

# REGION VII HEAD START ASSOCIATION



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.

## Region VII Head Start Association Board of Directors Meeting

August 11, 2009  
1:30 pm—4:00 pm  
GoToMeeting

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/join/686113401>

Conference call: Dial 217-287-4112--Access Code: 686-113-401

### Opening:

Linda Broyles, KS, Board President called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Roll call was conducted.

### Present/Participating

Linda Broyles, KS Director  
Linda Bleything, MO Director  
Tina Cummins, NE Staff  
LeBriesha Hudson, NE Parent  
Erica Hinton, MO Staff

Sue Obermiller, NE Director  
Kesha Curry, IA Parent  
Rita Gedney, KS Staff  
Pam LaFrenz, MO Friend

### Others Present

Markie Crabtree, ACF-RO  
Donna Veatch, R7HSA ED  
Mary Baskett, KS  
Linda Benoit, KS  
Gregg Cummings, IHSA

Stacey Owsley, MO-HSSCO  
Eleanor Kirkland, NE-HSSCO  
Tina Bernskoetter, MHSA

### Absent/Not-Participating

Jim Chisham, KS Friend  
Charita Henderson, MO Parent  
Kim Young-Kent, IA Director  
Tracey Mavis, IA Staff

### Hot Topic:

ARRA Reporting Requirements- Markee Crabtree, RO reported that the release of reporting requirements has been postponed. Programs need more time to collect data. A committee from the Regional Office is involved on the national level regarding what and how data will be tracked, etc. The report may include information from a regional perspective on how well programs are doing. Programs were reminded that data may need to be collected regarding but not limited to the following:

- Jobs created
- Jobs sustained
- Dollar impact on community

The July 31<sup>st</sup> guidance regarding reporting is the most comprehensive information to date regarding anticipated reporting requirements. NHSA will host a webinar regarding ARRA reporting requirements in the near future. Linda Broyles, KS stated that collecting data in the above categories should be considered even if the information is not required in final reporting requirements when released.

Question posed: What is the amount of money allocated through ARRA dollars per state in Region VII?

Markie Crabtree, RO will share the request regarding funding totals with the Regional Office and share information if available.

Hot Topic dialogue continued regarding anticipated upcoming major changes/opportunities for Head Start and Early Head Start

A Strategic Plan is in the future for the Office of Head Start

Some major changes/opportunities are in the future for Head Start:

Early Learning Challenge Fund State Grant Opportunities-these grants will require collaboration at all levels

Early Head Start Expansion—discussion on how and who should be supporting these new programs

Consideration on how the Region VII Responsive Partnership effort may intersect within systems regarding the building of a collaborative/coordinated early care and education system

Continued need for definition of roles of all entities involved

Matrix would be helpful regarding role definition of entities

Continue to review and share how each state is involved in the early care and education system

### **Special Report:**

Mary Baskett, KHSA reported on the annual Head Start Association Executive Director Consortium Meeting held recently in Washington, DC.

- Highlights of that meeting:
  - Consortium met with Adele Robinson, Assoc. Exec. Director for Policy & Public Affairs at NAEYC; Yasmina Vinci, Executive Director, NHSA; Helen Blank, National Women's Law Center; Joan Lombardi, Deputy Assistant Secretary and Inter-Departmental Liaison for Early Childhood Development; Ruth Friedman, Senior Education Policy Advisor, House Education and Labor Committee as well as others at the national level
- Noted that Yvette Sanchez Fuentes, Executive Director of the Migrant Head Start Association is under consideration for the position of Program Manager for the Office of Head Start as well as Carmen Nazario for the position of Assistant Secretary for Children and Families
  - A letter was drafted by the group to Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of Health and Human Services asking that key Head Start leadership appointments be made in the very near future
- Dialogue regarding Early Head Start expansion and the overhaul of the entire education system
  - Strong emphasis on data and research
- Information was shared regarding Early Learning Challenge Grants
  - Key concern: placement of funding at the state level
- Yasmina Vinci, NHSA shared her vision regarding NHSA as well as several top priorities which include supporting state associations
- NHSA is beginning to research models of other national organizations
- Work has begun on the revision and development of the NHSA Policy Agenda

