

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

# Region VII Head Start Association

a bi-annual publication

## UPDATE

Summer/Fall 2006

**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 Upcoming Events

#### Board Meetings

October 23, 2006  
January 9, 2007  
March 13, 2007  
May 15, 2007  
August 7, 2007  
October 22, 2007

#### Region VII Webinar

***Integrating Technology into Your Daily Routine***  
October 16, 2006

#### 2006 Region VII Director's Caucus

##### ***The Dance of Leadership***

October 24 & 25, 2006  
Holiday Inn at the Plaza  
Kansas City, MO

#### 2007 Region VII Leadership Conference

##### ***Empowering Leadership***

May 16—18, 2007  
Westin Crown Center Hotel  
Kansas City, MO

### R7HSA Board of Directors

President	Korey Hensley, KS
Vice President	Kathleen Simonson, MO
Treasurer	Mary Dusek, NE
Secretary	Suzan Obermiller, NE

#### Board Members

Bonnie Calvert, IA	Keri Griswold, IA
Sherry Soard, IA	Kellie Cervene, IA
Jim Chisham, KS	Rebecca Mayginnnes, KS
Kay Mitchell, KS	Mike McDonald, MO
Lupe Ochoa, NE	Ryan Smith, NE



**Robin D. Johnson, Ph.D.**

**President, EQUEST Inc.**

**Instructor, Head Start--  
Johnson & Johnson Manage-  
ment Fellows Program to  
bring keynote presentation at  
the Region VII Director's  
Caucus in October.**

Robin Denise Johnson is an executive coach, author, and educator in the field of multicultural leadership development. Her company, EQUEST, Inc., provides keynotes, workshops, education and leadership coaching in (Dance of) leadership styles, diversity, and multicultural awareness.

Author of *Dance of Leadership*, (Novus Publishing, 2005) and numerous articles. Dr. Johnson lectures on leadership, diversity, and organizational behavior worldwide. Dr. Johnson teaches in the UCLA Leadership Institutes for Women, African Americans, Head Start Directors, and Multicultural Communications executives.

The 2006 Caucus is fast approaching! Room block closes September 23rd. If you have not done so, please submit your registration soon. Complete Caucus information and registration forms are available on our website at [www.r7hsa.com](http://www.r7hsa.com)



### Region VII Webinars

In an effort to support program training needs at a local level with a high quality on-site training opportunity, Region VII Head Start Association is proud to introduce this new and exciting service in bringing technology and training right to your desk. R7HSA recently conducted their first webinar, "*Managing Employee Performance*" with presenter Robert Meyer facilitating the two hour session. Over 150 participants attended the event from more than 30 locations across the four state region. One director shared that their program designed an entire training day based on the webinar. A working lunch followed the presentation and an opportunity for staff to discuss what they had learned from the training session and what they planned to "take back" to their respective work sites and implement. Action plans for "transferring the learning" were put into place.

Through the *Region VII Head Start Association Coordinated Training Think Tank* and input from state associations, training needs of our region are continually assessed and identified. Trainings will be designed to meet the specific needs and offered through the webinar service. A training needs survey will soon be available via the Region VII website for Head Start Directors and staff to make training requests for consideration to the Think Tank Group.

You can access upcoming training events via the Region VII website at [www.r7hsa.com](http://www.r7hsa.com). Webinar registration is easy and based on a per site/phone line fee. Email confirmation will be sent to each registering site as identified through the on-line registration form with instructions, passcodes, and the toll-free call in number. Plans are underway to offer credit card acceptance for payment in the future. Watch for upcoming announcements regarding training via the web and additional payment options as they become available!



### GoToMeeting™

Region VII Head Start Association is pleased to offer GoToMeeting™ online meeting services to our state associations as a benefit of Regional Association membership. The GoToMeeting™ combines traditional conference call services with a web-based, visual meeting allowing attendees to view, share and collaborate in an interactive environment as if they were meeting face-to-face. Beginning August 7th GoToMeeting™ is now available to MAC users in addition to traditional PC users.

