

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

Region VII Head Start Association

a bi-annual publication

UPDATE

March, 2005 volume 1

MISSION: 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 Events Calendar

Board Meetings

January 10 & 11

March 14 & 15

May 9* & 10**

* Board Meeting

** Strategic Planning Meeting

May 31

(in conjunction with the
Annual Conference)

October 24

R7HSA Leadership Conference

June 1-3, 2005

Hyatt Regency Hotel

Kansas City

R7HSA Directors Caucus

October 25 & 26, 2005

Location TBA

Association Contact Information

R7HSA

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Edward Zigler, Ph.D. to be special guest at R7HSA Conference June 3, 2005



Dr. Edward Zigler, well known as a founding father of Head Start, will be the honored guest and featured closing speaker at the upcoming Region VII Head Start Association Leadership Conference 40th Anniversary Celebration Luncheon on Friday, June 3rd. Mark your calendar now as you will not want to miss this rare opportunity.

State Conference Dates:

IA

Nov. 8 & 9, 2005

Ames, Iowa

KS

Nov. 17 & 18, 2005

Wichita, KS

MO

Feb. 2 - 4, 2005

Lake Ozark, MO

NE

Nov. 3 & 4, 2005

Grand Island, NE



R7HSA Board of Directors

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Parent IA (open)
Kay Mitchell, KS

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Donna Veatch, Executive Director
Region VII Head Start Association

Darin Preis, Director
Missouri Head Start State Collaboration Office

Stacey Owsley, Assistant Director
Missouri Head Start State Collaboration Office

Carolyn Weinhold, Director
Kansas Head Start Collaboration Office

Tom Rendon, Director
Iowa State Collaboration Project

Eleanor Kirkland, Director
Nebraska Head Start State Collaboration

Mary Baskett, Executive Director
Kansas Head Start Association

Clarence Small, Missouri Liaison
Administration for Children and Families: Region VII

Nancy Schwachter, Program Manager
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

- Leadership Committee
- Advocacy Committee
- Finance Committee
- Partnership/Membership Committee
- Executive Committee

State Association/Collaboration Office Information

NE Eleanor Kirkland, Director
Nebraska Head Start State Collaboration
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NE Suzan Obermiller, Association President
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Featured State Initiative:

Advocacy Folders for each Senator which includes updated Nebraska Head Start Data



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IA Dianne Casto, Association President
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PO Box 1627 (zip 50402)
Mason City, IA (use zip with address from above)
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dcasto@nicao-online.org

Featured State Initiative:

IHSA will design and provide professional development opportunities for its members, partners and the wider early childhood community that address their training needs and provide adequate remuneration for the association.



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Featured State Initiative:

EPSDT parent education program empowers parents to partner with their child's health care provider to ensure complete EPSDT exam and followup.



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Featured State Initiative:

MIS System Development: A Head Start Collaboration Office supplemental grant is funding an initiative to modify the Community Action Agency Management Information System to meet the needs of Head Start programs throughout the state.



ACF Regional Office

Region VII Administration for Children & Families

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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

Upcoming Regional Office Event(s)

Regional Office plans to hold the 2nd Annual Seminar for Quality Assurance and Compliance targeting HS programs to be reviewed in 2006. The training will be scheduled in the fall of 2005.

ACF Local Initiative Risk Assessment Meetings (RAM)

The internal RAM process requires staffing each grantee at least once over the course of the funding year. Grantees being reviewed will be staffed at least twice (Pre and Post PRISM). The RAM process is still a product in production and it's constantly being changed and redefined. Regional Office plans to unveil the final RAM system when it is defined at state association meetings.

ACF National Focus Initiative Head Start Management Initiative

Main objectives:

- 1) Improve the monitoring system to address under-enrollment, executive and administrative personnel compensation, erroneous payments, child outcomes, and grantee compliance with regulations.
- 2) Improve the training and technical assistance system

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

Head Start Bureau: www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/hsb
Additional Head Start Information: www.headstartinfo.org



CALIBER

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

Nancy Schwachter, Program Manager
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The R7 Head Start Training and Technical Assistance System provides regional management, administrative, and content-specific training and technical support for Head Start and Early Head Start grantees. As with any 'new' system we have had our challenges however we have overcome these challenges and have grown by leaps and bounds as a team, as a support to both the R7 grantees and regional office, and as a known entity in the field. The R7 T/TA system provides ongoing, on-site support to grantees in the following areas:

- Compliance with the Head Start Program Performance Standards in program services, program governance, and program management
- Annual T/TA plans as well as Quality Improvement Plans when needed
- Identification of TA resources, qualified consultants and organizations, and technical assistance to providers
- Training and technical assistance services in areas of identified need
- Collaboration among early childhood providers.

The R7 T/TA System is committed to supporting Head Start grantees to develop self sufficiency within their programs and provide consistently high quality services to all Head Start/Early Head Start children and families in Region 7. We are about Continuous Quality Improvement for our grantees and for our TA System.

