

Our vision is to be recognized as the premiere regional association in the nation.

Region VII Head Start Association

a bi-annual publication

UPDATE

Fall 2005 volume 2

The Region VII Head Start Association promotes and supports the effectiveness of Head Start Associations and members to ensure quality services for children and families.

R7HSA Calendar Upcoming Events

Board Meetings

January 10, 2006
March 14, 2006
May 23, 2006
October 23, 2006 (tentative)

R7HSA Leadership Conference

May 24 - 26, 2006 Hyatt Regency Crown Center

R7HSA Directors Caucus

October 24 - 25, 2006 (tentative)
Location TBA

Association Contact Information

R7HSA
Donna Veatch
Executive Director
P.O. Box 345
Butler, MO 64730-0345
Phone: 816-537-7801
Fax: 816-537-7802
R7HSA@aol.com
www.r7hsa.com

R7HSA Board of Directors

President	Korey Hensley, KS
Vice President	Kathleen Simonson, MO
Treasurer	Mary Dusek, NE
Secretary	Marty Roberts, KS

Board Members

Bonnie Calvert, IA
Keri Griswold, IA
Kellie Cervene, IA
Rachael Capsey, KS
Kay Mitchell, KS
Jim McLaughlin, MO
Cynthia Campbell, MO
Stacey Pagluica, MO
Suzan Obermiller, NE
Delena Gillam, NE
Ryan Smith, NE

Frank Fuentes, Acting Associate Commissioner of Head Start Bureau talks with R7HSA Representatives



Frank Fuentes, Acting Associate Commissioner of the Head Start Bureau, spoke at the NHSA 2005 Leadership Institute recently held in Washington, DC. Region VII representatives meet and greet Mr. Fuentes during an evening reception. Pictured from left to right Suzan Obermiller, Director Rep, NE; Kay Mitchell, Staff Rep, KS; Mr. Fuentes; Mary Dusek, Friend Rep, NE; and Cynthia Campbell, Parent Rep, MO.



U.S. Congressional Representative Delegation of Each State

IOWA

Senator Charles E. Grassley (R- IA)
Senator Tom Harkin (D- IA)
Representative Jim Nussle (R - 01)
Representative James A. Leach (R - 02)
Representative Leonard L. Boswell (D - 03)
Representative Tom Latham (R - 04)
Representative Steve King (R - 05)

web

<http://grassley.senate.gov/webform.htm>
<http://harkin.senate.gov/contact/contact.cfm>
<http://nussle.house.gov/email.htm>
<http://www.house.gov/leach/email.htm>
rep.boswell.ia03@mail.house.gov
tom.latham@mail.house.gov
<http://www.house.gov/writerep/>

KANSAS

Senator Sam Brownback (R- KS)
Senator Pat Roberts (R- KS)
Representative Jerry Moran (R - 01)
Representative Jim Ryun (R - 02)
Representative Dennis Moore (D - 03)
Representative Todd Tiahrt (R - 04)

web

<http://brownback.senate.gov/CMEmailMe.cfm>
http://roberts.senate.gov/e-mail_pat.html
<http://www.house.gov/moranks01/hearingfromyou.htm>
<http://www.house.gov/writerep/>
<http://www.house.gov/writerep/>
http://www.house.gov/tiahrt/e-mail_todd.htm

MISSOURI

Senator Christopher S. Bond (R- MO)
Senator Jim Talent (R- MO)
Representative William Lacy (Bill) Clay, Jr. (D - 01)
Representative Todd Akin (R - 02)
Representative Russ Carnahan (D - 03)
Representative Ike Skelton (D - 04)
Representative Emanuel Cleaver, II (D - 05)
Representative Samuel B. Graves (R - 06)
Representative Roy Blunt (R - 07)
Representative Jo Ann Emerson (R - 08)
Representative Kenny C. Hulshof (R - 09)

web

<http://bond.senate.gov/contact/contactme.cfm>
<http://talent.senate.gov/Contact/default.cfm?pagemode=1>
<http://www.house.gov/clay/contact.htm>
<http://www.house.gov/akin/emailtodd.html>
<http://www.house.gov/carnahan/contact.shtml>
<http://www.house.gov/skelton/zipauth.htm>
<http://www.house.gov/cleaver/IMA/issue.htm>
<http://www.house.gov/graves/email.htm>
<http://www.blunt.house.gov/Contact.aspx>
<http://www.house.gov/emerson/contact/>
<http://hulshof.house.gov/Contact.aspx>

NEBRASKA

Senator Chuck Hagel (R- NE)
Senator Ben Nelson (D- NE)
Representative Jeff Fortenberry (R - 01)
Representative Lee Terry (R - 02)
Representative Thomas W. Osborne (R - 03)

web

<http://hagel.senate.gov/index.cfm?FuseAction=Offices.Contact>
<http://bennelson.senate.gov/contact/email.cfm>
<http://fortenberry.house.gov/EmailJeff/>
<http://www.house.gov/formleetterry/IMA/issue.htm>
<http://www.house.gov/writerep/>

