

Spring 2016

HEAD START

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SAND BOX



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Region VII Head Start Association

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Welcome to the spring edition of the Region 7 Head Start Association Sand Box Magazine! There is a lot to learn, see and discover! Check out the wonderful articles to read in this edition and the exciting new things happening in the Region as well! Take a look at some of our key sponsors that support our work with children, families and agencies in region 7, and our newest R7HSA board member, Terry Wilson, and make sure you don't miss out on the great training opportunities that are awaiting you at the 2016 Leadership Conference, June 15-17, 2016. Our theme this year is, "Moving Forward, Strengthening Our Legacy." We have Dr. Blanca Enriquez, the Director, for Office of Head Start coming in to Speak and our Featured speaker this year is noted author and radio personality, Holly Elissa Bruno! All 5 National Centers will be here as well. Plan to spend some quality learning time with your colleagues at the Leadership Conference. Now, sit back, and enjoy!

Yours truly,



Michael Schiller

Interim Executive Services Director



Region VII Head Start Association

R7HSA.com

Spring 2016

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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

IN SEARCH OF REGION 7 HEAD START ALUMNI

Do you know a Head Start Alumni?

We want to hear from them!



There are hundreds of success stories out there, of former students, parents, staff, and volunteers who have taken their experience with Head Start and gone on to do amazing things in their life.

We are reaching out to you because we need your help in locating these success stories. We want to spotlight these inspirational people in the next issues of the *Region 7 Head Start Sandbox Magazine*.

If you know a Head Start Alumni student, parent, staff or volunteer, please put us in touch with them so we can gather our community of Head Start alumni together to celebrate them, and Head Start's 50+ Years of Opportunity.

Send and email to us at r7hsa@comcast.net.

STUDENTS • PARENTS • PROGRAM STAFF
CONSULTANTS & TRAINERS • VOLUNTEERS



Vanessa Ann Rich, City of Chicago Deputy Commissioner for the Department of Family and Support Services, died on Sunday, Dec. 27, 2015.

Dear Colleague:

We are all deeply saddened by the sudden loss of our friend and Head Start's great champion Vanessa Rich. The outpouring of stories and remembrances, photos, and FaceBook posts, from Vanessa's colleagues, friends, even those whom she encountered only once, has been amazing. National organizations with whom Vanessa worked over the years are also reaching out, wondering how they can express their appreciation for her countless contributions and accomplishments in the early childhood field.

On Tuesday, February 2, during our Winter Leadership Institute, we hosted a celebration of Vanessa's life as told by those whose lives she affected. This was a national event, providing an opportunity for our national partners and other early childhood organizations to join the Head Start community in paying tribute to Vanessa's leadership.

It was a cathartic moment for all of us.

Best wishes for a peaceful 2016,

Yasmina Vinci

Yasmina Vinci
Executive Director



Little Land of Love Learning Center and The Family Conservancy (TFC)

“Instead of investing Head Start dollars in a rental property, it’s going into an agency that will benefit the community in a larger way, and we were able to increase the number of children they could serve.” Pamela Black, The Family Conservancy (TFC) Head Start director, Kansas City, KS

Story from eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov

Lee Howell beams with excitement as she describes the final stages of the extensive improvements that are being made to the garden-level space her center will soon occupy.

The process began when Howell, the owner of Little Land of Love Learning Center, attended a recruitment event hosted by The Family Conservancy (TFC) and decided to partner with TFC to provide Early Head Start services at her program. Discussions began about facility issues and it became apparent that the best plan would be to move the facility. The old location is small, dark, a rental property, and in need of extensive improvements.

“When we first met with Little Land of Love Learning Center director and staff, it was apparent that they truly cared for the children in their care and were already serving the families Early Head Start is wanting to reach. They did the best they could to provide high-quality care, but their facility and available funds were limited,” explained TFC Head Start Director Pamela Black.

