

REGION VI HEAD START ASSOCIATION BOARD
Quarterly Reporting Form



Name: Jackie Govan

Position: HSSCO Director

Organization: HSSCO in Arkansas

E-Address: Jackie.govan@arheadstart.org

Correspondence:

1. Alferma Giles, HSCO in Texas
2. Kahree Wahid, HSCO in LA
3. Paula Brown, HSCO in OK
4. Casey Lafferty, HSCO in NM
5. Gloria Lopez, NM
6. Crystal Pena, Region 6 President

Content Topics:

AHSA/HSSCO MEETING REPORT

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Reporting Information:

I. Overview and Updates

- Designation Renewal System
- Conversations from Head Start to EHS
- Center Closures within programs
- Better Beginnings four - Six Star Ratings

Level	Number	%
★★★★★	15	9.94%
★★★★	4	2.65%
★★★	52	34.44%
★★	55	36.42%
★	1	0.66%
	1	0.66%
0	23	15.23%

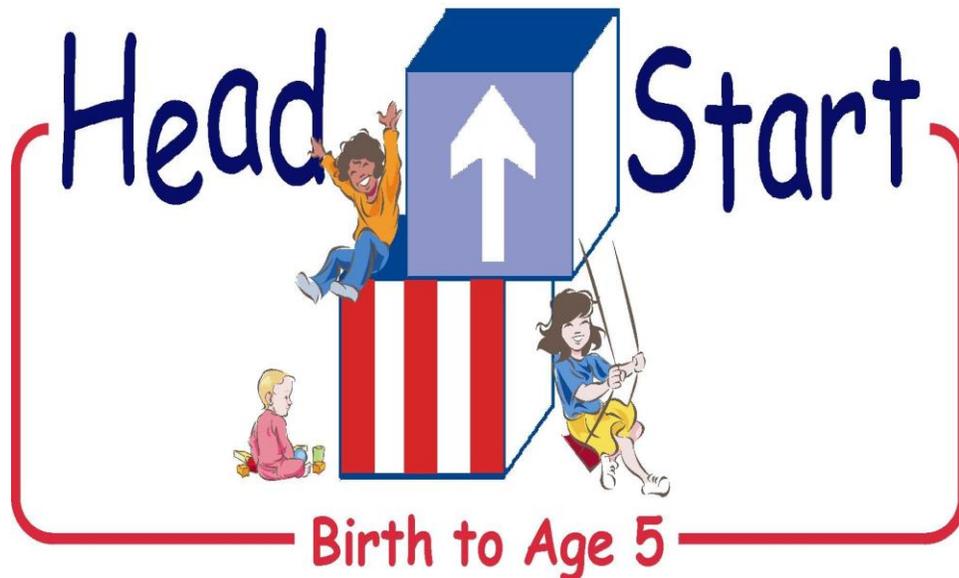
II. EHS/Head Start, Migrant-Seasonal, and EHS-CCPs Programs

Head Start programs serve low-income three- and four-year-old children and their families. The purpose is to promote school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of educational, health, nutritional, social, and cognitive development of children and families. There are eighteen grantees in Arkansas serving 5,323 children and families.

Early Head Start (EHS) programs serve low-income families with infants, toddlers, and pregnant women. The purpose of EHS is to promote healthy prenatal outcomes for pregnant women, enhance the development of very young children, and promote healthy family functioning. There are seventeen grantees in Arkansas serving 2,891 children and families.

Migrant/Seasonal Head Start Programs serve children birth to five years of age and their families. and their families. Migrant families move from one geographic location to another for agriculture work. Seasonal families work primarily in seasonal agriculture and have not moved in two years. There is one grantee in Arkansas serving 159 children and families.

Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships (EHS-CCP) serve low-income families with infants and toddlers in a childcare setting with wraparound services from EHS. There are three grantees in Arkansas serving 584 children and families. (See attachment I)



III. HSSCO State Initiatives

In July 2024, *Arkansas Imagination Library (ARIL)* and local program partners in all seventy-five counties celebrated a statewide milestone: More than five million Dolly Parton's Imagination Library books have been mailed to the homes of Arkansas Children, birth to five years old. Currently, approximately 84,000 Arkansas children (46% of the state's total birth to five population) receive books each month from local program partners. The annual cost is \$26 per child. ARIL provides half of the program costs (\$13 per child per year), while the remaining \$13 per child per year is raised by local program partners. Congratulations ARIL! Reece K. Dedman led the television spotlight in sharing his love for books, hopes for new readers, and how it makes him feel when he read books! Reece placed the 5 millionth book in the mail at a LR Post Office mail drop. If you would like to see the television ad, please go to my Facebook page.

