



**REGION VI HEAD START ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2021**

I. Opening Business Items

A. Call to Order/Greetings/Welcome – Gloria Lopez, President

Meeting was called to order by Gloria Lopez, President at 9:04 a.m. (MT); 10:04 a.m. (CT) virtually through zoom. She welcomed everyone in attendance and thanked them for their continual commitment.

B. Roll Call & Establish Quorum – Secretary

Quorum established with 12 out of 20 members present. Crystal Pena volunteered to take the meeting minutes. Michelle Joubert, Louisiana Director Alternate joined meeting at 9:39 am. Rhonda Taylor, Louisiana Director Representative joined meeting at 11:07 am.

C. Correspondence: Gloria Lopez, President Present announced the resignation of James Evans and wishes him well in his future endeavors.

II. Approval of Agenda – Gloria Lopez, President

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

III. Approval of Minutes: August 2, 2021 –Secretary

Jackie Burton makes first motion to approve meeting minutes held on August 2, 2021 and Jackie Govan seconds, all in favor, motion carried.

IV. Treasurer’s Report – Weldon Beard, Treasurer

Weldon Beard reported current balance as of October 13, 2021 is \$121,656.80 expenses 5,378.55 and total revenue \$33,383.70 (see attached report).

Discussion: Jackie Govan asked about conference proceeds if they are from New Mexico or Oklahoma, Weldon commented from New Mexico. Oklahoma received a check but do not see on the treasurer’s report.

Alferma Giles correction needed three \$1000 (former HS student and HS staff), two \$500, and two volunteer plaque awards. Parent scholarship is \$500. Website maintenance.

Jackie Govan asked if there should be a line item for membership dues, wants to know when membership invoices will be submitted. Weldon commented he will get those out this week.

Paula Brown makes motion to approve treasurer’s report presented with corrections added as stated above and Jackie Govan seconds. All in favor, motion carried.

- V. Standing Committee Reports – Committee Chairs
A. Audit/Budget/Finance –Weldon Beard –no report at the time.

B. Scholarship/Awards/Recognition –Alferma Giles

Scholarships awarded August 4, 2021, three \$1000 that included former HS student and HS staff, two \$500 scholarships. Concern with one scholarship Stephanie who is attending Texas A&M, mother Petra Giles contacted Alferma asking where is the scholarship. Alferma commented checks will be sent to the educational Institution. Referred mother to Weldon Beard who is treasurer.

Discussion: Weldon commented that check was cashed but not credited to Petra's student account. Check had on memo line the student name with student ID and sent to address provided. Tried contacting University and cannot get a hold of live person. Gloria asked what date was check cashed. Suggested to Scholarship Committee if the student has not received the scholarship to her account that Region VI Board write a letter that Stephanie can hand carry it to a person at the University to determine where the money went to.

Gloria Lopez, thanked Alferma for her committed work to the Scholarship Committee.

Gloria asked what is process in getting plaque to the recipient for volunteer of the year and friend of Head Start. Alferma commented that she thought the plaque will be ordered from vendor used in past and will be mailed to the recipient. The receipt will be sent to Weldon Beard for reimbursement. Gloria will have that taken care of. Alferma will send Gloria the two addresses.

- C. Communication/Public Relations – no report at the time.

- D. Policy & Procedures –no report at the time.

E. By-Laws –Jackie Govan

Jackie Govan reported by-laws committee consists of all collaboration directors. Changes to by-laws have not taken place.

VI. General Standard Reports ---Brief Highlights Only

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

Arkansas- Jackie Govan reported new state leadership for pre-k. Homelessness- Jessica Hickman is new replacement and she is awesome and she attended first quarterly meeting. Identified homeless liaison and head start liaison, they will collaborate together to gather the data of homeless in Arkansas, never included birth to five and that is now moving. Fatherhood program looking into \$100,000 funding, looking to start fatherhood programs in January. Arkansas Head Start Institute took place in September had to change to virtual from in-person. Region VI conference still planning to take place in-person. Excited to have all counties in Arkansas participating in Dolly Pardon Imagination Library, will be expecting Dolly Pardon to visit Arkansas. (Full report posted on Region VI website)

Louisiana- Kahree Wahid reported still in recovery mode from several storms that has impacted Louisiana. Most of the programs are doing fairly well and started back with services. Will conduct an assessment to see how the programs are doing and what can they do to help. Commend efforts of Rhonda helping during recovery. Department of Education seeing efforts in implementing parent engagement, including child care. Looking at different models to implement, will utilize the head start framework of parent involvement. Working on new data system “Ed Link”, identify child when enter preschool and monitor progress through their educational journey. Working closely with CCAP-child care assistance program, to make before and after services for children and families who are in head start. Finished up a needs assessment that will be sent to grantees to see their needs. Challenges faced with finding adequate staff to meet mandated compliance and requirements. SICC-disability council, they are having same issues in finding qualified individuals to work in field. Children’s cabinet advisory board-opportunities became available. Funding to create a statewide funding for infant and mental health. Report to be submitted to website.