Common uses for GoToMeeting™ include committee meetings, technical assistance, training design and project collaboration. Feedback from state associations indicates that the service is being utilized more and more as organizers and attendees become familiar with the technology and find creative ways to implement GoToMeeting™.

## Upcoming Training Opportunities

### Region VII Webinar

#### ***Integrating Technology into Your Daily Routine***

October 15, 2006      1:00 pm—3:00 pm

Facilitator: April Noe, Executive Assistant, The Donna Veatch Group

Registration information available at: [www.r7hsa.com](http://www.r7hsa.com)

### Region VII Director's Caucus

#### ***The Dance of Leadership***

October 24 & 25, 2006    Kansas City, MO

Keynote Presenter: Dr. Robin Denise Johnson

Registration information available at: [www.r7hsa.com](http://www.r7hsa.com)

## Health Initiatives Across Region VII

### Iowa

Early Childhood Maternal Depression Training: At least five of the accepted trainers for promoting the use of a new maternal depression screen are from Head Start or Community Action Agencies. Those individuals include: Jane Heithoff (Community Opportunities, Inc), Kimberly Tweedy (Drake University Head Start), Marlene Hoelker, (Community Action of Siouxland), Jana Perrin and Darlyne Yagla (Mid-Iowa Community Action). The total of 25 trainers began training on June 23 and conducted some preliminary work with their own agencies. A second training on September 29 will follow. Regional trainings open to all agencies will begin in October. This training is for screening mothers of all young children, not only mothers of infants and toddlers. For more information, visit the website for this project at [http://www.state.ia.us/earlychildhood/Maternal\\_Depression\\_Training/index.html](http://www.state.ia.us/earlychildhood/Maternal_Depression_Training/index.html).

Iowa HSSCO received a copy of the 2006 Public Sector Immunization Assessment and its School and Child Care audit reports. Only 11 counties had Head Start immunization rates lower than 95 percent, up from 13 counties in 2004-05. Overall, Head Start had a state rate of 97.9 percent compared with child care whose rate was 95 percent. Kindergarten school rate was 99 percent. For more information on the audit, contact Tom Rendon.

The Iowa WIC program has a new data management system that uses an Internet interface to manage its client services. The new program provides for easy data entry and access of data. The system will allow for WIC checks to be provided to families for a three-month period rather than having them come in to the WIC office very month to pick up the checks. The system also allows for a myriad of data trend reports.

Iowa's Head Start/Early Head Start Oral Health Initiative has drafted a new work plan for 2006-07. The plan includes an effort to increase fluoride varnish activities among grantees by encouraging cooperation between local dental hygienists and Title V agencies. The state legislature agreed to partial fund the new oral health plan, I-smiles, that will place a dental hygienist at every Title V agency. These hygienists will provide an initial assessment of children, preventive services and parent education. Based on that assessment will set up an appointment with a dentist for an exam and for treatment either on routine schedule (annual exam) or within six months, three weeks or immediately based on the presence of signs of oral disease. We will also be working with a local Iowa Head Start grantee to participate in an effort to disseminate Xylitol to Head Start mothers to see if that has an effect on oral disease among children beginning this September. If the efforts prove successful we may expand to other programs. The Xylitol is being made available by Delta Dental of Iowa. Finally, leftover flip charts from Healthy Smiles will be available for purchase. Interested programs can contact the Iowa Head Start Association.

### Kansas

The Health Care Institute (HCI), a current initiative in KS, is modeled after the UCLA/Johnson & Johnson project to help parents and guardians learn how to treat minor illness and injury instead of going to the ER or health clinic. The book used in the training is "What To Do When Your Child Gets Sick" and is written at the 5th grade level with many pictures.

