



**REGION VI HEAD START ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

**Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 10, 2022**

I. Opening Business Items

- A. Installation of Officers & NHSA Representatives –Oath of Commitment—All elected individuals from October 13, 2022 meeting were officially seated.
- B. Call to Order/Greetings/Welcome – Meeting was called to order by Gloria Lopez, President at 8:17 am (MT); 9:17 am (CT) virtually through zoom. She welcomed everyone in attendance and thanked them for their continual commitment.
- C. Roll Call & Establish Quorum – Roll Call taken by Gloria Lopez, President in the absence of Secretary; quorum established with 12 out of 20 votes present. Crystal Pena, Kahree Wahid and Weldon Beard joined meeting after roll call taken.

<u>Representative</u>	<u>Alternate</u>	Vote ✓
Arkansas		
○ Jana Bays, Director	○ Sarah Wilhite, Director	
X Jacqueline Burton, Staff	○ Tequila Smith, Staff	✓
○ Parent:	○ Parent:	
X Jackie Govan, Friend	○ Rhonda Ahrent, Friend	✓
Louisiana		
X Rhonda Tayler, Director	X Michelle Joubert, Director	✓
○ Erika Arvie, Staff	○ Staff:	
○ Parent:	○ Parent:	
X Kahree Wahid, Friend	○ Friend:	✓
New Mexico		
X Gloria Lopez, Director	○ Misty Pugmire, Director	✓
X Crystal Pena, Staff	○ Staff:	✓
○ Parent:	○ Parent:	
X Luis Quinones, Friend	○ Friend:	✓
Oklahoma		
X Kathy Castleberry, Director	X Anthony Stafford, Director	✓
X Susie Powers, Staff	○ Staff	✓
○ Parent:	○ Parent:	
X Paula Brown, Friend	○ Friend:	✓
Texas		
X Weldon T. Beard, Director	○ Venetia Peacock, Director	✓
○ Staff:	○ Staff:	
○ Parent:	○ Parent:	
X Albert L. Black, Friend	○ Friend:	✓
		12 /20 (11 or more)

Board Advisors in attendance were State Presidents: Jackie Burton (AR), Rhonda Taylor (LA), Crystal Pena (NM) and Weldon Beard (TX). Collaboration Directors: Jackie Govan (AR), Kahree Wahid (LA), Olga Valenzuela-Zavala (NM), Paula Brown (OK) and Alferma Giles (TX).

- II. Approval of Agenda** – Gloria Lopez, President asked for the agenda to be reviewed and called for the motion.

Albert Black makes motion to approve agenda as presented and Susie Powers seconds. All in favor, motion carried.

- III. Approval of Minutes** –Gloria Lopez, President asked for the meeting minutes of October 13, 2021 to be reviewed and called for the motion.

Albert Black makes motion to approve the meeting minutes of October 13, 2021 as presented and Anthony Stafford seconds. All in favor, motion carried.

- IV. Treasurer’s Report – Weldon Beard, Treasurer** – No report presented.

V. Standing Committee Reports – Committee Chairs

- A. Audit/Budget/Finance –Weldon Beard –No report presented.

- B. Scholarship/Awards/Recognition –Alferma Giles

Scholarship recipients still pending the plaque for recognition, Ms. Giles is disturbed that this has taken so long to complete and is requesting immediate action. Gloria Lopez asked if there is any way possible to do cash app or obtain a debit or credit card to allow for timely purchases to take place. Ms. Lopez stated that she would take care of this personally. Ms. Giles suggested that the President write a letter of apology to the recipients.

- C. Communication/Public Relations –Albert Black

Albert Black is chair of Communication/Public Relation since he is the Vice-President-this committee works on how we promote ourselves as Region VI.

- D. Policy & Procedures --Appointment by President

Works closely with By-Laws committee to align any policies and procedures and, President appoints. Gloria Lopez asks for interest of individuals to chair the committee. Policy & Procedure must align with By-laws; any changes will propose to the board. Gloria Lopez as president appoints Luis Quinones and he accepts. Jackie Govan recommends to wait for By-law updates to take place to begin the work of this committee.

