

REGION VI HEAD START ASSOCIATION

Quarterly Reporting Form



Name: Alferma Giles, Ph.D.

Position: THSSCO Director

Meeting Date: October 23, 2023

Organization: Texas Head Start State Collaboration Office

Address: Alferma.Crawford@uth.tmc.edu

Correspondence: Emails and/or phone calls to:

1. President Lopez, Region VI HSA Board
2. Deana Howell

Reporting Information:

In June/2023, Head Start Collaboration Directors were issued new National Priorities that will guide the work of our offices. This report reflects the activities and engagement of the THSSCO that relates to the current priorities:

PRIORITY 1: Collaborate with state systems to align early care and education services and supports for children and families prenatally to age 5.

- Participate as a governor appointed member of the Texas Early Learning Council, to engage in the work of the current Texas Early Learning Strategic Plan and the work of the PDG-B5 Renewal Grant
- Participates with the First3Years, Houston Infant Toddler Coalition as a collaborative to concentrate our efforts to focus on children birth to three, and to collectively develop and implement strategies for strengthening our system of programs and services to increase positive early experiences for infants and toddlers and to better meet the needs of the families with young children in Houston.
- Participates in the Home Visiting Coalition meetings
- Participates in meetings with Children at Risk to support early childhood in Texas.
- The Texas Education Agency (TEA) and the THSSCO will work to simplify the application practices by creating a common eligibility screener across multiple early childhood programs

with similar eligibility criteria, allowing families to more easily determine which services they could be eligible for, and therefore, they may apply for. The screener, which will be developed in Year 3 of the grant cycle, will include at a minimum, criteria for childcare scholarships, public school pre-k, and Early Head Start/Head Start. The screener will be housed on the Early Childhood Texas website. Additionally, Texas is exploring possibilities for a coordinated cross-agency application for child care scholarships, pre-k, and Head Start/Early Head Start

- Continue to work in partnership with the Texas Workforce Commission to support access to quality child care services. Continue the engagement and work with the TELC and the Inter-Agency Workgroup to implement carry out the goals of the Texas Early Learning Strategic Plan
- Participates in monthly meetings with the Inter-Agency Deputy Director of Early Childhood Support to better engage to continues the work with state agency partners to implement the current goals of the Texas Early Learning Strategic Plan and the PDG-B5 Renewal Grant
- Meets monthly with the Inter-Agency Deputy Director of Early Childhood Support Office of School Programs at the Texas Education Agency. The latest activities include the THSSCO engagement with the Texas Early Learning Council on the PDG-B5 Grant.
- The THSSCO is supporting recruitment for grants to support early childhood professions and coaches:
 - The Core Competencies for Coaching Professional Development Program (C3PD). *The program focuses on building coaches' competency in specific behaviors and skills that can be used to help teachers improve the quality of their classrooms.*
 - Cultivating Awareness and Resilience in Education (CARE) Program Grant *CARE is a research-based professional development program designed to promote teachers' social and emotional skills and well-being.*
- The THSSCO will work to establish a relationship with the Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth (TEHCYP Program Director when one is hired. The previous director and program specialist have both left their positions and a new director has not been named.
- The THSCO will work to establish a working relationship with additional state agency partners where there is a need for collaboration.

PRIORITY 2: Work with state efforts to collect and use data on early childhood programs to guide decision-making and improve child and family outcomes.

- Participates in meetings with First3Years/Houston Infant Toddler Coalition (HITC): Data gathering for the Developmental Promotion Workgroup
- Developmental Promotion – Integrating family voice into the HITC, developmental promotion, and early intervention:
 - Policy – The Early Childhood Intervention program yearly application for funding under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Part C
 - Awareness – Working on our public awareness campaign promoting early development and celebrating parents
 - Workforce – HITC's developing the runway for the launch

- Participates on the Developmental Screening Workgroup to create a Developmental Screening Landscape Analysis Roadmap and Early Childhood Integrated Data System Toolkit Guide.
- Participates in work and engagement related to the strategies and activities included in the Texas Early Learning Strategic Plan, which will now be updated to support the PDG-B5 Renewal Grant activities.
- Participated in the Early Childhood Integrated Data Roadmap Stakeholder (ECIDS) Listening Session Meeting. Purpose: Through collaboration across and within agencies and programs, a Texas ECIDS provide an integrated and aligned approach to enable Texas to make informed decisions through programs and policies that promote positive outcomes for young children and their families.
- Provided HS/EHS data to various state, local agencies and partners, to support data research, reporting requirements, analysis, projects, grant development, partnerships, and data mapping.