The infant room at Little Land of Love Learning Center

The new space, which will be renamed “The Rock at Stony Point,” is available through a partnership with The Rock Church of the Nazarene and upgraded with an investment from the Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships start up funds. It is a true community collaboration. Black explains why the move was the right choice: “Instead of investing Head Start dollars in a rental property, it’s going into an agency that will benefit the community in a larger way, and we were able to increase the number of

children they could serve.”

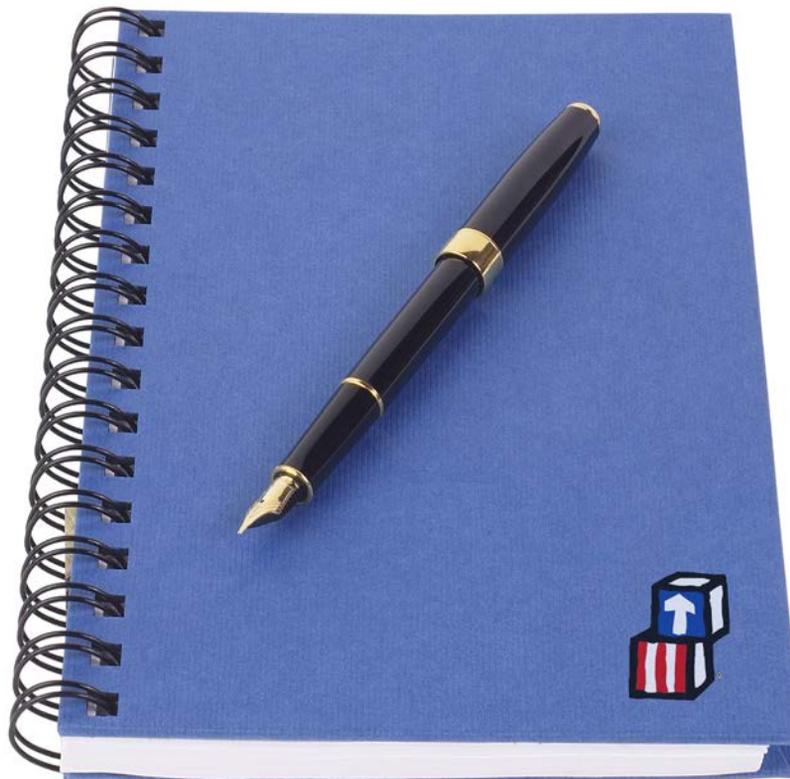
With the improvements, the center will more than double their capacity, increasing from 23 to 50 children. Seven of the additional spaces will serve infants and toddlers, an especially high need in the Kansas City, KS community.

“We get calls almost everyday; even if we had both locations, we wouldn’t have enough room to meet demand. Many of the families in this community have multiple children and it’s important to be able to keep them together, especially for infants,” noted Howell.

The toddler room at The Rock at Stony Point

The space was transformed in just two months by a small business, W.J.R. Plumbing and More—new tile was laid; fresh paint was applied; walls were erected to provide sound barriers; changing stations and sinks were installed; kitchen appliances were replaced; the heating and cooling system was replaced; new windows were installed; a toddler-friendly restroom was added; additional restrooms were updated; equipment and furniture was secured, and a fenced-in playground was added.

The partnership has yielded a much-needed space with the capacity to serve families with children ranging from infants to age 12 and provide a nurturing environment where children, 98 percent of whom are growing up with the challenges of poverty, have daily support to ensure they grow up healthy and ready for school.



Notice of Proposed Rule Making on Head Start Program Performance Standards

From eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has proposed the first holistic revision and complete reorganization of the Head Start Program Performance Standards since they were originally published in 1975.

The Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) was published in the Federal Register on June 19, 2015. It includes the proposed Program Performance Standards, as well as a preamble with helpful information for context.

The Office of Head Start (OHS) accepted comments on the NPRM from the public for 90 days following publication. OHS received about 1,000 comments, which will inform the development of a final rule. All comments received are a part of the public record and are posted for public viewing on www.regulations.gov without change.

Please note the current Performance Standards will remain in effect until a final rule is issued.