- E. By-Laws –Jackie Govan

Jackie Govan reports that By-laws committee will meet this Friday, January 14, 2022. She stated if there are any recommendations or changes proposed to send out to the committee.

VI. Special Presentation: ACF Regional Office Up-Dates –

- Mr. Kenneth Gilbert presented new program specialist Joseph Laster. He commented about the IFC, intermit final rule December 21, 2021 injunction of 24 states impacted of district ruling. Head Start, Early Head Starts are not required

to follow IFC mandate. In Region VI impacts Texas, Arkansas, & Louisiana. Policy expectation webinars will be held in January, February, & March.

Discussion: Alferma Giles commented that she is receiving numerous calls from grantee Directors in regards to questions they are having about staff requesting exemption and how to go about that.

Kahree Wahid commented issue of enrollment, still pending families returning. Another challenge is staffing, maintaining staff on board so children can receive the services. Joseph Laster commented converting head start slots to early head start, seeing an uptick on grantees converting their slots. Paula Brown expressed the concerns in Oklahoma that not only enrollment is a challenge but space to have services available.

Joseph Laster shared in 2020 memorandum administrative flexibilities and renewed in 2021. Complete full expenditure of CARES funding in 2020, grantees struggled with expending funds due to lack of supplies available. Allowed funds to carry over that will allow grantees to expend. Encourages grantees to further look into variety of ways that funds can be expended that help support the needs of families. OHS allows organizations to move the amount of money appropriated for Head Start and Early Head Start funds as they see fit. Competitive supplements available to receive under current grants. Alferma commented to thank you Joseph for being there and answering questions through email. Jackie thanked Joseph if he doesn't have answers will get back. Gloria Lopez commented that Head Start has grit, stay strong and it too will pass and thanked the regional office under the leadership of Mr. Kenneth Gilbert for their continual support and for their time to present to the Region VI Board of Directors.

VII. General Standard Reports ---**Brief Highlights Only**

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

Arkansas- Jackie Govan reported September 27-30, 2022 Region VI board will determine if face-to-face in September due to fee. Extends next meeting to meet in person in Jonesboro at conference center if possible. Tequila Smith is alternate to Jackie Burton. Working on annual report for Head Start State Collaboration Office. EHS/Child Care Partnerships focus on the COVID-19 vaccine. Presented racial equity disparities at Parent Engagement Annual Conference. Two action items, request \$5000 seed money payment, and request payment for web master website. Will send invoice for Weldon to submit payment.

Louisiana- Kahree Wahid reported the COVID-19 vaccines and the challenges. Dealing with the fallout with mandates. Working with Louisiana policy institute, want parents to sit on a committee focus on survey that is sent out to gather feedback on how the state can do better with Early Childhood Education throughout the state. Five parents will participate, they will receive an \$8000 stipend for participating and engaging in committee.

New Mexico- Olga Valenzuela-Zavala reported working on annual report. Working on at a glance report that is given to Secretary that will be reported to the Legislature. In December had head start convening face-to-face and virtual meeting. Had five topics that head start grantees participated. Working closely with McKinney Vento Coordinator, she presented at NMHSA annual conference. Working with transition planning committee, it will take place on April 22, 2022. Coordinating with Mental Health and focus on vaccine mandates and how that affects services for families requiring the vaccine in order to provide services in

head start program. Coordinating a series of meetings with head start and mental health consultants to better serve the children and families. Will be attending three-day New Mexico Law Institute this week.

Oklahoma- Paula Brown reported working on Transition Planning, will take place June 22, 2022 in person unless cases continue to be on the rise then will convert virtually. EHS/Child Care partnership grantee meeting, discussed concerns. Vaccine mandate and staff shortages was the biggest challenges discussed. Oklahoma is one of the fourteen states participate in cohort Head Start Rising, converting slots from Head Start to EHS and EHS/Child Care Partnerships. Advisory committee meeting had a presentation on communication tool kit, what works best in collecting BMI results.

Texas- Alferma Giles reported one of the priorities is techPEDS focus on qualified workforce. Working with state, participated in a kindergarten summit held in December. Joseph Laster is on the team, he presented at summit. Full implementation Cares grant, support social-emotional skills. Finalizing the needs assessment conducted annual. Received a promotion with Children's Learning Institute as Assistant Director for Texas School Ready and still will hold Director of Collaboration Office.