The *Arkansas Fatherhood Initiative* is still going strong as we work to complete our quarterly Powerful Conversations with fathers (PC/F) this year. We will have our last PC/F on November 12th at 11:30 a.m. CST, whereby, Kevin Carnes, President of Lakeshore Learning Materials will share the pros and cons of being a great father and grandfather. If you would like to join us, please use the zoom link below to access this dynamic hour of powerful conversations...

Powerful Conversations with Fathers featuring Kevin Carnes

You are invited to a Zoom meeting.

When: Nov 12, 2024 11:30 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYvcemurDMrGN3G2tuBfw5hjaksL-rYK5DT>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

We are still working hard to end *Homelessness* for families experiencing homelessness by getting resources and materials out to programs and continuing to make connections between Head Start and the McKinney Vento Liaisons in the school districts.

The HSSCO and the Office of Early Childhood will continue to sponsor quarterly *EHS-CCP Informational meetings* in Arkansas based on program needs. The next meeting scheduled will be November 19th, whereby the focus will be on Developmentally Appropriate Practices. The team will be working with Curriculum Concepts and the Office of Early Childhood to plan and secure speakers for this event.



The HSSCO will launch the first *Racial Equity Website* in the State of Arkansas on Wednesday, November 13th at 10 a.m. Early childhood programs from across the state will meet virtually to examine this dynamic informational website. All EHS/Head Start programs that attend will receive a Racial Equity Toolkit to use in their program. It will be the greatest opportunity to network ever with a dynamic speaker, activities, and more! Please join us!

Racial Equity Website Launch

You are invited to a Zoom meeting.

When: Nov 13, 2024 10:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUlf-6prT8jEtPeffEw1AFXDBXJQw4vqoZM>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

The *Opioid and Substance Misuse* (OSM) advisory committee continues to work hard to address substance misuse in Arkansas. We have invited all early childhood programs to join us in this fight for prevention and recovery. We have such a great state team, and we have learned that we can conquer all things when we work together. We are currently in the planning phase for the 2025 Opioid and Substance Misuse Summit.

The *2024 School Readiness Summit* (SR) will focus on the process for Early Childhood LEADS in Arkansas and the work that comes from the LEARNs Act. We currently have 65 of the 75 counties in Arkansas covered under Cohorts one and two. Applications will be reviewed in October to identify Early Childhood LEADS for the remaining 10 counties. The 2024 SR Summit is scheduled for Friday, November 1st and will focus on specific topics under the LEARNs Act and Identifying screeners for the state. We are happy to announce that we will be adding the statewide Arkansas Imagination Library Local Programming Partners (LPPs) (formerly called Affiliates) as a partner to join the SR summit as part of the Early Childhood/Head Start and K-12 teams.

IV. State Partnerships and Activities

ACAAA & HSSCO UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:

Heart to Care Fashion Show - October 12, 2024

Poverty Summit – October 24, 2024

Other Collaborative Partners:

Collaborative Planning Grant

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 & Conference 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 - Apprentice and AECA Advisory Council

Arkansas Oral Health Coalition

Collaboration with a variety of Publishing Companies

New Director at Arkansas Advocacy – Keesha Smith

ACAAA State Interagency Partnership Verbal Agreement – Tomekia Moore

MV State Liaisons/Head Start Homeless Liaisons

Early Childhood Special Education/Head Start Disability Coordinators

Collaboration with State 619 Coordinator

Early Childhood LEADS – The Governor’s LEARNs Act

V. State, Regional, and National Boards

ARKANSAS HEAD START ASSOCIATION BOARD/INSTITUTE & ACTIVITIES

The AHSA is made up of four classes: Directors, Staff, Parents, and Friends. The AHSA meets every other month to oversee business for each of the classes. The Board is made up of twenty-four members, six from each of the four classes.

