

HSSCO SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

**Activities for the first six months of the 2009-2010 grant Year
MARCH 1 – AUGUST 31, 2009 [Plus January 1- February 28, 2009]**

Oklahoma

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Briefly describe your activities in the following areas. Where possible, indicate the goals from your work plan and the actual outcomes:

- 1. Describe your activities in facilitating collaboration among Early Head Start and Head Start grantees and entities that provide child and family services to low-income families in the following priority areas, as applicable:**

Health Care

Goal A: Foster effective working coalitions of ACF officials, state officials, state Head Start association members, Head Start program directors and staff, early childhood professionals, and professionals in other relevant disciplines.

Goal C: Build the best possible linkages between local, community based Head Start programs and state early childhood initiatives and policies.

Goal A Outcome: Effective working coalitions of ACF officials, state officials, state Head Start Association members, Head Start program directors and staff, early childhood professionals, and professionals in other relevant disciplines

Goal C Outcome: The best possible linkages between local, community-based Head start programs and state early childhood initiatives and policies.

- Oral Health: The HSSCO Director served as co-chair of the Children’s Oral Health Coalition. The HSSCO Director and Tribal Head Start health coordinator participated in discussions of the Children’s Oral Health Coalition with regard to the Head Start Dental Home Initiative, Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Action Team work, and updates on the Governor’s Task force on Children and Oral Health. ¹
- Governor’s Task Force on Children and Oral Health: The HSSCO provided oral health data from the PIR of Region VI and Region XI Head Start grantees in Oklahoma. ¹
- Dental Home Initiative: The HSSCO director and representatives of local Head Start grantees (Region VI Region XI) participated in Oklahoma’s Dental Home Initiative Launch. The HSSCO director presented “Head Start 101.” ¹
- Turning Point: The HSSCO promoted to local Head Start agencies the Oklahoma Health Improvement Plan and community listening sessions to be held in six locations around the state with the Oklahoma Turning Point Council, a network of local health partnerships. ¹
- Mental Health: The HSSCO director was a state partner team member participating in the Build Initiative/NCCP* social-emotional partnership meeting on building systems for Healthy Child Development and School Readiness. The State Director and the Oklahoma State Health Department Mental Health, Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Coordinator followed up to address issues regarding mental health services for Head Start children and families. ¹
- Health Care Authority: The State Director met with the Child Health Advisory Task Force and presented results of HSSCO Needs Assessment of Head Start programs with regard to health care. ²
- Asthma. The HSSCO director worked with a University of Oklahoma College of Medicine third-year medical student to provide American Medical Association parent training on the dangers of second-hand smoke to Head Start parents and staff. ¹

¹ Identification of resources for the provision of in-kind services for Head Start grantees

² Assistance to Head Start grantees in better conducting outreach to eligible families

Welfare and Child Welfare

Goal A: Foster effective working coalitions of ACF officials, state officials, state head Start association members, Head Start program directors and staff, early childhood professionals, and professionals in other relevant disciplines.

Goal B: Serve as facilitator to improve and expand services for low-income children in Head Start, childcare, and state preschool programs.

Goal A Outcome: Effective working coalitions of ACF officials, state officials, state Head Start Association members, Head Start program directors and staff, early childhood professionals, and professionals in other relevant disciplines

Goal B Outcome: Improved and expanded services for low-income children in Head Start, childcare, and state preschool programs

- Oklahoma Head Start Early Childhood Collaboration Advisory Board: The HSSCO Director planned and hosted the spring meeting of the Head Start State Collaboration Office Advisory Board to discuss Partners' updates, State Early Childhood Advisory Council and HSSCO responsibilities, Head Start T/TA Systems, ARRA funds workgroups, and Oklahoma Interagency MOU Agreement on serving children with disabilities.³
- Fatherhood Institute: The Executive Assistant provided information through the electronic communications system about the Southwest Fatherhood Institute, 2009.
- Oklahoma Department of Human Services: The HSSCO Director researched and provided written responses to the state agency director's questions and concerns about the effectiveness of Head Start and provided a copy of the Head Start Performance Standards.³

Childcare, including coordination of activities with the State Child Care Administrator, child care programs and child care resource and referral agencies, all represented on the State Early Childhood Advisory Council (Smart Start Oklahoma, Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness).

Goal B: Serve as facilitator to improve and expand services for low-income children in Head Start, childcare, and state preschool programs.

Goal B Outcome: Improved and expanded services for low-income children in Head Start, childcare, and state preschool programs

³ Coordination of activities with the state child care agency (OKDHS), child care resource and referral agencies and child care programs for full-day, full-year child care services

- Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness: The HSSCO Director participated in National Smart Start Conference in Greensboro, NC, and presented a session on the Head Start Collaboration Data Collection Project, “Improving the Delivery of Early Care and Education in Oklahoma.”^{4, 3}

The HSSCO Director served as a member of the Ready School Action Team of the governor-designated State Early Childhood Advisory Council (SECAC; OPSR, Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness) to develop a definition of school readiness.⁴

The HSSCO Director served as a member of the SECAC Policy and Workforce Workgroup to discuss systems development.^{3, 4}

- Child Care: The HSSCO Director met with Susan Illgen, Smart Start Oklahoma (OPSR, SECAC) Executive Director, to discuss concerns about the proposed State Plan for Child Care Development Block Grant Funds.³
- Public Schools: The HSSCO Director met with Karl Springer, Oklahoma City Public Schools Superintendent, and neighborhood representatives to discuss early childhood collaborations and use of Title I funds. Also met with the Ready Schools, “Together Better” Action Team of the SECAC to discuss the status of the project and plans for the next meeting of participants.⁵

Education

Goal C: Build the best possible linkages between local, community based Head Start programs and state early childhood initiatives and policies.

