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NEWS RELEASE
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EIGHTCAP, INC. 0-5 HEAD START PROGRAM RECEIVES RECOGNITION FOR USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN EVALUATION REPORT FROM FEDS

CENTRAL MICHIGAN AREA – In March, the final *Overview of Findings* from the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) was received at EightCAP, Inc. The ACF conducted an on-site monitoring review of the EightCAP, Inc. 0-5 Head Start Program, serving Gratiot, Isabella, Ionia, and Montcalm Counties, in late November, 2008.

“For the first time in many years, program strengths identified by the on-site review team were included in the report” explained Nancy Secor, 0-5 Head Start Manager. “The unique and innovative use of technology to train and link our employees throughout this four-county agency was sited.”

Explaining the importance of integrating technology into all aspects of the 0-5 Head Start communication strategy, Midge Stamas, communication consultant for EightCAP Head Start, said that the “professional educators have focused on using technology to expand learning in schools and in the workplace as a matter of course in the past few years. Online courses and training are proliferating in K-12, higher ed, and the business world, and this direction is just the beginning of the on-line learning and social networking ‘bubble’,” said Stamas.

Because on-line learning, training, and linking people for easy access to information is not always prevalent in more rural areas, including pocket areas in the counties served by EightCAP, Inc., the extensive use of technology was identified as a major strength for this 0-5 Head Start program.

The ACF team observed that high-speed internet was available to all Head Start centers and used for e-training, e-link, and access to the EightCAP, Inc. agency website. **E-training** is available to all staff at all times. Further, the system also allows for orientation of new staff hired throughout the year and a unique **E-link** question-and-answer staff connection program provided to all staff for timely and pertinent information about the organization, its programs, services, and answers to staff or client questions. Lastly, the report identified both the content and use of the organization’s website and the use of technology for long distance conferencing as worth recognition.

“The grantee’s use of technology was also demonstrated during a Governing Board interview with the committee in Greenville, Michigan, the off-site Program Design and Management reviewer in St. Louis, MO, and the Chair of the Board at his home, convalescing from surgery,” stated the report.

For more information on the ACF Report, please contact those listed above or Nancy Secor, 0-5 Head Start Manager at (866) 754-9315, x 3319, or nsecor@8cap.org.