



Where the “Heartland and Heart Work” Intersect!

2024 REGION VII HEAD START ANNUAL CONFERENCE

June 4-6, 2024 • 6/3 reserved for pre-track sessions

Sheraton Hotel, Overland Park, KS



Region VII Head Start Association

IOWA | KANSAS | MISSOURI | NEBRASKA



Where the “Heartland and Heart Work” Intersect!

2024 REGION VII HEAD START ANNUAL CONFERENCE

We’re excited that you’ve chosen to join peers and colleagues as we come together and experience an interactive collaborative week of professional development opportunities with sessions designed to promote innovation, develop capacity for shared/inclusive leadership, build strong and resilient teams, while recognizing and elevating everyone’s human potential.



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Hotel information

Sheraton Overland Park Hotel at the Convention Center

6100 College Boulevard, Overland Park, Kansas 66211

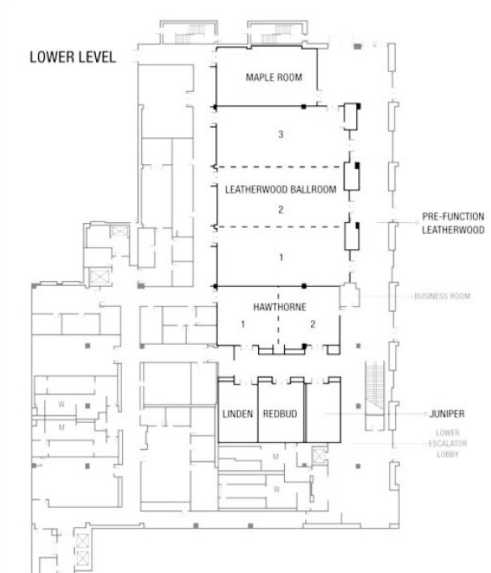
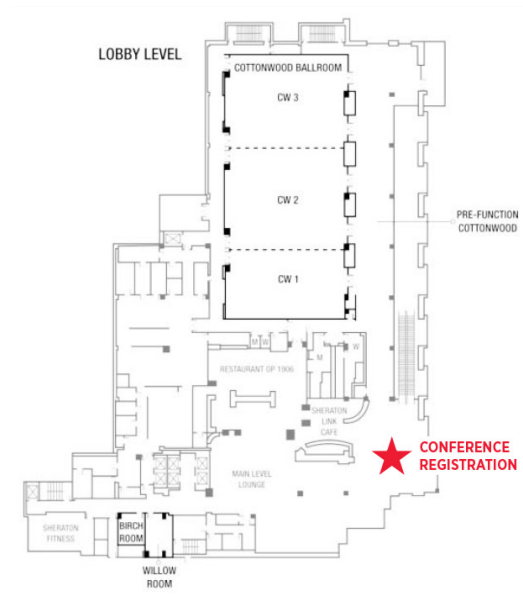
36.1 Miles to Kansas City International Airport

Guest room reservation link: **Room block closes May 15th**

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1688068727410&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

Amenities:

Business center • Fitness center • Free high-speed internet
Meeting event space • Parking • Pet friendly • Pool



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Conference Highlights

Region VII Annual Award Recognition & Celebration luncheon

June 4th 12:00 – 1:30pm

National Office of Head Start spotlight

- Khari Garvin, Director of the Office of Head Start | Administration for Children and Families/U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Region VII Office of Head Start spotlight

- Clarence Small M.Ed., Regional Program Manager & Team
- Region VII Office of School Readiness
- Region VII Training & Technical Assistance Team

Special National Head Start Association visit

Blair Hyatt, Senior Director of State Affairs,
National Head Start Association

Renowned Keynote Speakers

- Dr. Robert Lemon, Professional Speaker, Author and Entrepreneur
- Anne Meeker Watson, Ph.D., MT-BC, renowned Music Therapist & Author

National Center stand-alone sessions and tracks

- National Center on Health, Behavioral Health, and Safety (NCHBHS)
- National Center on Program Management Fiscal Operations (NCPMFO)
- National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement (NCPFCE)

More than 36 Topic-focused Breakout Sessions

presented by Region VII program staff and content area experts from across the country

2025 60th Anniversary Celebration Kick off

“Unveiling of the Head Start 60th Birthday Toolkit”

“Peer Colleague Meet-ups” (per attendee request from past event surveys)

Back by Popular Demand

Craig Cable, Safety and Security Consultant and Trainer

Exhibit Gallery

Exhibit Walk-about Reception: Tuesday, June 4th (4:30 – 6:30pm)

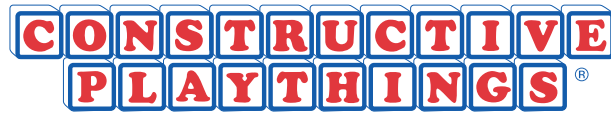
Region VII Head Start Association Annual Meeting

June 5 (4:45 – 5:30pm) Hosted by your R7HSA Board of Directors

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Schedule at a Glance (Subject to change)

MONDAY, JUNE 3

8:30am – 4:30pm	Pre-Track Session attendees arrive!
8:30am – 4:30pm	Registration Opens
9:00am – 3:30pm	Pre-Track Conference Sessions <i>(separate registration & fee required)</i>
4:00 – 6:00pm	R7HSA Board Meeting

TUESDAY, JUNE 4

8:00am – 5:00pm	Registration Open/Exhibit Gallery Open
8:00 – 9:00am	Coffee/Tea/Pastries
8:30 – 9:30am	State Groups
10:00 – 11:30am	Opening General Session • Office of Head Start • <i>Clarence Small M.Ed, Regional Program Manager, Office of Head Start, Admin for Children and Families/ U.S. Department of Health & Human Services</i> • <i>Special Keynote Presentations</i>
12:00 – 1:30pm	Scholarships and Awards Luncheon
1:45 – 3:15pm	Breakout Sessions
3:30 – 4:30pm	Peer Networking Group Meetings
4:30 – 6:30pm	Exhibit Walk-About Reception

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5

8:00am – 5:00pm	Registration/Exhibit Gallery Open
8:00 – 9:30am	Breakout Sessions
10:00 – 11:30am	Breakout Sessions
11:30am – 1:00pm	Lunch Break (on your own)
11:30am – 1:00pm	Region-State Meet up luncheon (invite only)
1:00 – 2:30pm	Breakout Sessions
2:30pm	Break
3:00 – 4:30pm	Breakout Sessions
4:45 – 5:30pm	Region VII Head Start Association Annual Meeting

