

# Northern Panhandle Names New Director

Northern Panhandle Head Start, Inc.'s (NPHS) Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of Cathy Jo Ellen Williams as the agency's new Executive Director effective July 1.

Ms. Williams is a 17 year veteran employee of NPHS. She previously held the position of Fiscal Manager, and was second in command of the federally funded, non-profit early childhood organization.

Cathy's credentials include a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Wheeling Jesuit University and a Master of Science in Strategic Leadership from Mountain State University.

In addition to her program management experience within the agency, Cathy's professional financial management and leadership history includes working as a Staff Accountant, Office

Manager, past Clerk/Treasurer of the Village of Harrisville and past Secretary of the Dillonvale Fraternal Order of Eagles Auxiliary.

Williams has also served as a (national) fiscal management reviewer for the Office of Head Start.

Linda Myers, Board President stated, "We couldn't have made a better choice. After an extensive search, including the Pittsburgh and Charleston areas, Cathy

quickly rose to the top of the pool. We are encouraged that she will continue to provide quality management oversight necessary to maintain the quality programming so many children and families have benefited from over the years."

Myers reiterates that Cathy has a no-nonsense, but positive approach to the operations of Head Start which serves pregnant women and children to age 5.

The health, safety and educational well-being of the children are her top priority.

Myers further adds that the Board of Directors has confidence in Cathy's leadership style to oversee the 5 county-wide program and her ability to continue to build partnerships within the communities to better serve the agency's clientele.

Ms. Williams' vision for the over 40 year old non-profit is to continue to provide excellent, quality comprehensive services in a safe and nurturing environment for the Ohio Valley to ensure our children have a true "Head Start" in life. Williams hopes to expand the Early Head Start program.

Research has proven that the sooner children receive early intervention services and participate in a quality,

infant/toddler and preschool education, the better they develop and grow.

Ms. Williams is a graduate of Leadership Wheeling, has served on the Board of Directors of the East Wheeling Business Council, has volunteered at Laughlin Chapel's after school program and is a member of the Elm Grove Business Council.

Cathy currently resides in Harrisville with her husband Alfred. She has two daughters and two grandchildren.

Northern Panhandle Head Start, Inc. serves 619 children prenatal to age 5 in Hancock, Brooke, Marshall, Ohio and Weizel Counties.

For more information on Head Start & Early Head Start or to locate a Head Start Center in your community, contact 304.233.3290 or visit the agency's website at [www.nphstart.org](http://www.nphstart.org).