the WNCSource Board as we have made difficult decisions has also been key.

Give Your Neighbor a Lift Month

Be on the lookout for a fundraising appeal from WNCSource. We are promoting “Give Your Neighbor a Lift Month” to raise awareness about WNCSource transportation services. This is a great opportunity for Board members to show support for WNCSource’s mission.

Strategic Planning Update

Thank you to all of the Board members that participated in the strategic planning retreat. I liked the way that Angela Kemper kept us moving, engaged and meeting everyone in the room. With your feedback and observations about where we should concentrate our efforts, we will be able to start the detailed plans on how to get there.

WNCSource staff will develop goals, strategies and timelines for the next five years. Board subcommittees will also have input in this process. We are off to a good start, but there is still plenty of work before the plan is complete.