THURSDAY, JUNE 6

8:00am – 1:00pm	Registration Open
8:00 – 11:00am	Exhibit Gallery Open
8:30 – 10:00am	Breakout Sessions
8:30 – 10:00am	Region VII Head Start Directors' Roundtable Discussion <i>with Khari Garvin, Director of the Office of Head Start, Admin for Children & Families/US Department of Health & Human Services</i>
10:15am – 12:00pm	Dynamic Closing Session <i>Welcome: Khari Garvin, Director, Office of Head Start Administration for Children and Families U.S. Department of Health and Human Services followed by Anne Meeker Watson, Ph.D., MT-BC</i>
12:00pm	Attendees depart
12:00 – 1:00pm	Federal Staff Meet and Greet

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SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

Featured Closing Session OHS Update

KHARI GARVIN

Director of the Office of Head Start,
Administration for Children and
Families/US Department of Health
& Human Services



OFFICE OF HEAD START

An Office of the Administration for Children & Families



Khari Garvin is the Director of the Office of Head Start at the Administration for Children and Families at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Joining the Biden-Harris Administration in March 2023, Garvin served as the president and CEO of the United Way of Greater Greensboro in North Carolina, leading the mission to end generational poverty in the Greensboro metro area.

Garvin served as the executive director of the Head Start program for a large, multi-state grantee serving children and in rural communities across five states in the southern, southeastern, midwestern and Great Plains regions of the U.S.

As the director of North Carolina's Head Start collaboration office, he convened 55 affiliate grantee organizations including public school systems, community action agencies, county governments and private non-profits that served over 28,000 children and families in all 100 counties.

Garvin is a proud alumnus of the National Head Start Fellowships program, where he worked at the Office of Head Start. He previously served as a Head Start grantee program manager in Illinois. He was an assistant Head Start/Early Head Start program director at a North Carolina Head Start program. Garvin holds a degree in psychology from Emory University and a master's degree in education from Southern Illinois University.

Special Roundtable Discussion with OHS Director Khari Garvin & Region VII Head Start Directors

Thursday, June 6th 8:30-10:00 am

Room to be announced

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FEATURED SPEAKER

DR. ROBERT LEMON is a renowned professional speaker and author, and has risen to prominence by delivering a high energy message which inspires people to take responsibility for their lives and live up to their greatness. A leading corporate and workforce, and community speaker, Robert combines the ageless tool of storytelling with a profound understanding of today's culture. For years thousands have been touched by his keynotes and trainings.

Recently, the prestigious *Hoinser Book and Magazine* honored Dr. Lemon among 100 Top Voice Global Thought Leaders of 2024.

Robert was selected by *Legacy Magazine*, published in the *Miami Herald* honored as one of "South Florida's Most Powerful and Influential Business Leaders" of 2018.

In 2017, he was presented a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition. U.S. Representative Frederica S. Wilson. Florida's 24 Congressional District recognized his outstanding and invaluable service to the community.

Dr. Lemon shares his empowerment principles with numerous local and national organizations.



Robert is a best selling and co-author of the book *Multiple Streams of Inspiration* with other celebrity authors including Jack Canfield (*Chicken Soup for the Soul*) with forewords by Les Brown and Zig Ziglar. Robert is the author of his newest book, *Now Is Your Time* with foreword written by Les Brown and testimonial by Willie Jolley, and is now in print.

In 2011, Robert was selected as the "Author of the Year" by *Advantage Media / Forbes Books* from a field of 1,500 corporate authors.

In 2013, Robert earned his Doctorate Degree in Religious Education. Robert has been recognized for achieving and surpassing goals in customer service, sales, and has over 35 years of corporate experience from the U.S. Postal Service and leadership from the U.S. Air Force.

A Head Start student success, Dr. Lemon has presented for numerous Head Start and Community Action Partnership conferences.

**"Experience the Passion, Feel the Power,
and Live the Purpose with Dr. Robert Lemon"**

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FEATURED PRESENTATION

Tuesday, June 4th • 10:00am

Opening General Session



Head Start Is Heart Work in the Heart Land Dr. Robert Lemon

Now is the time to Make A Difference. Focusing on the conscience choices we make everyday that impact the lives of others. Each of us has the potential to transform the culture of an organization through our actions and attitudes. Organizations allocate a large amount of their marketing budget dedicated to building a positive and trustful relationship with the public. They think carefully about the type of customer that they wish to attract, the

image their brand portrays, and how they communicate the benefits of their products and/or services to potential customers.

Head Start is Heart work in the Heart Land. Everything you do that is customer service is essential: every phone call, every email, and every face-to-face interaction with a customer is the motivation behind Making a Difference in this presentation.

Breakout Session

Wednesday, June 5 • 1:45 – 3:15pm

Teamwork Makes The Dream Work — Team Building

“We may not have it all together, Together we have it all.” Learning how to effectively work together is progress, keeping together is success. Learn to choose activities, establish and support your organization’s mission, vision and strategic goals. Participants will also address challenges in the workplace because of poor planning, eliminate communication distractions and focus on not just personal but also team goals. Choosing right over wrong, ethics over convenience and truth over popularity will

allow team goals to be accomplished. Team members can be successful in the workplace if everyone can concentrate on their own performance and behavior, not that of their counterparts. Teamwork helps most people listen, observe, and respond positively without defending their productivity or performance. If you grow your people through these timeless principles, when applied in your own life and the life of your organization, Teamwork will make the Dream work.

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FEATURED SPEAKER

ANNE MEEKER WATSON, Ph.D., MT-BC

is the founder of the *SING.PLAY.LOVE.* program. Through her writing, product development, and workshops, she shares information about the benefits of music and play to support early learning and kindergarten readiness and gives easy and practical strategies for embedding both into the daily lives of young children. Her program is being used all over the country and across the globe, most recently making its debut in India, Nepal, and Bangladesh.

Anne has taught music to students from preschool through college levels. She received the *Excellence in Teaching* award given by the *Learning Exchange*, *Kansas City Chamber of Commerce*, and the *Kansas City Star*. She was a commission member of the Vision 2020 *Housewright Symposium on the Future of Music Education* sponsored by the Music Educators National Conference.