### **Regional Office Report**

Markie Crabtree, RO reporting

- Regarding the 2010 Monitoring Protocol-reduced number of questions in the revised protocol
- Twenty six programs in Region VII slated for reviews in the upcoming program year
- Training is tentatively scheduled to be conducted in Region VII for Review Team Leaders in September
- Head Start Expansion grants have been paneled. Programs should hear regarding their grant award if applicable in a few weeks

- The expansion effort is the first monies available in quite some time—funding will assist with program improvement
- 2300 EHS grant applications were submitted nationally; paneling of those applications is still in process with hope for completion by the end of September

### **TA System Report (\*)**

Linda Benoit, GPSS reporting

- Reporting that ICFI was awarded the GPSS contract for Region VII
- Staff is in place and work will continue in the support of local grantees
- The contract is still being reviewed at the national level and more clarification regarding some new aspects of the contract is expected to be rolled out soon
  - One of the main roles of the contract is to prevent risk and assist programs maintain compliance with HS Performance Standards, etc.
  - The GPSS Office works closely with the Regional Office as well as all Head Start Entities. Major goal is to focus on quality

### **Partner Reports**

State Association and Head Start State Collaboration Office Reports (\*) denotes report on file

### **Iowa Head Start \***

Gregg Cummings reporting

- ARRA and EHS expansion grant application process has been a major concern for Iowa programs over the summer months
- IHSA membership is on the increase-added nineteenth grantee with the Iowa Migrant Head Start Program joining the Association
  - Corporate membership category has been added to IHSA opportunities
- Mr. Cummings reported on the recent Iowa Lean Event (Empowerment) which brought together every single early childhood entity in the state including five legislators. The meeting was very beneficial with Head Start at the table. One outcome of the event will be a reduction in local empowerment areas from 58 to 35
- Iowa HS entities have a collaborative model bringing together the State Association, Collaboration Office and TA monthly to discuss and review program professional needs

### **Iowa Collaboration Office**

(Tom Rendon joined call in progress and reiterated information from the IHSA report)

Reported on Iowa's Shared Vision Legislation

### **Kansas Head Start\***

Mary Baskett reporting

- Kansas is struggling with the state budget-currently there are no cuts to the area of early childhood. The lack of cuts in that are contributed to Stimulus funding
- Pre-School Grant is operating in three communities-Special Ed., Childcare and Head Start are putting together some tools on the website that can be used as resources in future/potential collaborations; i.e. goal of expanding the number of collaborating preschools across the state—when budgets get tight entities come together
- Birth to Five Policy Alliance included newly released videos which feature James Heckman who speaks out for investing in the early years
- Information shared from the Executive Consortium Meeting that some of the states are experiencing challenges with Head Start getting a seat/representation on State Advisory Councils. Some of the states reported that they are seeing a very political process put in

place where the Governor can at will implement a “hand-picked” process for membership—this is not the case in Kansas

- Information shared about oral health partnership work in Manhattan, KS
- KHSA would like to see NHSA work on building partnerships at the national level

### **KS Collaboration Office**

(No report available at the time of the meeting)

Reference KHSA report for more information regarding current initiatives and state-level activity in Kansas

### **Missouri Head Start Association\***

Tina Bernskoetter reporting

- MHSA is working in partnership with the State-Based TA System in the delivery of cluster Health Summits around the state
- The Governor’s Coordinating Board met this morning via phone. An identified need at that meeting was more involvement of parents at the state level
- MHSA will be holding a Board meeting on August 12<sup>th</sup> and Council Meeting on August 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Currently, MHSA and MHSSCO are working on a Memorandum of Understanding which will outline how the two entities will work together, etc. MHSSCO is providing office space for MHSA at the current time

