

REGION VI HEAD START ASSOCIATION

Quarterly Reporting Form



Name: Alferma Giles, Ph.D.

Position: TXHSCO Director

Meeting Date: July 29, 2024

Organization: Texas Head Start State Collaboration Office

Address: Alferma.Crawford@uth.tmc.edu – (713) 500-3835

Correspondence: Emails and/or phone calls to:

- Vice President Crystal Pena, Mrs. Gloria Lopez, Region VI HSA Board, Deana Howell, Region VI State Association Presidents & HS Collaboration Directors

Reporting Information:

This report reflects the activities and engagement of the THSSCO that relates to activities of the TXHSCO Since the **January/2024 meeting:**

PRIORITY 1: Collaborate with state systems to align early care and education services and supports for children and families prenatally to age 5.

- Continue to serve as a Governor-Appointed member of the Texas Early Learning Council (TELC), engaging in the work of the PDG-B5 Grant and the development of the [Texas Early Learning Strategic Plan 2024-2026](#).
- Developed a collaboration with the USDA Rural Development, State Coordinator for Homeless Families, and the Texas Single Family Housing Program Director to support the “Home at Head Start” Initiative to increase enrollment of children experiencing homelessness in rural communities and in other Head Start/Early Head Start programs in Texas.
- Continue to serve as a Deputy Ambassador for Help Me Grow/Learn the Signs Act Early, supporting the continuous participation of five (5) Early Head Start programs; this includes but is not limited to participating in quarterly meetings and supporting data. collection efforts, communication, and submitting annual work plans.
- Participates in quarterly meetings with the Texas Education Agency/Early Childhood Program, Enrollment, and Partnership Specialist to engage in partnership discussions ranging from fostering partnerships in Head Start/Pathways to Head Start Partnerships (Local Education Agency Head Start Grantee and Non-Grantee Head Start), teacher qualifications, partnership

models to supporting families, school districts, and children in centers. [Early Learning Public-Private Partnerships](#).

PRIORITY 2: Work with state efforts to collect and use data on early childhood programs to guide decision-making and improve child and family outcomes.

- Participates in meetings with [First3Years](#) /Houston Infant Toddler Coalition (HITC) to Increase positive early experiences for infants and toddlers and best meet the needs of the families with young children in Houston and collectively develop and implement strategies for strengthening Houston’s system of programs and services.
- Participates in the Developmental Screening Workgroup meetings with HITC to support the Developmental Screening Landscape Analysis Roadmap and Early Childhood Integrated Data System Toolkit Guide. The HITC works to support [Early Childhood Intervention \(ECI\) in Harris County](#).
- Provided data and information for the Texas Early Learning Council Data Roadmap Work Group to develop the [Texas Early Childhood Integrated Data System Roadmap](#). (ECIDS). A more detailed view of Texas early childhood data systems and potential linkages can be found in a companion report: [Texas Early Childhood Data Landscape and Inventory](#).
- The TXHSCO Director has engaged in work with Texans Care for Children and other state agencies, collaborating with experts and stakeholders across the state, to develop and launch the [Texas School Readiness Dashboard](#). Texans have increasingly recognized that positive early childhood experiences during the critical period of brain development from birth to age five help determine whether children start school ready to succeed in kindergarten and throughout their academic careers.

PRIORITY 3: Support the expansion of and access to high-quality workforce and career development opportunities for staff.

- Currently recruiting HS/EHS coaches to participate in the Core Competencies for Coaching (C3PD) Professional Development Program study cohort. C3PD is a study funded by the National Institute of Education Sciences to develop a program that systematically prepares and trains early childhood coaches in a variety of school settings. The program focuses on building coaches’ competency in specific behaviors and skills that can be used to help teachers improve the quality of their classrooms.
- Supports the work of the Texas Early Childhood Professional Development System:
 - Enhancements were made to the TECPDS to include [Texas ECE Career Pathways](#).
 - **Statewide System** - Shared professional development (PD) opportunities for HS/EHS, along with training and resources available on the [Texas Early Childhood Professional Development System](#) (TECPDS), [Early Childhood Learning Knowledge Center](#) (ECLKC), and other agency platforms.
 - **Statewide system** - Continue to work with HS/EHS Program Administrators to register their programs and encourage staff to establish free accounts on the TECPDS [Texas Workforce Registry](#), and to take advantage of the resources available through [CLI Engage](#), [Texas School Ready](#), [Texas School Ready Comprehensive](#) & [Infant Toddler Specialist Network](#) (ITSN).

