



REGION VI HEAD START ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS VIRTUAL MEETING

**Monday, January 13, 2025
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (MT)**

MEETING MINUTES

I. Opening Business Items

A. Call to Order/Greetings/Welcome –Crystal Pena, President

Crystal Pena, President, called the meeting to order at 9:03 am Mountain Time. She greeted and welcomed all in attendance.

B. Presentation & Seating of New Members –Laurie Gassaway, Vice President

Crystal Pena, President, informed Laurie Gassaway and the Board of Directors that there are no new members to present.

C. Roll Call & Establish Quorum – Rhonda Taylor, Secretary

Crystal Pena, President, reported that she was informed that Rhonda Taylor is no longer a member of the Region VI Board of Directors. Ms. Pena took the roll call. There were 13 out of 20 votes present, establishing a quorum.

<u>Representative</u>	<u>Alternate</u>	Vote ✓
Arkansas		
○ Sarah Wilhite, Director:	○ Director:	
✓ Jacqueline Burton, Staff	○ Staff:	✓
○ Parent:	○ Parent:	
✓ Jackie Govan, Friend	○ Rhonda Ahrent, Friend	✓
Louisiana		
✓ Michelle Joubert, Director	○ Director: Gregory Bradley	✓
✓ Erica Arvie, Staff	○ Staff:	✓
○ Parent:	○ Parent:	
✓ Anthony Martin, Friend	○ Friend:	✓
New Mexico		
✓ Debra Baca, Director	○ Director	✓
✓ Crystal Pena, Staff	○ Staff:	✓
✓ Tasha Woods, Parent	○ Parent:	✓
✓ Luis Quinones, Friend	✓ Gloria Lopez, Friend	✓
Oklahoma		
○ Susie Powers, Director	✓ Anthony Stafford, Director	✓
✓ Laurie Gassaway, Staff	○ Staff:	✓
○ Parent:	○ Parent:	
✓ Paula Brown, Friend	○ Friend:	✓
Texas		
✓ Weldon T. Beard, Director	○ Venetia Peacock, Director	✓
○ Staff:	○ Staff:	
○ Parent:	○ Parent:	
○ Friend:	○ Friend:	
		13 /20 (11 or more)

Board Advisors in attendance were State Presidents, Jackie Burton (AR), Michelle Joubert (LA), Crystal Pena (NM), Weldon Beard (TX), and State Collaboration Directors, Jackie Govan (AR), Kahree Wahid (LA), Casey Lafferty (NM), Paula Brown (OK), and Alferma Giles (TX). There were no other guests in attendance.

Weldon Beard, TX President, reported that Venetia Peacock is no longer a member of the Board and that new members will be presented at the next meeting.

Michelle Joubert, LA President, reported that Gregory Bradley will now serve as Director Alternate and will replace Rhonda Taylor.

II. Approval of Agenda – Crystal Pena, President

Paula Brown made a motion to approve the agenda as presented; seconded by Jackie Burton. All in favor; motion carried.

III. Approval of Minutes: October 21, 2024 –Rhonda Taylor, Secretary

Crystal Pena, President, reported that she had not received any meeting minutes from Rhonda Taylor, the former secretary. She will try to compile some minutes from the notes she has, and if anyone else has any additional notes, please forward them to her.

Gloria Lopez made a motion to table the meeting minutes from October 21, 2024; seconded by Jackie Govan. All in favor; motion carried.

Alferma Giles stated to review the timeline for the submittal of meeting minutes as per the by-laws to ensure the minutes are submitted in advance of the scheduled meetings.

Crystal Pena, President, appointed Gloria Lopez to take on the responsibility of Secretary. Ms. Lopez accepted the appointment. No further discussion took place.

