

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

Tuesday • March 9th, 2010

- I. 9:00 am Linda Broyles, KS, R7HSA President called the meeting to order. (Attendance Roster on file).
Moment of Silence observed in memory of Jim Chisham
Welcome to new Board members: Linda Zinke, NeAEYC, NE Friend Representative (2nd meeting), Arthur Tichenor, and KS Friend Representative.
- II. Roll Call: Nine Board Members signed in constituting a quorum. Two Ad-Hoc members were also in attendance
- III. Hot Topic/Discussion Points: Head Start Impact Study
The National Head Start Association is moving forward with a public relations effort to focus on positive information regarding Head Start by involving parents, etc. The new NHTA initiative is entitled "Share the Story". Stories will be collected from parents, past parents and staff regarding personal success related to Head Start. The information will be used in advocacy work and proactive work regarding future studies documenting the success of Head Start

Information was shared regarding the growing interest and focus on early childhood education. Two Board members representing the Friends category shared the following comments regarding this topic:
 - An education effort is needed for individuals/groups outside the Head Start community regarding the importance of early care and education
 - Partnership and collaboration around early care and education is proving to be cost effective in providing early care and education opportunities at the community level
- IV. Adoption of Agenda. No changes to the agenda were heard. Meeting moved forward.
- V. Executive Report:
 - a. Completing the Implementation Training for the new Association Management System-AVECTRA
 - b. WIPFLI Training planned for March 23-25, 2010. This training is a partnership between R7HSA and the WIPFLI organization
 - c. Conference registration will be released the week of March 15th
 - i. Highlights:
 1. Ben Allen, Ph.D., NHTA will be the featured speaker. Dr. Allen will focus his keynote on issues around research and early childhood as they relate to advocacy efforts
 2. Appreciation reception in honor of Patricia Brown, ACF-R7 Regional Administrator and former Director of the Office of Head Start in Washington, DC
 3. Pre-Conference Tracks are in the planning stages with Acelero Learning, The Council for Professional Recognition and Feldsman, Tucker & Leifer Law Firm (Ted Waters and Zoe Beckerman)
 - d. Ms. Veatch will be in attendance at the upcoming NHTA Board Meeting and Annual Conference in Dallas the week of May 4th-8th
- VI. Entity Reports (*) Indicates report on file
 - Regional Office: no report brought to the Board (conflict in scheduling due to mandatory OHS conference call)
 - Grantee Performance Support Specialists (GPSS) Office: no report brought to Board
 - State-Based TA Office(s) Shari Fleshman, MO Program Manager, ICF shared initiatives that are happening in MO. Ms. Fleshman also shared that the TA system will see changes in the near future and with the intention that changes will be conducted in a way that ensure continuity of service to programs through a seamless transition effort

Collaboration Office Report(s)

Iowa, Head Start State Collaboration Office (*) Highlights listed below

No verbal report brought to the Board—due to a scheduling conflict

- The State Advisory Council met on February 11th to review a draft of recommended changes to the Quality Rating System criteria
- T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Iowa has teamed with Nebraska's T.E.A.C.H. to present a session at the R7HSA Annual Conference
- T.E.A.C.H. Iowa is developing a manual for centers with information on center expectations and how to meet those expectations
- Work continues in the area of articulation agreements across Higher-Ed with eight new agreements developed that will assist with the transfer of college credit across universities
- The Department of Education has announced that they will delay the posting of applications for new grants for the 4th round of the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four Year Old Children

Kansas Head Start State Collaboration Office

No verbal report brought to the Board—due to a scheduling conflict

Missouri Head Start State Collaboration Office, Carolyn Stemmons, reporting (*) Highlights listed below

- The MHSSCO is beginning the process of reviewing and revision of the Need's Assessment used previously for dissemination to Head Start grantees in 2011. The new instrument will be inclusive of information from the 2007 Head Start ACT. The assessment is reviewed annually. The last effort involved all but one Head Start Program participating. MHSSCO is working with the University of Kansas City on this project.
- A Missouri training initiative that came out of identified findings during the last effort is the MO Dual Language Learners Institute.
- Plans are also underway by the Collaboration Office to work on a wage and comparability study. A consultant has been contracted to assist with this effort. Missouri Valley Community Action Agency Program has been identified as a pilot project for the study. Information will be gathered electronically.
- The state of MO has been selected as one of the AAPD-OHS dental home states. This initiative made possible through collaboration between the Office of Head Start and the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry will assist in the development of oral health access through a national network of pediatric and general dentists. Dr. Nick Rodgers, R7 Dental Consultant is providing leadership on this project. A plan for an event regarding this project is planned for April.

Nebraska Head Start State Collaboration Office (*)

No verbal report brought to the Board—due to a scheduling conflict

The Nebraska office requested that data results and information regarding a recent Research partnership between NeHSSCO and Dr. Vicki Plano will be presented in a break out session at the Region VII Conference

State Association Report(s)

Iowa Head Start Association, Kim Young-Kent reporting (*) Highlights listed below

- Spring Conference scheduled for April 14th, Lynda Bitner and others from the Regional Office will present
- 2010 Professional Development Calendar is posted on the IHSA website: www.iowaheadstart.org
- AAPD Dental Home Initiative is well underway with a leadership team formed regarding this effort
 - Primary goal of the initiative is to recruit more dentists that will serve Head Start children
- Finances continue to be an issue of the Iowa Empowerment Fund
 - Survived an effort to be moved to Department of Education—going to remain in the Department of Management
- IMIL Training offered for Head Start and collaborative partners
- A lot of concern and media regarding the Ed Thomas Bill (football coach) mental health issue. This effort is impacting Iowa legislation regarding mental health services, etc.
- Continued concern regarding the changes and upcoming restructure of the TA contract and what that may mean to Head Start grantees