*For more information, visit
<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/bslc/standards/bspps/nprm>.*



HEAD START

An Office of the Administration for Children and Families
Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center (ECLKC)



Educare Kansas City Early Education Symposium

Source

Project Eagle’s Educare Kansas City program hosted its second Educare Kansas City Early Education Symposium on Thursday, February 11th. Sixty attendees representing sixteen different early education settings, including some Early Head Start Child Care Partnership sites in the Kansas City area, attended workshops about building rapport with families, using found materials to enhance the classroom environment, and integrating music and movement in early education programs. Workshops were presented by Educare Kansas City staff and our volunteer extraordinaire, Bonnie Rudzinski, who provides music and movement classes to the Educare Kansas City children on a weekly basis. The event was sponsored by Constructive Playthings and included dinner and door prizes for attendees.

Feedback regarding the Symposium content was extremely positive:

“I definitely intend to put more thought into my interactions with families and I can’t wait to play more music with my kids tomorrow!”

“The information was not basic. It went above and beyond my expectations.”

“It was nice to see another center and see how it was set up. I got some ideas to take back to our school. I liked mapping the room in the reflective environment class. I really need to work on my classroom environment.”

The evening also included a tour of the Educare Kansas City classrooms. If you are near the Kansas City area, don’t miss the next Early Education Symposium in Summer 2016!





Just think ...

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!

To learn about advertising opportunities in upcoming issues of the Head Start Sand Box, send an email to R7HSA@comcast.net.

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Transition to Kindergarten

TRANSITION AND ALIGNMENT SUMMIT GUIDE HIGHLIGHTS

PROVIDED ONLINE BY THE OFFICE OF HEAD START, NCQTL
<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/teaching/docs/transition-summit-guide.pdf>

INTRODUCTION

The National Center on Quality Teaching and Learning (NCQTL), in collaboration with the National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement (NCPFCE), has developed resources to guide statewide and regional summits on transition and alignment in early childhood. We provide this guide as a road map to conduct a transition summit, along with materials you can use in planning and carrying one out. Summit planning and delivery are the responsibility of local agencies or individuals, and these materials should be individualized for each summit.

TRANSITION AND ALIGNMENT

Successful transition to kindergarten requires more than ensuring that children have the necessary academic and social skills. Smooth transitions from preschool to kindergarten depend on connections made between participants in the process, such as those between schools and families, and between preschool and kindergarten teachers and classrooms, especially connections made prior to kindergarten entry. Aligning preschool and kindergarten practices, standards, curricula, and assessments is an important element for promoting successful transitions. The extent to which elements of each environment are comparable and build on one another can affect how seamless the preschool-to-kindergarten transition is. For example, alignment of environmental factors, such as what restroom signs look like, can ease children's anxiety about entering a new environment. Furthermore, alignment of curricula and assessments can help teachers better support children in continuing to expand their knowledge and skills. Aligned preschool and kindergarten curricula help to create an instructional environment in which children are naturally progressing from what they have learned in preschool to what will be expected of them in the kindergarten setting. Aligned assessments allow kindergarten teachers to see where children's current skills are in relation to what will be taught in order to better target instruction. Promoting successful transition and alignment practices requires continued communication, collaboration, and compromises from decision makers representing both entities.

CONSIDERING "SCHOOL READINESS"

When approaching the subject of children's transitions from preschool to kindergarten, it is likely that the topic of school readiness will come up. A commonly asked question either within the planning team or at the summit is, "What is school readiness?" The answer to this question varies, but certain themes are typically included and should be considered when planning your summit and summit goals. One key point to make is that school readiness is not just about a child's skills, but includes the connections around that child that support him or her to make a successful transition to kindergarten. In a "school ready" environment children are armed with a set of social and academic skills that will help them succeed in kindergarten. But just as importantly, schools create an environment that is welcoming and ready to receive children. Effective transition and alignment practices play an essential role in promoting school readiness.



