

Region VI Head Start Association Board Meeting
New Orleans, Louisiana
July 19, 2023



Meeting Report
by

Jacqueline Govan, Director
Head Start State Collaboration Office



REGION VI HEAD START ASSOCIATION BOARD

Quarterly Reporting Form



Name: Jacqueline Govan, HSSCO & Jacqueline Burton, AHSA President Date: July 18, 2023

Position: Board Advisor/Friend & Board Member

Organizations: HSSCO, AHSA, & Region 6

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The HEAD START STATE COLLABORATION OFFICE (HSSCO) is working on the following initiatives and activities from the HSSCO's strategic plan. The activities and initiatives include:

1. The National Association of State Leaders in Early Education (NASLEE), formerly known as NAECS-SDE, provides essential support for state leaders in early care and education. NASLEE does this by supporting state leaders working in state governments across the United States. They offer unique resources for learning, collaboration, and professional development.

The State(s) of Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education: Looking at Equity is the first equity-focused report to look state-by-state at the two federally funded programs for young children with disabilities. The report focuses on the 2020-2021 school year and includes data beginning with the 2005-2006 school year. It explores four types of variation in early intervention (EI) and early childhood special education (ECSE) services:

- Impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic
- Race and Ethnicity
- Gender
- The State in which a child lives.

The Covid-19 pandemic significantly reduced young children's access to EI and ECSE. Black children suffered the largest decreases in access to ECSE. The pandemic also reduced the percentage of young children served in inclusive settings.

The state where a child lives strongly determines access to EI and ECSE services and whether those services are received alongside non-disabled peers. Some states provide services much more equitably than others. A national commission to address inequity in access to EI and ECSE should convene states for a national discussion of best policies and practice.

The State leadership team (includes the HSSCO director) in Arkansas has pulled everyone together to review, study, and identify data issues to make necessary changes where needed across the state.

2. Arkansas Awarded Preschool Development Grant (PDG) – The funds from the PDG will be used for Trauma Informed Care, increasing our infants and toddlers’ slots, and helping staff receive a family credential. Implementation is currently under way; however, we continue to have meetings to ensure that the grant process is in full force and according to the guidelines in which it was intended.

3. EHS/Head Start Program Updates

- Programs: Opened/Workforce Issues
- Return of the EHS/EHS-CCP Quarterly Meetings

4. Fatherhood and Family Initiative

- Fatherhood Booth and Exhibit During Other Conferences
- Powerful Virtual Conversations with Fathers – ~~Feb., April~~, August, November
- 2023 Dads Reading on the Carpet (DROC) Literacy Event – ~~April~~, July, October

5. Homelessness

- Collaboration w/State MV Liaisons
- Special Committee Formed to Look at Ways to End Homelessness in Arkansas

6. Racial Equity

- A. Create the FIRST Racial Equity Website in Arkansas - August
- B. Setting up Racial Equity Resources for Parents, Teachers, & Administrators
- C. SUTEAR Professional Development Model
- D. Collaborating with AR Community Action Agency to do Racial Equity Webinars
- E. Professional Development Registry (PDR) – **JG APPROVED**

7. Opioid/Substance Use for 2023

- AHSA Institute Sessions – June 7-9, 2023
- AHSA Pre-Institute – Opioid & Substance Misuse – June 6, 2023

8. School Readiness Summit

- Date: November 3, 2023
- Pulaski Technical College in North Little Rock

9. AR Imagination Library (ARIL)

- ARIL- expanding our goals to work with children in Foster Care & Hospitals
- Surveyed ALL EHS/Head Start/CC children to ensure they are receiving books.
- HSSCO continues to work with the Dollywood Foundation

10. Professional Development

- Collaboration w/DCCECE and others to place EHS/Head Start trainings on the PDR.
- HSSCO Offers Informational Webinars on Racial Equity
- EHS-CCP Quarterly Training & Informational Meetings
- Homelessness in ARKANSAS RESEARCH
- Powerful Conversations with Fathers (One Hour of Power)

11. Arkansas' Oral Health Coalition

- Collaborative Strategic Planning
- Collaboration with EHS/Head Start Programs in 2024

12. New Partnerships

- New Director at Arkansas Advocacy – Keesha Smith
- ACAA State Interagency Partnership Agreement
- MV State Liaisons/Head Start Homeless Liaisons
- Early Childhood Special Education/Head Start Disability Coordinators

13. HSSCO Upcoming Events:

- Dads Reading on the Carpet Literacy Events– July 15th & October 14th
- Powerful Conversations with Fathers -August 8th and November 14th
- School Readiness Summit/STEAM for ECE – November 3rd
- Racial Equity Informational Webinars – August 14th, October 16th, & Dec. 11th

14. Other Work w/State Partners in Arkansas Include:

- Preschool Inclusion Team
- Child Find/Disability Indicators/State Plan
- State Interagency Coordinating Council
- Excel by Eight

