

REGION VI & TEXAS HEAD START ASSOCIATION BOARD
Quarterly Reporting Form



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Position: THSSCO Director

Meeting Date: April 19, 2020

Organization: Texas Head Start State Collaboration Office

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Correspondence: Emails and/or phone calls to:

1. Gloria Lopez, Region VI Head Start Association President
2. Scholarship Committee (Jackie Govan, Johnnie Chavis, Kathy Castleberry & Ernestine Padilla)
3. Cheryl Angell/Early Childhood Systems Specialist, Region VI Head Start T/TA
4. Region VI Head Start Collaboration Directors
5. Joseph Laster/Supervisory Program Specialist, Office of Head Start, Administration for Children and Families
6. Scholarship Committee (Donna Hicks)
7. THSA Board Members (Region VI HSA Meeting Announcement)

THSSCO Updates: Head Start Collaboration Current Activities & Engagement

The THSSCO Director completed the Updated Needs Assessment for the 2021-2022 from March 1- 31, 2021 via Qualtrics Survey. The Needs Assessment Data is being analyzed at this time, to support the completion of the Updated Needs Assessment Report and Strategic Plan for 2021-2022.

The **THSSCO Annual Report** was completed and submitted on 1/27/21. It includes the work, engagement and activities that took place in program year 2020.

The THSSCO is launching a new website in May/2021. The new website address is:
<https://texashssco.org/>

Priority #2. Work with state efforts to collect data regarding early childhood programs and child outcomes.

School Readiness Partnerships

The THSSCO Director participates on the School Readiness partnership Workgroup. The goals include:

- Develop recommendations to incentivize independent school districts (ISDs) to partner with child care providers.
- Work with the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) to build a process for state agency Pre-K funds to be transferred to providers partnering with ISDs.

Workgroup Updates

We reshared our presentation from our July meeting, reviewed the workgroup goals, previous and current strategies related to Pre-Kindergarten Partnerships, and waiver data.

In the next meetings, we will begin identifying strategies for TEA to track partnerships or requesting better coordination between TEA and TWC.

Priority #5: Work with state school systems to ensure continuity between Head Start and Kindergarten Entrance Assessment (KEA)

Transition to Kindergarten (TTK)

The THSSCO Director and the Texas Transition to Kindergarten Team will present the Office of Head Start 100 School Reach initiative – Texas Virtual Transition to Kindergarten (TTK) Summit on April 27 & 28, 2021 with 10 Head Start Grantees and 14 school district partners:

Aldine Independent School District Head Start
AVANCE-Houston, Inc.
BakerRipley
ChildCareGroup, Dallas
Gulf Coast Community Services Association
Harris County Department of Education
Hitchcock Independent School District Head Start
Motivation Education & Training, Inc.
Port Arthur Independent School District Head Start
Texas City ISD Head Start

Priority #6: Regional Priorities

Opioid Abuse, Substance Misuse

The THSSCO established a partnership with the Opioid Response Network (ORN), to provide trainings, resources, tools and materials for HS/EHS programs to address the OHS Initiative: **Preparing and Planning to Address the Opioid Crisis and Substance Use Disorders: Creating a Path Forward to Support Head Start Children, Families, and Staff at the Program and State Levels:** The following trainings have been provided to HS/EHS staff: *“Overview of Addiction”* presented by Dr. Michael Weaver, UT-Health Physician and *“The Power of Perception: Sticking It To Stigma”* presented by Dr. Andrew Giannotti, Memorial Hermann Hospital. The next trainings will be held April 20th, *“Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder”* and May 18th, *“Cannabinoids”* presented by Dr. Michael Weaver. Train take place in 1hour sessions. The ORN trainings are free professional development opportunities offered to program staff, and will be offered to families in the future. This partnership will continue in the future, through funding that the ORN received from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services (SAMSA).

COVID-19 & Mental Health

The THSSCO is in partnership with Lakeshore Learning Materials. They prepared and shipped mental health kits; which includes books and activities for HS/EHS program staff to use with children face-to-face and virtually to address (mental health concerns, social emotional issues and substance misuse due to COVID-19). Lakeshore has provided free professional development trainings to HS/EHS staff on: Opening Classrooms Safely by the Lakeshore Team, Anti Bias Education: Empowering Your Program Through Diversity & Inclusion, and Continuity of Care & School Readiness: Creating Positive Outcomes Through Responsive Teaching Continuity of Care & School Readiness: Creating Positive Outcomes Through Responsive Teaching with Ana De Hoyas O'Connor. Additional trainings will be planned in the future.