Congressional Web Sites

www.congress.org

www.senate.gov

www.house.gov

State Governor Contact Information

IOWA

Governor Thomas J. Vilsak
Office of the Governor

State Capitol
Des Moines, IA 50319
(515) 281-5211 (Voice)
(515) 281-6611 (FAX)

KANSAS

Governor Kathleen Sebelius
Office of the Governor

Capitol, 300 SW 10th Ave., Ste. 212S
Topeka, KS 66612-1590
1-877-KSWORKS (1-877-579-6757)

MISSOURI

Governor Matt Blunt
Office of the Governor
Room 216, State Capitol Building
Jefferson City MO 65101
Telephone: (573) 751-3222

NEBRASKA

Governor Dave Heineman
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 94848
Lincoln, NE 68509-4848
Phone: 402-471-2244

RVII NHSA Representatives Make Hill Visits

Region VII National Head Start Association Representatives make Hill visits during the Fall 2005 National Head Start Association Leadership Conference.

NHSA Reps Kay Mitchell, Cynthia Campbell, Mary Dusek and Sue Obermiller visit over 15 congressional offices while in Washington D.C.



Cynthia Campbell visiting Senator Kit Bond's office.



Kay Mitchell, Oakley, KS, and Donna Veatch, RVII HSA, visiting Kansas Representative Jerry Moran's office.

Where is Region VII with Universal Pre-K?

Iowa

The state currently has state-funded preschool which only serves about 2500-3000 children. A new tuition scholarship passed in the last legislative session that provides state money (\$4.6 million) for any type of preschool. Not sure how many additional children that will provide as it is still being distributed through our Community Empowerment system.

There are proposals before the governor at present to fund a special earmark to LEA state monies to pay for LEAs to provide preschool dollars. The initial amount discussed is \$12 million, and the model allows for collaboration outside the LEA with community-based preschools. The funding will be for 2-1/2 days a week of classroom time. The governor is considering these proposals at present and will decide if this appears and in what form in his final budget recommendations to the 2006 state legislature.

The trend is clearly toward expansion of pre-K services but the model for delivery is not clear. The governor has made a goal for the past three years to work toward 90 percent of all Iowa's 3 and 4 year-olds to have access to a high quality preschool experience. The 03-04 data put the state at 18.5 percent. Meanwhile, a private non-profit organization in the state is working closely with the national PreK [now] effort, focused on lobbying for expanded services. - Tom Rendon, IA Head Start State Collaboration

Kansas

In the Kansas Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Plan, Goal 3 is to develop a comprehensive and coordinated early childhood care and education system in Kansas encompassing Birth - 5 (early care and education services). Strategy 3.2.2 is to promote universal community-based, school-based, and faith-based preschool programs. The strategy is to seek a funding increase in fiscal year 2007.

However, it should be noted that our governor [Kathleen Sebelius (D)] is more interested in promoting universal all day, every day, voluntary kindergarten. - Carolyn Weinhold, KS Head Start-State Collaboration

Missouri

The Collaboration Office has been working with DESE on preliminary stages of a universal access to preschool plan with a group of stakeholders called the Missouri Early Childhood Taskforce Team. The team is comprised of stakeholders from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, School District Superintendents, the Missouri HS State Collaboration Office, and recently, representatives from Department of Health and Senior Services-Bureau of Child Care Licensure and the Department of Social Services. The Collaboration Office is continuing to work with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to ensure all of the stakeholders are included in the discussion. The plan is for superintendents to host regional superintendent meetings around the state in November to commend the virtues of early childhood programming and provide information on how their school districts have incorporated innovative early childhood programs in their schools. From this we hope to drum up the kind of support it will take to get state funding. We will work with the legislature next session to create language for a universal access preschool program (meaning that everyone who chooses preschool for their children will have access to quality programs, whether through public school programming, Head Start, or private child care). The Team is talking about services for children birth to five but the birth to three category has not received enough attention thus far. - Stacey Owsley, MO Head Start State Collaboration

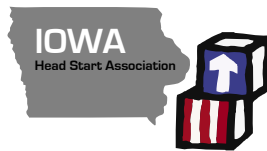
Nebraska

At this time, Nebraska has a little over \$3,000,000 to provide grant funds to school districts to serve preschoolers OR infants/toddlers. Our Department of Education philosophy is to allow local communities to determine what age children they feel would benefit from services. Having said that, however, we have very few grant programs that serve infants and toddlers.