The AR Institute planning committee meets every other month in planning for the AHSA Annual Institute, addressing critical issues, inviting speakers based on needs, financial and other reports, and so much more. The Board approves all these activities.

The 2024 Institute was held on April 29 – May 3, 2024. We had some dynamic speakers and invited Khari Garvin, Director for the Office of Head Start, who did attend and met with directors and executive directors in a special meeting to listen to their concerns and share information on the Final Rule. This was the first year that the HSSCO director pulled all of the dynamic constituents on the state (Governor Sanders), regional (Kenneth Gilbert), and national (Khari Garvin) levels together. Mr. Garvin also visited local Head Start programs in Arkansas. It was a great institute! We also engaged in the following activities:

- Pre-Institute Session on Opioids and Substance Misuse
- 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.

AHSA/HSSCO takes pride in recognizing our outstanding program and degreed staff each year. They are recognized at a banquet in their honor each year at our state institute and are presented with a framed certificate. We appreciate our Head Start family and all their accomplishments! We are in the process of planning for the 2025 State Institute and a Directors' summit. The dates have not been approved for these two events, but we are working on dates for June and September. Recommendations will be made to the Board in November regarding speakers, registration cost, theme, awards, and so much more.

A strategic plan was developed by the HSSCO director and local programs. The association has several goals including assisting with building a stronger association and increasing attendance as well as the Dollar per Child raised in the state. We have committee chairs

and committees in place, and we look forward to all program staff participating and helping to complete all ten goals in the five-year strategic plan.



REGION VI HEAD START ASSOCIATION

The HSSCO director serves on the Region Six 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 other Region VI board members.
- Preparing for the NHSA Board and sub-committees and reporting to the Region VI Head Start and the State Association Boards.

The Region Six Head Start Association will have its conference for 2024 this year in Albuquerque, New Mexico during the week of October 21st. The Region 6 Conference Planning team has asked for each state to participate by conducting a session. The HSSCO will be providing information on “*Bias in the Workplace*” at the conference.

The HSSCO Director maintains contact with the *Dallas Regional Office* on several issues regarding upcoming meetings, the LEARN Act, Designation Renewal System, HSSCO work, and more. Joseph Laster is the assigned Program Specialist to Arkansas, Information and responses were given and things are moving forward positively. An update is provided to Mr. Laster on a regular basis when requested. Ongoing contact is also made with the OHS via monthly conference calls, one visit per year, and other contacts as needed.

OFFICE OF HEAD START (OHS)

This Notice of Proposed Rulemaking proposes new and enhanced changes to the Head Start Program Performance Standards in three principal areas: workforce support, mental health, and other quality improvements. The Office of Head Start (OHS) **announced significant changes** to the Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS) that would ensure fair compensation is a key component of high-quality early care and education. These proposed changes, if enacted, would stabilize the Head Start workforce and improve the quality of the comprehensive services that Head Start families count on. They would significantly increase compensation for many Head Start staff, integrate mental health services into Head Start programming more broadly, and otherwise enhance services to help Head Start programs effectively and equitably meet the evolving needs of the communities they serve.



OFFICE OF HEAD START

An Office of the Administration for Children & Families

Specifically, the proposed rule puts forward proposals for public comment that will improve wages, benefits, and job-quality for Head Start educators and other staff, as well as enhance program quality for children and families. The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking proposes changes designed to:

- Increase wages to align with preschool teachers in public school settings, to make progress toward full pay parity with elementary school teachers!
- Improve benefits for Head Start staff, including health insurance and paid leave, and enhance staff health and wellness support!
- Ensure better integration of mental health supports in program services!

- Improve child health and safety in program facilities!
- Improve family engagement services!
- Modernize the processes for programs to identify and meet community needs!

The OHS will be sponsoring some road shows centered around the New Rule in each region of the United States. The HSSCO director will attend the one for region 6 in October.

NATIONAL HEAD START ASSOCIATION (NHSA) Board

The HSSCO director serves as a Board member for the NHSA. The National Head Start Association's mission is to coalesce, inspire, and support the Head Start field as a leader in early childhood development and education. We hold the belief that every child, regardless of circumstances at birth, can succeed in life. We are the voice for more than 800,000 million children, 250,000 staff, and 1,600 grant recipients in the U.S.

