

## BELL Newsletter:

- Early Intervention
- Narcan/Epipen Training
- BELL Stories
- Join *Start Strong PA*
- U.S. Department of Education releases "Early Childhood Homelessness State Profiles 2018"



## January 2019

### Discussion on Early Intervention and Epipen/Narcan at January Children's Workgroup Early Childhood gathering!

Friday, January 18, 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM, at  
CHOP Karabots Pediatric Center  
4865 Market Street

The agenda will include a discussion on **early intervention services** for young children experiencing homelessness, led by a presentation by the **Philadelphia Infant-Toddler Early Intervention** leadership, **Jeanette Newman** and **Deepak Kumar**.

A second discussion will be a training on recognizing drug and allergic reactions: **How to administer Epipen and Narcan**, with **Sally Poliwoda**, BSN, RN, Community Nurse Advocacy Fellowship Coordinator, CHOP Nursing and Clinical Care Services.

We will also announce the next 'Yay Babies' awardee.

[Register to attend.](#)



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## BELL Success Stories

**Story #1:** Not all BELL experiences are successful. Finding and securing high-quality childcare is an obstacle many families face, but for families experiencing homelessness, this can be particularly challenging.

**Challenge:** An Emergency Housing staff person reached out to BELL for help to work with a mom - a recent victim of domestic violence - to find child care funding. The mom's toddler **has multiple disabilities**. She wanted a high-quality program, and she needed to work more hours on her job. She could not find a suitable program, and was feeling frustrated and overwhelmed. BELL spoke with the mom and, together, they navigated the child care process and she received the funding she needed.

However, that was only the **beginning** of this mom's struggles. The next question was **where** to enroll her son.

BELL was able to identify three high-quality programs in her area. Her child was wait-listed at two of the programs. She felt that the third program was not a good fit for her son. On her own, this mom found a program outside of her area's zip code, but she could not afford the application fee. BELL shared this parent's story during a recent child care provider meeting. A meeting participant felt sympathy and gave BELL funds to pay the application. The crisis was averted, we thought! We soon discovered another barrier for this mom - this school had a nearly **2-year waiting list** which we did not learn until after numerous discussions!

**Resolution:** Not all BELL work is immediately successful. Overcoming challenges take time and patience. BELL and mom are currently searching various zip codes for a program that supports the needs of this family. In the meantime, mom is working limited hours, which limits her income.



### Story #2:

**Challenge:** On the same day a family entered their emergency housing program in North Philly, BELL discussed with the mom what she needed for her child. The mom had a two-year old son and was pregnant. She expressed concerns regarding her son's overactive behavior tendencies. She knew he needed educational and emotional support, but also disclosed that she was unable to make any payments at this time. She needed an affordable program.

**Resolution:** BELL discussed with her the available options based on her son's age and their current financial status. Mom agreed that **Early Head Start (EHS)** would be the best option. Not only could EHS address her son's challenging behaviors, but it could also support her prenatal needs both physically and emotionally. Importantly, it is also affordable. BELL sent the EHS referral through and their intake appointment was **scheduled within two days**. Considering how rapid child development is in the earliest years of life, that kind of high quality immediate service is highly appreciated.

### Story #3:

**Challenge:** A family who has been living in emergency housing for a few months recently welcomed a new bundle of joy into their family. After spending time with the new infant the mom decided it was time for her to return back to her training program to earn her Child Development Associate (CDA), a necessary credential to work in Early Childhood Education. The family had applied for child care support, but she soon learned that her training program started in the following week. The mother panicked as she did not have anyone to care for her infant while she attended classes. The family could not afford to pay childcare tuition because she had no consistent income.

**Resolution:** BELL staff looked into different temporary options that the mother could use. BELL introduced the mom to **Youth Service's Inc.'s Baring House**, a program providing short-term child care for families with housing insecurity or homelessness. After visiting, the mom decided to use Baring House for a few weeks and it worked out perfectly -- she received child-care funding support eventually and now her infant is receiving care in a **STAR 3** program. Now mom can earn her CDA and gain employment.

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## Advocacy Corner - Join Start Strong PA

Start Strong PA is a **statewide effort** working to improve healthy development outcomes **for infants and toddlers** by increasing support for and improving the quality of child care programs that serve them.

A child's earliest years feature the building of the foundation upon which all later learning, behavior and health depend. Supporting this progress are the parents. But in today's world, parents work, and when they do they need to know that the care for their infants and toddlers is elevating their child's potential.

"Don't agonize,  
organize."

-Florynce Kennedy

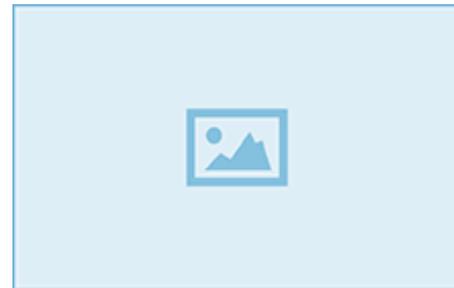
Most people support a greater investment into high quality child care. An amazing [77 percent](#) of Philadelphia's voters identified "ensuring all children arrive in kindergarten ready to learn" as an important value.

Start Strong PA will gather and analyze data, issue fact sheets and reports, and mobilize the campaign. It will launch its 2019 effort **January 29 in Harrisburg**. Join us for meetings with legislators and for a **12:30 Press Conference** in the Main Rotunda.

**Individuals and agencies** can join the campaign. [Sign up here.](#)

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## 76% of Pennsylvania homeless children under 6 not served in Early Childhood Education



The U.S. Department of Education released "Early Childhood Homelessness State Profiles 2018."

[Read this report here.](#)

This 2018 report updates the annual Early Childhood Homelessness State Profiles and provides a snapshot of early childhood data available for children who are experiencing homelessness in each state, plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. It includes publicly available data for 2015-2016 from the U.S. Census Bureau (Census), U.S. Department of Education (ED), U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and the Annie E. Casey Foundation and reports the following by state:

- Total population under age six in 2016
- Estimated number of children under age six experiencing homelessness in 2015-2016
- Estimated extent of homelessness (e.g., one-in-[X] children under age six experienced homelessness in 2015-2016)
- Estimated enrollment of children under age six in federally-funded early childhood programs (i.e., Head Start and school districts receiving McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act in 2015-2016).

### National Findings include:

- In 2015-2016, there were 1,260,254, or **one-in-19**, children under six years old who experienced homelessness.
- In 2016, about **nine percent** of children under age six experiencing homelessness (108,6773 children) were enrolled in Head Start, Early Head Start, or programs funded with **McKinney-Vento** subgrants. This rate does not include state and locally-funded early childhood programs.
- In 2016, **32 percent of families** with children under 18 had a high housing cost burden (defined as spending 30 percent or more of monthly income **on housing expenses**).
- **In 2016, 26 percent** of low-income working families had children under age six, defined as families in which at least one parent worked 50 weeks or more in the prior year and family income is below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Line.

### Pennsylvania Findings include:

- **22,434 children** under the age of 6 were estimated to be homeless, or **1 in 38** children.
- **5,384 children, or 24%** of the total, were served by **Head Start/Early Head Start** or McKinney-

Vento funded ECE programs in 2016.

- **17,085** of these children, or 76%, were **unserved**.



**BELL is supported by grants from the Vanguard Strong Start for Kids Program and the United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey**

The Vanguard Strong Start for Kids Program™ is dedicated to helping provide young children the opportunity to grow, thrive and learn in communities near each of Vanguard's major U.S. sites. The initiative is funded through a combination of Vanguard corporate gifts and Vanguard employee gifts from the company's annual giving campaign.

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