

# REGION VI HEAD START ASSOCIATION BOARD

## Quarterly Reporting Form



**Name:** Kahree Wahid

**Position:** Director

**Organization:** Louisiana HSSCO **E-Address:** Kahree.Wahid@LA.GOV

**Correspondence:** Region VI Head Start Association Quarterly Report, January 29, 2024

- 1. Region VI Board of Directors**
- 2. Head Start State Collaboration Directors**
- 3. LHSA President**
- 4. ACF Regional Staff**

**Content Topics:** **ECE, Board & Councils, Professional Development, Workforce, Conferences & Trainings**

### **Reporting Information:**

#### **Early Care & Education:**

**The Governor's Early Childhood Care & Education Commission (ECCEC):** The Governor's ECCEC convened Monday, January 22, 2024 to update the final report and submit the following recommendations to the Louisiana State Legislature:

- Invest \$98 million of additional state funds in high-quality early care and education now and annually over 10 years to ensure statewide access.
- Enact legislation that codifies the State's commitment to the Early Childhood Education Fund to match and incentivize ongoing and increasing local investment.
- Continue to review state and local revenue and resources to identify potential sustainable funding for early care and education.

The Commission message to the State Legislature is investing in ECE has proven to yield the greatest return and the beneficiaries are Louisiana's families, workforce & economy.

**Early Care & Education Advisory Council (ECEAC):** The Early Care & Education Advisory Council (ECEAC) Meeting was held on Wednesday, November 15, 2023 at the Claiborne Building located at 1201 North 3<sup>rd</sup>

Street, Baton Rouge, LA at 1pm. A quorum was not present, so there was an informal discussion among members present. One of the biggest takeaways from this meeting was the transition of B-3 seats into permanent seats utilizing funding from the Child Care Assistance Program and will be referred to as CCAP B-3. In 2023 the Louisiana Legislature invested more than ever into early care and education, this investment allowed the Department to allocate funding for 2023-24 Pilot program, CCAP B-3. In quarter three (3) the Department began transitioning the original B-3 Seats pilot into a permanent program, "CCAP B-3 Seats", utilizing State General Funds. The Department is working to codify the CCAP B-3 Seats Pilot program into policy and formally incorporate it into the Louisiana's (Child Care Development Fund) CCDF State Plan. Community Network Lead Agencies (42) were allocated seats based on Coordinated Funding Requests beginning in January, 2023 which estimate a demand for approximately 6,500 seats.

**Edlink Updates:** The Head State Start Collaboration Office continues to assist Head Start and Early Head Start Child Care Partners with Edlink supports and logistics within the Department of Education. Training sessions are also made available to assist you with your Edlink orientation and utilization. All sessions require registration, register early since space is limited.

- Accessing EdLink, Tuesdays and Fridays 8:30-9:30 a.m.
- Completing Type I, II, and III New and Renewal Applications, Tuesdays 10:00-11:30 a.m.
- Completing Entity Change Applications, Fridays 10:00-11:30 a.m.

For additional assistance contact Anthony Martin, Program Specialist, Early Head Start Child Care Partnership at [anthony.martin@la.gov](mailto:anthony.martin@la.gov) or 225-405-8896.

## **State Boards & Councils:**

**Children's Cabinet Advisory Board (CCAB):** Conducted its final meeting of the year on November 14, 2023 at the Claiborne Building, 1201 north 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. The CCAB confirmed priorities and recommendations to be submitted to the Children Cabinet for the new administration and legislature. Presentations were also provided on Trust Based Relational Intervention for school, Community and Home by Bobbye Mathews, II and Nicole Campione & Dr. Kristin Savicki shared information on a pilot funded by the Office of Behavior Health in conjunction with Tulane to provide early childhood support and services. The CCAB requested updates and/revision to the statute regarding combining of budget priorities and specific budget items, as well as individuals and organization to serve on and/or to be removed from the Children's Cabinet Advisory Board.

**The State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) (EarlySteps):** The SICC EarlySteps Director, Caroline Nailor-Oglesby and the SICC Chairman, Kahree Wahid conducted interviews to fill the vacancy in the position of Professional Development Director. Applicants participated in a series of interviews consisting of Q&A's to actual providing a presentation to illustrate their competency as the potential candidates. The candidate selected for this position will be responsible for ensuring EarlySteps service providers and administrators are given opportunities obtain quality professional development which meets their program's annual continuing educational requirements.