Kansas is in their second wave of training Head Start programs and may expand beyond Head Start in 2007. KHSA has raised funds from foundations and corporations to support the project and Kansas Medicaid has matched those dollars.

KHSA and Marcia Manter have been instrumental in addressing oral health in Early Head Start and Head Start. There is an excellent working relationship with the oral health office at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment as well as ongoing involvement with the Oral Health Kansas (OHK) on initiatives and advocacy.

HSSCO has been involved in the Interagency Coordinating Council monthly meetings for 5 or 6 years. HSSCO helps fund parent involvement on the Council and the annual ICC conference.

HSSCO has helped organize regional meetings to promote the use of a Social-Emotional Screening Tool (SEST) developed in California, but revised for Kansas by a Ph.D. in psychology. Community teams are encouraged to attend the training to learn about the tool and develop or update MOU's for serving young children with mental health needs.

HSSCO is working on a planning committee for the KHSA annual conference focusing on Mental Health. Head Start and partners will learn more about the social-emotional needs of young children on November 17th, 2006 in Salina.

## Health Initiatives Across Region VII

### Missouri

Missouri Preventive Services: Data Surveillance Program

MHSSCO is working closely with the Department of Health and Senior Services, Office of Primary and Rural Health Division to roll out the Missouri Preventive Services Program in Early Head Start and Head Start programs throughout the State. Other team members include the Missouri Coalition for Oral Health and the Missouri Head Start Association.

The Missouri Preventive Dental Services Program is a community-based, systemic approach to population-based prevention of oral disease. The intent of the Program is to provide an evaluation of the state of oral health/disease in the community's children, provide referrals for immediate/emergency dental care, and provide educational and preventive dental services to the target population. Components of the program include:

- A standardized oral health screening of the children in the community. Screening results are forwarded to the DHSS Oral Health Program for analysis and programs will also receive results
- Oral health educational information and instruction, an electric toothbrush, and an application of fluoride varnish at the time of screening
- An additional screening, varnish treatment, and educational intervention within a four-month period for children identified as high-risk

Stages of the statewide rollout include: a) pilot the project in 1 Head Start program (summer 2006); b) conduct a planning peer to peer session with all EHS/HS programs in Fall 2006; c) roll out program to programs currently participating in the fluoride rinse program; d) roll out program to the remaining HS programs in late 2006-early 2007.

### Nebraska

Together for Kids and Families work continues. The implementation plan is completed and has been approved by the HHSS Policy Cabinet. HSSCO adopted the plan for the next three years as part of the HSSCO five-year grant proposal. HSSCO goals were aligned with TFKF Implementation Plan and were aligned with HSSCO priority areas to support ongoing development in early childhood systems integration. HSSCO staff will assist with the ongoing Data Work Group to support the development of recommendations for early childhood data management.

Safe Sleep Initiative recommendations were finalized and information disseminated to Early Head Start and Head Start grantees.

HSSCO director continues to participate in the federal Systems Integration Grant for Behavioral Health activities. HSSCO is represented on the Early Childhood subcommittee and recently represented the Nebraska Department of Education at the Steering Committee where overarching outcomes were drafted.

HSSCO continues to be part of the Nebraska Newborn Hearing Screening Advisory Committee which meets quarterly.

Nebraska received an ASTDD oral health grant to support a Head Start Oral Health Forum. A planning committee has been established. The Forum was held August 8, 2006, at the University of Nebraska Medication Center Dental College in Lincoln, with distance sites in Hastings and Gering. Dr. Larry Walker, Region VII Oral Health Consultant, UNMC Dental College faculty, HHSS Dental Director, NeHSA, *Together for Kids and Families*, and HSSCO were represented in planning and are working on Forum follow-up activities, materials for sustainable training and technical assistance efforts including web-based material for programs. In addition to sustainability efforts, the Forum provided an opportunity for Head Start Health Coordinators and other key staff to develop action plans to address oral health needs in their service area.