Anne's specific research interest is the use of music for helping with the social-emotional and communication skills of young children. She was invited to share her work on social-emotional development at the National Training Institute Addressing Young Children with Challenging Behaviors.

Her research on music to support early language was published in the *International Journal for Research in Music Education*. She is the author of the popular *Baby Sing & Sign* book series (Perseus Books Group) and *SING & SIGN for Young Children: A Guide for Early Childhood Professionals* (Brookes Publishing, 2021).



Anne is a frequent trainer and presenter across the country, including conference presentations for the National Center for Parents as Teachers, National Head Start Association, Division of Early Childhood, Zero to Three, NAEYC Institute, the National Association for Music Education, and the American Music Therapy Association.

Her music for children earned National Association of Parenting Publications and Parent's Choice Honors awards.

She enjoys kayaking, snacking, and camping with her husband, Phil, and their two dogs. You will often find her dancing and belting the song "Uptown Funk" in her kitchen while baking bread. And, importantly, she believes the world would be a much better place if everyone would just take an afternoon nap.

CONTACT INFO

Anne@singplaylove.com • 816-225-4357

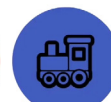
Meeker Creative LLC

6023 Wyandotte, Kansas City, Missouri 64113

vimeo.com/showcase/4737810/embed



Sing.



Play.



Love.

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FEATURED PRESENTATION

Thursday, June 6th • 10:30am

Closing General Session



Just Seven Skills

What are the essential skills for preparing children to succeed in school and in life?

Anne Meeker Watson, Ph.D., MT-BC

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the ways many parents and children interact. Combined with an increase in the amount of time both children and their parents spend utilizing devices, the loss of face-to-face interactions has also impacted a child's ability to master important early learning of social-emotional skills.

Consequently, numerous early childhood professionals are reporting an increase in challenging behaviors and escalations in the young children they serve. This reality impacts job satisfaction and has likely resulted in a reduction in the work force in settings serving young children. Many early childhood professionals report feeling overwhelmed and overworked.

Now more than ever, early childhood education requires a reset.

"Just Seven Skills" is a framework developed by Dr. Anne Meeker Watson, music therapist and early interventionist, that distills learning outcomes to a scope and sequence that includes seven key social-emotional skills.

"Just Seven" allows an early childhood professional to teach deeply and provides age-appropriate strategies and materials for teaching every skill to every child as they grow. Teachers utilize engaging picture books, fun songs, and play-filled learning activities across the day, providing engaging opportunities to master the content and skills.

By pairing the preferred activities of young children – music, books, play – with natural opportunities to teach skills across the day, teachers can add JOY and intentional teaching of foundational social-emotional skills to their relationships with children.

Breakout Session

Wednesday, June 5 • 1:00 – 2:30pm

Where The Wild Things Are

Songs and Strategies to Support Young Children with Challenging Behaviors. Discover how to blend intervention and prevention to help children who exhibit challenging behaviors, while guiding all children toward self-regulation, friendship skills, and emotional literacy. Anne will describe ways music- and play-based strategies can support the work of teachers

desiring to implement a program of social-emotional learning that aligns with a variety of curricula, standards, and philosophies. Learn how to build supportive relationships with all children as you teach the social and emotional skills children need most to learn and grow.

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FEATURED PRE-TRACK PRESENTER

CRAIG CABLE

**Safety and Security
Consultant and Trainer**

Craig is a risk management expert who provides safety and security consulting and training for schools, corporations, and nonprofits around the country.

In addition to Craig's safety and security experience, he is a sworn peace officer serving as a Reserve Deputy at the Larimer County Sheriff's Office located in Fort Collins, Colorado. As a member of law enforcement, he not only protects Larimer County's citizens as a volunteer patrol deputy but also county schools as a school marshal and certified School Resource Officer. He is an instructor for the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT), which specializes in de-escalating individuals who are a potential danger to themselves, and/or others.



Craig has an extensive training background which includes active shooter response training through the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training program. He is a Threat Liaison Officer who works closely with the FBI to identify potential threats against schools and critical infrastructure in Larimer County. He is also an NRA-certified firearms instructor, Range Safety Officer, and tactical trauma trainer. Craig has trained hundreds of security team leaders, community volunteers, and individuals working in schools, places of worship as well as numerous public settings.

BACK AT YOUR REQUEST!

Region VII Head Start Association is excited to announce that Craig Cable, Safety and Security Consultant and Trainer is returning to Region VII! For those of you who missed Craig's presentation at the 2023 Fall Caucus or those of you who left asking for more, Craig is coming back! Although none of us want to ever be faced with a situation that threatens harm to staff, our children and their families,

R7HSA is committed to bringing you quality safety training sessions in alignment with the Region VII "Safe in Hand" Initiative.

A disturbing side note that speaks to the importance of being prepared and developing situational awareness techniques, a school shooting (not Head Start) occurred the very day Mr. Cable left the Caucus and flew out of the KCI airport.

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PRE-TRACK SESSION

Monday, June 3rd

9:00 – 11:30am and 1:00 – 3:30pm

Location: Cottonwood 1



The Time is Now: Safety First

De-escalation Training (2 part session)

Craig Cable

Safety and Security Consultant and Trainer

This two-part training session will focus on equipping you with best practices and core principles for de-escalating potentially volatile situations. Together, we'll address the increase in incidents involving mental illness and the unique considerations for helping to keep the individual, yourself, and others safe.

Don't miss the opportunity to join this important session and continue sharpening your skillset in the area of de-escalating a potentially dangerous situation.

I promise, you will leave feeling empowered!

Topics covered:

- Addressing the mental health crisis
- Recent incidents
- De-escalation best practices
- Core principles of de-escalation
- Live scenario-based training
- Learning how to lead your own scenario training

Lunch is provided for participants attending this full-day prepaid session.

Safety in Region VII is our first priority!



No matter your HS/EHS role, some aspect of a child's life is in your hands. Keep them safe!