### **MO Collaboration Office\***

Stacey Owsley, MHSSCO reporting

- The Missouri budget is not in a positive place with an identified 8% shortfall –all state departments just underwent an exercise regarding potential reductions, etc. A report is due out in the next few weeks outlining what the impact of the cuts will mean to the Department of Health and Senior Services as well as Social Services including the Children’s Division. These cuts could affect Resource and Referral as well as the Home Visitation Program and state funded Early Head Start. On the positive side, some ARRA funding is designated to the Children’s Division
- Boosting the Missouri SpecialQuest Birth to Five Momentum, a Special Quest “Training of the Trainers” event is planned for September 21-22. Participants will gain information around planning and implementing effective training and professional development on inclusion
- Currently it is anticipated that the MO Coordinating Board on Early Childhood will assume the role of the State Advisory Council
- MHSSCO will be working together with MHSA furthering work in the state around working with and meeting the needs of Dual Language Learners-specifically in the areas of planning and implementing a multi-faceted approach focused on assisting MO HS program in assessing program preparedness in working with the Dual Language Learner
  - The MHSSCO Need’s Assessment completed by MO programs this past year demonstrated that programs need assistance in this area. A Recommended Best Practices Brief will soon be released based on work that was done by a MU Graduate Student this past year working with the MHSSCO

### **Nebraska Head Start State Association\***

Sue Obermiller reporting

- NeHSA is looking into the hiring of an Association Executive Director-beginning the process of advertising the position
- Beginning process of By-Law review and possible revision

- An increased effort regarding advocacy with the drafting of a position paper regarding the state Kindergarten entry date change; Rule 11; Child Care Licensing, etc.
- NeHSA representing Nebraska programs voiced a concern regarding the turn-over of teachers and need for more staff trained in CLASS on an on-going basis

### **Nebraska Head Start State Collaboration Office\***

Eleanor Kirkland reporting

- Social Emotional Behavior Initiative
- Together for Kids & Families-ECCS guidance has changed to promote more systemic planning among health, mental health, substance abuse and Head Start
  - The Nebraska HSSCO Needs Assessment/Strategic Plan will be embedded in the Together for Kids & Families implementation plan and strategies
- Early Childhood Mapping Project
- Nebraska Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalition and the Collaboration Office have strengthened their partnership. New brochures and resources have recently been distributed to HS programs
- The Nebraska Head Start Collaboration Office is co-coordinating the NE Early Childhood Transportation Task Force—an adhoc committee of the Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council
- Birth to Three Endowment did not issue a new RFP for 2009 nor will the Board of Trustees release an RFP for 2010 due to the status of the economy
- Even Start Family Literacy: Nebraska Head Start Collaboration Office in partnership with NeHSA and the National Head Start Family Literacy Project will be co-hosting preconference Family Literacy Institute before the state conference

### **National Head Start Association-Region VII Board Representative Report**

Sue Obermiller-NHSA Rep & Donna Veatch-NHSA Rep reporting

- NHSA update: currently NHSA is reviewing staffing and positions in the national office. Yasmina Vinci is heading up the Governmental Affairs Department at the current time until appropriate staffing needs are identified. NHSA has hired in-house legal council
- Ms. Vinci is traveling to state and regional associations in an effort to learn more about their work as well as hear from as many program directors as possible
- Ms. Vinci is also sharing her Vision of NHSA with various groups around the country and in Washington, DC
- More changes in structure and services are in the future for NHSA
- The week of September 21<sup>st</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> will include the NHSA Leadership Institute and National Board meeting

### **Executive Director Report (\*)**

- New accounting firm was approved by the Board at the June meeting for the upcoming fiscal year July1-2009-June 30, 2010. The July ending financial report is reflective of new report formatting/submission that will be used by the McKeone, Spilker & Nelson, CPA Firm. Board members were encouraged to ask questions regarding the new format, etc.
  - The annual financial review was recently completed by the Tom Ceselski, CPA Firm with no mark-ups noted. Full report via available to all Board members
  - Ms. Veatch reported that 100% of outstanding invoices have been received as of August 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Regarding Professional Development:
  - The Region VII Bi-Annual **Coordinated Training Think Tank** meeting is scheduled for October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009

- 2009 Director's Caucus planning and coordination is gearing up with an announcement forthcoming regarding final contracting details of the key trainer
- Region VII Head Start Association has been asked to share their Board Orientation Packet for use as a national model—Ms. Veatch is in the process of making revisions and updating the document prior to submission