Kansas, Mary Baskett reporting (*) Highlights listed below

- Legislative Budget issues—The KS Legislature is considering severe cuts that will have a direct impact on the Kansas Early Head Start funding and the Early Childhood Block Grant
- Senate Side—state agency 3.5 cut to early Head Start—would mean program would be cut in half (with what the House is proposing)—conversations are starting regarding the generation of revenue across the state
- Public Schools in crisis, need tax increases, public meetings are being held state wide
- Inspect the Rest Bill—involves childcare inspections. Currently, KS ranks 47th in the nation in the lack of oversight—an effort is underway to ensure that all childcare providers who are registered with the state will be inspected annually—The KS Childcare Worker Union is now involved –pushing to kill the Bill
- Positive Note—Early Childhood Block grant—collaborative preschool programs is a successful model and will be presented at the following upcoming meetings/conferences; National School Board meeting in Chicago, NHSA Annual Conference in Dallas and the R7HSA Conference in Kansas City

Missouri Head Start Association, Linda Bleything reporting (*) Highlights listed below

- State budget cuts continue to impact Head Start local partners and resources.
 - Missouri Parents As Teachers has been cut 28% in the last 18 months
 - EHS programs in Missouri are very concerned about the requirement for CDA beginning September 2010
- Upcoming Training Opportunities:
 - CLASS Training: March 29
 - Working with Homeless Children Training: April 1
 - Child Advocacy Day at the capitol: April 7
 - Parent Leadership conference: April 15 & 16
 - Reaching for Excellence: Educating Dual Language Learners Training: April 21
 - Fatherhood (Engaging Families) Training: April 29 & 30

Nebraska Head Start Association, Linda Zinke, reporting (*) Highlights listed below

- NeHSA and NeAEYC sponsored a Legislative breakfast February 18th at the state capitol. Linda
- Legislative Action
 - LB 1006 may change Kindergarten entrance date to July 31st vs. October 15th, beginning in two years
 - LB 1110 on prenatal care for undocumented women – HHS sent letters on February 4th indicating potential risk to pregnant women currently receiving Medicaid (about 5,800) saying their baby's coverage would end March 1st
 - LB 962 on lead testing
- State Budget projections-no state money for Early Head Start—some money for TEACH
- A planning retreat to look at the Early Childhood Agenda for the year will involve legislators
- Ms. Zinke shared information regarding a Nature Program—that has the potential to fund some initiatives. Getting children “unhooked” from technology—increased interaction in a natural environment. The Head Start Body Start Initiative would be a nice fit with this program

NHSA Representative Report, Kesha Curry, IA Parent Representative reporting

- NHSA Policy Agenda—moving forward for 2010
 - Parent Board members voiced concern regarding the lack of content for parents at the NHSA Leadership Institute—etc.
 - General Comments around parent engagement: NHSA may want to consider getting a cadre of parents that graduated from Head Start and build on their experience to empower current HS parents with the outcome to assist parents as they move out of Head Start and become productive community members
 - Programs need to continue developing stronger partnerships for families across the program and community
- Donna Veatch shared information regarding a recent NHSA Perception Audit completed by NHSA through a contract with an outside consultant firm

- NHSA will address issues that were raised as a result of the audit around the findings of the audit and begin an in-depth strategic planning process using information from the audit and other multiple sources
- A formal Board Orientation Process for NHSA Board members is now in place

VII. Business meeting called to order

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Tracey Mavis made a motion to accept minutes as submitted. Rita Gedney, second. Minutes stand approved as submitted

Financial Report: Kim Young-Kent, R7HSA Treasurer brought the financial report

Ms. Young-Kent highlighted the accounts receivable and discussion was heard regarding progress in collections. It was noted that currently R7HSA is under budget in most categories

Motion: Pam LaFrenz, MO moved to accept the financial report as presented. Linda Zinke, NE second. Motion passed

Committee Reports

- Outcome I: Professional Development Committee: Reviewed upcoming events, Discussion regarding the Think Tank, 2011 NHSA Conference
- Outcome II: Executive Committee:
 - Discussion and decisions to move forward with the 2012 and 2013 Regional Conference site location and contracting, Contract MAP for 2011 and Director's Caucus for 2012 and 2013
 - Approved contracting temporary services under the direction of the Executive Director to assist with Association tasks. It was determined that this action did not require Board action and that the Board will watch the budget/finances to determine if services can be sustained. It was noted that currently the budget supports the decision for support
 - By-Law Revision Process: Sue Obermiller, NE and Linda Bleything, MO will serve on a team to review and work on the revision process. By-Law changes will be submitted to the Board 30 days prior to the May meeting for review

Outcome III & IV: Advocacy Committee

- Keshia Curry reported on Senator Harkin reception and follow-up activities since that event as well as new initiatives that will be implemented by NHSA
- Outcome V: Partnership Committee: No meeting to date. Planned for later in the Spring prior to the annual conference

New Business

- No actions noted under new business from committees or from those present

VIII. Other Business: Regional Report to NHSA ongoing: Share information regarding the following:

NHSA Representative Orientation Material should include a code of conduct and information regarding what NHSA representatives should expect at the national meeting level

Code of Conduct: Move to May meeting. Ask state associations to submit draft policies, etc. Form committee to review state work. NHSA cover letter can at this time include conduct information until a protocol is adopted by the Board

IX. Adjournment

Linda Broyles called for adjournment at 1:15 p.m. Linda Zinke, NE second. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned

Minutes respectfully submitted, Donna Veatch, R7HSA