Positive Behavioral Support. HSSCO director attended Positive Behavioral Support event. Omaha Public Schools, Head Start, Educare of Omaha, and Central Nebraska Community Service participated.

HSSCO recently participated in the "*Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies*" committee meeting to develop promotional materials for the Helpline. The project, administered out of HHSS Family Health Division, offers a helpline answered by nurses to provide information and referral support and services to healthy mothers, including pregnant women of all ages and their young children.

## Head Start's Reorganization

Excerpts from PowerPoint presentation at the NHSA Conference May 10, 2006 by Wade F. Horn, Ph.D. Assistant Secretary for Children and Families in the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



### Why is ACF being reorganized?

The reorganization will enhance the ability of the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) to work with the States, local governments, and Head Start grantees to deliver high-quality services and benefits to children and families in need.

### What will the reorganization mean for Head Start?

Head Start will be elevated to a "direct-report" relationship to the Assistant Secretary, consistent with most other ACF programs.

The realignment of our regional offices will link Head Start regional staff directly to program administrators in the central office.

Both changes will reduce administrative layers, expedite decision making, and improve communication.

The reorganization means that ACF will be better equipped to serve millions of children and families by reducing administrative layers, decreasing the amount of time needed to reach and implement decisions, and improving communication between the regional and central offices.

There are three parts to the plan:

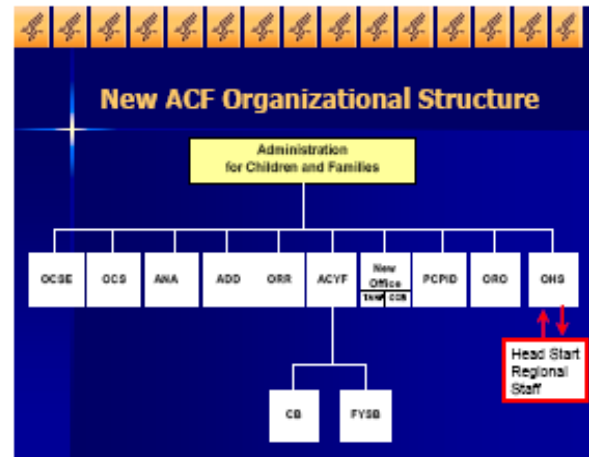
- The realignment of our regional offices to create direct access with central program staff.
- The elevation of the Office of Head Start to a direct-reporting relationship with the Assistant Secretary
- And the consolidation of the Child Care Bureau with our TANF operations into an enlarged Office of Family Assistance

### The Regional Realignment

Program specialists will report directly to program office officials.

### When will this take effect?

We will move carefully and quickly, but certainly the reorganization will be done no later than the end of the fiscal year.



## Head Start Acronyms List

Complete listing is available at <http://www.headstartinfo.org/infocenter/acro.htm>

ACF	Administration for Children and Families	ACYF	Administration on Children, Youth and Families
ADD	Administration on Developmental Disabilities	ANA	Administration for Native Americans
CB	Children's Bureau	CCB	Child Care Bureau
FYSB	Family and Youth Services Bureau	OCS	Office of Community Services
OCSE	Office of Child Support Enforcement	OHS	Office of Head Start
ORO	Office of Regional Operations	ORR	Office of Refugee Resettlement
PCPI D	Presidents Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities	TANF	Temporary Assistance to Needy Families

## Region VII Parent's Page

### Information and inspiration for Head Start and Early Head Start Parents

#### Region VII Parent Representative to the National Head Start Association Board: Position Opening

Region VII Head Start Association has a vacancy for the Parent Representative position to the National Head Start Association Board. Parent Representatives must have a child currently enrolled in Head Start to be considered. NHSA Board Reps represent R7HSA at a National level as well as attend and participate at national meetings and conferences. Anyone interested in filling this position is asked to request the Board Nomination form via email from [r7hsa@aol.com](mailto:r7hsa@aol.com) and submit it together with all supporting documentation to the Association office.

