

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



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

**Position: THSSCO Director**

**Meeting Date: October 13, 2021**

**Organization: Texas Head Start State Collaboration Office**

**Address: [Alferma.Crawford@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Alferma.Crawford@uth.tmc.edu)**

**Correspondence: Emails and/or phone calls to:**

1. President Gloria Lopez & Treasurer Weldon Beard
2. Scholarship Committee (Jackie Govan, Johnnie Chavis, Kathy Castleberry & Ernestine Padilla)
3. Region VI Collaboration Directors
4. Petra Giles – Parent of Stephanie Zapata Scholarship recipient/2021

**THSSCO Collaboration and current activities/engagement since the August 2, 2021 board meeting:**

The THSSCO received notification on 9/29/21 that the FY 22 Continuation Grant Application was approved.

**Priority #1.** Partner with State child care systems, emphasizing EHS-CC Partnerships

The THSSCO continues to participate in meetings and discussions with state agency partners about EHS/CC partnership opportunities and provide support, information to the early childhood community and partners and the Texas Early Learning Council.

The THSSCO participated in a meeting with the Associate Director of Early Childhood Education at Children at Risk, and was asked to participate in the EHS Coalition. They received a grant to launch some work around the landscape of EHS/HS in Texas. The grant will include a landscape assessment, parent policy group, family childcare workgroup & early childhood coalition involvement.

The THSSCO participated in the Early Childhood Coalition Meeting hosted by Children at Risk on September 9<sup>th</sup>. The coalition discussed CARES Act funding, ARPA discretionary & stabilization funding.

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

The THSSCO participates in meetings with the data workgroup, which consists of state agency partners working to provide better access and understanding of early childhood data to community-based organizations and collaboratives across our state. We have received presentations from state agency data experts to help us better understand how to access and use data in our state.

Participated in the Texas Early Learning Council quarterly meeting on September 17, 2021.n Outreach/Children's Learning Institute to implement strategies noted in the state & THSSCO strategic plan.

The THSSCO Director will be participating in the Pre School Development Grant – Birth to Five Virtual Convening (PDG B-5), October 17-21. The theme is: Leveraging Strategic Partnerships for Effective Early Childhood Mixed Delivery Systems.

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

The THSSCO supports the work and engagement of the Infant Toddler Specialist Network (ITSN) at the Children's Learning Institute (CLI), by recruiting EHS teachers, coaches and specialist to participate in the free program. CLI has established a statewide network of early childhood specialists who support teachers in infant and toddler classrooms. The Texas ITSN offers professional development opportunities and collaborative experiences for specialists (mentors) and teachers covering a wide range of topics specific to supporting infant and toddler development. [Texas Infant-Toddler Specialist Network](#)

**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 September 20, 2021 to outline and plan for the Statewide Transition to Kindergarten Summit that will take place December 8 & 9, 2021.

A Save-the -Date notification was sent to HS grantee administrators who were not participants in the Collaboration Demonstration Project or the April TTK Summit, to inform them of the summit, along with information explaining the OHS Transition to Kindergarten Initiative.

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**

The THSSCO continues to participate in the Houston Infant Toddler Coalition (HITC) quarterly meeting and the Pre-Natal to 3 (PN-3) meetings, hosted by First3Years, supporting 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. The collaboration director also served as a reviewer for the Project-Thrive Grant applicants. HITC was one of the selected agencies to receive the grant award. Thrive will partner with HITC and one other organization over the next two years to promote the wellness of young children to address their social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development through the lens of the community systems in which children and their families interact.

The THSSCO supported the recruitment of HS/EHS participants for the Cultivating Awareness and Resilience in Education (CARE) grant, that was recently awarded in September/2021, to Children's Learning Institute at UT-Health Science Center in Houston. The CARE program is a mindfulness-based program that helps teachers better manage their stress and enhance their social-emotional skills. The grant will be implemented in HS/EHS programs below over a five-year period:

- Family Service of San Antonio - Sandra Garza
- AVANCE Houston - Dr. Antionette Montgomery
- ChildCareGroup, Dallas - Wendy Ogren
- Parent Child Inc., San Antonio - Dr. Sharon Small
- ESC 20, San Antonio - Carol Morgan

### **Opioid Abuse, Substance Misuse**

The THSSCO completed a survey, responding to the Opioid Response Network (ORN) trainings for HS/EHS staff, and the overall training close-out and outcomes during 2020-2021.

The THSSCO is working with the other collaboration directors in Region VI to present a pre-conference event in Arkansas for the Region VI HSA on September 27, 2022, focused on Opioid Abuse & Substance Use Disorders.

### **Homelessness:**

- The THSSCO responded to the OHS request to support Afghanistan parolees settling in Texas at Fort Bliss, with age-eligible children to enroll in HS & EHS in the El Paso area. The THSSCO Director requested a meeting Joseph Laster/Supervising Program Specialist at the Region VI OHS, which included the Director, Mr. Kenneth Gilbert. A plan was developed to respond as directed. Letters were prepared and emailed to Region 19 ESC Head Start, the Refugee Resettlement Agency and the International Rescue Committee to provide information, instructions, and a plan of action.
- The THSSCO continues to participate in quarterly meetings with Cal Lopez, Director of the Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth (TEHCY) Office to support homeless children in HS/EHS.
- The THSSCO presented a session at the TEHCY Virtual Summit on August 5, 2021: The presentation included the (function, history, priorities, initiatives, engagement and activities of the collaboration office and work and engagement with the state TEHCY office).
- Participates in monthly meetings with the Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO) Learning Community on Homelessness.

- Participates in meetings with the Region 6 Federal Regional Interagency Council on Homelessness (FRICH).

**Other Activities:**

The THSSCO hosted the final session of family engagement trainings for Head Start/Early Head Start families and staff on September 15<sup>th</sup>. Trainings were provided by “Moncrief One Team.” Coach Sidney Moncrief, NBA Hall of Famer, author, entrepreneur, and motivational speaker. Retired NBA player with the Milwaukee Bucks & Atlanta Hawks, along with his wife and business partner, Dr. Takisha Moncrief is a former classroom teacher, literacy coach, school improvement supervisor, and professional development specialist.

**Announcements:**

The THSSCO received the notice of grant award on September 28<sup>th</sup>, for FY 2021-2022, which began October 1<sup>st</sup>.

The THSSCO will hold its first quarterly Advisory Board Meeting for this fiscal year on October 27<sup>th</sup>. Several new board members have been appointed to support the work, engagement and activities of the office.

**THSSCO has updated the office Logo:**



**Board Action Items: None**

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

**Signature(s):** *Alferma Giles* **Date Submitted:** 10/7/21

THSSCO website: <https://texashssco.org/>