- FASD/None for Nine Workgroup
- AECC/State Advisory Council
- AHVN Collaboration & Planning
- Safe Babies Court Team
- State Leadership Team Meetings
- Community of Practice (COP) /” *Making Pre-school Inclusion Work*” Book Review
- Arkansas Childhood Obesity Prevention (ARCOP)
- Arkansas Early Childhood Association (AECA)
- EHS-CCP Quarterly Meetings
- Collaboration with Publishing Companies – Great Relationships

OFFICE OF HEAD START (OHS)

Khari Garvin is the director of the Office of Head Start (OHS) at the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). He has more than 20 years of national, state, and local experience designing and leading systems serving children and families in low-income communities. Before joining the Biden-Harris administration, Garvin served as the president and CEO of the United Way of Greater Greensboro in North Carolina, leading the mission to end generational poverty in the Greensboro metro area. Garvin is a proud alumnus of the National Head Start Fellowships program, where he worked at OHS. He previously served as a Head Start program manager in Illinois and as assistant Head Start/Early Head Start director at a program in North Carolina. Garvin holds a degree in psychology from Emory University and a master’s degree in education from Southern Illinois University.

Omair Shamim, MD, MHS, MK, is the Head Start Collaboration Office Liaison and Senior Project Analyst for the Office of Head Start | Administration for Children and Families at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Omair continues to work closely with Beth in reaching out to HSSCO directors throughout the country.

The HSSCO directors will be having their first in-person meeting in August. This meeting will be in conjunction with the PD and Managers meetings. The PD meeting is August 1-3, which is open to all Collab Directors, however, HSSCO directors will be spending August 1-2 with the Office of Head Start (OHS) but August 3rd will be free for HSSCO directors to attend the other meetings. The HSSCO directors will also attend a joint session on August 1st, which is the opening session.

On January 6, 2023, ACF issued a final rule requiring Head Start grant recipients to have an evidence-based COVID–19 mitigation policy, which considers multiple mitigation strategies such as access to vaccination, masking, ventilation, and testing. Although ACF will remove

the vaccine and testing requirements, ACF strongly recommends that Head Start programs use vaccines and tests as part of their mitigation policy to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and reduce the likelihood of mortality or morbidity from infection. Head Start programs may choose to include their own requirements to support vaccination efforts, including for example, requiring staff remain up to date on COVID–19 boosters, sharing information on COVID–19 vaccination with staff and families, and/or partnering with local agencies to increase vaccination access. For more information, please refer to the Program Instruction (PI) ACF-PI-HS-23-01.

NATIONAL HEAD START ASSOCIATION (NHSA)

NHSA sponsored an “Innovation Summit” in June 2023. The purpose of this summit is to network with others and to explore the good and bad that is occurring with our children and families in the United States. There were lots of dynamic speakers and presenters who all shared ways to do things better. Some of the content included:

- The Future Science of Learning,
- The Innovation and New Ideas to Improve Outcomes for Children,
- Mindsets and Methods,
- Innovator Leaders,
- Innovative Spirit verses Having what is needed to do the work,
- Challenges & Opportunities,
- Questioning (Status Quo),
- Collaboration in Practice,
- Discovery Driven Learning,
- Innovation Through High Quality, Language, and Rich Learning Environments
- Accelerator Circles (color-coded groups),
- Mindsets & Methods,
- Touring the Bright Horizons Classrooms & Building,
- Networking and Group Work, and
- Resources, and so much more.

Congress approved the Head Start Fellowship Program leadership initiative as part of the bipartisan reauthorization of the Head Start Act in 1995. The NHSFP officially began in 1996, continued through 2012 with 16 classes, and returned in 2023. The NHSFP remains a strictly bipartisan tradition.

The purpose of the NHSFP is to enhance the ability of Head Start Fellows to make significant contributions to programs by providing opportunities to expand their knowledge and experience through exposure to activities, issues, resources, and new approaches, in the field of child development and family services (Sec. 648A(d)). Deadlines for applications have passed.

NHSA will have their next meeting via zoom on July 19th, with only two more meetings for the year (September and November). Preparation is being made also for the 2023 National Parent Conference in December 2023.

DALLAS REGIONAL OFFICE

I reached out to the Dallas Regional Office with two questions on the CLASS Scores process and the quality threshold. Joseph Laster gave the following responses...

QUESTION:

Arkansas has launched levels 4, 5, and 6 in our Better Beginning/QRIS system and the Division is trying to maintain our reciprocity protocol by honoring the CLASS scores on the program monitoring results. Could you send me the CLASS cut off score that is used in the monitoring process so I can share with them? I am not sure if it has changed since they set it up or if it is the same.

Response:

1304.11 Basis for determining whether a Head Start agency will be subject to an open competition.

(C)(2) If an agency is determined to have an average score across all classrooms observed below the quality threshold on any of the three CLASS: Pre-K domains, the Office of Head Start will support the program to strengthen its coordinated approach to training and professional development as required in [§1302.92\(b\)](#) and (c), to help promote improvement in teaching practices and teacher-child interactions. The quality threshold for each domain is as follows:

- (i) For the Emotional Support domain, the quality threshold is 6;*
- (ii) For the Classroom Organization domain, the quality threshold is 6;*
- (iii) For the Instructional Support domain, the quality threshold is 3.*

QUESTION:

When using threshold, are these scores the minimum?