IV. Treasurer's Report – Paula Brown, Treasurer (see website report)

Paula Brown, Treasurer, reported on the Revenue vs. Expense Financial Statement dated January 13, 2025, which shows an account balance of \$211,514.01 as of December 31, 2024. Texas is overdue on its 2024 membership dues of \$500.00. Ms. Brown will soon send out invoices for the 2025 membership dues. Payment from the NMHSA to Region VI for the conference is pending. The expense for Mr. Black's memorial, purchased by Weldon Beard, will be paid as soon as the receipt is received.

Weldon Beard reported that THSA will pay their 2024 membership dues by next week since they now have a new Treasurer. No further discussion took place.

Jackie Govan made the motion to accept the treasurer's report dated January 13, 2025; seconded by Debra Baca. All in favor; motion carried.

V. Standing Committee Reports – Committee Chairs

A. Audit/Budget/Finance – Paula Brown: No report.

B. Scholarship/Awards/Recognition –Alferma Giles: No report.

C. Communication/Public Relations –Laurie Gassaway: No report.

- D. Policy & Procedures – Laurie Gassaway stated that there was no suitable time to meet in October 2024 at the Region VI Conference in Albuquerque, as previously planned. Gloria Lopez asked if she could be appointed to chair the committee, as Ms. Gassaway is already chairing another committee. Ms. Crystal Pena, President, appointed Gloria Lopez to chair this committee. No further discussion took place.
- E. By-Laws – Jackie Govan reported that the team met and there are no changes to the by-laws; they are in good standing and ready to meet with the Policies and Procedures Committee.

VI. General Standard Reports –Brief Highlights Only

A. State Collaboration Reports (AR-LA-NM-OK-TX) –Collaboration Directors

1. Arkansas (Jackie Govan) –reported the following highlights:
- 2025 Institute –2-time frames (June/Nov) and Pre-Institute on Early Literacy
 - Collaboration Movement to the Early Childhood Department
 - Arkansas Community Action Wellness Mini Training
 - Final Rule—New Administration to sit in; Excited about Performance Standards
 - Assessment Data
 - Family Credential
 - Pyramid Model
 - Board Meeting – Getting numbers up – 11,000 decreases to 5,000.
 - Powerful Conversations with Fathers –1 hour of Power
 - Association – Engaging in state initiatives, such as the Imagination Library.

Jackie Burton, AHSA President, reported that there was no additional information.

2. Louisiana (Kahree Wahid) –reported the following highlights:
- Getting Ready for the Needs Assessment –Retooling Survey
 - Three programs are up for DRS – 2,500 will be impacted. Programs having issues with Health and Safety.
 - Workforce Support for Programs
 - Kudos to the Collaboration Offices – Focusing on mental health, increasing wages, and utilizing parents as a resource.
 - Reach Out to Child Care Assistance
3. New Mexico (Casey Lafferty) –reported the following highlights (see website report).
- ECECD Advisory Council Sub-Committees (Program Quality and Accountability – QRS Redesign, Professional Qualifications, Wage Scale, and Career Lattice)
 - Completed Working on Needs Assessment – Revised and Will Be Sent out Soon.
 - Annual Report –Pay Parity Efforts –Identified Gaps in Head Start Infant/Toddler.
 - State Legislative Session Coming Up—Early Childhood Day Scheduled.
 - New Mexico Common Core Competencies and Early Learning Standards
 - Integration of Native American Tribal Programs in all ECECD Affairs
4. Oklahoma (Paula Brown) –reported the following highlights (see website report).
- Renewal Application Submitted on December 1st
 - Transition Summit 2025 Planning –PDG Funding
 - Attended San Diego NHSA Parent Engagement Training
 - Attended OHS-Region 6 T/TA Work Group –New Contract Year
 - Member of the Homelessness Council
 - Health Services –Oral Health –Not Enough Providers in the State

