

# REGION VI HEAD START ASSOCIATION

## Quarterly Reporting Form



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

**Position: THSSCO Director**

**Meeting Date: January 30, 2023**

**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. Jackie Govan, Paula Brown & Kahree Wahid
2. President Gloria Lopez, Paula Brown/Treasurer & the Region VI HSA Scholarship Committee

### **Reporting Information:**

- The updated Needs Assessment Survey for 2022-2023 is being developed at this time for distribution in February to HS/EHS Grantees in Texas and the Texas Head Start Association to provide responses and input. The THSSCO Advisory Board will be meeting on 2/2 to develop the initial survey template. The results will guide the development of the THSSCO Strategic Plan.
- The THSSCO Director used remaining grant funds in the 2022 travel budget to partner with Power Your Potential, a professional development company, to create an Early Childhood Partnership Guide for Texas that will explain the alignment between Head Start, childcare, and school districts. The Partnership Guide contains kindergarten transition information and activities to support effective partnerships, relationship building and collaboration that will assist early childhood programs, families and children in Texas to implement practices that will assist them in their partnership efforts. The transition guide supports the Office of Head Start Transition to Kindergarten Initiative, as it includes kindergarten transition information that will address families, children, HS programs, ISD's, 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, and some selected state partner websites.

- The THSSCO Director developed a Standard Operating Procedures Manual (SOP), for the Texas Head Start State Collaboration Office. The purpose of the SOP is to ensure that future collaboration directors in Texas, will be able to review the outline of the job of the collaboration

director and its primary functions, as well as to identify how the job supports the mission, vision and values of the OHS and grantee agency, the Children’s Learning Institute at UT-Health Science Center at Houston. It also provides relevant historical information that relates to the primary functions of the position, relevant job task and necessary information to serve as a guide and reference for use to assist them in this position.

- The THSSCO Director attended the THSA Board Meeting in Austin, TX on 1/19/23.
- The THSSCO Director serves as a governor appointed member of the Texas Early Learning Council, and participated in a quarterly meeting on 1/20. The main discussion was included information on the state being awarded the Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five (PDG B-5). The PDG B-5 grant reference to Head Start addresses this need; Texas Workforce Commission, Texas Education Agency, and THSSCO will work to simplify the application practices by creating a common eligibility screener across multiple early childhood programs with similar eligibility criteria, allowing families to more easily determine which services they could be eligible for, and therefore, they may apply for. The screener, which will be developed in Year 3 of the grant cycle, will include at a minimum, criteria for: child care scholarships, public school pre-k, and Early Head Start/Head Start. The screener will be housed on the Early Childhood Texas website. Additionally, Texas is exploring possibilities for a coordinated cross-agency application for child care scholarships, pre-k, and Head Start/Early Head Start.
- The THSSCO Director attended the Winter Leadership Institute – January 23-26 in Crystal City, VA. There were various sessions on the following:
  - 1/23** - Head Start Reflecting and Moving Forward; Keynote: Realigning Life Trajectories for Generations; More Than a Memory: A Head Start Alumni Conversation; The Future of Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Head Start; Workforce Hub: Breaking into Higher Ed: A New Pathway for Head Start Professionals; Illuminating Public Transit Accessibility (and burden) for Head Start Centers; Inform the Upcoming Expansion Funding Opportunity; Workforce Hub: Cutting Edge Resources for Staff Wellness: Mental Fitness & Financial Wellness; Spend Down Speed Round (3 sessions over 2 days); & Plenary: Head Start and Health Care: Unpacking Inequities.
  - 1/24** – Plenary: A Peek Behind the Curtains at the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress; Hill Day Prep; Plenary: Lessons From a Historic Decline in Child Poverty; Confronting the #1 Pregnancy Complication in America; Using Comms to Engage with Capitol Hill Elected Officials; Workforce Hub: Staff Retention and Healthy Work Environments; & Plenary: Addressing the Needs of our Nation’s Children; Head Start Town Hall.
  - 1/25** – Day on Capitol Hill
  - 1/26** – Plenary: Updates from the Office of Head Start; GroMoreGood Grant Awards; Updates from the Office of Head Start: Part 1 & Part 2.



**Board Action Items: None**

**Report Attachments (if any):**

**Signature(s):** *Alferma Giles* **Date Submitted:** 1/25/23

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