January 23, 2015

Emerging Leaders Application Review Panel

ChildCare Exchange

Dear Emerging Leaders Review Panel,

This letter is in support of Ms. Jamie Bonczyk, Health and Nutrition Director with Parents in Community Action, Inc. (PICA), Head Start Grantee in Hennepin County, Minneapolis, Minnesota, for consideration of the ChildCare Exchange 2015 Emerging Leader Award. I have had the opportunity to work with Ms. Jamie Bonczyk in my capacity as McKnight Center Director at PICA. Ms. Bonczyk exemplifies the criteria for the most powerful emerging leader in the field of Early Care and Education through her experience, knowledge, and dedication to improving the health and wellness of the most needy children in the early education environment.

Ms. Bonczyk is a natural leader whose charisma, enthusiasm, and energy creates synergy and builds consensus, not only among PICA component teams her work informs, but from myriad collaborative agencies responding to her drive of health, nutritional, and wellness initiatives.

In her capacity as PICA Health and Nutrition Director, Ms. Bonczyk has evaluated, revised, trained, and implemented PICA Individual Child Care Plan protocols to comply with evolving Child and Adult Food Care Program regulations to meet the complex needs of children with emerging and diagnosed nutritional and medical conditions. Ms. Bonczyk has a systems approach to integrated component initiatives and has subsequently provided invaluable and inspired training to Nutrition, Family and Child Advocates, Center Directors, Education, and Transportation components. Ms. Bonczyk’s vision for PICA Health Advocates has transformed those positions as Health and Nutrition expert advisors to their respective center teams of teachers, advocates, and drivers. Ms. Boncyzk has meticulously reviewed, revised, and revolutionized the culturally diverse PICA child menu with more nutritious and healthy menu items and substitutions for children with identified allergies.

Most impressive is Ms. Boncyzk’s enthusiasm for networking with community service health providers to improve delivery, and reduce redundancy and barriers to quality early child healthcare. Ms. Boncyzk utilizes her knowledge of early childhood healthcare delivery and her spirit of personal initiative for child advocacy to inspire PICA component teams to their personal best.

Please see Ms. Boncyzk as the emerging leader that I witness in a program that embodies the excellence that defines Head Start.

For the Children,

MaryAnnette Quinnell, MA Human Development

McKnight Center Director, PICA Head Start

612-801-2916fd