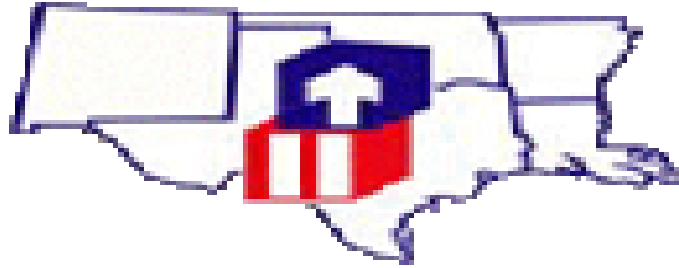


REGION VI HEAD START ASSOCIATION BOARD

Quarterly Reporting Form



Name: Jacqueline Govan & Jacqueline Burton

Date: Jan. 29, 2024

Position: Board Advisor/Friend & Board Member

Organizations: HSSCO & AHSA

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Correspondence: Emails and phone calls to:

Content Topics: HSSCO, AHSA, Region VI Board, NHSA, Webmistress, and Action Items

Reporting Information:

The HSSCO continues to work collaboratively with other state agencies and organizations. These agencies and organizations are working on several projects and initiatives to help build early childhood systems in the state of Arkansas.

The HEAD START STATE COLLABORATION OFFICE (HSSCO) is working on the following initiatives and activities from the HSSCO's strategic plan. The activities and initiatives include:

1. New Collaborative partners with the HSSCO: ACAA and CSBG has completed a triad Inter-agency Agreement between the HSSCO, ACAA, and CSBG. We have also put in place an action plan to keep us grounded in our responsibilities to the state and the local grantees. Implementation will begin in January 2024.
2. The LEARN Act is currently underway and early childhood staff are working to ensure compliance with the upcoming changes to this Act. The new name, "Office of Early Childhood" is now the active new name for early childhood education. In Arkansas. The state continues to work on changes listed in this Act, however, the first round of Early Childhood LEADS (12) is currently in place with more LEADS to be identified.
3. The HSSCO is during things a little different this year for programs. To support staff and administrators in our programs and to acknowledge the work that they do, the HSSCO will sponsor two statewide Book Study courses for staff to participate in. These two books will be

focused on burnout and wellness. The first book study will begin in February 2024. Participants from across the state will be able to read, share, and discuss what their true issues are in the programs that is making them so tired and run down. With the help of eye-opening science, prescriptive advice, helpful worksheets, exercises, and their peers beside them, participants will find something transformative and empowering to create positive CHANGE.

4. The National Association of State Leaders in Early Education (NASLEE), formerly known as NAECS-SDE, provides essential support for state leaders in early care and education. NASLEE does this by supporting state leaders working in state governments across the United States. They offer unique resources for learning, collaboration, and professional development.

The State(s) of Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education: Looking at Equity is the first equity-focused report to look state-by-state at the two federally funded programs for young children with disabilities. The report focuses on the 2020-2021 school year and includes data beginning with the 2005-2006 school year. It explores four types of variation in early intervention (EI) and early childhood special education (ECSE) services:

- Impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic
- Race and Ethnicity
- Gender
- The State in which a child lives.

The Covid-19 pandemic significantly reduced young children's access to EI and ECSE. Black children suffered the largest decreases in access to ECSE. The pandemic also reduced the percentage of young children served in inclusive settings.

The State leadership team (includes the HSSCO director) in Arkansas has pulled everyone together to review, study, and identify data issues to make necessary changes where needed across the state.

5. Arkansas Awarded Preschool Development Grant (PDG) – The funds from the PDG is being implemented to focus on Trauma Informed Care, increasing our infants and toddlers' slots, and helping staff receive a family credential. Implementation is currently under way; however, we continue to have meetings to ensure that the grant process is in full force and according to the guidelines in which it was intended. The HSSCO meets with the state team and Judy Wilgren to ensure the work for the PDG grant is being implemented correctly.

