



**REGION VI HEAD START ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS VIRTUAL MEETING AGENDA**

**Monday, October 23, 2023  
9:00 MT a.m. Virtual**

**Meeting Minutes**

**I. Opening Business Items**

- A. Call to Order/Greetings/Welcome – Gloria Lopez, President  
Gloria Lopez, President, called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. MT. She welcomed everyone in attendance and asked for a moment of silence for the passing of Joann Williams.
- B. Presentation & Seating of New Members –Albert Black, Vice-President  
–Albert Black, Vice-President—No new members to present or seat.
- C. Roll Call & Establish Quorum – Roll Call taken by Crystal Pena, 12 out of 20 votes present; quorum established.

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

Board Advisors in attendance were State Presidents Michelle Joubert (LA), Crystal Pena (NM), Christin Bolinger (OK), and Weldon Beard (TX). Collaboration Directors: Jackie Govan (AR), Paula Brown (OK), and Alferma Giles (TX).

## II. Approval of Agenda – Gloria Lopez, President

**Jackie Govan makes a motion to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Albert Black. All in favor, motion carried.**

## III. Approval of Minutes: July 19, 2023, minutes by Crystal Pena, Secretary

**Albert Black makes a motion to approve the meeting minutes on July 19, 2023, as presented; Susie Powers seconds it. All in favor, motion carried.**

## IV. Treasurer's Report – Paula Brown

Paula Brown reported a beginning bank account balance of \$155,721.80 as of July 14, 2023, expenditures of \$2,506.85 (online bill pay, Board/Directors Insurance), and revenue of \$19.05 (Interest Earned)—the ending balance as of October 19, 2023, of \$148,734.00. Outstanding Texas Dues of \$1000. Albert Black reported that the check was mailed on Friday and should be received soon. Crystal Pena will mail Paula Brown the Dollar per Child check from the Region VI conference in July.

**Albert Black makes a motion to approve the treasurer's report as presented by Crystal Pena seconds it. All in favor, motion carried.**

## V. Standing Committee Reports – Committee Chairs

- A. Audit/Budget/Finance –Paula Brown- Paul reported that the tax account is in process. Soon, we can file back taxes, and then we can renew our non-profit status. By-laws indicate dues need to be paid; maybe the committee can review so we can be more specific. Jackie Govan suggested it go through the policy committee.
- B. Scholarship/Awards/Recognition –Alferma Giles (see attached)  
Ms. Giles reported that the scholarship committee has sent information to States. Concern that, over the years, grantees don't follow the scholarship process, not completing applications properly. Suggested to leave the application as is and focus on grantees to follow the proper process when submitting to Region VI. Alferma asks for all states to participate actively in the scholarship process, but only two states. Michelle reported that they have reassigned committees for Louisiana State and asked if Mr. Wahid can remain so they can regroup and focus on the committees as a state. Gloria suggested sending it to the scholarship contact, state president, and collaboration director. It's a team effort to get the word out and 100% complete applications.
- C. Communication/Public Relations –Albert Black  
No report was given.
- D. Policy & Procedures –  
Laurie Gassaway reported sending all members a list of policies this morning. She received the strategic plan written ten years ago. Reviewed the plan and by-laws and developed a list we want to outline. Laurie is asking for everyone to look at the list and send her the process that is currently in place so we can have policies to follow what we do—Gloria, Laurie, and Alferma, who are on the policy committee.

E. By-Laws –Jackie Govan

Jackie Govan reported that the bylaws are up to date.

**Jackie Govan makes a motion to approve the committee reports as presented, and Albert Black seconds it. All in favor, motion carried.**

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

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

**Arkansas-** Jackie Govan reported Triad Inter-Agency agreement with the action plan. It has areas of interest that we will collaborate on and will be put into a state plan—action plan: all children participate in the Dolly Pardon imagination library. The group wants to include a health advisory network and education coordinators across the state to include all early childhood coordinators meeting with special education coordinators. We have a new Governor in Arkansas and the Learn Act, a unified early childhood system. Division of Childcare has moved to the Department of Education. I am excited that the collaboration office will not have to relocate for at least another two years. Early Childhood Leads in the state of Arkansas, Jackie hopes that the whole state is represented. In 2012, they came up with a school-ready definition, and they will continue with the definition. Innovation Summit that NHSA, professional leadership for the conference in 2024, implements innovation throughout the programs. Completed the dad event in Arkansas, every family received books to take home. We had robust conversations with fathers. Recipient of the preschool development grant, working on increasing infant/toddler trauma-informed care for staff and children. Still dealing with turnover, workforce issues, and under-enrollment. We have a homeless team with mental health, focusing on families with children from birth to five years old. Designated a location in Little Rock with tiny houses/sheds for families who are homeless; the only issue is that no bathrooms are built in the shed, and they have to share common bathrooms with others. We will have another meeting to address homelessness and the issue of sharing bathrooms. We will have our 4<sup>th</sup> Opioid Substance Abuse Summit. School Readiness Summit November 3, 2023.

**Louisiana-** No report given.

**New Mexico-** No report given.

**Oklahoma-** Paula Brown reported that the Community Action Agency Conference took place, received feedback, and was excited about the Head Start track. We have outgrown our site and need to relocate the conference for next year. We have a variety of participation from all agencies in Oklahoma.