### **Committee Reports (\*)**

All committees reviewed respective Committee Outcome of the R7HSA Strategic Plan

#### **Professional Development Committee**

Erica Hinton, MO will be joining as a member of the PD committee

- Committee reviewed upcoming training events; Annual Caucus and 2010 Leadership Conference
- Continued conversation regarding the need for CLASS training and the possibility of a regional approach to training
- MAP matrix has been developed and is being reviewed by the TA offices to identify where and how those entities will be involved in this continuous training effort
- Discussed the potential NHSA Annual Conference being held in Kansas City in 2011
  - Ms. Veatch is working on a partnership proposal for submission regarding this effort

#### **Advocacy Committee**

Ben Allen, PhD. NHSA presented a Region VII Legislative Update to the committee

Some of the highlights of the report are listed below:

- Early Learning Challenge Fund Legislation
  - One of President Barack Obama's major early childhood education priorities is to establish an Early Learning Challenge Grant program to provide funds to states to increase the quality of early learning efforts
  - On July 15, 2009 House Education and Labor Committee Chairman George Miller (D-CA) introduced the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act (H.R. 3221)
  - H.R. 3221 contains a section to authorize the creation of an Early Learning Challenge Fund
  - At the House Education and Labor Committee's July 21<sup>st</sup> markup, this committee approved an amendment to H.R. 3221 that would provide \$8 billion over eight years for this Fund to fund competitive grants to states to create a comprehensive, high quality early learning system for children ages birth-to-five

The full Legislative Update is available upon request

#### **Advocacy Committee dialogue continues:**

- The committee reviewed the procedure and process for the Children's Champion recognition. It was suggested that input regarding the recognition should be obtained from state associations

#### **Partnership Committee**

- Reviewed RVII Award deadlines and process for paneling/scoring  
Tina Bernskoetter, MO; Tom Rendon, IA; Sue Obermiller, NE, and Linda Broyles, KS, were named as the award panel for scoring the parent categories
- Identify potential partners at the regional level-continue to strengthen existing partnerships between regional and state entities, i.e.; State Associations, Regional Office, TA & GPSS Office, Childcare, etc.  
Review of Outcome V: see committee notes for potential added verbiage regarding this outcome

#### **Executive Committee Meeting**

- August Agenda was reviewed

- Financial Reporting format reviewed
- Upcoming NHSA meetings discussed

**Business Meeting called to order at 3:30 pm.**

**Financial Report**

Stands approved as presented

**New Business**

- Conversation was heard about thank-you recognition for April Noe regarding past work done in support of Region VII Head Start Association
  - Action: Sue Obermiller, NE made a motion that Ms. Veatch moves forward this effort of recognition. Rita Gedney, KS second.
- Board Insurance Policy Renewal with the Mike Keith Insurance Company, Clinton, MO
  - Motion by Tina Cummins, NE to renew policy. Kesha Curry, IA second. No discussion. Motion passed.
- Hotel contracts for years 2010 and 2011 for the annual Director's Caucus. Ms. Veatch reported on the RFP process that was conducted as well as several site visits around the greater KC area. Ms. Veatch recommended that the R7HSA Board move forward with contracting with the Marriott on the Plaza for the upcoming years of 2010 and 2011.
  - Rita Gedney, KS made a motion to contract with the Marriott as presented by Ms. Veatch for the 2010 and 2011 Director's Caucus. Kesha Curry, IA second. Motion passed.
- It was further recommended by Ms. Veatch that R7HSA contract with the Marriott on the Plaza for 2009, 2010 and 2011 MAP Training
  - Rita Gedney, KS made a motion to contract with the Marriott as presented by Ms. Veatch for 2009, 2010 and 2011 for MAP Training. Kesha Curry, IA second. Motion passed.

**Unfinished Business**

No unfinished business reported at this time

Meeting adjourned at 4:10pm

Next meeting is scheduled for October 19, 2009 in conjunction with the RVII Director's Caucus

Respectfully submitted,  
**Donna Veatch, R7HSA**