

REGION VI HEAD START ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING
Sugar Land Marriott Hotel
March 28, 2010

The Region VI Head Start Association Board of Directors met at the Sugar Land Marriott Hotel in Sugar Land, Texas on March 28, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. See sign-in sheet for all those in attendance.

I. Call to Order/Greetings/Welcome: Ms. Lopez called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

II. Roll Call/Seating: Ms. Cox presented the roll call and a quorum was established; 12 votes present. Ms. Cox made necessary name changes to the roll call. Ms. Lopez will contact the Presidents of the states of New Mexico, Arkansas, and Oklahoma to obtain the new member names.

III. Approval of Agenda: Action Item 1: Alvin Jones made the motion to accept the agenda of March 28, 2010 with the addition of letter "E" under new business to read, schedule of meetings for the year; Mary Cox seconded. Motion carried.

IV. Approval of Minutes: The minutes for November 11, 2009 and November 14, 2009 were presented for review and approval. It was noted that the Annual Business meeting minutes of November 14, 2009 will be reviewed and approved by the general membership at the annual meeting scheduled in conjunction with the Region VI Conference. No further discussion.

Action Item 2: Alvin Jones made the motion to accept the minutes of November 11, 2009; Rhonda Ahrent seconded. Motion carried.

V. Treasurer's Report: Ricky Pondexter presented the Treasurers report dated March 28, 2010; which showed a beginning balance of \$141,338.82 with expenses of \$14,656.85; leaving a balance of \$126,846.69. Ms. Lopez stated she received a check while in New Mexico at the Region VI Conference from Sara Greene from Application Link for \$1,000 to go to Region VI scholarship fund. Mr. Pondexter acknowledged receipt of the check and will post it on the next treasurer's report. No further discussion took place.

Action Item 3: Doug Spillman made the motion to accept the Treasurer's Report; Mary Cox seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Pondexter also presented a copy of the Independent Auditor's Report and Financial Statements for December 31, 2008 and 2007 conducted by Hughes, Welch & Milligan, LTD to all those in attendance. He stated it is was a clean audit and was less expensive than last year; decreased from \$1,500 to \$1,200 after some negotiating. A report will be filed with the Association for the record. No discussion took place.

Action Item 4: Terrance St. Julien made the motion to accept and file the Audit report; Barbara Sisco seconded. Motion carried.

VI. State President/Collaboration Report

A. Arkansas (Presented by Barbara Sisco –Joint Written Report Filed)

- Arkansas received an ARRA grant (\$225,000 for one year) to bring SpecialQuest to the early childhood community.
- Early Childhood Outreach training (ECHO) targeting new EHS grantees and other EHS programs who have not been trained or who have been awarded additional EHS slots.
- 2010 Head Start Institute will be held on July 21-23rd in Little Rock Ark.
- Invest Early Initiative setting priorities for early childhood education in children ages 0-5 to identify needs and funds needed.
- A grant was secured from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) to implement a medication administration initiative which will look at medication administration errors in child care and provide training.
- State advisory council active in various activities and preparing grant application for submission.

B. Louisiana (Presented by Barbara Pickney –Written Report Filed)

- Kahree Wahid, State Collaboration Director unable to be in attendance due to a spider bite and was not able to travel; sends his regards.
- Oct 15,-16 quarterly Board meeting with mini conference.
- December 11th- attended Regional Listening Session in Dallas, Texas.
- Jan 13-14- attended mini conference and Board meeting in Metairie, La along with 30-40 Policy Council and Board members.
- August 8-11- annual training conference will be held in Lafayette, La.; hosts include 4 grantees; Acadia Parish School Board Head Start, Child Development Council of Acadiana, Inc. Head Start/Early Head Start, Evangeline Parish CAA Head Start and SMILE CAA HS/EHS.
- Working with licensing representative regarding clock hours and changes to the regulations.
- Early Childhood Advisory Council- governor approved Bright Stars program out of LSU.
- Scholarships to parents and Head Start graduates furthering their education or enhancing skills.
- Giving a helping hand and encouragement to Mr. Clyde George and his family as they lost all possessions in a house fire.

C. New Mexico (Presented by Gloria Lopez –No Written Report)

- Met on March 25th and discussed reorganizing and memberships.
- Representatives from Regional office, state attended association meeting.
- Discussed role and responsibilities of T/TA, GPSS staff; contracts end June 30th and September 30th; not too much is known at this time.
- AIM High STAR program; Head Start receives only one star on their license; working with the state to receive more based on agency reviews, accreditations, etc.
- Collaboration Director, Ms. Ziegler recently lost her husband.

D. Oklahoma (Presented by Barbara Hankins –Written Report Filed)

- Monthly round table discussion, peer on peer training, minutes distributed to encourage involvement, follow-up, ideas or needs.
- VITA program preparing taxes at no cost to Head Start families.
- Attended Listening Session in Dallas on Dec. 11th.
- School year may be extended due to weather related school closings.
- Ms. Hankins, CARD HS/EHS Director, & Oklahoma President presented at the New Directors Training in Dallas on January 19-21st.
- Serves on Governors Task Force in Oklahoma.
- EHS program has doubled in the State of Oklahoma.
- Attended legislative conference in Oklahoma on March 22-24th. Visited legislators and shared concerns regarding continued and future funding.
- Ms. Rhonda Brothers, HS/EHS Director of United Community Action Project recently passed away from cancer. She was a great advocate for Head Start campaigning on the state, regional and national levels.
- Looking at T/TA new structure; will focus on assisting deficient programs
- State Appropriated Funds (SAF) has been cut by 9% with an additional 5% being cut monthly.