#### Email and the Internet: You can access these resources for little or no cost!

April Noe, Executive Assistant, The Donna Veatch Group

Gone are the days of party lines and friendly telephone operators who are waiting patiently to connect your call. In today's fast paced world more and more of our daily communication is technology driven; from the automated system requesting that you "press 1 for assistance" to email and instant messaging. Let's face it—computers are expensive and internet access may not be in the budget! But you needn't worry—there are free and low-cost options for email and internet access available to you and it may be as close as your local library.

For those who do not have a personal computer and/or internet access, most public libraries across the nation provide computers with internet access to their patrons absolutely free. Requirements for access vary but may include the patron to complete and sign an acceptable use policy or user agreement as well as limit their time online to allow other patrons access to this valuable resource. Incorporate a few minutes of internet time into your next visit to the library. In addition to checking your email and visiting your State and Regional Head Start Association online you can visit an endless number of sites that offer information and activities for young families. Download a recipe for homemade playdough or visit the website of your favorite children's book author.

How many times have you been asked for your email address only to explain that you do not have email? There's good news! You can have an email account at absolutely no cost to you! MSN Hotmail ([www.hotmail.com](http://www.hotmail.com)) and Yahoo Mail ([www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com)) are the two most popular free email services available. Users may set up a web-based mail account in a few easy steps. Your email is easily accessible from any computer with internet access. Simply log on and *voilà!* You have mail! For a small monthly fee users may add additional features to their account such as increased storage and other premium features which vary by provider.

There are many types of internet access; web tv, dial-up, high-speed dsl, cable and satellite just to name a few. The cost for these services varies greatly from region to region and provider to provider. Most often, users in metropolitan areas have more choices available to them than users in rural areas. A good place to begin the search is your local telephone and cable service providers. Discounts for bundled services are often available. However, it is important to read the fine print and take into account any hidden costs. For instance, is there a charge for long distance or will a local dial-up number be provided? Is the usage unlimited or is there a charge if you go over a set number of hours? A search for low-cost internet service will yield numerous results including NetZero, PeoplePC, and Juno. Both NetZero and Juno offer a free service to occasional internet users for up to 10 hours of usage per month. Again, be sure to read the fine print before entering into a service agreement to avoid any hidden charges or usage fees.

What are you waiting for? Log on and get connected today!

#### Head Start Information and Publication Center *Parent Resources: An Internet Pathfinder*

[http://www.headstartinfo.org/infocenter/guides/pi\\_intro.htm](http://www.headstartinfo.org/infocenter/guides/pi_intro.htm)

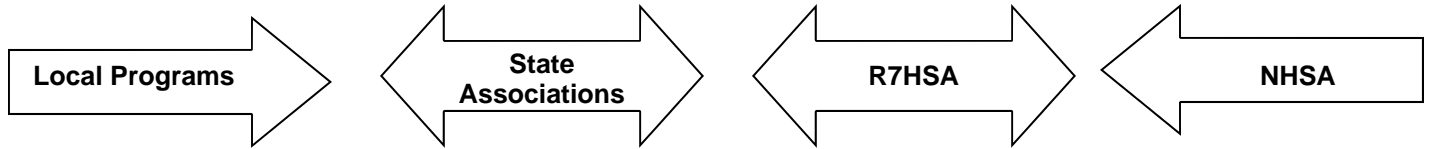
Being a parent is a 24-7 challenging job. Today, parents need to find useful sources of information in order to make the best decisions for all aspects of their children's development. The pathfinder is a launch pad. It introduces a selection of the wealth of materials available on the Internet that can help parents guide their children's development.

The topics covered include: different types of **Child Care** and how to evaluate them; the stages of **Child Development**; techniques to support young children's **Education**; resources to meet the challenges and joys of **Fatherhood**; good **Health** practices; what young children need for good **Mental Health**; **Parenting** guides; ways to insure young children's **Safety**; identification of resources and services for children with **Special Needs**; using computers and other **Technology** with young children.