PRIORITY 3: Support the expansion of and access to high-quality workforce and career development opportunities for staff.

The latest The Texas Early Childhood Professional Development System (TECPDS) and the Texas Head Start State Collaboration Office (THSSCO) have partnered with Head Start (HS) and Early Head Start (EHS) to support career development, provide resources and more!

The TECPDS and THSSCO Website Content TECPDS & THSSCO Alignment

TECPDS for THSSCO:

TECPDS is a highly utilized resource for early childhood professional in Texas, designed to support continued advancement on their personal career pathways. Collaboration on behalf of children and families is one of Head Start’s highest priorities. The THSSCO and TECPDS are working to bring these programs together to further enhance early childhood professional development experiences.

The TECPDS will offer support to early childhood professions by providing them with resources and tools to help them meet their professional development needs. When participants create a free account on TECPDS, they will have access to resources, tools, career development opportunities, and more.

Additionally, center directors and administrators will be able to:

- Connect to centers
- Unaffiliate staff who are no longer with your program
- Create trainings for approval for approval by TECPDS
- Track PD hours
- Utilize the certificate generation tool for events/trainings
- Safely store records

PRIORITY 4: Coordinate with school systems to ensure continuity and alignment across programs, as appropriate.

The THSSCO worked with the Children’s Learning Institute/[Infant Toddler Specialist Network](#) (ITSN) to align the Head Start Program Performance Standards with the Early Learning Outcomes Framework. The ITSN Team provided a training to EHS administrators and infant/toddler staff about how the Texas

Infant-Toddler Specialist Network (ITSN) teacher program works with the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework (ELOF) to support your Early Head Start program staff.

The Texas ITSN offers professional development opportunities and collaborative experiences for teachers and specialists covering a wide range of topics specific to supporting infant and toddler development that align with the Early Learning Outcomes Framework.

The sessions were 1-hour webinars, we will overview the alignment between the Texas ITSN and the ELOF domains, to show how EHS teachers in your program can access free professional development, including classroom strategies they can use daily.

State and Regional Priorities

- Securing the workforce
- Apprenticeship programs
- Homelessness

OTHER:

The THSSCO supported the planning and conducting of the Texas Head Start Association Virtual Leadership Forum on September 14, 2023.

In partnership with Dr. Jerry Roberson/Cognitive High Performance Coach & Speaker, the THSSCO developed a consultant agreement with him to serve as the keynote speaker for the TXHSA Leadership Forum, and to provide three (3) follow-up training sessions for Head Start/Early Head Start. The last of the three sessions will take place on Thursday, October 26th.

The THSSCO is working in collaboration with Anthem Strong Families, David Bryant/Department of Family & Protective Services to support the THSSCO to support Head Start/Early Head Start and the Texas Head Start Association with work, engagement, trainings and presentations on the fatherhood & family engagement. "FATHERS, MORE THAN A CONTRIBUTORY EFFECT."

CONFERENCE /MEETING ATTENDANCE SINCE THE LAST BOARD MEETING:

HS Collaboration Directors' Meeting

August 1-2 | Washington DC

THSA Virtual Leadership Forum

September 14 |

Fall Leadership Institute

September 18-21 | Crystal City, VA

Region VI Office Of Head Start – Collaboration Directors' Meeting

October 24-25 | Dallas



Board Action Items: None

Report Attachments (if any):

Signature(s): *Alferma Giles* **Date Submitted:** 10/18/23

THSSCO website: <https://texashssco.org/>