Visit the R7HSA Marketplace for **Safe in Hand** merchandise!

r7hsa-marketplace.creator-spring.com/

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PRE-TRACK SESSIONS

Monday, June 3rd

Supporting Social and Emotional Needs while Addressing Challenging Behaviors:

Morning session: Using the Big 5 Strategies to Prevent & Reduce Challenging Behaviors

Time: 9:00 – 11:30am • Location: Cottonwood 2

Come learn and practice five evidence-based strategies that benefit all children and can reduce challenging behaviors in the classroom. Learn how to implement these to fidelity and how to embed this into your day. This training came out of the research for Prevent Teach Reinforce for Young Children. While researchers were working with children using functional behavior analysis they realized over the course of the study they lost 20% of their sample to these instructional practices when they were implemented with fidelity. In this training we will look at these “big bang” successful teaching strategies, that are a foundational piece of the Pyramid Model training. We will explore and practice the strategies of: 5 positives to 1 negative, Schedules, Routines to the 3rd Power, Teaching Behavioral Expectations, and Teaching Social Emotional Skills.

Afternoon session: What To Do In The Interim: Strategies for Addressing Disruptive and Dangerous Behaviors

Time: 1:00 – 3:30pm • Location: Cottonwood 2

Serious challenging behaviors present a difficult problem, particularly when they occur before assessments are conducted and a behavior support plan can be developed and implemented. In this session, we will discuss strategies for addressing disruptive and dangerous behaviors that occur in preschool classrooms and childcare settings. We will cover prevention and safety considerations, functional assessments, behavior support plans, and temporary intervention procedures that can defuse disruptive episodes in the interim periods before effective support plans can be implemented. Questions and participant discussion will be encouraged.

Presenters: Kelly Wilson, Janice Lee and Amittia Parker, National Center on Health, Behavioral Health, and Safety (NCHBHS)

Lunch is provided for participants attending this full-day prepaid session.

Engaging Fathers & Males Figures in Head Start Programs

Time: 1:30 – 3:30pm • Location: Leatherwood 1

Program leaders often ask the question, “Where are all the males in Head Start” or “How can we get fathers involved in our program? We believe the real question we should ask is, “How do we ensure Head Start is a place for males”? Transforming the culture in Head Start is not simply solved by building a more gender-inclusive workforce. It requires a seismic shift in how we operate, how we engage, how we build safer spaces, and how we love, support, and recognize the importance of male caregivers in the field of early childhood education. Join the Region VII TTA team as we discuss how you can help recruit and retain male engagement at all levels across our programs.

Session Objectives: Understanding the roles and partnering with fathers and/or male role models in children’s well-being and development. In this session, participants will gain a fuller understanding of the impact on children when fathers and/or male role models are involved in their lives, identify and explore new ways to encourage positive relationships between male role models and children, and develop strategies and approaches that create a welcoming environment for fathers and other important men in the lives of children.

Presenters: Langston Jones, Family Engagement Specialist, Katie Ingham, Grantee Specialist and Loretta Skinner, Early Childhood Specialist, Region VII Technical Training & Assistance ICF

Lunch is **on your own** for attendees in this complimentary session.

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MONDAY, JUNE 3RD

R7HSA Board Meeting

4:00 – 6:00pm • Location: Hawthorne 1&2

TUESDAY, JUNE 4TH

Regional & State Breakout Meetups

Time: 8:30 – 9:30am

RO Cottonwood 1

IA Hawthorne 1

KS Hawthorne 2

MO Leatherwood 1

NE Leatherwood 2



OFFICE OF HEAD START

An Office of the Administration for Children & Families



Opening General Session

Time: 10:00 – 11:30am • Location: Cottonwood 1 & 2

Congratulations!

2024 Region VII Award Recipients

**R7HSA AWARD
RECOGNITION LUNCHEON**

JUNE 4, 2024

12:00 – 1:30PM (CST)

Cottonwood Ballroom 2&3

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TUESDAY, JUNE 4TH • BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Teamwork Makes The Dream Work

Time: 1:45 – 3:15pm • Location: Cottonwood 1

“We may not have it all together – Together we have it all.” Learning how to effectively work together is progress, keeping together is success. Learn to choose activities, establish and support your organization’s mission, vision and strategic goals. Participants will also address challenges in the workplace because of poor planning, eliminate communication distractions and focus on not just personal but also team goals. Choosing right over wrong, ethics over convenience and truth over popularity will allow team goals to be accomplished. Team members can be successful in the workplace if everyone can concentrate on their own performance and behavior, not that of their counterparts. Teamwork helps most people listen, observe, and respond positively without defending their productivity or performance. If you grow your people through these timeless principles, when applied in your own life and the life of your organization, Teamwork will make the Dream work.

Presenter: Dr. Robert Lemon, renowned speaker, author and entrepreneur

Leveraging Professional Development to Support Career Pathways for Family Services Professionals

Time: 1:45 – 3:15pm • Location: Leatherwood 1

Family services staff attend numerous professional development activities that support their work in your Head Start program. However, this critical part of our workforce has larger professional aspirations and career goals. The opportunity to scaffold these career goals alongside family services professionals builds human capital and positively impacts your recruitment and retention of qualified family services staff. Join the National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement (NCPFCE) to discuss using existing professional development opportunities as a platform to identify career goals and support Family Services Professionals moving forward on their career pathway.

Presenters: Juan Rodriguez, Alejandra Davis, Anita Harvey-Dixon, National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement (NCPFCE)

Guiding Potentials: Our Own and Those of Others

Time: 1:45 – 3:15pm • Location: Leatherwood 2

Imagine reaching your highest human potential and what that might model for others. Gaining awareness of ourselves – our strengths and blockages to our potential – can lead to a more heartened behavior to match your consciously chosen way of being – indeed your potential. Researched strategies presented guide you in embracing this.

Presenter: Janet Humphries, M.A., Dynamic Coaching Systems

Rev It Up or Calm It Down: Trauma-Informed Regulation Strategies for Every Body

Time: 1:45 – 3:15pm • Location: Leatherwood 3

Stress has a deep impact on how infants, young children and adults are able to regulate their internal systems. Lack of regulation often shows up in or through behavior. This interactive session uses trauma- informed practices to deepen our understanding and strengthen our support of regulation skills across a variety of settings. Explore various regulation stations (e.g., calming corners and contained energy zones) with various sensory-based tools that can be used to promote regulation in classrooms, at home, and everywhere in- between.

Presenters: Amittia Parker, Robert Harris; National Center on Health, Behavioral Health, and Safety (NCHBHS)

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TUESDAY, JUNE 4TH • BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Family Fusion: Empowering Engagement and Embracing Diversity

Time: 1:45 – 3:15pm • Location: Hawthorne 1

This session presents a four-stage, problem-solving model used to increase family engagement with attention to diverse populations. We discuss how Continuous Quality Improvement processes can be used to significantly increase family engagement and embrace diverse populations. Participants will understand how data can be used to track and increase family engagement and develop their own engagement plan.

