

# REGION VI HEAD START ASSOCIATION BOARD

## Quarterly Reporting Form



**Name: Paula A. Brown**

**Position: OK HSSCO Director**

**Organization: OK Assoc. of CAAs**

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### **Correspondence:**

1. Conference call with Maria Cervera, ACF, OHS Region VI HSSCO Liaison
2. Conference calls with Kent Mitchell, NHSA Director of State Affairs – Monthly HSSCO call and Monthly HSSCO on Homelessness hosted by Tracy Duarte,

**Content Topics:** Transition Summit Planning; Homelessness Forums; EHS-CCP; Vaccine mandates; EHS-Rising; Obesity grant; Resource & Referral Board of Directors.

### **Reporting Information:**

Transition Summit Planning: We have a dynamic committee helping to plan the Summit. There are 4 sub-committees meeting to help plan: Content, logistics (including location/food), evaluation, & communications including program/invite and dissemination. To be held in person\* June 22, 2022.

Homelessness Forums: Working closely with OSDE and homelessness advocates to pull together multiple Virtual Homeless Forums based on the state's 8 Continuum of Care areas. I will provide an overview of Head Start and categorical eligibility of children who are experiencing homelessness. The planning committee has reviewed all of the presentations and are getting excited about the 1<sup>st</sup> one. The first one will most likely be held in February, rather than January as originally planned.

EHS-CCP: The HSSCO hosted the most recent meeting of the EHS-CCP grantees on 12/8/21. The original plan was for it to be a hybrid format, but with spiking COVID numbers, the planning team determined to have it via Zoom. The Vaccine & mask mandates, and staff shortages were the main topics of conversation from grantees. There was a wonderful presentation from the Autism Foundation of Oklahoma who is providing targeted early childhood training for Head Start and childcare.

\*if Covid numbers allow

Vaccine Mandates: I've had numerous Zoom meetings, phone calls, and calls from parents/community members voicing their concerns about the vaccine and mask mandates. It has been reiterated to the programs that NO child is to be excluded from services due to non-mask wearing. Collaborations with public school pre-k's are also in jeopardy. Concerns over both enrollment slots and Head Start space.

EHS-Rising: Oklahoma is one of 14 states working with NHSA to develop a framework around promoting state policy as it relates to increasing and promoting infant/toddler slots, especially EHS.

BMI-Obesity Grant: Oklahoma Head Start will collaborate with the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center as they, along with 3 other universities, will develop a communication/measurement toolkit related to consistent measurement and communication of results to parents for required height/weight in Head Start

Resource & Referral Association Board of Directors: I was recently asked to join and have been voted in to the Board of Directors for Oklahoma's Child Care Resource & Referral Association. This will provide a strong connection between Oklahoma's Head Starts and the Resource and Referral agencies in the state.

**Board Action Items:** None at this time

**Report Attachments (if any):**

**Signature(s):** *Paula A. Brown*

**Date:** 1/10/2022