New Mexico-No report given at this time, Olga Valenzuela-Zavala not present.

Oklahoma- Paula Brown reported that they are working on first transition summit, participation from PED, Child Care. Focus on early childhood homelessness, offering virtual forums that will include homelessness HS performance standards and what they can provide. First forum will take place in January. Meeting regularly with PED and Department of Child Care. Stabilization grants available to all child care and head start programs. Report to be submitted to website.

Texas- Alferma Giles reported glad to report received letter of award on grant and program has survived another year. Participated with associate director of early childhood at risk. They included early head starts, that includes parent groups, policy council members. Excited that a lot of funding is including head start programs. Participated in Early Childhood coalitions groups locally and statewide. Trying to get a full understanding how data works in the state with early childhood programs. Looking to develop an early childhood data base that will allow any ECE provider to have access. Transition Summit will host Virtual training, anticipating 500 participants. Key players in state helping with roll out in December. Health-meets with Houston infant/toddler received a grant for social-emotional grant that will include head starts to participate. Cultivating awareness-helping teachers manage stress and wellness of staff. Implemented for head start staff for five years. Received notification on first of September of Afghan refugees settling in state of Texas and how head starts will support enrollments for children. (Full report posted on Region VI website)

Discussion: Manuela Rendon wanted to thank everyone for their work, love hearing all the information.

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

Arkansas- Jackie Govan reporting for Jana Bays. Arkansas Association Board has approved a wellness program for all the state of Arkansas. Generation wellness-five modules. Fundraiser for Head Start Association cost of program is \$79 and \$15 of each program they sell will go towards Arkansas Association.

Louisiana- Michelle Joubert reported state was hit by hurricane and has impacted the head start programs providing services. Working with mandate on staff required to get vaccinated, some programs doing daily COVID testing and encouraging staff to get vaccination. Will have state training in spring due to venue not available.

New Mexico- Crystal Pena reported ECECD in state offering opportunities that benefits all head start staff, incentive one-time payment, wage increase incentives, tuition scholarships, and overall support from the state. COVID vaccines taking place, seeing high percentage of staff receiving vaccine with vaccine mandate should not see a huge negative impact.

Discussion: Alferma Giles asked if we are seeing challenges with staff getting vaccinated by January and how will that affect head start grantees. Gloria suggests that Region VI advocate on the concerns with staff vaccination, formulate questions to hear from grantees and how will that affect our head start programs. Gloria will send out correspondence to state presidents to gather information from grantees on vaccination concerns.

Oklahoma- Christin Bolinger reported trying to obtain information from grantees how many staff vaccinated, why they are not vaccinated. Want to be ready to respond on what will take place. COVID numbers are decreasing within the state, seeing more vaccinations.

Texas- Weldon Beard reported head start grantees that have a licensed child care facility funding available to apply. Governor's no vaccine mandate on how that will have an impact on head start grantees with guidelines in requiring the vaccine and if staff who do not want to get vaccinated follow what Governor is stating.

C. NHSA Report – NHSA Representatives*

Gloria Lopez reported that Region VI has been represented at all NHSA Board Meetings and related working committees by all representatives, Gloria Lopez, James Evans and Albert Black.

Region VI Association with all other state and regional associations signed on to a letter to Katie Hamm, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Early Childhood Development that addressed issues faced by Head Start.

1. Suspend enrollment checks until September 1, 2022
2. Suspend all in-person monitoring until October 1, 2022, at the earliest
3. Allow grantees to shift program options based on parent needs and staffing imitations for program year 2021-22.
4. SNAP eligibility qualifies families
5. Ensure Regional offices offering same flexibilities. Vaccination still a concern, waiting on guidance from Office of Head Start in rolling out the requirement of vaccination. Reduction in workforce is potential risk for all head start grantees.
6. Office of Head Start do everything as much as possible to continue services for current children and families.