**Texas-** Alferma Giles reported new National Priorities that will guide the work of their offices. Priority 1: collaborates with the state systems to align with early care and education services and support for children and families from prenatal to age five. Priority 2: works with state efforts to collect and use data on early childhood programs to guide decision-making and improve child and family outcomes. Priority 3: supports expanding and accessing high-quality workforce and career development opportunities for staff. Staff turnover and staff retention continue to be an issue; they provide early childhood providers with the resources and tools to help them meet their professional development needs. The center directors and administrators will be able to connect to centers and unaffiliated staff who are no longer with your program, create training for approval by TECPDS, track PD hours, utilize the certificate generation tool for events/training, and safely store records. Priority 4 coordinates with school systems to ensure continuity and alignment across programs.

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

**Arkansas-** Jackie Govan reported gearing up for the 2024 State Conference and wants to have a reception for all our partners in the State of Arkansas. We have a racial equity website and will share it with the public; if you are interested, on November 8<sup>th</sup>, we will have a virtual meeting. If anyone is interested, let Jackie know, and she can share the link. She needs pictures of all board members.

**Louisiana-** Michelle Joubert reported that we hosted the Region VI conference in July and thanked Mrs. Rhonda Taylor. I am excited as the newly elected president and will have more to share at the next meeting.

**New Mexico-** Crystal Pena reported Background checks have been a struggle in the State of New Mexico, taking up to 6-8 weeks for new hires to get approved. Many programs are already struggling with staff turnover and the challenge of background checks taking too long and losing potential candidates due to the wait. We have seen an improvement in the last couple of weeks, starting to process them faster, and we hope to see that it clears up and speeds up the process.

ECECD Department had Stabilization Grant Funding available for all Head Start Grantees to apply back in August. The application process was easy, and the state had a formula based on enrollment last year to determine how much funds would be distributed. Funds must be exhausted by June 2024 and can be used for salaries, incentive pay, playground & facility improvements, PPE supplies, and/or mental health.

The State is working with Head Start Grantees to align TS GOLD and EPICS Data Base System to help support teachers when entering data so as not to duplicate services. The pilot program has some Head Start grantees; more to come once we get it off the ground.

Conducted interviews for the Head Start Collaboration Director position. NMHSA was present during interviews and found a candidate. Hopefully, soon, they will announce who they have hired and will actively participate with Region VI.

Staff turnover and under-enrollment continue to be a hot topic in New Mexico; trying to maintain current staff, but it is hard to compete with school districts, and when salary increases continue to rise, Head Start grantees find it impossible to keep up. They will continue to lose staff once they obtain their degree.

**Oklahoma-** Christin Bolinger reported that they are working on promoting marketing head start in the state. Elect new officers for the State Association; Christin will continue to be the State President. Paula added that the Director's Affiliate has been strong, and Kristin has done a great job keeping the staff group actively participating and leading by example with her program.

**Texas-** Weldon Beard reported a legislative update for Texas. Underline issues that impact programs, migrants, Indian Reservation, Rural and Urban, and how that impacts our programs—purpose of Head Start, our priorities, and how we take back to our state leaders.

C. NHSA Report – NHSA Representatives: Jackie Govan reported that the last meeting was held during the Leadership Institute in Washington, D.C. They asked for feedback on the Institute, and the feedback from the Capitol Hill visit

was terrific. Focus on not asking for more funding to keep the same due to all the cuts. The next meeting will be virtual in November. NHSA is pushing its training and wants to inform everyone about the available virtual training. Collaboration Directors cannot ask for an increase since it is in the Head Start Act until a reauthorization happens. Gloria added that the Parent Conference is up in December; they will have a memorial for Manuela Rendon at the Parent Conference. The priority of the OHS is bringing forth health and safety. Many programs have significant incidents that are reported to OHS. Gloria suggested maybe that we provide training at our next region vi conference to focus on Health & Safety,

**Albert Black makes a motion to approve the reports presented, and Jackie Govan seconds. All in favor, motion carried.**

**VII. Conference Planning Reports – Conference Chairs**

A. 2023 Conference-Louisiana- 7/17/23-7/21/23-Rhonda Taylor reported invited 1824 attendees, actually had 1080 attendees. I am still preparing the final conference numbers and will have a report at the next meeting. A total of 790 participants logged into the event app had technology issues. Rhonda has asked for prayers for her staff and program, had a family fire, and lost two children who attended the program.

B. 2024 Conference-New Mexico-Crystal Pena reported finalizing details on the hotel location; we will send out save the dates once we confirm the hotel and the conference theme. We want to tie the theme into the Hot Air Balloons since it is an icon in NM.

C. 2025 Conference-Texas reported at this time.

**Weldon Beard motions to approve the presented conference reports: Albert Black seconds. All in favor, motion carried.**

**VIII. Old Business**

A. No old business to report commented to try and get a parent appointed to NHSA and Region VI Board.

**IX. New Business**

A. Need to elect new officers; Gloria volunteers to engage the nominating committee so we can vote and have newly elected officers by the January meeting. She asks for volunteers to help with the nominating committee. Gloria proposed and asked the board if she could facilitate a strategic plan for the April meeting hosted in New Mexico that will take place at the conference hotel for 2024. Alferma mentioned keeping the NHSA Annual Conference in mind when determining a date for April.

**X. Announcements –**

Next Region VI Board Meeting: January 2024 in Dallas, Texas.

**XI. Adjournment –** Gloria Lopez, President, adjourned the meeting since there was no further business.

**Gloria Lopez adjourned the meeting at 11:23 a.m. MT.**

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Crystal Pena, Secretary.