Presenter: Rachel Parsons-Head Start Consultant, Learning Genie

Beyond Compensation: Burnout, Intent to Leave, and ECE Workforce Wellbeing

Time: 1:45 – 3:15pm • Location: Hawthorne 2

Longstanding challenges faced by the early care and education workforce include perennially low wages and high turnover rates. In a recent research study, Head Start grantees completed surveys and focus groups, allowing for exploring the complexity of factors contributing to well-being over and above compensation.

Presenters: Dr. Paula Thompson, Associate Professor, University of Nebraska at Kearney (UNK); Alexandra Daro, Research Specialist, Buffett Early Childhood Institute; Kate Sutton, Senior Research Specialist, Buffett Early Childhood Institute; Kristen Cunningham, Research Specialist, Buffett Early Childhood Institute

Data-Informed Decision Making

Time: 1:45 – 3:15pm Location: Maple Room

What data do programs need most to inform decisions? Take a deep dive into the data and evaluation management system during this engaging session. We will identify strategies for effectively preparing, managing, and utilizing data. We will also demonstrate effective skills to analyze data and improve services, as well. Learn how to identify the data you need to turn intuition into grounded, data-informed decisions.

Presenters: Ametta Reaves and Nicole Holman-Alexander National Center on Program Management Fiscal Operations (NCPMFO)

Head Start 60th Anniversary Toolkit

Time: 1:45 – 3:15pm • Location: Juniper Room

In May 2025, Head Start will celebrate 60 years of service to the nation's youngest children and their families. The Region VII Head Start Association has created a digital toolkit to support state and program planning of birthday celebrations with ease. Attendees will see a demonstration of the toolkit features, have time to explore the digital resources, and ask questions about the toolkit. Join us as we unveil the Region VII Head Start 60th Birthday Toolkit and begin planning for upcoming celebrations!

Presenter(s): R7HSA Board of Directors

TUESDAY, JUNE 4TH

Peer Networking Group Meet-ups

Time: 3:30 – 4:30pm

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| • Management Teams/Governing Body | Leatherwood 1 |
| • Education | Leatherwood 2 |
| • Social Services-ERSEA, etc. | Hawthorne 1 |
| • Transportation-Facilities | Maple Room |
| • Health Specialists | Hawthorne 2 |
| • Parent Groups-Policy Council | Juniper Room |
-

Exhibit/Walk-About Reception

Time: 4:30 – 6:30pm • Pre-function areas

Relax with your Head Start family, mingle with our event exhibitors, and enjoy assorted appetizers and beverages.



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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5TH • BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Fiscal/Grants (3-hour session with 30-minute break)

Time: 8:00 – 11:30am • Location: Cottonwood 1

The fiscal/grants session will include a Review of OHS-PI-24-01 (SF425 and SF428 reporting), discussion on the updated OHS Terms and Conditions in the Notice of Award, preview the Uniform Guidance crosswalk of Part 75 to Part 200, and an important discussion regarding financial reporting requirements and the treatment of unobligated balances (de-obligation, offset, carryover).

Presenters: Jennifer Curtiss, Grants Management Officer, School Readiness, Administration for Children and Families; Stefanie Gordon, Director, School Readiness Grants, Office of Grants Management, Administration for Children and Families

The Employee Experience Journey (Workforce Track Session 1)

Time: 8:00 – 9:30am • Location: Leatherwood 1

“Every interaction, every moment that employees have with your brand influences whether they’ll stay with your organization.” Gallup, Inc. All the moments of an employee’s experience, from recruitment to departure, play a role in how a person feels about their workplace. These feelings affect employee engagement, performance, and retention. It pays for leaders to implement strategies that enhance employee perceptions of the workplace. Discover strategies to support recipients as they enhance the employee’s experience and create a culture of hiring, retention, and growth.

Presenters: Ametta Reaves and Elsa Hernandez, National Center on Program Management and Fiscal Operations (NCPMFO)

Putting Heart into Practice: Customizing Early Childhood Education for Each Child

Time: 8:00 – 9:30am • Location: Leatherwood 2

In our Heart Work, we get to be on the frontlines of supporting children’s success where every child’s journey is honored and nurtured. In this presentation we will explore the essentials for fostering meaningful growth and development in young learners. Join us as we explore the importance of recognizing where children stand on the developmental continuum, and identifying approaches that support home-based and center-based educators with individualization.

Presenters: Bethanie Grass, Early Childhood Specialist, Region VII Head Start TTA, ICF; Loretta Skinner, Early Childhood Specialist, Region VII Head Start TTA

Co-Creating and Implementing Peer Coaching

Time: 8:00 – 9:30am • Location: Hawthorne 1

Using coaching skills to promote more effective communication is one way to respond to the current high needs of children, families and staff. Learn research-based practices to elevate thinking/action more systemically and generatively. Determine a beginning plan for transforming your program into a more responsive community with peer-coaching supports.

Presenter: Janet Humphries, M.A., Dynamic Coaching

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5TH • BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Conversations that Help: Using Motivational Interviewing Strategies (3 hours)

Time: 8:00 – 11:30am • Location: Leatherwood 3

In this two part workshop, we will explore challenges in engaging families for their health and well-being, and strategies to build positive relationships and have better interactions. Motivational interviewing will be shared as an approach and strategy in facilitating conversations that can be more helpful.

- Gain increased understanding of factors that may make it difficult for staff and families to engage in support
- Gain strategies for improving their ability to develop positive relationships between staff and families
- Gain strategies for having more-helpful conversations that facilitate growth

Presenter: Amittia Parker, Juan Rodriguez, Alejandra Davis, National Center on Health, Behavioral Health, and Safety (NCHBHS)

Beyond Compensation: Burnout, Intent to Leave, and ECE Workforce Wellbeing

Time: 8:00 – 9:30am • Location: Hawthorne 2

REPEATED SESSION see page 17 for description

Lost and Found: A Personal and Professional Journey to Transformation

Time: 8:00 – 9:30am • Location: Maple Room

Adults need deeper connections and relationships to navigate their day to day lives. What would it look like if every staff member in your program functioned at their highest capacity? Come hear about a Head Start Programs journey to success and transformation.