Visit the Head Start Information and Publication Center for this and other valuable Head Start information.

## Region VII Head Start Association—Your Link to NHSA

The Region VII Head Start Association links the National Head Start Association with State Head Start Associations and member programs. State Head Start Associations communicate their issues and concerns to the Regional Association through their 4 representatives as well as the state to regional reporting form. Region VII Head Start Association then communicates with the National Head Start Association through regional representatives and the region to national reporting form. Each Association's representatives then take the information back to the parent organization.



### Meet your Region VII Representatives

Sue Obermiller, NE-Director  
Central NE Community Services, Inc.  
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Phone: 308-745-0780 x 123 Fax: 308-745-0824  
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NHSA Committee: Bylaws/Nominating Committee Chair

Suzan Obermiller is the Early Childhood Programs Director for Central Nebraska Community Services. She just celebrated 25 years with Head Start and is very proud to announce she is a past Head Start parent. Sue has been past president and now Vice President of the NeHSA, serves on several Early childhood state-wide advisory committees, is the NeHSA Director representative to Region VII and is still serving on the NHSA board. She has participated in the Head Start Johnson & Johnson Management Fellows Program, administered many ACF Demonstration grants, and been a Head Start grant reviewer. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her two young grandsons and antique shopping.

Mary Dusek, NE-Friend  
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P.O. Box 509, Loup City, NE 68853  
Phone: 308-745-0780 x 115  
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mdusek@cennecs.org

NHSA Committee: Finance

Mary Dusek is a past Head Start Parent and Grandparent. Mary has worked as a Fiscal Director for Community Action for 36 years and holds a BS in Business Administration. She is the current treasurer and board member for both NeHSA and R7HSA in addition to serving on the NHSA Board. Mary also serves as a PRISM Review Team Member.

OPEN Parent

Kay Mitchell, KS-Staff  
Graham County Head Start  
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NHSA Committee: Personnel Committee Vice-Chair

Kay Mitchell teaches in the Graham County Head Start classroom, she just began her 13th year!!!! Kay holds a Master's degree in Early Childhood Special Education. Kay serves as the President of the KHSA association, Staff Representative for R7, NHSA Board Member and serves as vice-chairman on the personnel committee for NHSA.

**National Head Start Association**

**[www.nhsa.org](http://www.nhsa.org)**

Sarah Greene, President & CEO  
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## ACF Regional Office

## Region VII Head Start T/TA System

### Region VII Administration for Children and Families

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**Linda K. Lewis**  
Regional Administrator

**Pat Brown**  
Director State, Community, and Tribal Operations

**Lynda Bitner**  
Head Start Program Manager, Program Operations

**Sheila Ewing**  
Acting Director, Discretionary and State Grants/Financial  
Operations

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

Office of Head Start  
[www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/hsb](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/hsb)

Additional Head Start Information:  
[www.headstartinfo.org](http://www.headstartinfo.org)

“Your  to continuous quality improvement”

**Nancy Schwachter, TA Program Manager**  
601 East 12th Street, Room 276  
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The Region VII TA Network is a team in every sense of the word. What the Region VII TA Network is good at and why we've been successful supporting grantees is that we know who we are as a team (and as individuals) and we know what we can do. We have the ability to adapt, to shape strategies, and to understand the grantees; our 'style' is dependent on qualities of the team members not on a predetermined notion on how we should do a job. Any team must have the ability to be together on the same page and that is the strength of the Region VII TA team – the Managers, Content Specialists and locally based TA Specialists. Getting along with one another and feeling supported and understood is our importance of camaraderie. When there is a need for change in strategy we look at the team and the skills and we decide how we will manage to match our strengths and grantees' needs. Over the past 3 years 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.



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an ICF Consulting Company

## State Association/Collaboration Office Information

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## Region VII

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