

Region VI Head Start Association Board Meeting

October 23, 2023



Meeting Report

by

*Jacqueline Govan, Director
Head Start State Collaboration Office*



REGION VI HEAD START ASSOCIATION BOARD

Quarterly Reporting Form



Name: Jacqueline Govan, HSSCO & Jacqueline Burton, AHSA President Date: Oct. 23, 2023

Position: Board Advisor/Friend & Board Member

Organizations: HSSCO, AHSA, & Region 6

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The HEAD START STATE COLLABORATION OFFICE (HSSCO) is working on the following initiatives and activities from the HSSCO's strategic plan. The activities and initiatives include:

1. New Collaborative partners with the HSSCO: ACAA and CSBG has completed a triad Memorandum of Understanding and awaiting a time to set up a meeting for signatures. We have also put in place an action plan to keep us grounded in our responsibilities to the state and the local grantees.
2. The LEARN Act is currently underway and early childhood staff are working to ensure compliance with the upcoming changes to this Act. The HSSCO will remain in its current location for now.
3. Collaborate and innovate is my new slogan, which will be featured at our 2024 Institute in 2024 as we start the year with a focus on INNOVATION!
4. The National Association of State Leaders in Early Education (NASLEE), formerly known as NAECS-SDE, provides essential support for state leaders in early care and education. NASLEE does this by supporting state leaders working in state governments across the United States. They offer unique resources for learning, collaboration, and professional development.

The State(s) of Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education: Looking at Equity is the first equity-focused report to look state-by-state at the two federally funded programs for young children with disabilities. The report focuses on the 2020-2021 school

year and includes data beginning with the 2005-2006 school year. It explores four types of variation in early intervention (EI) and early childhood special education (ECSE) services:

- Impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic
- Race and Ethnicity
- Gender
- The State in which a child lives.

The Covid-19 pandemic significantly reduced young children's access to EI and ECSE. Black children suffered the largest decreases in access to ECSE. The pandemic also reduced the percentage of young children served in inclusive settings.

The State leadership team (includes the HSSCO director) in Arkansas has pulled everyone together to review, study, and identify data issues to make necessary changes where needed across the state.

5. Arkansas Awarded Preschool Development Grant (PDG) – The funds from the PDG will be used for Trauma Informed Care, increasing our infants and toddlers' slots, and helping staff receive a family credential. Implementation is currently under way; however, we continue to have meetings to ensure that the grant process is in full force and according to the guidelines in which it was intended. The HSSCO met with the state team and Judy Wilgren to ensure the HSSCO director was included in the work for the PDG grant.

6. EHS/Head Start Program Updates

- Programs: Opened/Workforce Issues
- Return of the EHS/EHS-CCP Quarterly Meetings

7. Fatherhood and Family Initiative

- Fatherhood Booth and Exhibit During Other Conferences
- Powerful Virtual Conversations with Fathers – ~~Feb.~~, April, August, November
- 2023 Dads Reading on the Carpet (DROC) Literacy Event – ~~April~~, July, October

8. Homelessness

- Collaboration w/State MV Liaisons
- Special Committee Formed to Look at Ways to End Homelessness in Arkansas

9. Racial Equity

A. Create the FIRST Racial Equity Website in Arkansas - August

- B. Setting up Racial Equity Resources for Parents, Teachers, & Administrators
- C. SUTEAR Professional Development Model
- D. Collaborating with AR Community Action Agency to do Racial Equity Webinars
- E. Professional Development Registry (PDR) – ***JG APPROVED***

10. Opioid/Substance Use for 2023

- AHSI Institute Sessions – June 7-9, 2023
- AHSI Pre-Institute – Opioid & Substance Misuse – June 6, 2023

11. School Readiness Summit

- Date: November 3, 2023
- Pulaski Technical College in North Little Rock

12. AR Imagination Library (ARIL)

- ARIL- expanding our goals to work with children in Foster Care & Hospitals
- Surveyed ALL EHS/Head Start/CC children to ensure they are receiving books.
- HSSCO continues to work with the Dollywood Foundation

13. Professional Development

- Collaboration w/DCCECE and others to place EHS/Head Start trainings on the PDR.
- HSSCO Offers Informational Webinars on Racial Equity
- EHS-CCP Quarterly Training & Informational Meetings
- Homelessness in ARKANSAS RESEARCH
- Powerful Conversations with Fathers (One Hour of Power)

14. Arkansas' Oral Health Coalition

- Collaborative Strategic Planning
- Collaboration with EHS/Head Start Programs in 2024

15. New Partnerships

- New Director at Arkansas Advocacy – Keesha Smith
- ACAA State Interagency Partnership Agreement
- MV State Liaisons/Head Start Homeless Liaisons
- Early Childhood Special Education/Head Start Disability Coordinators

16. HSSCO Upcoming Events:

- Dads Reading on the Carpet Literacy Events–October 14th.
- Powerful Conversations with Fathers - November 14th
- School Readiness Summit/STEAM for ECE – November 3rd
- Racial Equity Informational Webinars – Input from the public November 8, 2023

17. Other Work w/State Partners in Arkansas Include:

- Preschool Inclusion Team
- Child Find/Disability Indicators/State Plan
- State Interagency Coordinating Council
- Excel by Eight
- FASD/None for Nine Workgroup
- AECC/State Advisory Council
- AHVN Collaboration & Planning
- Safe Babies Court Team
- State Leadership Team Meetings
- Community of Practice (COP) /” *Making Pre-school Inclusion Work*” Book Review
- Arkansas Childhood Obesity Prevention (ARCOP)
- Arkansas Early Childhood Association (AECA)
- EHS-CCP Quarterly Meetings
- Collaboration with Publishing Companies – Great Relationships