Plans are also being made to revisit collaborative meetings with LDOE (CCAP), EarlySteps and Head Start to review the coordination and transitions across programs with Part C and Part B providers. The SICC will also

solicit representative to serve on State Interagency Coordinating Council after the swearing in of the new administration.

**Department of Health Louisiana Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program:** The Head Start State Collaboration Office participated in a meeting with Madison Pudrakiewicz, Health Communication Specialist with the Department of Health (LDH), who has replaced Dr. Trina Evans as LDH's Lead Poisoning Prevention Director. Madison and LDH has solicited the support of the HSSCO with identifying Head Start programs in communities deemed to have high concentrations of Lead. The objective is to provide educational activities and materials throughout these specific areas in the state for Lead Education and increase public awareness, particularly on the impact of Lead in Early Care and Education settings.

The initially program and enrollment numbers were provided for Head Start programs in the Northeastern portion of the state to determine the amount of materials needed to carry out the campaign. Head Start grantees will soon receive communication and resources to begin the Lead Poisoning Prevention Campaign in their area.

### **Professional Development:**

**Workforce Development:** Workforce development continues to be one of the highest priority for Head Start at this time. The HSSCO continues to be actively involved in several workforce initiatives focusing on developing and sustaining an Early Care and Education Workforce to meet the dire needs of Head Start/ Early Head Start programs.

In the State of Louisiana the Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO) is working closely with two (2) of the state's HBCUs (Southern & Grambling State Universities) to develop and sustain an ECE Workforce Apprenticeship program. Students attending these universities, majoring in ECE and ECE support fields (teaching, social work, nursing & nutrition) may be eligible to participate in this apprenticeship program. Students participating in practicums, internship and field work as a condition for obtaining a degree would have additional credentials, (CDA's & Ancillary Certification), supports (financial) and job placement after completing the apprenticeship. Meeting are now taking place with the Louisiana Workforce Commission and application is under way with Southern University to begin the initial process of developing the apprenticeship agreement.

The Louisiana HSSCO participates on the Regional VI Workforce Team by supporting and assisting with developing strategies to assist the regional office and grantees with workforce shortages as the need for a quality workforce increases in the region.

The National Head Start Association has also been instrumental in providing workforce forums to share best practices and offer support to assist programs and state association with addressing workforce shortages within its membership as well.

The Head State Collaboration Office Workforce Development initiative will also include partnerships with charter and high schools to offer CDA training for students in addition to other vocational trainings currently taking in high school and vocational settings.

## **Conferences and Trainings:**

**Louisiana Policy Institute (Geaux Far Steering Committee Retreat):** The Louisiana Policy Institute conducted its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Geaux Far Steering Committee Retreat in Woodworth, LA at the Methodist Center on December 1-2, 2023. The steering committee retreat is an opportunity for parents, child care providers and other early care and education collaborative partners to address the Early Care and Education needs in the state from a parental, provider and program administrator's point of view. These interactive gathering has resulted in the development and implementation of a strategic plan supporting policy development and legislation to improve equity, access and supports for parents, providers and program administrators throughout the state's ECE community. Head Start representation on the Geaux Far Steering Committee includes: four parents (4), including one with a child with disabilities as well as the Louisiana Head Start Association's Chairperson, Michelle Joubert and the HSSCO Director, Kahree Wahid who also participated in this year's retreat.

**NHSA's Parent and Family Engagement Conference:** New Orleans, Louisiana provided the back drop for the 2023 National Head Start Annual Parent & Family Engagement Conference which took place on December 4 – 7, 2023. The event was a success with greetings provided by Michelle Joubert, Chairperson of the Louisiana Head Start Association.

NHSA's National Conference is scheduled to take place April 15-18, 2024 in Portland, OR.

**Families In Need of Service's (FINS):** FINS Association Annual Training Conference Committee and Board of Directors are finalizing plans for its annual conference scheduled to take place at the Doubletree Hotel in Lafayette, LA on May 8-10, 2024. Shelneka Adams-Marsalose, Child Welfare & Attendance Liaison with the Louisiana Department of Education and FINS newly appointed board member will serve as this year's Conference Chairperson. She brings to the FINS Board her expertise on chronic absenteeism and truancy with a family focus. Please contact her for more conference related information at 225-342-3358 or email her at [Shelneka.Adams@la.gov](mailto:Shelneka.Adams@la.gov).

## **Board Action Items:**

## **Report Attachments (if any):**

**Signature(s):** *Kahree Wahid*      **Date:** 1/25/2024

HSSCO –JD