

## AHSA Directors Meeting Minutes

5/2/24

### AHSA Institute Little Rock

Angela Blankenship, BRAD Program Director, called the meeting to order at 3:16 PM. The sign in sheet was used as roll call. The following members were present: Lisa Owens, Cyndi Musick, Angela Blankenship, Barbie Baxter, Jennifer Thomas, Heather Johnson, Cheryl Covington, and Kisha Miller.

Angela welcomed the attendees and thanked them for their attendance and participation in the annual institute.

***Cyndi Musick made the motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting (March 27, 2024) as presented. Jennifer Thomas seconded the motion. There was no discussion and all were in favor so the minutes were approved.***

There was no Guest Speaker for the meeting.

Critical Issues were discussed with the following topics receiving the most attention:

- Staff retention/Recruitment of qualified candidates/staff
- Office of Early Childhood expanding ABC slots in Head Start service areas-forcing some Head Start classrooms to close and creating challenges with Head Start locations meeting funded enrollment.
- Child behavior in the classroom.

In summary, all present were encouraged to use our knowledge of Head Start practices and be present within our community so that we can continue to be the advocates for Early Childhood. Head Start should be seen as the model in our communities for Early Childhood. We need to be consistent in our presence with LEADS events in order to create a strong Early Childhood representation.

The AHSA Strategic Plan objectives for the current year will be met once the Institute has finished.

AHSA was able to exceed the Dollar per Child goal and Jackie Govan presented the check to the NHSA at the recent national conference.

Birthday celebrations were acknowledged, and the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by,

Barbie Baxter