Type	Total #	# New Since April 2024	Percent Increase from April 2023
All Centers	7,883	154	35%
TRS Centers	3,964	77	49%
All Practitioners	124,663	3,183	42%
All Administrators	6,350	103	27%
TRS Practitioners	14,866	569	31%

- The CLI Engage [ECE Professional Micro-Credentials](#) are available to Texas Early Childhood Professionals. The Micro-Credentials provide learners with professional development acknowledgment for skills and competencies developed throughout their careers. **April/2024 Report:**

Type	Total Badges	Action Badges	Micro-credentials
Trainer Framework	4,108	4,055	53
Practitioner Core Competencies	19,592	18,269	1,323

The TECPDS [Certificate Generation Tool](#) provides opportunities for all trainers to create certificates that meet all state requirements for their training participants.

- **Statewide System & Early Childhood Professional Tracking** - Serves on the [T.E.A.C.H.](#) Advisory Board to support the Texas early childhood workforce to obtain scholarships to continue their higher education and to obtain a degree. [Early Childhood Career Pathways. Find my Career Pathway Tool.](#) **The latest meeting date: July 22nd.** Discussions included Staffing Updates, Funding Updates, Sustainability Planning, Karen & Gordon Bacon Award Committee
- The TXHSCO provided information and input in the agenda planning, PowerPoint presentation, and development of the **Region VI OHS “Workforce Innovations Plan”**: **Exploring Apprenticeships.**
- The TXHSCO provided information and input to the Region VI OHS on the state of Texas to support the development of the [Region VI Workforce Planning Resource Guide 2024.](#)
- Recruit Head Start teachers to participate in the [Continuous Improvement for Teachers \(CIT\) Project at CLI.](#) The CIT is a Department of Education-funded research study that examines the effects of a continuous improvement model of professional development for teachers to improve the readiness of preschoolers, especially at-risk children.
- Recruit HS/EHS programs for the **Cultivating Awareness and Resilience in Education (CARE) Program.** It is designed to significantly reduce stress, burnout, and turnover among Head Start educators while promoting teachers’ psychological and professional well-being. Participation is at no cost to programs, and teachers receive stipends for participation. The CARE program aligns with the recent proposed changes to Head Start program performance standards, particularly the integration of mental health services:
 - CLI Trainers received CARE Certification: Four CLI staff have been certified to provide training for the Cultivating Awareness and Resilience in Education (CARE) program. CLI's trainers are among the first certified CARE trainers for early childhood education teachers anywhere! CLI's [grant](#) and [research](#) test the impact of the CARE program. The TXHSA continues to support project recruitment for the upcoming school year. Read all about it!!
- Serves as a member of the Texas Infant and Toddler Specialist Network Advisory Committee. The purpose of ITSN is to leverage resources across the state to increase the knowledge and skills of infant and toddler specialists and teachers to improve their practices. The ITSN develops and disseminates infant and toddler resources to elevate the quality of the workforce through professional development and networking opportunities that positively impact child outcomes.

PRIORITY 4: Coordinate with school systems to ensure continuity and alignment across programs, as appropriate.

- The TXHSCO Director participated in the Spring Texas Early Learning Collaborative Symposium (TELCS), which was held on April 10, 2024, hosted by the Texas Workforce Commission Child Care & Early Learning Division and Health and Human Services Commission Child Care Regulation. The Spring Symposium was specifically for staff who contribute to supporting the quality of early childhood programs in Texas to continue our work of cross-collaboration to build high-quality child care in Texas. The TELCS is in partnership with the TXHSCO to engage in working with multiple state partners to provide early childhood resources to Texas programs.
 - The TELCS members and other state agency partners that participated in the Texas Early Learning Collaborative Symposium supported the development of the [TELCS Digital Notebook](#), which includes agency/program updates, data sources, links to resources, and the recording link for the Spring TELCS. The notebook provides an overview of the early childhood system and the resources available in Texas and is meant to be used as an internal resource to assist staff who work with child care and early learning programs or families with resources and support.
- The TXHSCO participated in quarterly meetings with the **Texas 619 Coordinator on June 17th**, to support children with disabilities to receive Early Childhood Special Education Services (ECSE): Discussions included: Child Find Grant, 7.5 thousand children ages 3-5 in state pre-k, developing new resources to support inclusion, MOU revisions to include auditory needs and changing the focus on language.