Presenters: Jason Mercer, Early Learning Coach; Amber Buchheit, Director of Early Childhood Education, Youth In Need

Head Start 60th Anniversary Toolkit

Time: 8:00 – 9:30am • Location: Juniper Room

REPEATED SESSION see page 17 for description

Fiscal/Grants (continued)

Time: 10:00 – 11:30am • Location: Cottonwood 1

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5TH • BREAKOUT SESSIONS

A Place for Me: Dismissing Children from the Classroom

Time: 10:00 – 11:30am • Location: Maple Room

In order to skillfully manage educational spaces, professionals need a delicate balance of consistency and compassion. Underlying the decision-making process lurks an evitable factor that cannot be shut off, but instead must be yielded with caution: bias. From very early ages, children of color, are being dismissed from their classrooms in higher numbers than the rest of their peers. How does this dismissal impact their trajectory? How does their dismissal also impact the viewpoints of the other.

Session Outcomes:

1. Participants will learn how bias is active in the mind and then manifests in behaviors.
2. Participants will examine patterns of classroom policies that exclude groups of children.
3. Participants will dialogue on opportunities for inclusion.
4. Participants will gain strategies for confronting bias.

Presenter: Dominique NC Lewis, MS, NC Planning and Consulting

Staff Wellness, Organizational Culture and Values (Workforce Track Session 2)

Time: 10:00 – 11:30am • Location: Leatherwood 1

A healthy organizational culture is one that is collaborative, integrative, and responsive, resulting in engaged and inspired staff. When your employees' well-being is thriving, your organization directly benefits. Discuss systemic strategies that support and maintain a healthy organizational culture that contributes to staff well-being. Join us as we identify everyone's role in building a workplace that embraces the organization's culture.

Presenters: Ametta Reaves and Elsa Hernandez, National Center on Program Management and Fiscal Operations (NCPMFO)

Head Start Horizon: Igniting Success through Conference Mastery

Time: 10:00 – 11:30am • Location: Leatherwood 2

The Head Start horizon requires us to become innovative, but also very strategic with conference and staff In-Service planning. We are excited to share what our program has done and are now planning and celebrating our 10th Annual Conference in July! Conference and In-Service planning is key to building connections, spreading positive environments, and providing the most beneficial information to staff.

Presenters: Kimberly Lackey- EHS/HS Director, NEK-CAP, Inc. Linda Grier- Data Manager

It Starts With Us: Adult Regulation, the Change Agent in Trauma-Informed Care

Time: 10:00 – 11:30am • Location: Hawthorne 1

Trauma-informed care is essential for providing the best possible education and care to children/families, but it's not always easy for those tasked with providing the services. Educators/caregivers must be able to recognize their own needs and cues before they can accurately and effectively meet the needs of others.

Presenters: Jeannie Thurston, MS, LPC, CCTP-I, Trauma Smart-Crittenton Children's Center, Saint Luke's Hospital of Kansas City; LeAnn Keck, LCSW/RPT

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5TH • BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Health Oriented Leadership: The Secret to Retaining Staff

Time: 10:00 – 11:30am • Location: Hawthorne 2

Just as we are charged with serving the community of families and children, our leaders are also here to serve the staff who carry out the Head Start mission. Resources and mental health lead to positive outcomes for families as well as agency staff.

Presenter: Amber Davis, MSIOP, Human Resources Manager, Drake University Head Start

Conversations that help: using Motivational Interviewing (cont.)

Time: 10:00 – 11:30am • Location: Leatherwood 3

11:30am -1:00pm (Lunch on your own)

11:30am -1:00pm • Regional-State Association Meetup (invite only)

Program Planning: A Discussion on Enrollment Reduction and Conversion Applications

Time: 1:00 – 2:30pm • Location: Cottonwood 1

Community needs shift over time and for various reasons often indicating a need to adjust enrollment. This regional office program session will focus on enrollment reduction and conversion applications. Discussion will center on preparing the agency for submission of either the reduction or conversion application to include pre-planning, timeline, implementation, and service delivery model changes.

Presenter: Latrice Davis, Esq., Supervisory Program Specialist, OHS, Administration for Children and Families, Region VII, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Retention (Workforce Track Session 3)

Time: 1:00 – 2:30pm • Location: Leatherwood 1

Great employee onboarding can improve employee retention by 82%; and new employees with good onboarding experience are 18x more committed to their employer. Yet, and interestingly, Gallup reports that only 12% of employees agree that their organization has a good onboarding process. Find out what is necessary for a “good” onboarding process.

Presenters: Ametta Reaves and Elsa Hernandez, National Center for Program Management and Fiscal Operations (NCPMFO)

United We Teach: Strengthening Team Dynamics in Head Start

Time: 8:30 – 10:00am • Location: Maple Room

This presentation is focused on increasing workplace morale after COVID-19. This training focuses on the importance of morale, its impact on overall productivity, and specific strategies to boost morale in the post-pandemic workplace

Presenters: Stefanie Gardner, Education Coach, NEKCAP, Inc., Mary Alice Cooper, Education Manager; Karla Winterscheidt, Education Manager

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5TH • BREAKOUT SESSIONS

The Power of Reflection to Support Adult Regulation and Promote Wellness

Time: 1:00 – 2:30pm • Location: Leatherwood 2

Pandemic-related issues, political distress, negative media saturation, or just a regular Tuesday working in a program can lead to high levels of stress. Whether you supervise staff or receive supervision (or perhaps do both), there is much that can be learned about maintaining and encouraging wellness through reflective practice. The more skilled we become in finding our calm, the more effective our wellness practices will become, creating an impact on you, your relationships, and your work. Join this interactive session to explore reflective techniques and strategies to build reflective capacity, and adult self and co-regulation, which can be instrumental during challenging moments.

Presenters: Amittia Parker, Robert Harris, National Center on Health, Behavioral Health, and Safety (NCHBHS)

“Where the Wild Things Are” Songs and Strategies to Support Young Children with Challenging Behaviors

Time: 1:00 – 2:30pm • Location: Leatherwood 3

Songs and Strategies to Support Young Children with Challenging Behaviors. Discover how to blend intervention and prevention to help children who exhibit challenging behaviors, while guiding all children toward self-regulation, friendship skills, and emotional literacy. Anne will describe ways music- and play-based strategies can support the work of teachers desiring to implement a program of social-emotional learning that aligns with a variety of curricula, standards, and philosophies. Learn how to build supportive relationships with all children as you teach the social and emotional skills children need most to learn and grow.