The NHSA's vision is to lead—to be the untiring voice that will not be quiet until every income-eligible child can access the Head Start model of support for the whole child, the family and the community—and to advocate—to work for policy and institutional changes that ensure all children and families have what they need to succeed. We envision a future where:

- The Head Start voice is powerful and united.
- The Head Start field is a valued partner and resource to early childhood development and education.
- There is nonpartisan support for increased federal commitment to Head Start; and
- Our children are healthier, our families empowered, our communities stronger and more vibrant.

NHSA is the central association for the Head Start workforce and serves as the national voice for early childhood education and leadership on Capitol Hill.

Preparation is also being made for:

- The NHSA Leadership conference in September in Washington D.C.
- The 2024 National Parent Conference in December

VI. HSSCO Grant Re-Application

The *HSSCO Refunding application* will be completed and submitted in November 2024. The refunding application includes the application itself and a powerful logic model with goals and objectives, that identifies strategic planning for each year. The HSSCO will begin the fifth year of the five-year grant application in March 2025. Therefore in 2025, it will be time again for a new five-year grant application.

VII. Upcoming State, Regional, and National Events

ARKANSAS

- ~~AECA Conference – October 9-12, 2024, at the Wyndam in NLR~~
- ~~The Heart to Care Fashion Show – October 12, 2024, at Children’s Hall in LR~~
- The Poverty Summit -October 24, 2024, at ARVAC in Russellville
- Launching of the Racial Equity Website in Arkansas – November 13, 2024
- School Readiness Summit w/EC LEADS – November 1, 2024, at Children’s Hall
- Powerful Conversation w/ Fathers-Kevin Carnes – November 12, 2024, Virtual

REGIONAL

- Region 6 Head Start Association Conference – October 21-24, 2024, in NM
- Road show to address the Final Rule and HSPPS – See Schedule for Each Region
- REL Southwest Board Meeting – December 4-6, 2024 - New Orleans, LA

NATIONAL

- NAEYC Conference – November 6-12, 2024, in Anaheim, California
- The National Parent Conference – December 16-19, 2024, in San Diego. CA

For more information, please feel free to check out our website at www.arheadstart.org



Board Action Items: Board Pictures are still needed for the website and the Webmaster needs an updated Board representative list.

Report Attachments (if any): Attachment: *Racial Equity Information*

Signature(s): _____

Date: _____

This concludes my report. Thank You!



STEPPING UP TO AN EQUITABLE ARKANSAS

Home Who We Are Racial Equity Research & History of Slavery ELAN Definitions ELAN Professional Development Racial Equity Resources and Materials for Programs



Hello Everyone!



Welcome to the Arkansas Head Start State Collaboration Office's Racial Equity Website at <https://arkansaselan.org/>. The purpose of this website is to provide early childhood parents, teachers, and administrators with information and resources that will enhance their understanding of racial equity in early childhood programs in Arkansas.

Racial Equity is the condition that would be achieved if one's racial identity no longer predicted, in a statistical sense, how one fares. We are thinking about racial equity as one part of racial justice, and thus we also include work to address root causes of inequities, not just their manifestation. This includes elimination of policies, practices, attitudes, and cultural messages that reinforce differential outcomes by race or fail to eliminate them.

Simply putting racial equity on the federal agenda, the new administration has taken an enormous first step. Leaders everywhere could further elevate racial equity as a societal and institutional priority through:

- Crafting and clearly articulating an agenda that highlights the case for advancing racial equity in all parts of the economy and its benefits for everyone.
- Laying out a cohesive call to action-along with principles, clear goals, and metrics for enhancing racial equity to inspire and set the course for the public, private, and social sectors.

However, for now, in Arkansas, we have an informational **racial equity** website that provides key information and resources to help improve the work environment and the people who work in these environments.

For More Information:

Please contact Jackie Govan, Head Start State Collaboration Office Director at 501-371-0740 or email at jackie.govan@arheadstart.org.



Racial Equity Books for All Races



Selection of Culturally Diverse Music



Racial Equity Videos/ Movies to Use in the Classroom



Racial Equity Teacher Resources



Racial Equity Leadership Training/Research



Racial Equity Resources for Families



Racial Equity Research/History



Racial Equity Professional Development