E. Texas (Presented by LaShonda Brown –Written Report Filed)

- Produce one year and 5 year plans in cooperation with programs.
- Continuing to develop and sustain Pre-K partnerships.
- State and local policy making initiatives.
- Child care licensing standards up for review; April 20th meeting in Austin to hear recommendations.
- Serves on State Advisory Council.
- \$11.2 million grant for school readiness; workforce professional development, data and quality rating systems, collaborations/standards and parental outreach and communications

VII. Committee Reports: Ms. Lopez explained that from review and discussion in this morning's working committee meeting some of the committees have been combined; results are as follows:

- Audit/Finance/Budget- Mary Rose Cox, Chair
- Scholarships/ Awards/Recognitions- Rhonda Ahrent, Chair
- Communications/ Public Relations/Policy and Procedures/-Alvin Jones, Chair (resolutions sub-committee; President w/ Executive Committee)
- Nominating Committee- Terrance St. Julien, Chair
- By-Laws- Clyde George (Parliamentarian), Chair

VIII. Updates

A. **Regional Office-** No report at this time.

B. **Region VI President-** Ms. Lopez stated that the only thing she had done on behalf of the Association was to attend the Regional Listening Session in Dallas, Texas on February 11, 2010. She continues to learn her responsibilities.

- C. **National Head Start Association:** Ms. Mary Cox presented a report submitted by Mr. Thomas Sheridan, Legislative Associate. Ms. Cox stated NHTSA has had several staffing changes and is currently looking to hire a Finance Director, Membership Services Director, Government Affairs Director, and Development/Partnership Director. NHTSA has recently received a grant from the Kellogg Foundation to work with States to strengthen associations and state and national ties. NHTSA is pleased with the Health Care Reform Legislation as it includes a significant investment into evidence based home visitation programs and will allow Congress to begin work on other legislation. The Sessions McCaskill amendment was not voted on due to a procedural problem, as well as the many phone calls made by Head Start and other communities. The annual NHTSA conference is scheduled for May 3-8th in Dallas; NHTSA requests assistance in encouraging programs, especially new grantees, to attend and volunteer.

Mr. Pondexter stated that Ms. Cox has been appointed as Assistant Secretary to NHTSA. Ms. Barbara Pickney stated she had heard that Ms. Yasmina Vinci, NHTSA Director's compensation package includes a \$20,000 bonus after six months in office. Mr. Pondexter stated that issue has not come up in any board meeting. It is possible the personnel committee may have been involved in the decision. Discussion arose regarding the NHTSA providing information after the fact and not including the states input in decisions being made.

VIII. Conference Advisory Report

- A. **2009: New Mexico:** Ms. Lopez distributed and discussed the budget/expense report from the November 22-14, 2009 Region VI Head Start Conference held in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Total revenues were \$154,500.00 minus \$88,307.53 expenses = \$66,192.47 profit. Included was the final report prepared by the NM Head Start T/TA Office which outlined the conference planning and lessons learned. Miquela Rivera, Project Manager is putting together a conference tool kit to assist the next conference chair person. Ms. Rivera and the NM T/TA Specialists will be presenting at the NHTSA conference. The NMHTSA will submit a check in the amount of \$33,096.24 to the Region VI HSA, attention Ricky Pondexter. Mr. Alvin Jones requested that a thank you letter be sent to NM for a great conference.

Action Item 5: Mary Cox made the motion to accept report and to send a thank you letter to New Mexico; seconded by Terrance St. Julien. Motion carried.

- B. **2010: Texas:** Ms. Wright stated she is hopeful that after the tour of the Sugar Land Marriot Hotel in the morning, the board members will select this area for the 2010 joint Region VI and THSA conference. The conference is tentatively scheduled for the first week of October but details like dates, conference chair, etc. will be confirmed after board approval. Ms. Wright states she plans on providing certification classes and medication and administration classes presented by the hospital or university. There will be a special celebration recognizing the 45th anniversary of Head Start and Ms. Wright requested all in attendance to provide some historical information. Action items will be presented under new business.

C. **2011: Oklahoma** –No report at this time.

D. **2012: Arkansas** – No report at this time.

IX. Correspondence: Ms. Barbara Pickney stated all programs should have received the announcement regarding the Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) funding due April 30, 2010 in the regional office. These monies will provide for a 1.84% increase.

X. Old Business: No old business at this time.

XI. Adjournment: Ms. Lopez stated the meeting would resume tomorrow at 8:00 am with New Business. All members were advised to meet in the hotel lobby at 5:30 pm this evening to meet for dinner. No further discussion took place; meeting adjourned at 3:36 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Pamela S. Williams, WSS Tri-County