

# REGION VI HEAD START ASSOCIATION BOARD

## Quarterly Reporting Form



**Name: Crystal Pena**

**Position: President**

**Organization: New Mexico Head Start Association**

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**Date: January 29, 2024**


**Content Topics:** NMHSA and ECECD Strategic Planning Session,

### Reporting Information:

- The State of New Mexico hired a new Head Start Collaboration Director, Casey Lafferty, who began with ECECD on January 16, 2024.
- NMHSA and ECECD Department met on January 16, 2024, for a strategic planning session to discuss priorities in NM and collaboration efforts amongst the entities.
  - Discuss innovative ideas to utilize the PDG funding to support Head Start children with a diagnosis disability.
  - Head Start Collaboration Funding, budgeted amount of \$23,000
    - Discussed utilizing funding for a 2-day retreat (May 13-14, 2024, in Albuquerque) that will include (HS/EHS/Tribal Head Starts in NM, ECECD, PED, SPED, and Home Visiting)
    - The focus will be on the shared services, what opportunities are available for Head Start grantees to utilize within the state, the Child Care Assistance program available for families, and how Head Start Programs can expand services, Home Visiting opportunities, and partnerships with the local school districts, and the Focus re-design.
    - Possible New Directory Academy depending on funding or plan for PY2024-2025.
  - Pay Parity for Head Start Teachers available: Teachers and Site Directors can apply for additional funding to offset the cost that public schools pay teachers versus what they currently make in a Head Start Program. Requirements: Teachers must have a BA in ECE and work in a Head Start classroom. This funding year, the budget request was submitted to legislation to approve EHS teachers qualifying for pay parity.
  - State Pre-K and Head Start Programs are within the same community over-saturation, leaving many Head Start programs under-enrolled. ECECD department has funding opportunities to support the Head Start Program for EHS Conversion.

- Discussed NPRM, ECECD responding with a letter in support but will share what New Mexico has already implemented and does not foresee challenges or a severe impact on Head Start Grantees.
  - Grantees shared change of scope plans.
  - Aligning ECECD and Head Start requirements to reduce the duplication of services; for example, with state pre-k entering data into both database systems, Practice-Based Coaching models are implemented in both programs.
  - Reach out to the Regional Office for support in recruiting grantees to participate actively in NMHSA. It has been a challenge to get ongoing active participation. Want full participation at the Retreat scheduled in May? At least two staff (preferably the Director and Co-Director) will attend and, if unable, have representation at the retreat. We want to hear input from everyone, including the Tribal Head Starts.
  - Invitation to Director Khari Garvin to join our collaborative shared services retreat in May.
  - Teacher Apprenticeship Program (TAP) and Developing Futures Campaign- recruiting teachers to help with the staff shortage.
- NMHSA held a Parent Advocacy Leadership (P.A.L) Institute in Santa Fe on January 17-19, 2024. The P.A.L Institute began with Advocacy Training for all parents, including how the Legislative Process works, role play, and letter writing to their legislatures. A full-day visit at the Roundhouse, the opportunity to visit their legislatures, participate in Early Childhood Day at the Roundhouse, and participate in the press conference. The last day included a reflection session; parents shared their experiences and their next steps to advocate locally, statewide, and nationally.
- Elected new officers for NMHSA:
- President: Crystal Pena
  - Vice-President: Jeannie Baca
  - Secretary: Alejandra Dominguez
  - Treasurer: Misty Pugmire
  - Region VI Parent Representative: Tasha Woods (YDI, Inc.)
- Region VI Conference Update:
- Hotel Dates still pending- November 4-8, 2024, conflict in scheduling
  - Theme: Head Start Rising Above the Rest
  - Request for Seed Money from Region VI
  - Entertainment
  - Vendors and Exhibitors-seeking sponsorships
  - Estimate head count from each state

**Report Attachments (if any):**

**Signature(s):** 

**Date:** 1/29/2024