6. The HSSCO director has scheduled EHS/Head Start agencies to visit for the months of January and February. The focus of these visits is to identify the needs of each program

and find the support that is needed to move the needle in their program in support of updating the HSSCO's Annual Needs Assessment. This information is included in the refunding application each year. A comprehensive Needs Assessment is done every five years.

7. Fatherhood and Family Initiative

- Fatherhood Booth and Exhibit During Other Conferences
- Powerful Virtual Conversations with Fathers – ~~Feb.~~, ~~April~~, August, November
- 2023 Dads Reading on the Carpet (DROC) Literacy Event – ~~April~~, July, October

8. Homelessness

- Collaboration w/State MV Liaisons
- Special Committee Formed to Look at Ways to End Homelessness in Arkansas

9. Racial Equity

- A. Create the FIRST Racial Equity Website in Arkansas – To Be Launched in 2024
- B. Setting up Racial Equity Resources for Parents, Teachers, & Administrators
- C. SUTEAR Professional Development Model
- D. Collaborating with AR Community Action Agency to do Racial Equity Webinars
- E. Racial Equity Webinars will be placed on the Professional Development Registry (PDR)

10. AHSA/HSSCO State Institute for 2024

- State Partnership Reception – April 29, 2024
- Pre-Institute – Opioid & Substance Misuse – April 30, 2024
- AHSA Institute Sessions – May 1-3, 2024
- Silent Auction and Exhibitors

11. School Readiness Summit

- Date: November 1, 2024
- The focus this year will be on the LEARNS Act/Arkansas Leads
- Location: Children's Hall

12. AR Imagination Library (ARIL)

- ARIL- expanding our goals to work with children in Foster Care & Hospitals
- Surveyed ALL EHS/Head Start/CC children to ensure they are receiving books.
- HSSCO continues to work with the Dollywood Foundation
- As an ARIL Board member, the HSSCO provides collaborative grants to the ARIL each year to support AR children and the operation of the ARIL State Office.

13. Professional Development

- Collaboration w/OEC and others to place EHS/Head Start trainings on the PDR.
- HSSCO Offers Informational Webinars on Racial Equity
- EHS-CCP Quarterly Training & Informational Meetings
- Homelessness in ARKANSAS RESEARCH
- Powerful Conversations with Fathers (One Hour of Power)
- AHSA/HSSCO's Annual State Institute

14. Arkansas' Oral Health Coalition

- Collaborative Strategic Planning
- Collaboration with EHS/Head Start Programs in 2024

15. New Partnerships

- New Director at Arkansas Advocacy – Keesha Smith
- ACAA State Interagency Partnership Agreement
- MV State Liaisons/Head Start Homeless Liaisons
- Early Childhood Special Education/Head Start Disability Coordinators
- State 619 Coordinator

16. HSSCO Upcoming Events for 2024:

- Powerful Conversations with Fathers – March, July, and November
- School Readiness Summit/Arkansas Leads – November 1st
- The Roll Out of the Racial Equity Informational Webinars – TBA once approved.
- AHSA/HSSCO State Institute – April 29-May 3rd

17. Other Work w/State Partners in Arkansas Include:

- Preschool Inclusion Team
- Child Find/Disability Indicators/State Plan
- State Interagency Coordinating Council
- Excel by Eight
- FASD/None for Nine Workgroup
- AECC/State Advisory Council
- AHVN Collaboration & Planning
- Safe Babies Court Team
- State Leadership Team Meetings (SLT)
- Community of Practice (COP) /" *Making Pre-school Inclusion Work*" Book Review
- Arkansas Childhood Obesity Prevention (ARCOP)

- Arkansas Early Childhood Association (AECA)- Apprentice and AECA Advisory Council
- EHS-CCP Quarterly Meetings
- Collaboration with a variety of Publishing Companies

OFFICE OF HEAD START (OHS)

ACF issued a final rule requiring Head Start grant recipients to have an evidence-based COVID–19 mitigation policy, which considers multiple mitigation strategies such as access to vaccination, masking, ventilation, and testing. Although ACF will remove the vaccine and testing requirements, ACF strongly recommends that Head Start programs use vaccines and tests as part of their mitigation policy to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and reduce the likelihood of mortality or morbidity from infection. Head Start programs may choose to include their own requirements to support vaccination efforts, including for example, requiring staff remain up to date on COVID–19 boosters, sharing information on COVID–19 vaccination with staff and families, and/or partnering with local agencies to increase vaccination access. For more information, please refer to the Program Instruction (PI) ACF-PI-HS-23-01.

