

REGION VI HEAD START ASSOCIATION
Quarterly Reporting Form



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Position: TXHSCO Director

Meeting Date: January 13, 2025

Organization: Texas Head Start State Collaboration Office

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President, Crystal Pena & Weldon Beard, Texas Head Start Association

Reporting Information:

This report reflects the activities and engagement of the TXHSCO since the **October 21, 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.

The TXHSCO participated in a meeting on 1/6 with the Texas Education Agency & Early Childhood Partners to begin the work on developing an Early Childhood Eligibility Screener, which is part of the PDG-B5 Grant. The goal is to develop one common application that will be suitable for parents to enroll their children in Head Start, State PreK, or Child care. The final document will be housed on the Early Childhood Texas Website. The launch date is May/2025. Meetings will continue monthly. The agenda included:

- Eligibility screener project background – progress to date, scope, timeline
- User experience – draft plan
- Roles and responsibilities – vendor, TWC program team, other partners
- Meeting cadence

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.

The TXHSCO presented a session on Early Childhood Texas Data and Its Impact on Head Start.

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

The TXHSCO worked with the Texas Early Childhood Professional Development System (TECPDS) Assistant Director to support TXHSA in using the Certificate Generation Tool at the fall conference and to support Head Start teachers & administrators in registering for Workforce Registry accounts. A total of 190 staff and program accounts were registered during the TXHSA Conference.

TEACH Advisory Meeting, November 22, 2024



Annual Report Highlights

- 630 scholarship recipients
- 60% first generation college students
- 77% persons of color
- Average GPA for Associate Scholarships - 3.44
- Average GPA for Bachelor Scholarships - 3.44
- 230 CDAs earned
- 17 Associate Degrees earned
- 5 Bachelor Degrees earned
- 11% increase in wages for Associates Degree recipients
- 18% increase in wages for Bachelor Degree recipients

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

The TXHSCO participated in a meeting with the Texas Health & Human Services Commission/Family Support Services Special Projects Manager to explore ways to better understand and utilize data related to Head Start programs, including identifying where programs are located, the types of data being collected, and how this information can inform strategic decisions and partnerships, learning how to engage with Head Start programs, priorities, and to explore opportunities for regular collaboration and meetings.

REGION VI (Activities):

The TXHSCO participated in the Region VI & VII Road Show in Dallas on October 29 & 30, 2024, on the HSPPS Rule Changes.

The TXHSCO is beginning the initial process of developing the template for the five-year Needs assessment and grant application for 2025-2030.

Other:

The TXHSCO submitted the Collaboration Directors' Annual Report for 2024.

The TXHSCO supported NHSA in selecting & confirming the "Texas Go Team" to represent the state with national issues, advocacy, legislation, etc.

The TXHSCO supported the planning of and participated in the Texas Head Start Association Conference, November 12-14, 2024 at the Hilton Anatole Hotel in Dallas. Highlights included:

- Memorial for Mr. Albert Black
- Real Talk Texas Sessions
- Blair Hyatt/NHSA Senior Director of State Affairs
- Jim Donnelly/CEO of Humanaut Health
- Audra Wilson/President & CEO of Shriver Center on Poverty Law
- Dr. Landon B. Mason Sr./NCRT Executive Director, Economic Improvement Council Community Agency

The conference was very successful, awesome, informative, and engaging! My compliments to President Beard and consultants HG Jones & Associates for a job well done!

Attended the session on **2025 and Beyond, Political & Policy Updates** at the Parent & Family Engagement Conference in San Diego with Tommy Sheridan. Some important highlights included:

Biggest Threats Facing Head Start

I. Withering on the vine

- A. Lack of workforce
- B. Lack of funding

II. Bureaucratic threats

- A. Over-regulation
- B. Congressional Review Act

III. Messaging in Project 2025

IV. Losing our bipartisan support

- A. Short-term success - long-term failure

V. 'Chilling effect'

VI. Block grants (Would mean 50+ versions of Head Start – some lacking parent/family engagement or comprehensive services). Block granting must be avoided!!!

Uncertain times call for clear-eyed scenario planning, constant listening and dialogue, and the ability to pivot on a moment's notice. Head Start has done this time and time again over the past 60 years—adapting, innovating, and keeping children safe throughout the pandemic was no small achievement—and this year will be no different.

Why it matters: While the potential for budget cuts and external threats are likely to be hanging in the air for much of 2025, NHSA's government affairs team has been hard at work preparing. We'll need to be highly strategic and even more engaged with Congress, both here in Washington, D.C., and back home in congressional districts, with a special focus on the key decision-makers. Our core strategy includes:

- mobilizing our grassroots power,
- cultivating non-partisan support,
- leaning on our Hill relationships, and
- staying united as a Head Start community

CONFERENCE /MEETINGS/ACTIVITIES & ENGAGEMENT PARTICIPATION:

Texas Head Start Association Fall Conference

November 12-15 | Dallas, TX

NHSA Parent & Family Engagement Conference

December 16-19 | San Diego, CA

UPCOMING EVENTS:

TXHSA Board Meeting, Directors Roundtable & Eligibility and Admissions Compliance Bootcamp

January 21-24 | El Paso, TX

ERSEA Certification Series – February- June, 2025

Head Start Collaboration Directors’ Meeting

March 4-6 | Alexandria, VA

NHSA Conference

May 19-22 | Columbus, OH

TXHSA Summer Conference

June 23-24 | South Padre Island, TX

Fall Leadership Institute

September 16-18 | DC

Region VI/TXHSA Association Fall Conference

October 21-23 | Dallas, TX

Parent & Family Engagement Conference

December 9-11 | Orlando, FL

Board Action Items: None

Report Attachments (if any):

Signature(s): *Alferma Giles* **Date Submitted:** 1/7/26

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