REGIONAL PRIORITIES and OTHER ACTIVITIES:

- Developed additional partnerships and collaborations with additional agencies/individuals and other leading agencies to engage in working to enroll children and **families experiencing homelessness**:
 - Participated in the **Family Foundation Event on April 30, 2024**, hosted by Region VI Training and Technical Assistance Family Engagement Specialist on **Caring Conversations with the Family Foundation Network**. The TXHSCO provided a brief overview of the National Priorities for Collaboration Directors and the activities of our office to address enrolling children experiencing homelessness. HS/EHS Program Rosters were provided to T/TA to support enrollment efforts.
 - Participated in the **Caring Conversations with the Family Foundation Network Quarterly Meeting on July 18th**. The discussion included things that are working well, challenges and who's missing in our homeless outreach/enrollment efforts. We discussed including the State Foster Care and the State McKinney Vento Coordinator in future meetings. Highlights of the OHS Director/Khari Garvin's [Children and Families Experiencing Homelessness](#) video, along with partnership efforts to support the **"Region VI Strengthening Families Plan"**. We also discussed the TXSHCO participating in the **Health Equity Brown-Bag Sessions**.
 - **The TXHSCO & T/TA Family Engagement Specialist** discussed planning a **"Home at Head Start Summit"** to present at the **Fall Texas Head Start Association Conference**.
- Participated in quarterly meetings with the **Texas Education for Homeless Children & Youth/McKinney Vento State Coordinator on June 17th**, to continue discussions and plan to support homeless children in Texas. Our discussion also included how to better support unaccompanied youth in Texas and developing a joint communication to promote a list serve announcement to share with other state agency partners.
- Participates in monthly meetings with the Head Start Collaboration Office **Homeless Learning Community**. The meetings consist of collaboration directors and partners connecting to share information, resources, tools, training, webinars, guest facilitators/presenters, etc., to support

better engagement with agencies and organizations that serve homeless families in our respective states.

- The TXHSCO collaborated with **Dan Griffin** and **Harrison Crawford** to share comments on the Trauma-Informed Curriculum for Fathers – [Amazing Dads!](#) Curriculum. The link to the curriculum was shared with HS/EHS to connect with them to implement the curriculum in their programs or to engage with Mr. Griffin and Mr. Crawford to provide training at the discretion of the program. Head Start programs in all states and regions can benefit from the curriculum, resources, and training that Dan Griffin and Harrison Crawford offer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The TXHSCO received an invitation to the **Capitol Extension Hearing/Austin, TX on August 13th** to testify as an invited witness at the House Committee on Public Education interim hearing regarding early education, specifically early numeracy and literacy interventions, regarding Head Start and the opportunities available through the program to districts across the state. The invitation was passed on to Mr. Weldon Beard/TXHSA President, to participate on behalf of HS in Texas. I will be attending the National Fatherhood Summit on August 13th.
- The TXHSCO (Year 5 of 5) Continuation Grant was submitted to the Region VI OHS on 7/1/24.
- The **Texas Head Start Association Summer Conference** scheduled to take place July 15-18 at the Westin Galleria Hotel in Houston was canceled due to Hurricane Beryl. The association is working with consultants HG Jones & Associates to determine dates to reschedule November 12-15 (the original dates for the TXHSA Fall Conference or the First week in December at the same location).
- **Hurricane Beryl** devastated the Houston area, surrounding communities and counties. As of today, some homes and businesses are still without power. Our office does not have a count on the number of HS/EHS programs that were affected, but based on the devastation that took place in low-lying areas and communities near the Gulf of Mexico, the assumption is that many were included in the count.
- The Children's Learning Institute at UTHealth Houston celebrated the formal signing ceremony for its [Texas School Ready-Registered Apprenticeship Program](#) (TSR-RAP) on **March 20, 2024**. Representatives from the U.S. Department of Labor and local and regional partners formally established TSR-RAP as the state's newest registered apprenticeship program supporting career advancement for teachers working with younger children.
 - **Texas School Ready-Registered Apprenticeship Program (TSR-RAP)** builds upon the Children's Learning Institute's signature TSR Comprehensive Program, a comprehensive teacher training model that supports teachers working with infants, toddlers, and pre-K children through extensive professional development and individualized coaching. Through TSR-RAP, the long-established program aims to support education, credentialing, and career pathway opportunities for early childhood education professionals in Texas. **Head Start programs participated in the initial TSR-RAP that launched in the fall of 2023 in three communities: Amarillo, the Lower Rio Grande Valley, and Houston.** [Become an early childhood registered apprentice.](#)
- Head Start Collaboration Offices underwent new branding in March/2024. The branding is located in the signature page at the end of the report.

CONFERENCES/MEETINGS ATTENDED SINCE THE JANUARY MEETING:

Winter Leadership Institute

January 22-25 | Crystal City, VA

HS Collaboration Directors' Meeting

February 26-28 | Arlington, VA

NHSA Conference

April 15-18 | Portland, OR

2024 International Inclusion Institute

May 7-9 | Chapel Hill, NC

TXHSA Board Meeting

June 13 | Houston

National Research Conference on Early Childhood (NRCEC)

June 24-26 | Arlington, VA

UPCOMING EVENTS:

National Fatherhood Summit

August 13-15 | Atlanta, GA

Fall Leadership Institute

September 23-26 | Washington, DC

Board Action Items: None

Report Attachments (if any):

Signature(s): *Alferma Giles* **Date Submitted:** 7/24/24

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