For more information, contact us at:
NCQTL@UW.EDU or 877-731-0764

This document was prepared under Grant #90HC0002 for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Head Start, by the National Center on Quality Teaching and Learning.

“What Iowa so appreciated about the Transition Summit was how it gave districts and grantees really concrete things to address that can make almost an immediate difference in the lives of families and children.”

— Head Start Collaboration Office Director

REGION VII HEAD START ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES THE Election of Terry Wilson to the National Head Start Association

Region VII Head Start Association announces the election of Terry Wilson to the National Head Start Association. Terry Wilson of Hays, KS was officially elected to the National Head Start Association Board of Directors as a Region VII Head Start Association Board of Directors Representative. Ms. Wilson attended her first national meeting on October 14 in Washington, DC. The National Head Start Association is governed by a 49 member Board of Directors, composed of the immediate past president and a Head Start director, staff, parent, and friend from each of the 12 Head Start regions. Ms. Wilson serves as Coordinator for the Early Childhood Connections, Unified School District #489, Early Childhood Connections, Hays Head Start Program, Hays, Kansas. She holds a Masters in Liberal Studies, with Concentration in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) from Fort Hays State University and a Bachelor of Science Degree of Education (K-8) and Endorsement in Early Childhood Education, from Chadron State College, Chadron, NE. She is a Staff Representative of the Region VII Head Start Association on the NHSA Board; serving on the local, state, regional and national level. Ms. Wilson believes “working together on different levels allows multiple voices to be heard. This, combined with a variety of approaches to advocacy, generates successful outcomes for children and families.” Terry has a passion for her career and loves working with children, families, staff and communities. She feels Head Start is a quality program which works with the whole child, and that is what leads to success for children. For a few years during her career, she was a pre-k through 8th grade teacher in rural schools in the Sandhills of Nebraska. One of the many things she thought about as she taught different stages of elementary was “if only this or that child had a background with Head Start involved”; as she believes early intervention and family involvement are

both so important. She had students who had a challenge or gift that wasn't recognized until later in school. One of the questions Terry always asks first is “What is best for the child?” Terry relies not only on her education and working experience but also her personal life. She has two daughters (Chelsie and Tessa) and a grandson (Zac), plus extended family and friends who have influenced her passion for children and their success. Zac once said “Grandma, you like to read to kids.” Terry says that is true and that there is always more to the story. Just as with Head Start there is always more to the story.



About Head Start

Created in 1965, Head Start is the most successful, longest-running, national school readiness program in the United States. It provides comprehensive education, health, nutrition, and parental involvement services to low-income children and their families. Nearly 32 million pre-school aged children have benefited from Head Start. 2015 marked the fiftieth anniversary of Head Start! Terry's first involvement was in the 1970's when she had the opportunity to help facilitate the designs and completion of playgrounds. The parents and community were key to having child centered natural playgrounds. Terry has worked in early childhood, prenatal through five, in a variety of positions.

As we know, in Head Start, it isn't the position you have, it is what you do, as you wear many hats. Terry has had the opportunity to see programs in a variety of locations in our country, and is always amazed at how different, but yet how alike, children and programs are. In 2003, Terry knew she wanted to go back to working with young children, families and staff. She went to the internet to make some connections, and the first job that popped up was one at Hays, Kansas. It was exactly what she wanted to do. Terry is thankful to get to work with a strong program and with many qualified, compassionate co-workers.

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About R7HSA

Region VII Head Start Association is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote and support the effectiveness of Head Start Associations and members, to ensure quality services for children and families. Region VII Head Start Association currently represents eighty-one Head Start and Early Head Start programs, and twelve delegate agencies, with an annual enrollment of more than 38,000 children across the four state region, consisting of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska. Terry's first involvement with Region VII was being part of a Head Start Training Team, housed in Nebraska, working with her mentor, Berdine Maginnis. A few years later she was a trainer with the Head Start Home Visitation Training for the Region. Today, she is a board member for Region VII. Terry feels our regional association is strong, innovative and involved with all aspects of Head Start.

