

Arkansas Head Start Association Directors/Staff/Parents/Friends Class Meeting

March 15, 2023

Minutes

Dorothy Jenkins called the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m. The following members participated via zoom: Kayla Adaway, Rhonda Ahrent, Sherry Toney, Jamie Burnett, Susan Templeton, Christie Campbell, Amy Salazar, Deana Howell, Valansian Mitchell, Wendy Forrest, Jackie Govan, Brooke Guthrie, Cyndi Musick, Tonya Williams, Teresa Goings, Barbie Baxter, Jana Bays, Latasha Dodd, Michaela Manning, Beatrice Rogers, Dorothy Jenkins, Virginia Gianelloni, Jennifer Thomas, Kisha Miller, Toby Atkinson, Sandy Aguirre, Patty Hernandez, Teona Ford, and Angela Blankenship.

Consideration of Agenda: no changes

Approval of Minutes: ***Cyndi Musick made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Amy Salazar seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion carried.***

Guest Speaker: Tonya Williams, Director, AR DHS-Division of Child Care/Early Childhood Education-all programs will receive a final payment from COVID funds. She shared information on the TEACH scholarships and the WAGES supplements administered through AECA. She provided an overview about how the LEARNS Act effects the Division. The Division of Child Care will be moving from the Department of Human Services to the Arkansas Department of Education. There have been meetings ongoing between the Secretary of Education and the Secretary of Human Services regarding the transition to minimize the disruption to the field. The act also moves Part C to the Department of Education. They will all be housed under the Office of Early Childhood. The Collaboration Office should still be a pass through for funding. The goal is to keep things as seamless as possible. There will be workgroups forming to help with structuring the landscape. She encouraged Head Start programs to sign up for the workgroups. She shared that some of the extra one-time funding that programs have received maybe lumped together with other items at finance. Some programs are beginning to level up to Better Beginnings Levels 4-6. The reciprocity process is available on the division's website.

Old Business:

Dollar per Child: Deana Howell reported that \$3,541.50 has been received in donations. The deadline is April 15, 2023.

Membership Dues Report: Deana Howell reported that \$ 45,507.50 has been received with a balance owed of \$937.50.

Birthday Celebrations (March and April): Barbie, Cyndi, and Jennifer had birthdays.

Arkansas Head Start Association Strategic Planning Update:

Goal 1: Jackie Govan shared that this goal was completed in January.

Goal 2: Jennifer Thomas shared that they committee is beginning to network but have not met. They will look at how to separate the list to see how they can communicate with members and solicit more information.

Goal 3: Michelle Furlow shared that they have added additional committee members.

Goal 4: Sherry Toney shared that they are still gaining additional members.

Goal 5: Jackie Govan shared that she is compiling a list of partners and shared information on a new partnership with Arkansas Community Action Agencies Association and CGBS.

Goal 6: Jackie Burton has had an initial meeting with her committee, and they are looking at ways to address the activities of the goal.

Goal 7: Deana Howell shared that the full committee had not met but that information was being shared to support the programs with obtaining dollar per child donations.

Goal 8: Jackie Govan shared that she needs feedback from programs on identifying racial inequities in programs. She would like input from classes on topics and cost for racial equity webinars. Some suggested topics: Illicit Bias, Creating a Culturally Diverse Environment, Equity Environments in Infant Toddler, Curriculum for Infants and Toddlers, How it fits into the HSPS, Microaggressions, Bullying in the workplace. The webinars will be one hour and have a \$25 registration cost.

New Business:

Senate Bill 294 Update, "The Learn Act": There were changes prior to passage. The legislature deleted some of the information on superintendents. Each individual work group has a specific charge. Programs were encouraged to sign up to serve on workgroups. Jackie is waiting to see the impact it will have on the Collaboration Office. She has met with NHSA to discuss the new act.

Revised AHSA Bylaws (Shirley Pulliam): A copy was included on handouts. Shirley Pulliam was unavailable to report so the proposed changes were tabled.

Racial Equity Webinars: Jackie will use the feedback from earlier in the meeting to help structure the webinars. Plans are to begin launch of the webinars later this year.

Reports:

Arkansas Early Childhood Commission (SAC): Barbie Baxter shared that she had to resubmit her application due to the change in Governors.

Arkansas Head Start-State Collaboration Office: Jackie Govan shared provided an update on the fraud investigation. Bank of America returned the final \$5200. A final report has not been received. Jackie has formed a new state committee on homelessness that will look at ways to end homelessness. The School Readiness Summit on November 3, 2023 will focus on STEAM. There will be training in the morning with application of the training in the afternoon. Participants will receive a jump drive and checklist. It will be \$150 per team. She shared that the Arkansas Fatherhood and Family Initiative will be going all over the state for Dads Reading on the Carpet. She attended a meeting on Monday for the PDG grant. The grant coordinator is Judy Wilgreen. The grant will focus on trauma informed care, behavioral health, and expansion of Infant/Toddler slots. Senator Clarke Tucker has put a bill in to help fund the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.

Region VI Head Start Association-Jackie Govan shared that they have not met since the last meeting. The conference will be July 17-21, 2023 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Arkansas Head Start Association Institute-Jackie Burton/Jackie Govan. The committee met this morning. All committees should meet prior to the next meeting. We are gearing up for a fatherhood track, options for coordinators. The committee approved the following speakers: Stephen Fite and Coy Bowles with Tiffany Lanier as an option if Coy is unavailable.

National Head Start Association Updates-Jackie Govan shared that Kahri Garvin is the new Office of Head Start Director. She shared that NHSA plans to ask for additional funding for programs.

Announcements

Dates to Remember...

Arkansas:

AR Head Start Association Institute/Opioid & Substance Misuse Summit: June 6-9, 2023

Dads Reading on the Carpet: Apr 29-Fayetteville, Jul 15-N. Little Rock, & Oct 14-West Memphis

Powerful Conversations with Fathers: May 9-James Hollywood III, Aug 8, & Nov 14

School Readiness Summit: November 3, 2023

Early Head Start Child Care Partnerships: April 25, July 14, October 23

Homelessness Meeting-March 21, 2023

Regional

Region 6 Head Start Association Conference: July 17-21, 2023

Region VI Head Start Association Board Meeting-To Be Announced

National

National Head Start Association Conference: May 8-11, 2023

National Head Start Association Parent Conference: December 4-7, 2023

Next Meeting Date: Class/Board Meeting: Wednesday, May 17, 2023

Adjournment: ***Barbie Baxter motioned to adjourn at 12:34 pm. Jennifer Thomas seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion carried.***

Submitted by,

Deana Howell