Disabilities

The THSSCO is participating in a new grant opportunity with ACT Early Texas, through the (Learn the Signs/Act Early) Grant. There were 4 EHS grantees randomly selected, along with 81 EHS staff to participate in the grant through August/2021. The grant addresses (Early identification & intervention, developmental milestones, training, materials, tools and professional development opportunities). Participating EHS grantees include:

1. Parent Child Incorporated, San Antonio, TX – Dr. Sharon Small (33 teachers/106 families)
2. Tri-County Community Action, Inc., Center, TX – Mr. George Simon (38 teachers/3 EHS Supervisors/154 families)
3. Rolling Plains Management Corporation, Crowell, TX - Mrs. Mary Jo Tole (5 teachers/40 families)
4. Brazoria County Head Start Early Learning Schools, Inc., Angleton, TX - Mrs. Jacqueline Mercer (3 teachers/20 families)

The THSSCO Director serves as the Deputy Ambassador for the LTSAE Grant to provide support, training and point of contact for EHS participants implementation. Participating staff attended one of two virtual LTSAE training on March 23 and March 30, 2021.

Health

The THSSCO is supporting the development of the Harris County Impact Fund Grant proposal with the Children's Learning Institute in partnership with **AVANCE-Houston EHS, Dr. Antionette Montgomery & Harris County Department of Education EHS, Venetia Peacock** & University of Texas Pediatric Physicians. If awarded, the grant will provide seed investments in programs and interventions with significant potential to dramatically improve early childhood outcomes and provide critical support for young children and their families across Harris County. In doing so, Harris County will incentivize participation from service providers, organizations, researchers, and best-in-class early childhood programs that could lead to sustainable and scalable early childhood solutions for residents in the medium-to-long term. Harris County will also engage a third-party researcher to facilitate rigorous impact evaluation, design and implement data collection systems, monitor and report on program performance, and offer training and technical assistance over the Impact Fund's two-to-three-year funding period.

Priority #3. Support the expansion and access of high quality, workforce and career development opportunities for staff

Texas Early Childhood Professional Development System

To access all of the newly developed professional development opportunities available on the new Texas Early Childhood Professional Development System website, visit: www.tecpds.org

Infant Toddler Specialist Network (ITSN)

To access all of the newly developed infant toddler resources and training information available for staff, visit the Infant Toddler Specialist Network website:

Teacher Program Participation & Incentives: You may think it's too late to join the first cycle of the ITSN Teacher Program, but don't worry! Our current cycle continues through August 2021, so teachers still have plenty of time to join the program and participate in a plethora of free training opportunities!

When you complete the prerequisite trainings and Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), participating teachers can qualify for different incentives at different stages of the program cycle, including:

- A tablet after completing the four ITELG PLCs (along with prerequisites for each)
- Priority registration to the Two-day Infant Toddler Foundations Training (learn more below)
- A \$100 gift card after completing at least 10 PLCs (along with prerequisites for each)

New Teacher Training Events

Large Group ITSN Training & Recruitment Events

In addition to the current professional development offerings available through the ITSN Teacher Program, we are excited to add new Saturday events this spring! Each of these free, one-hour webinars will include:

- Training on strategies and tools that support teachers of infants & toddlers
- Intro to the ITSN Teacher Program/How to Join
- Door/Raffle prizes

The first training, offered on April 17 from 10 am-11 am, will focus on Language and Communication. If you haven't joined the ITSN yet, and want to peek behind the curtain, these events are for you!

More details coming soon, check the [Texas Infant Toddler Specialist Network](https://www.texasitsn.org) website. In the meantime, you can email texasitsn@uth.tmc.edu to be added to our early registration list.

MEETINGS/TRAININGS/CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Head Start Collaboration Directors Virtual Spring Meeting

April 13-14, 2021

Lakeshore Webinar

April 15, 2021

Opioid Response Network Training

April 20, 2021

NHSA/Virtual Conference

April 20-22, 2021

Texas Virtual Transition to Kindergarten (TTK) Summit (selected participants)

April 27-28, 2021

Board Action Items: None

Report Attachments (if any): None

Signature(s): Alferma Giles **Date Submitted:** 4/13/21