About NHSA

The National Head Start Association is a private, not-for-profit, membership organization dedicated exclusively to meeting the needs of Head Start children and their families. It represents more than 1 million children served annually and over 200,000 staff and 2,600 Head Start programs. The Association provides support for the entire Head Start community; by advocating for policies that strengthen services to Head Start children and their families, by providing extensive training and professional development, and by developing and disseminating research, information, and resources that enrich Head Start program delivery. Terry is on the NHSA board and participates on the research committee. She is excited about participating on this diverse board and about being an advocate for children, families and staff. Terry comes to the board with education, experience and passion. Head Start is about change, and Terry appreciates the past, embraces the present and enjoys planning for the future.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



NATIONAL HEAD START ASSOCIATION

43rd Annual National Head Start Conference And Expo *“The Next Generation Of Opportunity”*

MAY 16 - 20, 2016

The 2016 Annual Conference and Expo will be in Nashville, TN at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center.

For more information, go to the NHTSA Web site.

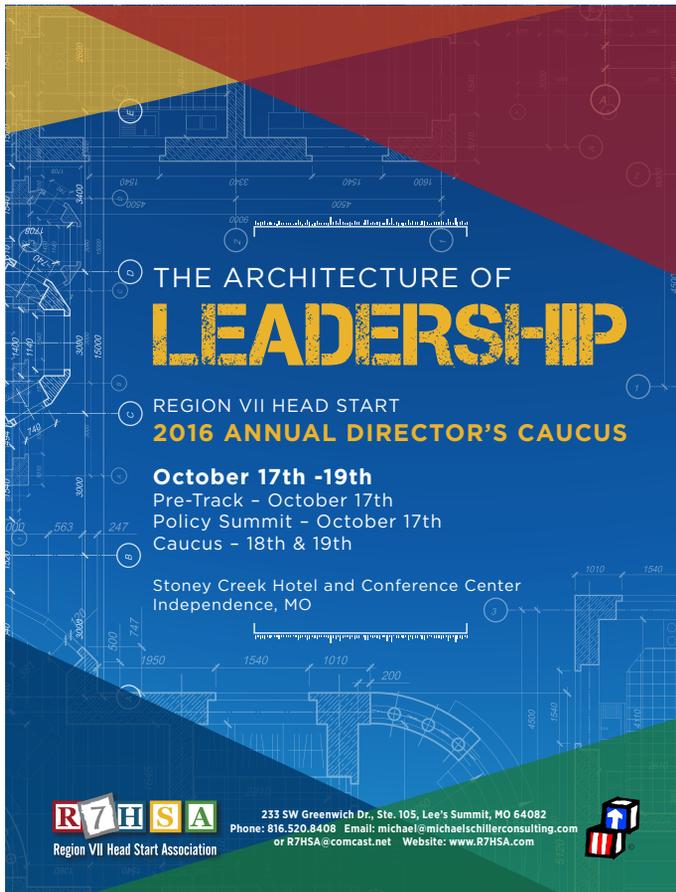


Region VII Head Start **2016 Annual Leadership** **Conference & Pre-Tracks**

June 14-17, 2016

Marriott • Overland Park, KS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



**THE ARCHITECTURE OF
LEADERSHIP**

REGION VII HEAD START
2016 ANNUAL DIRECTOR'S CAUCUS

October 17th -19th
Pre-Track - October 17th
Policy Summit - October 17th
Caucus - 18th & 19th

Stoney Creek Hotel and Conference Center
Independence, MO

R7HSA
Region VII Head Start Association

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Region VII Head Start 2016 Annual Director's Caucus & Director's Caucus

October 17-19, 2016

Stoney Creek Hotel and Conference Center
Independence, MO

COMING SOON!

2016 REGION VII HEAD START ASSOCIATION ANNUAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Marriott • Overland Park, KS



Moving Forward
STRENGTHENING OUR LEGACY

Region VII Head Start
2016 Annual Leadership Conference & Pre-Tracks

June 14th - 17th
Marriott • Overland Park, KS



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