

**REGION VI & TEXAS HEAD START ASSOCIATION BOARD**  
**Quarterly Reporting Form**



**Name: Alferma Giles, Ph.D.**

**Position: THSSCO Director**

**Meeting Date: July 21, 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. Paula Brown – Region VI HAS Conference
4. Region VI Head Start Association
5. THSA Board Members (Region VI HSA Conference Link)

**THSSCO Collaboration and current activities/engagement since the April 19, 2021 board meeting:**

The **THSSCO Continuation Grant Application** was submitted to the Region VI Office of Head Start on June 24, 2021.

The **THSSCO Mid-Year Report** was completed and submitted on 6/29/21. It includes the work, engagement and activities of our office for this fiscal year.

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

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

The THSSCO is participating in the “Unraveling the Mystery of Texas Early Childhood Data” meetings with state agency partners:

Participating Agencies; Department of Family & Protective Services (DFPS), United Way of Texas, Texas Education Agency (TEA), Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), Health & Human Services Commission (HHSC), Department of State Health Services (DSHS), and Prevention & Early Intervention (PEI)

**April:**

The DFPS and United Ways of Texas for the first session discussed the magical value in using data.

**May:**

The second session focused on community vision and how data can support that vision. Experts from TEA, TWC, and DFPS Licensing shared how to access data from their agencies.

**June:**

The third session reflected on the previous sessions and discussions on what the data says about our community. Experts from HHSC, DSHS, and DFPS PEI discussed data and explored how to access data from their agencies.

**July:** The final session on 7/28 will reflect on the previous sessions. Hear from communities as they share how using early childhood data has strengthened their work. Take the lessons learned from all sessions to strategize next steps for your community.

The THSSCO director participates with the Houston Infant Toddler Coalition to collectively develop and implement strategies for strengthening our system of programs and services to increase positive early experiences for infants and toddlers and to better meet the needs of the families with young children in Houston.

Participates in the State Developmental Screening Workgroup meetings. The meeting on May 6, 2021 focused on State Data Discussion, including but not limited to; types of screenings, anecdotal evidence, pros/cons of different systems, cost of screenings, paper vs electronic screenings and research on a portal/platform.

Participates in meetings with the Texas Early Learning Council, Texas Inter-agency Workgroup & the Manager of Education Outreach/Children's Learning Institute to implement strategies noted in the state & THSSCO strategic plan.

Participated in a meeting with Jackie Govan/AHSSCO Director, Megan Schneider/ Inter-Agency Deputy Director of Early Childhood Support at the Texas Education Agency & Cheryl Angell/Region VI T & TA to discuss how AR was able to assign unique identifiers to HS children. We are engaged in this discussion and work in TX.

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

- Member of the TEACH Advisory Committee, to support Head Start/Early Head Start staff to apply for scholarships to continue their education
- Supports the work and engagement of [the Texas Early Childhood Professional Development System](#) (TECPDS), and the participation of Head Start/Early Head Start education staff
- Serves as a member of the TECPDS Advisory Committee
- Supports Head Start participation with the Texas School Ready project, TSR comprehensive, CLI- Engage, TSR Comprehensive and the Infant Toddler Specialist Network (ITSN).

As of the date of this report, the TECPDS activity reflects the following, which includes both HS/EHS participants that serve as trainers, and those with workforce registry accounts:

Summary:	
Number of Total Trainers: 1311	Number of Active Trainers: 800
Number of Active Calendar Items: 90	Number of Active Trainings: 3780
Number of Active Center Directors: 3780	Number of Active Trainer Announcements: 53
Number of Active Practitioners: 47222	Number of Active Job Postings: 0

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

The THSSCO Director and the Texas Transition to Kindergarten Team participated in a meeting on June 21, 2021 to discuss the outcome of the April 27 & 28 TTK Summit, review the post summit surveys of the April 27 & 28 Summit, and to discuss statewide training. The summit was very successful and informative. There were 10 participating HS grantee & 14 ISD teams. They have all submitted their work plans for 2021-2022, and they are implementing their TTK activities at this time, as they continue to make updates as needed to include addition team members and activities. Information and materials from the April Summit are available on the THSSCO Website: <https://texashssco.org/>

The dates have been set to host the **Virtual Transition to Kindergarten (TTK) Statewide Winter Summit!** It is scheduled to take place December 8 & 9, 2021. A save the date flyer was emailed to all HS grantee administrators who were not participants in the Collaboration Demonstration Project or the April TTK Summit. Additional information will be shared with them regarding this initiative that will hopefully address any questions they may have about participation.

Participates in bi-monthly Transition to Kindergarten (TTK) meetings with the Senior Project Analyst/Office of Head Start, to discuss implementation and TTK activities in the state, and submits monthly reports on the progress and implementation of the TTK model.