Presenter: Anne Meeker Watson, Ph.D., MT-BC, renowned music therapist & author

Supporting Head Start Programs with New Resources to Promote Family Economic Mobility

Time: 1:00 – 2:30pm • Location: Hawthorne 1

Have you been waiting excitedly for the new Parent, Family, and Community Engagement (PFCE) toolkit to support family economic mobility? If so, this session is for you! You will have the opportunity to navigate through Family Economic Mobility (FEM) that meets staff members and leaders wherever they are in partnering with families on their family well-being goals. Join NCPFCE as we reveal the updated FEM Toolkit e-book designed to support family economic mobility basics. Explore hands-on resources to help you plan as you partner with families on their journey toward economic stability.

Presenters: Juan Rodriguez, Alejandra Davis, Anita Harvey-Dixon, National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement (NCPFCE)

A Community of Practice: Attachment vs. Authenticity. What's The Dilemma?

Time: 1:00 – 2:30pm • Location: Hawthorne 2

It's a two for one! Explore attachment and authenticity, reflecting upon self-awareness and fostering your personal development, while simultaneously participating in a Community of Practice, gaining understanding of how you can implement this style of professional development within your own program to co-construct learning, reflection, and change!.

Presenters: Amber Buchheit, Director of Early Childhood Education, Youth In Need, Early Learning Programs. Jason Mercer, Early Learning Coach

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5TH • BREAKOUT SESSIONS

ERSEA – Using Data to Create a Successful Plan (3 hour session)

Time: 1:00 – 4:30pm • Location: Maple Room

Bring your Community Assessment, Selection Priorities, Recruitment Plan and marketing materials. Come ready to engage in interactive discussions about best practices and innovative ways to reach children and families.

Presenters: Kimberly Shinn-Brown, Teresa Sivils-Dickey, Ozarks Area Community Action Corporation (OACAC) Head Start Program

Community Contributions: A Discussion on Non-federal Share Match

Time: 3:00 – 4:30pm • Location: Cottonwood 1

This regional office fiscal session will focus on non-federal share match information and explanations of fiscal issues such as contributions, allowable versus unallowable sources, documentation, in-kind, valuation and volunteer services. This session will also review the process for requesting a non-federal share match waiver.

Presenter: Kaycie Bennett, Grants Management Specialist, School Readiness, Administration for Children and Families

Nurturing Relationships between the Head Start Workforce and Families while Exploring Equitable Practices (Workforce Track Session 4)

Time: 3:00 – 4:30pm • Location: Leatherwood 1

Nurturing Relationships between the Head Start Workforce and Families while Exploring Equitable Practices: The Parent, Family, and Community Engagement (PFCE) Framework provides a road map for effective family engagement in program systems and services that promote positive and long-lasting outcomes for families, their children, and staff. At the same time, the opportunity to scaffold career goals alongside family services professionals also builds human capital and positively impacts recipients' recruitment and retention of highly qualified family services staff. In addition, the new "Equity Drivers" that strengthen family engagement are grounded in equity, inclusivity, and cultural and linguistic responsiveness which support all the interactions in the PFCE Framework Program Foundations and Program Impact Areas. Join NCPFCE in this session to discuss two of the five equity drivers our workforce can use to enhance relationships with parents and families through an equity lens.

Presenters: Juan Rodriguez & Alejandra Davis, National Center for Parent, Family, and Community Engagement (NCPFCE)

Positive Kindergarten Transitions for All Head Start Children and Families

Time: 3:00 – 4:30pm • Location: Hawthorne 1

Head Start plays a key role in supporting positive kindergarten transitions and can partner with school districts and community partners to ensure success for all incoming kindergarten students. Head Start program staff will share their experiences identifying and implementing practical transition strategies.

Presenters: Heather Schroterberger, Executive Director, Kansas Head Start Association; Kimberly Kennedy, Director, Kansas Head Start Collaboration Office

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5TH • BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Can You Hear Me Now? ... How To Be A Better Listener

Time: 3:00 – 4:30pm • Location: Hawthorne 2

Listening is essential to building trust! Join us in this interactive session to assess and reflect upon ways we listen, define deep listening and how its elements can benefit all relationships and communication, and identify strategies & techniques to support our listening practices.

Presenters: Amber Buchheit, Director of Early Childhood Education, Youth In Need, Early Learning Programs. Jason Mercer, Early Learning Coach

National Head Start Association Session on the **NHSA Advocacy Toolkit**

Time: 3:00 – 4:30pm • Location: Leatherwood 2

Plan to attend this session and learn about one of NHSA's highest priorities, building a national "Go Team" of advocate programs. Participants will join in a conversation focused on exploring ways we can continue to grow our capacity to fight for Head Start children and their families in 2024 and beyond.

Presenter: Blair Hyatt, Senior Director of State Affairs, National Head Start Association

ERSEA-Using Data to Create a Successful Plan (cont.)

Time: 3:00 – 4:30pm • Location: Maple Room

AmeriCorps Seniors, a natural partner for Head Start

Time: 3:00 – 4:30pm • Location: Leatherwood 3

AmeriCorps Seniors connects today's 55+ with the people and organizations that need them most. We help them become mentors, coaches, or companions to people in need, or contribute their job skills and expertise to community projects and organizations. Each year, AmeriCorps Seniors engages more than 200,000 older adults in volunteer service through its Foster Grandparent Program (FGP), Senior Companion Program (SCP), and RSVP, enriching the lives of volunteers and benefiting their communities. In this session with AmeriCorps North Central Region staff, participants will learn: - Details about AmeriCorps mission, opportunities, and how to partner with programs in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska - Foster Grandparents service sites, counties they serve in the 4-state region and the potential to partner with Head Start programs -RSVP service sites, the counties they serve in the 4-state region, and the potential to partner with Head Start programs.

