

REGION VI HEAD START ASSOCIATION

Quarterly Reporting Form



Name: Alferma Giles, Ph.D.

Position: THSSCO Director

Meeting Date: September 27, 2022

Organization: Texas Head Start State Collaboration Office

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Correspondence: Emails and/or phone calls to:

1. Jackie Govan, Paula Brown, Olga Valezuela-Zavala, & Kahree Wahid
2. President Gloria Lopez, Paula Brown/Treasurer, Region VI HSA Scholarship Committee

Reporting Information:

- The THSSCO Year 3 NOA Letter was received on 8/23/22. The THSSCO was informed on 9/13/22.
- The THSSCO Needs Assessment/Strategic Plan for 2022-2023 has been completed and will be emailed to HS/EHS Grantees in Texas and posted on the THSSCO website.
- The THSSCO Director participated in Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth (TEHCY) Summit in San Marcos, TX August 29-31 and facilitated a session on the Functions & Activities of the THSSCO and provided updates from the Office of Head Start and the National Head Start Association. The THSSCO works in collaboration with the TEHCY Office to support the enrollment of homeless children and families in Texas.
- The THSSCO is working with The Professional Development Company, Power Potential to Create a Partnership Guide that will explain the alignment between Head Start, childcare, and school districts. The Partnership Guide will contain kindergarten transition information and activities to support effective partnerships, relationship building and collaboration that will assist families and children in early childhood programs in Texas to implement practices that will assist them in their partnership efforts. The completed guide supports the Office of Head Start Transition to Kindergarten Initiative, as it will include kindergarten transition information that will address: families, children, programs, educators, leaders and the community in partnership efforts. A weblink to access the Partnership Guide that will be posted on the Texas Head Start Collaboration Office Website in October/2022.
- The THSSCO entered a new partnership with Texas United Health Care (UHC) Dental to participate in quarterly meetings with our current Texas Oral Health Partners to support the oral

health needs of HS/EHS children. UHC will provide educational materials regarding oral health, attend Head Start health fair or educational events, and assist with educating parents and/or caregivers on the importance of oral exams and follow up dental care. The THSSCO will participate in the Performance Improvement Project Intervention for UHC also.

- Participated in the Early Childhood Integrated Data Roadmap Stakeholder (ECIDS) Listening Session Meeting on 9/2/22. Purpose: Through collaboration across and within agencies and programs, a Texas ECIDS provide an integrated and aligned approach to enable Texas to make informed decisions through programs and policies that promote positive outcomes for young children and their families.
- Since 2017, the THSSCO has served on the Early Care Obesity Prevention Workgroup to facilitate improvement and implementation of nutrition and physical activity standards and practices in early childcare settings in Texas. The most recent meeting took place on September 9/7/022.

Workgroup Goals:

- Inform process for revising Child Care Licensing and Texas Rising Star standards.
- Increase participation in Texas Rising Star (TRS) and Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). (Community Level)
- Increase parent awareness about childhood obesity and parent demand for healthy physical activity/nutrition childcare environments. (Facility Level)
- Improve access, awareness, and utilization of trainings. (Professional Level)
- Create and disseminate a statewide integrated system of self-assessment, training, technical assistance, and recognition for obesity prevention in childcare.
- The THSSCO is working in partnership with Lakeshore Learning Materials/Marcus parker, to present a virtual training on 11/9/22 for HS/EHS on the topic: Being an Intentional Partner in Play Indoors & Outdoors. The training will focus on intentional choices that teachers and parents can make with children to support their learning while being a partner in play. We will look at specific strategies that enrich being a partner in play through opportunities for discovery, and actively participating in their play both indoors and outdoors. As responsive partners in play, we will address the growth of the whole child while respecting them and their play.
- The THSSCO serves on the First3Years/Houston Infant Toddler Coalition, supporting early childhood more broadly to develop concentrated plans for collective action that specifically impact infants, toddlers and their families by; supporting a quality, cross-sector workforce; 0-3 Developmental Screen; Developing a 0-3 Data Dashboard and supporting mental health and challenging behaviors in children across program settings.
- The THSSCO Director attended the Texas Association for the Young Children Conference in San Antonio, TX, September 15-17, 2022, and attended the following sessions:
 - Exciting Initiatives with Texas Workforce Commission Child Care and Early Learning;
 - Pre-Kindergarten Partnership Expansion; Texas Education Agency Early Childhood Updates
 - Friday Keynote – Where Are We and Where Do We Go From Here? Linda Smith
 - T.E.A.C.H Advisory Committee Board Meeting
 - The Policy Landscape: How States are Innovating on Early Childhood Financing, Compensation, Quality, and More
 - Saturday Keynote – Leadership Developing your Voice as an Early childhood Educator – Jerletha McDonald
 - What’s On Deck for the 88th Legislative Session?



Board Action Items: None

Report Attachments (if any):

Signature(s): *Alferma Giles* **Date Submitted:** 9/19/22

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