RESPONSE:

“My original email cited the scores to be reached that would exclude a program from a cohort that needed program improvement via TTA from OHS. Those scores denote quality classrooms in terms of teacher pupil interactions. The maximum score for each domain is 7.

A program will be required to compete for its next five years of funding if CLASS scores are below the thresholds cited at:

1304.11 Basis for determining whether a Head Start agency will be subject to an open competition.

(C)(1) To have an average score across all classrooms observed that is below the following minimum thresholds on any of the three CLASS: Pre-K domains from the most recent CLASS: Pre-K observation:

(i) For the Emotional Support domain, the competitive threshold is 5;

(ii) For the Classroom Organization domain, the competitive threshold is 5;

(iii) For the Instructional Support domain, the competitive threshold is 2.3 through July 31, 2025, and 2.5 on and after August 1, 2025.”

I hope this information is helpful for others..., Joseph Laster is always there to support the work that I do in Arkansas! He is a great resource and problem solver!

REGION VI HEAD START ASSOCIATION

The HSSCO director serves on the Region 6 Board and provides quarterly, oral, and written reports that outline all activities for the previous quarter. Since the last Region 6 Board meeting, the HSSCO director has been engaged in the following:

- Working on Scholarship information.
- Providing and sending out information on the AR/Region VI Institute.
- Providing the zoom link for quarterly virtual meetings.
- Posting information on the Region's website.
- Collaborating, planning, and sharing information with Collaboration Directors in Region VI.
- Sending emails and trying to coordinate with Region VI President.

WEB-SITE.

The webmaster has updated the security on the web site. This called for the transferring of data back over to the site. Information was sent out regarding the Region VI Institute, as well as uploading reports. The webmaster is still asking for photos from board members, state presidents, and advisors to update the list on the web site. *Let's Keep our website up to date!*

ARKANSAS HEAD START ASSOCIATION INSTITUTE & ACTIVITIES

The AR Institute planning committee meets every other month in planning for the AHSA Annual Institute. The 2023 Institute took place in Hot Springs, Arkansas on June 6-9th at the Arlington Hotel. The theme for the event was “Honoring the Past, Treasuring the Present, and Shaping the Future.” Arkansas was happy to have a pre-institute on Opioid and Substance Misuse to offer support for program staff, families, and others across the state to address the negative changes we have had on drug abuse in our state.

We had dynamic speakers (Coy Bowles and Stephen Fite) lined up for two dynamic general sessions, approximately 64 small group sessions, and we continued with our Leadership Development luncheon for all directors and executive directors to focus on leadership development in supporting their staff! Other highlights of the institute included a Silent Auction, Exhibitors, in conjunction with recognizing outstanding EHS/Head Start workers and degreed staff, as well as precious time for networking and meeting others. The proceeds from our Silent Auction go to the Arkansas Imagination Library. We raised approximately \$2,408.00 from the silent auction.

The AHSA's Institute committee is already in the planning stage for their next state institute. The institute is scheduled for February 27 – March 1, 2024.

AHSA CLASS Meetings

The AHSA meets every other month to plan, coordinate, and network with EHS/Head Start programs through different classes. The classes include directors, staff, parents, and friends. Guest speakers are invited to attend meetings to share updated information that would be of interest and great benefit to the EHS/Head Start programs.

The AHSA/HSSCO has completed their strategic plan. This is a five-year strategic plan for the association (2022-2027). The AHSA has also put in place a Strategic Planning Committee to ensure that ALL goals are completed within a timely manner. The plan has identified some actionable goals that will increase involvement in the association and enhance the work that is being done in the local programs around the state. The plan will be reviewed at each AHSA meeting. Other issues that programs have faced include workforce, retention, salaries, and others.

The AHSA is working to build and meet the Dollar per Child for 2024. The Dollar per Child amounts submitted went very well this year and Arkansas met its Dollar Per Child amount. In attempts to continue to meet this amount, Arkansas is working hard to meet our Dollar per child amount for 2024 by making donations at all meetings and special events. We also have things set up on the website and through "Cheddar" for people to pay.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS:

- New Photos of ALL Board Members for Website
- Update Website Information
- List of updates on state presidents, board representatives with contact information

Report Attachments (if any):

Please find a copy of the Arkansas State Profile for 2020-2021 that shows the following:

- The percentage of children ages 0-6 years old receiving early intervention or special education services.
- The percentage of children enrolled in early intervention receiving early intervention and early childhood special education education.
- The percentage of children within each race/ethnicity receiving early intervention.
- The percentage of children within each race/ethnicity receiving early childhood special education.
- The percentage of children in special education by Disability.

Signature(s):

Jacqueline Burton, *AHSA Board President*

Date: _____

Jacqueline Govan, HSSCO Director

Date: _____