5. Texas (Alferma Giles) –reported the following highlights (see website report).
 - Early Childhood Advisory Council –HS Performance Standards.
 - Annual Report Completed.
 - The THSA Conference will be held after a 5-year hiatus. Memorial for Mr. Black, Dr. Layton Mason Presentation, NHSA Tommy Sheridan on Project 2025. Can't lose Bipartisan Support and Need to avoid block-granting.
 - NHSA Winter Leadership
 - 5-Year Grant Application + Re-Do Assessment Survey
 - The Director's Roundtable will take place in El Paso, Texas, next week.
- B. State Advisory Reports (AR-LA-NM-OK-TX) –State Presidents
1. Arkansas (Jackie Burton) – Report presented with the State Collaboration Report.
 2. Louisiana (Michelle Joubert) –Reported the following highlights:
 - Fatherhood Conference in February 2025; LAHSA to Sponsor
 - Leadership Conference in April 2025 –Discuss the Why.
 - NHSA Working with “Go Team” –Key Members of Congress
 - Early Care Commission—Dept. of Education Replacement
 3. New Mexico (Crystal Pena) –Reported the following highlights:
 - Work Sessions with HSCCO –Hire an NMHSA Coordinator
 - Pay Parity Inconsistencies to Address with ECECD
 - NHSA Go Team 100% NM Participation (YDI, City of Albuquerque, PMS, HELPNM)
 - Region VI Conference 2024 Closure is Pending: Final Report for the Next Meeting.
 4. Oklahoma (Susie Powers) –Reported the following highlights:
 - It was reported that there is no additional information to report; Susie Powers was not present, and the Region VI Board wishes her a speedy recovery.
 5. Texas (Weldon Beard) –Reported the following highlights:
 - Director Summit –ERSEA Conversations
 - State Conference to be held at South Padre Island, Texas
 - New Administration Anxiety but New Opportunity
 - Ms. Giles –Has been my Wind Beneath My Wings! Thank you.
 - Region VI Conference 2025 to be held in Dallas, TX, in late October.

C. NHSA Report –NHSA Representatives

Jackie Govan reported that the NHSA Winter Leadership will take place from January 27 to 30, 2025. There will be a change in membership, and the first board meeting of the year will be held in conjunction with the Leadership Institute.

VII. Conference Planning Reports –Conference Chairs

A. 2024 Conference Update – New Mexico –Crystal Pena

Crystal Pena, Conference Chair, reported that a final report will be presented at the next board meeting.

Jackie Govan stated that it was a great conference with excellent general sessions. Alferma Giles reported that numerous gifts were given away at the conference.

B. 2025 Conference – Texas – Weldon Beard

Weldon Beard reported that the conference will be held in Dallas, Texas, sometime in late October 2025; more information will be provided at the next meeting.

C. 2026 Conference – Oklahoma- Laurie Gassaway –No report provided at this time.

VIII. **Old Business** – None.

IX. **New Business** –None.

X. **Announcements**

- NHSA Winter Leadership: Weldon Beard and Jackie Govan announced the NHSA Winter Leadership, scheduled for January 27-30, 2025.
- New Administration: Debra Baca stated that the new administration has brought some uncertainties. Don't be vulnerable and encourage recipients to apply for a change in scope. Enrollment needs to be maintained, and we should request improved benefits and wages for employees. Head Start must be proactive and loud. In New Mexico, Head Start is now the lowest-paid program compared to PED and Child Care. Head Start needs to remain Strong!
- NHSA Annual Conference: Alferma Giles announced the NHSA Annual Conference, May 19-22, 2025, in Columbus, Ohio.
- Regional Office Update: Crystal Pena, President, announced that she will collaborate with the regional office to deliver their annual regional office update at the next meeting.
- Region VI Board Meeting Schedule: Crystal Pena facilitated discussion on the next board meetings, which are as follows:
 - April 7, 2025 -(virtual) 9:00 am – 12:00 MT
 - July 2025 in Dallas, TX to tour the conference hotel on 7/23/25 or 7/24/25
 - October 2025 in Dallas, TX, in conjunction with the Region VI Conference.

XI. **Adjournment** – Crystal Pena, President, requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Debra Baca made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:59 a.m. Mountain Time; seconded by Jackie Govan. All in favor; motion carried.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Gloria M. Lopez, Secretary.