NATIONAL HEAD START ASSOCIATION (NHSA) –

NHSA just finished the 2024 first board meeting on January 21 in Washington DC followed by the Leadership Institute. This was a great week for meeting with Congress, quality training, excellent speakers, and superb networking opportunities! It was a great week!

I must share this again....

NHSA sponsored an “Innovation Summit” in June 2023. The purpose of this summit is to network with others and to explore the good and bad that is occurring with our children and families in the United States. There were lots of dynamic speakers and presenters who all shared ways to do things better. Some of the content included:

- The Future Science of Learning,
- The Innovation and New Ideas to Improve Outcomes for Children,
- Mindsets and Methods,
- Innovator Leaders,
- Innovative Spirit verses Having what is needed to do the work,
- Challenges & Opportunities,
- Questioning (Status Quo),
- Collaboration in Practice,
- Discovery Driven Learning,

- Innovation Through High Quality, Language, and Rich Learning Environments
- Accelerator Circles (color-coded groups),
- Mindsets & Methods,
- Touring the Bright Horizons Classrooms & Building,
- Networking and Group Work, and
- Resources, and so much more.

NHSA will have their next meeting this month on Sunday, January 21st at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Arlington, Virginia. The Board meeting will be the kickoff for the Winter Leadership Institute.

Preparation is also being made for:

- The NHSA Conference and Expo in Portland, Oregon in April and
- The 2024 National Parent Conference in December 2023.

DALLAS REGIONAL OFFICE

The HSSCO Director has been in contact with the Dallas Regional Office on several issues regarding upcoming meetings, the LEARN Act, and more. Responses were given and things are moving forward. Also, the refunding application was completed and submitted in November 2023. The HSSCO is now in the 4th year of the five-year grant application.

REGION VI HEAD START ASSOCIATION

The HSSCO director serves on the Region 6 Board and provides quarterly, oral, and written reports that outline all activities for the previous quarter. Since the last Region 6 Board meeting, the HSSCO director has been engaged in the following:

- Working on Scholarship information.
- Providing and sending out information on the AR/Region VI Institute.
- Providing the zoom link for quarterly virtual meetings.
- Posting information on the Region's website.
- Collaborating, planning, and sharing information with Collaboration Directors in Region VI monthly.
- Sending emails and trying to coordinate with Region VI President, Gloria Lopez.
- Preparing for the NHSA Board and sub-committees, whereby, I report to the Region VI Head Start Association and the state association.

ARKANSAS HEAD START ASSOCIATION INSTITUTE & ACTIVITIES

The AR Institute planning committee meets every other month in planning for the AHSA Annual Institute. The 2024 Institute is scheduled for April 29 – May 3, 2024. We have our speakers lined up and have invited Khari Garvin, Director for the Office of Head Start and awaiting a response. This year’s institute includes the following activities:

- Invites to ALL early childhood programs in Arkansas,
- A special partnership reception,
- Come as YOU wish Networking Fun,
- Outstanding Masquerade Awards and Degreed Celebration,
- Silent Auction,
- Fantastic Exhibitors, and
- So Much More.

{See Attachment}

REGION VI WEBSITE

The website is constantly being updated to support the Region VI Head Start Association’s mission for all five states. However, other information is still needed to keep the website up to date.

ACTION ITEMS

1. The Webmistress is still asking for program information and pictures to update the website.
2. I am submitting two invoices for the Region VI website and for the Webmistress.

This concludes my report. Thank You!

Report Attachments (if any): The AHSA/HSSCO Institute Happenings Flyer

Signature(s): _____

Date: _____
Date: _____