OFFICE OF HEAD START (OHS)

On January 6, 2023, ACF issued a final rule requiring Head Start grant recipients to have an evidence-based COVID–19 mitigation policy, which considers multiple mitigation strategies such as access to vaccination, masking, ventilation, and testing. Although ACF will remove the vaccine and testing requirements, ACF strongly recommends that Head Start programs use vaccines and tests as part of their mitigation policy to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and reduce the likelihood of mortality or morbidity from infection. Head Start programs may choose to include their own requirements to support vaccination efforts, including for example, requiring staff remain up to date on COVID–19 boosters, sharing information on COVID–19 vaccination with staff and families, and/or partnering with local agencies to increase vaccination access. For more information, please refer to the Program Instruction (PI) ACF-PI-HS-23-01.

NATIONAL HEAD START ASSOCIATION (NHSA) - I must share this again....

NHSA sponsored an “Innovation Summit” in June 2023. The purpose of this summit is to network with others and to explore the good and bad that is occurring with our children and families in the United States. There were lots of dynamic speakers and presenters who all shared ways to do things better. Some of the content included:

- The Future Science of Learning,
- The Innovation and New Ideas to Improve Outcomes for Children,
- Mindsets and Methods,
- Innovator Leaders,
- Innovative Spirit verses Having what is needed to do the work,
- Challenges & Opportunities,
- Questioning (Status Quo),
- Collaboration in Practice,
- Discovery Driven Learning,
- Innovation Through High Quality, Language, and Rich Learning Environments
- Accelerator Circles (color-coded groups),
- Mindsets & Methods,
- Touring the Bright Horizons Classrooms & Building,
- Networking and Group Work, and
- Resources, and so much more.

NHSA will have their next meeting via zoom on November 15th, which is the last meeting for the year. Preparation is being made also for the 2023 National Parent Conference in December 2023.

DALLAS REGIONAL OFFICE

I have been in contact with the Dallas Regional Office on several issues regarding upcoming meetings, the LEARN Act, and more. Responses were given and things are moving forward.

REGION VI HEAD START ASSOCIATION

The HSSCO director serves on the Region 6 Board and provides quarterly, oral, and written reports that outline all activities for the previous quarter. Since the last Region 6 Board meeting, the HSSCO director has been engaged in the following:

- Working on Scholarship information.
- Providing and sending out information on the AR/Region VI Institute.
- Providing the zoom link for quarterly virtual meetings.

- Posting information on the Region's website.
- Collaborating, planning, and sharing information with Collaboration Directors in Region VI.
- Sending emails and trying to coordinate with Region VI President.

WEB-SITE.

The webmaster has updated the security on the web site. This called for the transferring of data back over to the site. Information was sent out regarding the Region VI Institute, as well as uploading reports. The webmaster is still asking for photos from board members, state presidents, and advisors to update the list on the web site. *Let's Keep our website up to date!*

ARKANSAS HEAD START ASSOCIATION INSTITUTE & ACTIVITIES

The AR Institute planning committee meets every other month in planning for the AHSA Annual Institute. The 2023 Institute took place in Hot Springs, Arkansas on June 6-9th at the Arlington Hotel. The theme for the event was “Honoring the Past, Treasuring the Present, and Shaping the Future.” Arkansas was happy to have a pre-institute on Opioid and Substance Misuse to offer support for program staff, families, and others across the state to address the negative changes we have had on drug abuse in our state.

We had dynamic speakers (Coy Bowles and Stephen Fite) lined up for two dynamic general sessions, approximately 64 small group sessions, and we continued with our Leadership Development luncheon for all directors and executive directors to focus on leadership development in supporting their staff! Other highlights of the institute included a Silent Auction, Exhibitors, in conjunction with recognizing outstanding EHS/Head Start workers and degreed staff, as well as precious time for networking and meeting others. The proceeds from our Silent Auction go to the Arkansas Imagination Library. We raised approximately \$2,408.00 from the silent auction.

The AHSA’s Institute committee is already in the planning stage for their next state institute. The institute is scheduled for April 30 – May 3, 2024. We have our speakers lined up and have invited Khari Garvin and are waiting for a response.

AHSA CLASS Meetings

The AHSA meets every other month to plan, coordinate, and network with EHS/Head Start programs through different classes. The classes include directors, staff, parents, and friends.

Guest speakers are invited to attend meetings to share updated information that would be of interest and great benefit to the EHS/Head Start programs.

The AHSA/HSSCO has completed their strategic plan. This is a five-year strategic plan for the association (2022-2027). The AHSA has also put in place a Strategic Planning Committee to ensure that ALL goals are completed within a timely manner. The plan has identified some actionable goals that will increase involvement in the association and enhance the work that is being done in the local programs around the state. The plan will be reviewed at each AHSA meeting. Other issues that programs have faced include workforce, retention, salaries, and others.

The AHSA is working to build and meet the Dollar per Child for 2024. The Dollar per Child amounts submitted went very well this year and Arkansas met its Dollar Per Child amount. In attempts to continue to meet this amount, Arkansas is working hard to meet our Dollar per child amount for 2024 by making donations at all meetings and special events. We also have things set up on the website and through “Cheddar” for people to pay.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS:

- New Photos of ALL Board Members for Website
- List of updates on state presidents, board representatives with contact information

Signature(s):

Jacqueline Burton, *AHSA Board President*

Date: _____

Jacqueline Govan, HSSCO Director

Date: _____