

REGION VI HEAD START ASSOCIATION
Quarterly Reporting Form



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Position: TXHSCO Director

Meeting Date: October 21, 2024

Organization: Texas Head Start State Collaboration Office

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Crystal Pena/Vice President, Paula Brown/Treasurer, HS/EHS Administrators, State Association Presidents

Reporting Information:

This report reflects the activities and engagement of the TXHSCO since the **July 29, 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.

Participates in meetings with the newly formed Texas Infant-Toddler Specialist Network (ITSN) Advisory Committee. The Children’s Learning Institute at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth Houston) currently houses the Texas Infant-Toddler Specialist Network (ITSN). Through a partnership of the Texas Workforce Commission and the Children’s Learning Institute, the Texas Infant-Toddler Specialist Network (ITSN) created a network to support the unique needs of infant and toddler professionals across Texas. The TXHSCO participated in a meeting on 8/21/24.

The purpose of the Texas Infant-Toddler Specialist Network (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.

The TXHSCO and the ITSN Team at CLI worked to align ITSN with the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework (ELOF). You can access the alignment using this link: [Early Head Start Alignment](#)

Participated in a quarterly meeting with the **Texas Early Learning Council** on August 2, 2024. Discussions included:

Family Navigation, Access & Engagement: Progress

Action 1.1.1: TEA, THSSCO, and TWC will simplify application practices by launching a common eligibility screener. Once it has been developed, it will launch on <https://earlychildhood.texas.gov/>

- Eligibility Screener development will start this quarter to support implementation during year three of the PDG-B5 Grant period.

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.

- Participated in a meeting on 8/22/24 with the Texas Education Agency/Early Childhood Program and Partnership Specialist to discuss data sharing, LEAs reporting with HS/EHS Partners, Needs Assessment Report Data, and data available via the TEA Website. We engaged in additional discussions on the Updated Head Start Program Performance Standards, the TXHSA Fall Conference, and the Region VI Workforce Summit in October.
- Participated in a meeting on August 29, 2024, with [First3Years](#) /Act Early Texas. The discussions included expanding conferences to more child care centers, developmental screening training, updated Head Start Performance Standards, Family Resource Center events, upcoming projects, unsubmitted data, etc.

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

- The [Texas Early Childhood Professional Development System](#) (TECPDS) Run and Maintain Funding Final Report for FY2024 has been published. The report covers the overall TECPDS enhancements, training, activities, records, data reports, etc. The report has not been published as it was recently published. Those interested in receiving a report can submit a request to the collaboration office.
- Participated in the Region VI Workforce Summit October 15-17 in Richardson, TX.
 - Collaboration Directors participated in a panel discussion on the state of the early childhood workforce and innovations and strategies that are in place to support the workforce in our respective states. Collaboration Directors also conducted an extension session and PowerPoint presentation for our states to share additional information.
- The TXHSCO continues to recruit HS/EHS participation in the following grants:
 - HS/EHS coaches to participate in the **Core Competencies for Coaching (C3PD) Professional Development Program** study cohort. The program focuses on building coaches' competency in specific behaviors and skills that can help teachers improve their classrooms' quality.
 - **Cultivating Awareness and Resilience in Education (CARE) Program**, recruitment for Cohort 3. It is designed to significantly reduce stress, burnout, and turnover among Head Start educators while promoting teachers' psychological and professional well-being. The CARE program aligns with the recent changes to Head Start program performance standards, particularly the integration of mental health services.
 - **Continuous Improvement for Teachers (CIT)** recruitment for the Fall 2024 cohort. 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.

Texas Early Learning Council meeting discussion on August 2, 2024:

Workforce Recruitment, Retention & Support Progress

Action 2.1.2: The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) will continue to fund scholarships and Registered Apprenticeships (RA) to cover the cost of CDA, associates, and bachelor's credentials or degrees.

- Registered Apprenticeship Program request for applications was published and is in the selection phase
- The Early Childhood Professional Development Scholarships grant has been awarded to Texas Association for the Education of Young Children (TXAEYC)

Action 2.4.2: TWC will continue to offer childcare business training and coaching and training about evidence-based staff retention strategies.

- Staff Retention Strategies request for applications was published and applications were due this week.

Action 2.4.6: Health & Human Services Commission (HHSC) ECI will continue to develop and make available training on the inclusion of children with special needs, including autism, and on managing challenging behavior in young children.

- So far in 2024, HHSC ECI programs have provided 53 trainings on inclusion
Planning and Creating Inclusive Classroom
- A new recorded webinar on autism
Best Practices for Including Children with Autism
- Presented by an HHSC ECI training specialist and Licensed Behavior Analyst
- New training series on managing challenging behavior
The Functions of Behavior, the first webinar in the 3-part series is now available
- Public access to recorded webinars: [ECI Archived Webinars](#)

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

- The TXHSCO participated in a quarterly meeting with the Texas 619 Coordinator on September 30. We discussed disabilities services relating to the updated HS Program Performance Standards.
- The TXHSCO participated in a meeting with the Texas Education Agency Deputy Director and the Partnership Coordinator on August 22. The discussion included the updates to the Head Start Program Performance Standards, Alignment of the TXHSCO with the ITSN, data sharing, and the state of the Texas ECE Workforce.

REGION VI PRIORITIES (Activities):

Home at Head Start Homeless Initiative:

- Participated in quarterly meetings with the Texas Education for Homeless Children & Youth State Coordinator on September 30. The overall goal is to support enrolling children/families experiencing homelessness to meet the OHS homeless initiative. We reviewed our joint partnership statement to support enrolling children experiencing homelessness.

- Participated in a Family Foundations Network Meeting on October 4, with Mr. William Scott, the Region the VI Training and Technical Assistance Family Engagement Specialist, to review information regarding the Office of HS Homeless Initiative to address enrolling children experiencing homelessness.

CONFERENCE /MEETINGS/ACTIVITIES & ENGAGEMENT PARTICIPATION:

Texas Early Learning Council meeting

October 18 | Virtual

National Fatherhood Summit

August 13-15 | Atlanta, GA

TXHSA Board Meeting

September 10 | El Paso, TX

Fall Leadership Institute

September 23-26 | Washington, DC

Region VI Office of Head Start – Workforce Summit

October 15-17 | Richardson, TX

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Texas Head Start Association Fall Conference

November 12-15 | Dallas, TX

NHSA Parent & Family Engagement Conference

December 16-19 | San Diego, CA

Board Action Items: None

Report Attachments (if any):

Signature(s): *Alferma Giles* **Date Submitted:** 10/16/24

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