B. State Advisory Reports – (AR-LA-NM-OK-TX) – State Presidents

Arkansas- See State Collaboration Report.

Louisiana- Rhonda Taylor reported COVID continues to ravage communities in Louisiana. Head Start Association met in November and hot topic was the mask mandate. Received presentation on Waterford and will determine if they want to move forward. Trying to full off mini conference in March face-to-face. When children or staff test positive, still required for staff to test and ended up with 25 positive staff. High community spread growing through Louisiana, did impact the services and had to close the centers down and offer virtual services. Michelle Joubert reported on face-to-face conference, Steve Spangler the goo rue of science will be keynote.

New Mexico- Crystal Pena reported focus from last meeting the NMHSA annual state conference held November 3-4, 2021 had 88 participants. COVID vaccine requirement and mask mandate.

Oklahoma- Paula Brown gave report under collaboration director and Kathy Castleberry reported in meeting with CAP COVID will affect us for another 3-4 years and if OHS would consider the flexibilities. Participated in meeting with Dr. Futrell, focusing on T&TA and want to know what grantees need. Over the weekend 27,000 positive COVID tests, impacting the centers and staff. Anthony Stafford commented increase in cases and just need to stay on top of it and do our part.

Texas- Alferma Giles reported that the Texas Head Start Association has not had a meeting since January 2020.

C. NHSA Report – NHSA Representatives

Gloria Lopez reported the Winter Leadership institute will now take place virtually due to increase of COVID cases. Will have NHSA board meeting at end of January and

will take place virtually. Under enrollment still a priority but will not impact head start grantees who do not meet full enrollment. Universal Pre-K Bring Back Better Initiative is still being discussed.

VIII. Conference Planning Reports – Conference Chairs

A. 2022 Conference – Arkansas -9/27/22-9/30/22 –Jana Bays/Jackie Govan

Jackie Govan reported that call for papers will be sent out today. Arkansas team will vote next week on the registration cost. Will have a one t-shirt day during week of conference-wear your head start t-shirt. Set aside a one-day conference opportunity. We will require vaccine card and mask mandate during the conference. In April will determine if conference continues to stay in-person or adapt to virtual due to the fees due for the hotel, conference center, etc..... Ask if Region VI has a special request to host an event one evening, if anyone has a request to see or participate in Jonesboro, AR. Olga commented time to explore and goes along of self-care/mindfulness. Jackie recommended we can put together a variety of to do things in Jonesboro and they can determine what they want to do. Alferma Giles suggested in-house event, wanted to see what are their thoughts on what they want to do. Gloria suggested maybe give options of both, meet-n-greet and self-guided tours.

B. 2023 Conference – Louisiana

Back in order and Louisiana will host the 2023 Region VI conference—no report.

IX. Old Business

A. Nomination & Election of Region VI Treasurer

B. Nomination & Election of Region VI Historian –Anthony Stafford

C. Nomination & Election of NHSA Parent Representative

Gloria Lopez reported Anthony Stafford has accepted the Historian position as per his nomination in October13, 2022. Jackie Govan nominates Paula Brown as Treasurer, Paula Brown has accepted the nomination.

By acclamation Paula Brown is the new Region VI Treasurer. Nomination & Election of NHSA Parent Representative. As Region VI board does not have one parent representative in the five states. Gloria challenges each state to go back and recruit a parent representative for our next board meeting in April.

X. New Business

No new business reported.

XI. Announcements – Next Region VI Board Meeting: May 2022 (Arkansas)

Jackie recommends to meet in April due to cutoff date for hotel if we decide virtual or not. Next meeting will be April 11th in Jonesboro, Arkansas in-person.

Paula Brown makes motion to have next meeting in-person April 11, 2022 at Jonesboro, AR, Jackie Govan seconds it, all in favor, motion carried.

XII. Adjournment – Gloria Lopez, President asked for adjournment at 11:02 am.

Kahree Wahid motions to adjourn meeting at 11:02 am and Susie Powers seconds it, all in favor, motion carried.