Recent legislation also provided for school districts with early childhood grant programs serving preschoolers to "roll over" the four-year old count into the school aid formula. It doesn't matter whether or not the four-year old is a Head Start child or verified for special education services, the school aid formula would kick in. This is of benefit financially to school districts and will mean an increased funding level in the long run for serving preschool children. As with any public funding, it is subject to legislative budget decisions. - Eleanor Kirkland, NE Head Start-State Collaboration

State Association/Collaboration Office Information

- IA** Tom Rendon, Director
Iowa State Collaboration Project
Grimes State Office Bldg.
Des Moines, IA 50319-0146
Phone: (515) 242-6024
tom.rendon@iowa.gov
- IA** Dianne Casto, Association President
1190 Briarstone Drive
PO Box 1627
Mason City, IA 50402
Phone: 641-494-1891 ext 35 • Fax: 641-494-1894
dcasto@nicao-online.org



- KS** Mary Baskett, Executive Director
Kansas Head Start Association
22521 W. 53rd Terrace • Shawnee, KS 66226
Phone: 913-422-1700 • Fax: 913-422-5002
mbaskett@kc.rr.com or khsa@kc.rr.com
- KS** Shirley Theurer, Association President,
Director
Futures Unlimited
2410 North A., Wellington, KS 67152
Phone: 620-326-8909 • Fax: 620-326-7796
shirleyt@futures-unlimited.org
- KS** Carolyn Weinhold, Director
Kansas Head Start Collaboration Office
915 Harrison, 681W Docking Office Bldg.
Topeka, KS 66612
Phone: 785-368-6354
CRZW@srskansas.org



- MO** The Donna Veatch Group, Executive
Services
Missouri Head Start Association
P.O. Box 308, Butler, MO 64730
Phone: 816-537-7801 fax: 816-537-7802
email: moheadstart@aol.com
- MO** Betty Robinson, Association President
YWCA of Metro St. Louis
1911 Beltway Drive, St. Louis, MO 63114
Phone: (314) 427-4940, fax: (314) 427-7986
email: brobinson@headstart.ywcastlouis.org
- MO** Stacey Owsley, Director
Missouri Head Start State Collaboration Office
1400 Rock Quarry Road • Columbia, MO 65211-3280
Phone: 573-884-0650 • Fax: 573-884-0598
owsleys@missouri.edu



- NE** Eleanor Kirkland, Director
Nebraska Head Start State Collaboration
301 Centennial Mall So., P.O. Box 94987
Lincoln, NE 68509
Phone: 402-471-3501
kirkland@nde.state.ne.us
- NE** Deb Ross, Association President
Child & Family Development Program
123 Marian Road
Hastings, NE 68901
Phone: 402.462.4187 ext 148
Fax: 402.462.4568
dross@hshn.org



Ex-Officio Board Members

Donna Veatch

Region VII Head Start Association

Stacey Owsley

Missouri Head Start State Collaboration Office

Carolyn Weinhold

Kansas Head Start Collaboration Office

Tom Rendon

Iowa State Collaboration Project

Eleanor Kirkland

Nebraska Head Start State Collaboration

Mary Baskett, Executive Director

Kansas Head Start Association

Clarence Small

Administration for Children and Families: Region VII

Nancy Schwachter

Caliber/ Region VII TA System

Board Outcomes

- Leadership in the region and states is strong and effective, contributing to child and family success
- R7HSA is financially solvent and accountable
- R7HSA and all four state associations are strong and effective
- Public policy positively impacts children and families
- R7HSA Members, partners and affiliates value their partnership with each other

Committees

- Advocacy Committee
- Executive Committee
- Partnership/Membership Committee
- Professional Development Committee

ACF Regional Office

Region VII Administration for Children & Families

601 East 12th Street, Room 276
Kansas City, MO 64106-2808
Phone: (816) 426-3981
Fax: (816) 426-2888

Linda K. Lewis
Regional Administrator

Pat Brown
Director of Office of State, Tribal, and Community Operations

Sheila Ewing
Teams Administrator, Data Management, Technology, & funding

Lynda Bitner
Team Administrator, Monitoring, T/TA, Partnerships

**For information on ACF Initiatives,
visit the following websites:**

Head Start Bureau:
www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/hsb

Additional Head Start Information:
www.headstartinfo.org



TA System

Caliber/Region VII Technical Assistance System: The Key to Continuous Quality Improvement

Nancy Schwachter, Program Manager
601 East 12th Street, Room 276
Kansas City, MO 64106
Phone: 816-426-2889 Fax: 816-426-2888

The Region VII TA System is entering the third year of operation. The first year was developmental in nature with the introduction and development of many internal procedures. The second year showed a more specific focus and refinement of services. Greater collaboration with the Regional Office has resulted in an enhanced partnership which focuses on continuous quality improvement with the grantees, as well as internally.

The Region VII TA team is committed to supporting "better outcomes for children, families, and their communities." We understand the critical need for TA and we are hopeful that all grantees understand and realize how critical and helpful TA is to programs.

With reauthorization of the Head Start Act pending for this year, we will continue to see the emergence of new ideas and initiatives to improve the school readiness of Head Start participants and improve program effectiveness. HS/EHS programs will need to meet the challenges of the last decade as well as the emerging opportunities of the next decade as the program continues to grow both in size and scope. Head Start is a vital, active program that is constantly adapting in response to changes in the community and target population, emerging research, increased responsibilities, elevated expectations, and improved technologies. In the coming year, the TA System will continue to build capacity of HS/EHS grantees to improve program performance ensuring the delivery of high quality, comprehensive services to Region VII's neediest children.



CALIBER

Region VII