## **Priority #6: Regional Priorities:**

### **Health**

#### **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 were provided to HS/EHS staff by Dr. Michael Weaver, UT-Health Physician: *Overview of Addiction, Treatment of Opioid use Disorder, Cannabinoids and Stimulants*. Dr. Andrew Giannotti, Memorial Hermann Hospital presented a training on *The Power of Perception: Sticking It to Stigma.*”

Recorded links and power point presentations of the Opioid Abuse and Substance Use Disorder trainings. Can be viewed on the THSSCO Website, <https://texashssco.org/>.

**The password to view recordings:** recoveryrocks

The THSSCO supported the recruitment of HS/EHS participants for the Cultivating Awareness and Resilience in Education (CARE) grant, developed at the Children’s Learning Institute at UT-Health Science Center in Houston. The grant research focuses on how to enhance Head Start teachers’ psychological and social-emotional well-being (e.g., reducing teachers’ job stress and burnout and enhancing their social-emotional skills) by implementing an intervention called Cultivating Awareness and Resilience in Education “CARE”, and evaluate its efficacy for enhancing Head Start teachers’ well-being and their classroom management and interactions with children. The CARE program is a mindfulness-based program that helps teachers better manage their stress and enhance their social-emotional skills.

## **Disabilities**

The THSSCO submitted the end of the year report for the Learn the Signs/ACT Early Texas grant participants. The THSSCO Director serves as the Deputy Ambassador for the LTSAE Grant, to provide support, training and to serve as a point of contact for EHS participants.

The grant provided parents support in early identification & intervention, developmental milestones, training, materials and tools as well as professional development opportunities for participating EHS teachers from:

- Parent Child Incorporated, San Antonio, TX – Dr. Sharon Small
- Tri-County Community Action, Inc., Center, TX – Mr. George Simon
- Rolling Plains Management Corporation, Crowell, TX - Mrs. Mary Jo Tole
- Brazoria County Head Start Early Learning Schools, Inc., Angleton, TX - Mrs. Jacqueline Mercer

## **Homelessness**

- The THSSCO partnership in quarterly meetings with Cal Lopez, Director of the Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth (TEHCY) Office, to address; the OHS Home at Head Start Initiative, HSCO Priorities as set forth by the Office of Head Start and the Region 6 OHS, which includes overarching state needs that HS/EHS homeless children and families are facing.
- The THSSCO provided an overview and participated in a question/answer period regarding the functions of the HSCO for TEHCY and the Education Service Center/McKinney Vento Liaisons in their meeting with Cal Lopez on June 1, 2021 and a full presentation in their quarterly state meeting on June 24, 2021. The presentation included the OHS initiatives, activities and engagement of our office. The liaisons were provided with rosters of program administrators and classrooms to support enrolling homeless children in their 8 service regions.
- The THSSCO has been invited to present at the TEHCY Virtual Summit on August 5, 2021: The presentation will include the (function, history, priorities, initiatives, engagement and activities of the collaboration office and my work and engagement with the state TEHCY office).
- Participates in monthly meetings with the Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO) Learning Community on Homelessness, with the lead; Tracy Duarte, Director, PA Head Start State Collaboration Office.
- The THSSCO works with the Region VI Systems Specialists, Cheryl Angel to support enhancing services to the homeless population and regional homeless planning in the state of Texas and the Region VI Office of Head Start.
- Participates in meetings with the Region 6 Federal Regional Interagency Council on Homelessness (FRICH), and served on the regional planning committee for the June 24, 2021 webinar. Presentations and speakers focused on topics including, homeless prevention, racial equity/disparity, homelessness in metropolitan and rural areas, economic mobility, health services for those experiencing homelessness, youth homelessness, Veterans' homelessness, and unsheltered/chronic homelessness.

**Other Activities:**

The THSSCO, in partnership with “Moncrief One Team” is hosting a series of five (5) family engagement trainings for Head Start/Early Head Start families and staff, to address the Office of Head Start Initiative: Parent/Family Engagement. The first training was held on July 7<sup>th</sup> and the second one was held on July 14<sup>th</sup>. Staff and parents are enjoying and benefiting from the interactive virtual trainings.

Coach Sidney Moncrief, is a prominent National Basketball Association (NBA) Hall of Fame standout, author, entrepreneur, and motivational speaker. Retired NBA player with the Milwaukee Bucks & Atlanta Hawks. His wife and business partner, Dr. Takisha Moncrief is a former classroom teacher, literacy coach, school improvement supervisor, and professional development specialist.

The HS/EHS Family Engagement Trainings will include subjects relating to fatherhood, parent financial capability, strengthening families, employment and workplace preparation, parent/child relationships, and other topics that addresses the needs of children and families. (remaining training dates: August 4<sup>th</sup>, August 8<sup>th</sup> and September 15<sup>th</sup>). <https://sidneymoncrief.com/>

Texas Head Start Association involvement – The associations last meeting was January/2020.

**Board Action Items: None**

**Report Attachments (if any): None**

**Signature(s):** Alferma Giles **Date Submitted:** 7/15/21