*Refer to NHSA Board Packets dated September 25, 2021 posted on the Region VI website.

VII. Conference Planning Reports – Conference Chairs

A. 2021 Virtual Conference – Oklahoma -8/2/21-8/4/21 -Kathy Castleberry/Laurie Gassaway

Laurie Gassaway reported 574 participants. Used the Socio platform for virtual conference, budget for program \$29,000 in expenses for Socio platform. No expenses for materials, did have door prizes for winners. Expense of \$10,000 for keynote speakers. Two individuals who have not submitted payment will track \$95,000.00 and after expenses paid profit of \$55,329.40. Participants who completed survey 87% who felt Socio platform was easy to use. The highest participation to a session was the “Preparing for full return 100% of all head start children” have 187 participants who attended. Regional office offered four sessions available. 2021 Virtual Conference is officially closed.

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

Jackie Govan reported 2022 Conference to be held on September 22-30, 2022, will offer opioid presentation. Have choices to in-person conference, will submit proposal to Arkansas association for approval of location. Once they have selected location will recommend Region VI board to have board meeting in Arkansas to see venue.

VIII. Old Business

No old business presented.

IX. New Business

A. Board Election: Presentation of Slate of Officers and NHTSA Representatives – Luis Quinones, Nomination Committee Chairperson

Luis Quinones, Chairperson of Nominating Committee reported positions that do not have a nomination at this time, treasurer, parliamentarian, historian, NHTSA staff and NHTSA parent representative. Nomination for secretary is Crystal Pena, two nominations for President: Gloria Lopez and Alferma Giles, NHTSA Director Representative: Susie Powers and Gloria Lopez, and Friend Representative: Jackie Govan and Albert Black.

Discussion:

Alferma Giles respectfully declines the nomination as President of Region VI Board.

President: Nomination is Gloria Lopez and no floor nomination. By acclamation Gloria Lopez is the Region VI Board President.

Vice President: No nomination submitted prior and Jackie Govan nominates Albert Black. Albert Black asked if okay with nomination for Friend if okay to be nominated for Vice President and suggests the younger generation to step up but will be honored to step up for the children. By acclamation Albert Black is the Region VI Board Vice President.

Treasurer: No nomination submitted prior. Kahree Wahid nominates Weldon Beard however Weldon Beard has met his term limit and cannot run again. Alferma Giles commented that individual interested in Treasurer should have experience and background with finances. Kahree Wahid asked if by-laws allow to make specific accommodations if no one on board that has the expertise to take treasurer position. No current nomination from floor, will table to next meeting.

Secretary: Crystal Pena nomination submitted, by acclamation Crystal Pena is the Region VI Board Secretary.

Parliamentarian: No nomination submitted prior, Kahree Wahid nominated himself as Parliamentarian. By acclamation Kahree Wahid is the Region VI Board Parliamentarian.

Historian: No floor nomination will table to next meeting. Jackie Govan nominated Anthony Stafford.

NHSA Director Representative: Two nominations submitted-Susie Powers and Gloria Lopez. Gloria commented that Susie Powers is a staff representative for Region VI Board on the roster, if have to change it needs to be noted. Susie can represent as NHSA Staff if she is interested.

NHSA Staff Representative: Nomination Susie Powers and Jackie Burton, vote took place through chat message sent to nominating Chair Luis Quinones. Luis Quinones announced Susie Powers as NHSA Staff Representative.

NHSA Parent: No nomination submitted by committee or floor, will table to next meeting.

NHSA Friend: Jackie Govan and Albert Black nominated, vote took place through chat message sent to nominating Chair Luis Quinones. Luis Quinones announced Jackie Govan as NHSA Friend Representative.

Kahree Wahid makes motion to approve the slate of officers elected with Treasurer and Parent position still open, Jackie Burton seconds, all in favor, motion carried.

X. Announcements – Next Region VI Board Meeting Scheduled –January 2022 w/ Regional Office @ 10:00 am CT

Discussion: Gloria Lopez asked for suggested dates to stay away in January. Crystal Pena suggested to stay away from week January 24-28th due to the Winter Leadership Institute in Washington.

XI. Adjournment – President –Gloria Lopez asked for adjournment due to no other business to take place.

Susie Powers make motion to adjourn meeting at 12:40 pm CT and Kahree Wahid seconds, all in favor, motion carried.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Crystal Pena, Region VI Board Member.