Goal C Objective/Outcome: Professional development opportunities in early childhood partners will be expanded and/or improved.

- Higher Education: The HSSCO Director met with the Rose State College Child Development and Family Services Advisory Board for updates on accreditation, online courses, student performance in writing and math and other professional development issues.
- Office of Head Start: The HSSCO Director participated in U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Web cast on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and also participated in monthly Region VI HSSCO conference calls.
- Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center: The Executive Assistant distributed the Web site address (<http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hsic>) for the Early

⁴ Alignment of curricula and assessments with Head Start Child Outcomes Framework and state early learning standards

⁵ Consultations with SEA and LEAs

Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center through the electronic communications system to the early childhood collaboration E-group. 1, 3

- Title I: The HSSCO Director facilitated a session on Head Start Collaboration between a local Head Start grantee and public school using Title I funds at the summer conference of the Oklahoma Association of Community Action Agencies. 5, 2

Professional Development

Goal C: Build the best possible linkages between local, community based Head Start programs and state early childhood initiatives and policies.

Goal C Outcome: The best possible linkage linkages between local, community-based Head start programs and state early childhood initiatives and policies.

- Head Start State-based TA System: The HSSCO director and state TA Program Manager met frequently to coordinate Head Start professional development opportunities and plan for collaborative systems development. 4
- Office of Head Start: The State Director participated in Webinar on professional development and training for family services staff in Head Start.
- National Governor's Association: The State Director participated in a conference call on professional development hosted by the National Governor's Association Center for Best Practices and Early Childhood Partners.
- Professional Development: The State Director met with the new Program Field Coordinator, Oklahoma Department of Human Services, to discuss early childhood collaboration and professional development. 3
- NAEYC Professional Development Institute: The HSSCO Director participated as a partner member of the Oklahoma Team at the Professional Development Institute work day on cross-sector professional development system in Charlotte, NC. Participated in sessions on cross-sector professional development and a session on the importance of plan in the early childhood curriculum. Participated in state team follow-up meeting to the Institute. 3
- Supporting School Readiness - The Executive Assistant distributed information through electronic communication system about a new Webinar training on Working with Culturally Diverse Infants, Toddlers and their Families. The training was provided in partnership with the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies. 3, 4

Community Services

Goal C: Build the best possible linkages between local, community based Head Start programs and state early childhood initiatives and policies.

Goal C Objective: Head Start data will be compiled and analyzed, and the project report distributed. **Goal C Outcome:** The best possible linkages between local, community-based Head start programs and state early childhood initiatives and policies.

- Needs Assessment: The HSSCO completed the Needs Assessment of Head Start programs, analyzed the results, prepared the final report, and submitted it to Region VI ACF office in Dallas and the Office of Head Start. ⁴
- State Department of Education: The HSSCO Director was invited to participate in the State Department of Education Leadership Conference and attended several sessions on early childhood collaboration. ⁵
- Potts Family Foundation, Smart Start and Other Partners: The HSSCO Director participated in a breakfast meeting with presenters and hosted a luncheon table for the statewide “Summit on Early Childhood Economic Investment.”
- Community Partners: The HSSCO Director participated in two community neighborhood meetings to promote increased collaboration between public schools, head Start, and other early education programs. ⁴
- Strategies for Promoting Successful Family Engagement – The Executive Assistant distributed information through electronic communications system on a Harvard Family Research Project policy brief that examines the role of school districts in promoting family engagement. ^{6, 4}

Family Literacy Services

Goal B: Serve as facilitator to improve and expand services for low-income children in Head Start, and state preschool programs.

Goal B Objective/Outcome: Head Start programs will have improved access to family and financial literacy services.

- Family Literacy Initiative: The HSSCO Director participated in Webinar on Head Start’s new family literacy initiative that includes emphasis on math and financial literacy. ⁴
- Migrant/Seasonal and American Indian Head Start Grantees: The HSSCO Director met with Migrant/Seasonal and American Indian Head Start state and

⁶ Partnerships and activities to address English proficient children

federal leaders at the HSSCO Directors National Meeting to discuss Head Start children's school readiness needs and issues. ⁶

- Family Literacy Newsletter: The Executive Assistant distributed information through electronic communications about TIPS (Training, Information and Practical Strategies) family literacy newsletter. ⁶
- Barbara Bush Foundation: The Executive Assistant distributed information through electronic communications about the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy grants for projects to support development of literacy skills for adult primary care givers and their children. ⁶
- FirstBook: The Executive Assistant distributed information through electronic communications about an effort to add to book collections and encourage more children and their parents to read through the FirstBook Web site: (http://booksforkids.firstbook.org/whatbook/your_favorite.php) ⁷
- Supporting Literacy in Natural Environments: The Executive Assistant distributed information on free parent-child literacy activities available on the following Web site: www.wlearning.com ^{6, 7}

Services to Children with Disabilities

Goal B: Serve as facilitator to improve and expand services for low-income children in Head Start, childcare, and state preschool programs.