Presenters: Michael Laverty, Regional Administrator Sara Albright, Deputy Regional Administrator Daniel Cruz, Senior Portfolio Manager, Kansas/Nebraska Katia Tovmenko, Senior Portfolio Manager, Missouri

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5TH R7HSA ANNUAL MEETING

Time: 4:45 – 5:30pm • Location: Cottonwood 2&3

THURSDAY, JUNE 6TH • BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Ongoing Monitoring - A Systems Lens

Time: 8:30 – 10:00am • Location: Leatherwood 1

Programs use data generated by ongoing monitoring and continuous improvement to measure program performance, identify areas of concern, and make immediate program corrections. Join us in this interactive session to explore the key components of these interrelated processes. We will share valuable tools and practices so that programs can improve ongoing monitoring and continuous improvement.

Presenters: Ametta Reaves and Nicole Holman-Alexander, National Center on Program Management and Fiscal Operations (NCPMFO)

Sensory Emotional: Wiring the Brain for Success Through Sensory Experiences

Time: 8:30 – 10:00am • Location: Leatherwood 2

The connection between brain development and sensory experiences is well documented. This training will encourage participants to use a sensory lens when investigating the meaning of challenging behaviors and deciphering what those behaviors are trying to tell us. Participants will explore activities to meet those needs in fun, interactive and connection making ways.

Presenter: Loree Beason, Mental Health Consultant, Heartland Early Education

Male Caregiver Mental Health

Time: 8:30 – 10:00am • Location: Hawthorne 1

Join us to explore the unique needs and challenges of male mental health, especially as it relates to early child development and family outcomes. Participants can look forward to exploring connections between male mental health and child outcomes. We will explore stereotypes and bias that may influence male mental health, barriers and challenges, and also develop strategies that encourage positive mental health outcomes for male caregivers and those they care for. Learning Objectives: 1. To acknowledge the unique needs/impact of men's mental health in relation to early child development 2. To adopt and incorporate strategies that normalize support of men's mental health in Early Head Start & Head Start 3. To recognize the benefits of male inclusion in Head Start, Early Head Start in connection to positive mental health.

Presenter: Robert Harris, National Center on Health, Behavioral Health, and Safety (NCHBHS)

Understanding Lead (Community Lead Awareness)

Time: 8:30 – 10:00am • Location: Hawthorne 2

This session is designed for educators and community members interested in learning more about lead, its impacts, and actions that can reduce and prevent lead exposure.

The following questions will be addressed throughout the session:

- What is Lead and what are some potential sources of exposure?
- Why should we be concerned about Lead?
- What can be done to reduce the potential of Lead exposure?

Presenters: Marie Blankenship, EPA

THURSDAY, JUNE 6TH • BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Stress, Coping Skills, and Resilience

Time: 8:30 – 10:00am • Location: Leatherwood 3

We often hear the terms “burnout” and “stress” used interchangeably, but they are not the same thing. Recognizing the difference is crucial, as addressing stress early can help prevent burnout. Participants will learn information on how to build resiliency to manage stress at work and at home, as well as some helpful resources for seeking help if needed.

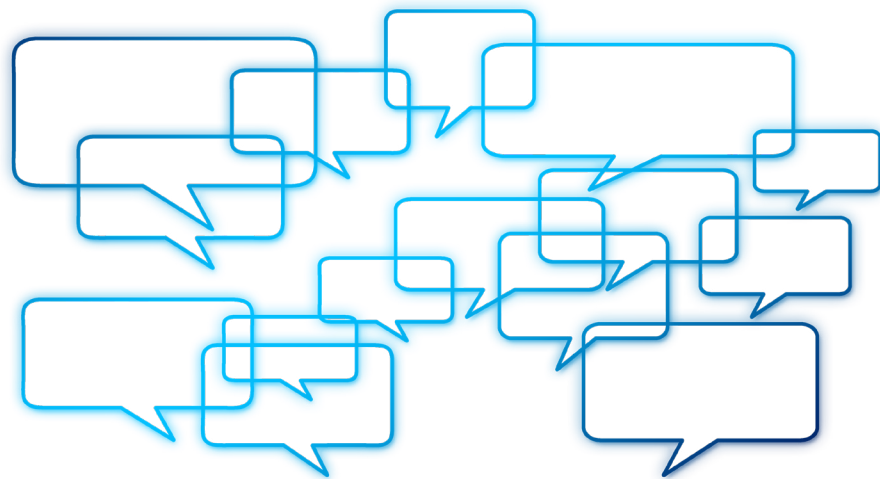
Presenter: Mallory Gevertz, Community Prevention Coordinator, Johnson County Mental Health Center

Confronting Poverty

Time: 8:30 – 10:00am • Location: Maple Room

Poverty is a living community issue that can feel close and distant at the same time. As advocates for children, Head Start leaders can have the best intentions to meet families with empathy yet feel inadequate to provide meaningful respite to families existing in crisis. In this workshop, safe discovery will be the goal as participants observe personal and social factors that contribute to the narrative of poverty. Participants will discover how personal bias shapes community perspectives on poverty, examine how the ripples of poverty impact children of young ages, recall the regional tension of wages and costs of living, and dialogue on economics as an inflection point in continuity of care.

Presenter: Dominique, NC Lewis, MS, NC Planning and Consulting



REGION VII HEAD START DIRECTORS' ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

with Khari Garvin, Director of the Office of Head Start,
Administration for Children and Families/
US Department of Health & Human Services

8:30 – 10:00am • Cottonwood 1

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THURSDAY, JUNE 6TH

CONFERENCE CLOSING SESSION

Time: 10:15am – 12:00pm • Location: Cottonwood 2&3

Office of Head Start Update

KHARI GARVIN

Director of the Office of Head Start
| Administration for Children and
Families/US Department of Health
& Human Services



OFFICE OF HEAD START

An Office of the Administration for Children & Families



**ANNE
MEEKER WATSON,
PH.D., MT-BC**
Founder of the
SING.PLAY.LOVE. program.

***Don't miss this exciting and
moving closing session!***

**Dr. Anne will bring an important
message as well as have you singing
and dancing before you hit the road!**



Sing.



Play.



Love.

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FEDERAL STAFF MEET AND GREET

Time: 3:30 – 4:15pm • Location: Cottonwood 1

Region VII Office of Head Start Staff will gather for a federal staff meeting with Khari Garvin, Director of the Office of Head Start, Administration for Children and Families/US Department of Health & Human Services.

SAVE THE DATES!

2024 ANNUAL CAUCUS

October 22-24, 2024
(Pre-Tracks: October 21)

Announcing new location:
Hilton Kansas City Airport

DETAILS COMING SOON!



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