

# SAFE in HAND SAFETY TRAINING

March 11, 2026 • 9:00 - 11:00am

**Presenter: Donna Veatch**  
Executive Director, R7HSA

**Special Guest Speaker: Ann Linehan**  
Consultant, Former Deputy Director, Administration  
for Children and Families, US Department of  
Health and Human Services, Office of Head Start



**“Keeping EVERY CHILD  
safe, secure, and feeling  
loved EVERY MOMENT  
while in our care, is  
foundational to  
Head Start and  
Early Head Start  
programs.”**

**~ ANN LINEHAN**  
Consultant  
Former Deputy Director, Administration  
for Children and Families, US Department  
of Health and Human Services  
Office of Head Start

## Safe in Hand Training Module Overview

The Safe in Hand™ training module is designed to help Head Start Program staff build confidence and readiness by consistently applying the “Safe in Hand” method, based on the Region VII Initiative. This training reinforces staff commitment to child and family safety and serves as an opportunity to strengthen essential skills within the program community.

### Session Outcomes:

Participants will have the opportunity to:

- Strengthen documentation practices to ensure clear, accurate, and timely records supporting child and family well-being, with particular attention to emerging safety concerns such as infectious disease protocols, emergency preparedness, and mental health documentation.
- Increase capacity for proactive communication with staff and families, fostering trust and collaboration to address current safety challenges including responding to public health advisories, implementing security measures, and supporting trauma-informed care.
- Take prompt, constructive action, influenced by Ann Linehan’s commitment to the safety of infants, toddlers, and Pre-K children served across Head Start programs. Motivated by her guidance, attendees are expected to thoroughly review existing policies, procedures, and practices, adopt new methodologies, and seek innovative solutions that promote continuous quality improvement. The primary objective remains to ensure safe, loving and nurturing environments where children of all ages are consistently protected from harm, regardless of location.
- Create a tailored implementation plan for use upon return, enabling teams to incorporate safety strategies throughout all aspects of program practice and ensuring these measures are systematically embedded within daily operations to safeguard every child, family, and staff member.

Growing and maintaining a highly-effective program is a tough job, and not every day will be a perfect day. But, if each day children leave their Head Start or Early Head Start environment feeling safe, valued, special, happy, and bathed in love, then it’s been a good day.



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



**R7HSA**  
Region VII Head Start Association  
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# Safe in Hand Training Module Agenda

March 11, 2026 (9:00–11:00AM)



## Welcome & Introduction • Ann Linehan

- Overview of the “Safe in Hand” Initiative and guiding principles
- Brief introduction to Head Start Performance Standards and Head Start Act

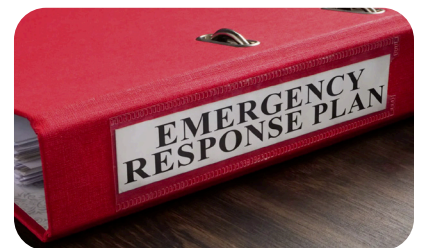
## Safety Protocols & Staff Training

- Importance of aligning with FA1 and FA2 Monitoring Protocols
- Orientation, ongoing training, and mandated reporter requirements (CPR, first aid)
- Recognizing/responding to safety concerns; documentation and accountability



## Policies & Procedures

- Written safety policy development (45 CFR §1302.47(a), §1302.102(d))
- Emergency protocols, incident reporting, annual reviews, and revisions



## Communication

- Approaching difficult conversations with parents
- Incident documentation, timely/transparent communication, empathy, and support

## Ensuring a Culture of Safety

- Transportation safety (driver/monitor training, child checks, emergency plans)
- Health and hygiene (daily checks, hygiene promotion, cleaning protocols)
- Food handling (USDA/Head Start compliance, allergies, kitchen inspections)
- Facility and environment safety (inspections, secure access, maintenance)



## Engaging with Law Enforcement & Emergency Response

- Understanding program policies and staff responsibility as defined by legislation to law enforcement activity and confidentiality
- Legal rights, family protections, and incident checklists
- Emergency preparedness for injury, abuse, or law enforcement situations

## Continuous Quality Improvement

- Ongoing monitoring, staff training, and annual policy review

## Q&A and Closing

- Open discussion, questions, and next steps for staff implementation