Goal B Objective/Outcome: The State Interagency agreement MOU on serving Children with Disabilities will be updated and signed by partners to include the Oklahoma Department of Commerce as the State Agency representing Head Start grantees of the Region VI Office of Head Start; the Region XI American Indian Head Start Branch representing the American Indian Head Start grantees; and appropriate representatives of the Region VI Administration for Children and Families Office of Head Start.

- Interagency MOU: The HSSCO Director facilitated signing by the Region VI ACF Office of the updated Interagency MOU Agreement on Disabilities, and forwarded the fully signed agreement to the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth Interagency Coordinating Council. ⁴
- Expanded Opportunities for Inclusion: The State Director met with a workgroup to improve opportunities for inclusion of children with disabilities in child care and other early childhood settings. ³
- Oklahoma Parent Center: The Executive Assistant distributed through electronic communications system the Oklahoma Parent Center newsletter. The Center is a

⁷ Partnerships to promote more books in Head Start programs

stateside advocate for children with disabilities and provides training and information to parents. ²

- Oral Health: The HSSCO worked with oral health partners to develop and fund printing of the pocket-size version of “Oral Health Care for Children with Special Health Care Needs” and distributed 5,000 copies to partners and stakeholders statewide. The full version of the guide produced through a HSSCO grant from the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors is available at www.okacaa.org. ¹

Services to Homeless Children and Families

Goal A: Foster effective working coalitions of ACF officials, state officials, state head Start association members, Head Start program directors and staff, early childhood professionals, and professionals in other relevant disciplines.

Goal A Objective/Outcome: Representative of local Head Start grantee staff, Oklahoma Head Start Association members, and parents will be included on at least one state-level committee, task force, or other planning body related to each of the priority areas.

- Governor’s Interagency Council on Homelessness: The HSSCO Director served as a member of this council and co-chaired the Access to Mainstream Resources Committee that discussed the Head Start needs assessment results and next videoconference with the State Department of Education. ²
- United We Ride: The Communications Director served as a member of the Governor’s Advisory Council on United We Ride which promotes coordination of transportation services. He served as designee for the HSSCO director on the Governor’s Interagency Council on Homelessness, and he updated the Access to Mainstream Resources Committee with regard to transportation issues affecting the homeless population. ²
- Aid to Homeless Funding: The Executive Assistant distributed information through electronic communications system about funding provided by Morgan Stanley to nonprofits for programs which aid the homeless. ²

The activities above are footnoted to document progress in assisting Head Start grantees in:

- Coordination of activities with the state child care agency (Oklahoma Department of Human Services), child care resource and referral agencies, and child care programs for full-day, full-year child care services
- Alignment of Curricula and assessments with Head Start Child Outcomes Framework and state early learning standards

- Consultations with SEA and LEAs
- Partnerships to promote more books in Head Start programs
- Partnerships and activities to address English proficient children
- Identification of resources for the provision of in-kind services for Head Start grantees
- Assistance to Head Start Grantees in better conducting outreach to eligible families

2. Briefly describe your activities in facilitating the involvement of Head Start agencies in the development of state and local policies, planning processes, and decisions.

The activities above describe the activities of the HSSCO in facilitating Head Start agencies' participation in developing state and local policies. These activities include working with the Oklahoma Head Start Association, the Oklahoma American Indian Head Start Directors Association, and other state partners to ensure representation of local Head Start programs on state level committees, coalitions, commissions, workgroups, task forces, and advisory boards – including the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care.

3. If applicable, describe your activities as a member of the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care.

The HSSCO is a governor-appointed member of the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care. The HSSCO Director worked with the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness (OPSR) to enter into an MOU with the Office of the Governor to designate the OPSR as the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care.

4. If applicable, briefly describe your activities in supporting the coordination of Head Start services to American Indian/Alaska Native and Migrant and Seasonal Head Start programs in your State.

Activities supporting the coordination of Head Start services to AI/AN and M/S Head Start programs are documented in the activities listed above. The Needs Assessment of Head Start programs conducted by the HSSCO includes the results of the AI/AN and M/S Head Start grantees in the state.

5. Describe any changes you have made to your current year line item budget and why these changes were made.

No changes in the current year budget.

6. Describe additional activities and successes in the past six-months.

Major activities and successes are described above within the project priority areas.

7. How will/have your responses to the questions above impact your approved strategic plan for the second half of the current grant year?

The approved strategic plan is on track for completion of most activities planned. The HSSCO director is developing a table to ensure that activities planned as well as those identified as priorities in the Needs Assessment will be tracked for completion during the project year.

* NCCP: National Center for Children in Poverty, Columbia University