

## Arkansas Head Start Association

### Class Meetings (Directors, Staff, Parents, Friends)

November 20, 2024

#### Minutes

**Roll Call:** Sara Wilhite called the meeting to order at 11:04 am. The following members/guests were present: Angela Blankenship, Jennifer Thomas, Sara Wilhite, Shirley Pulliam, Carrie Ragland, Angeal Calderera, Jackie Govan, Deana Howell, Whitley Bryant, Jennifer Thomas, Jackie Burton, Carrie Ragland, and Virginia Gianelloni. The following members/guests participated via Zoom: Susan Templeton, Christine Perkins, and Rebecca Freedman.

**Consideration of Agenda:** Sara Wilhite asked if there were any changes to the agenda. There were no changes.

**Approval of Minutes:** Sara Wilhite called for a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. **Jackie Burton made a motion to approve the minutes. Shirley Pulliam seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion carried.**

**Guest Speaker:** Christine Perkins, Regional Client Director and Rebecca Freedman, Co-Founder & SVP of Professional Development from First Day presented on “Building Responsive Classrooms from Day One”. The program is integrative and not additive and provides systematic consistency. It inspires teachers to give children tools in building skills children need for problem solving. The program focuses on challenging behaviors, building body confidence, and satisfying sensory needs. To change any behaviors, we have to slow down. The Big Idea Reaction requires a thoughtful plan. They change behaviors by empowering teachers with the science of behavior change and equipping educators with knowledge and strategies.

#### Old Business:

**Dollar per Child:** Deana Howell reported that \$250 has been collected so far for 2025

**Membership Dues Report:** Deana Howell reported that since the report had been published UAMS had paid their dues so that the amount due should be subtracted by \$2320 leaving a balance due of \$1690. Mid Delta and UAPB are on a January-December cycle. There was discussion by the committee that due to the major reduction in slots as well as diminishing revenues from the institute that we need to look at increasing membership dues. **Shirley Pulliam made a motion to increase dues to \$10 per funded slot. Angela Blankenship seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion carried.**

**Birthday Celebrations (November and December):** No birthdays

#### Arkansas Head Start Association Strategic Planning:

Jackie Govan provided updates on Goal 1, 5, and 8. Goal 1 is complete. The list of partners for Goal 5 is being updated. With Goal 8, Jackie was excited to announce the launching of the Racial Equity Website.

Due to staffing changes the committee added new members to several of the committees.

Arkansas Head Start Association Strategic Planning Committees		
Goal	Chair	Committee Members
Goal # 1: SWOT Analysis	Jackie Govan <a href="mailto:Jackie.govan@arheadstart.org">Jackie.govan@arheadstart.org</a>	James Hollywood <a href="mailto:jamesearlhollywood@gmail.com">jamesearlhollywood@gmail.com</a>
Goal # 2: Engaging AHSA Classes	Jennifer Thomas <a href="mailto:Jennifer.thomas@fact-inc.com">Jennifer.thomas@fact-inc.com</a>	Teona Ford <a href="mailto:teona.ford@fact-inc.com">teona.ford@fact-inc.com</a> Virginia Gianelloni <a href="mailto:virginia.gianelloni@fact-inc.com">virginia.gianelloni@fact-inc.com</a>
Goal # 3: AHSA Content Area Coordinators	Carrie Ragland <a href="mailto:cragland@ozarkopp.org">cragland@ozarkopp.org</a>	Angela Calderera <a href="mailto:Acaldarera@ozarkopp.org">Acaldarera@ozarkopp.org</a> Sonya Jones <a href="mailto:sjones@ozarkopp.org">sjones@ozarkopp.org</a> Anna Cannon <a href="mailto:acannon@eoawc.org">acannon@eoawc.org</a> James Hollywood <a href="mailto:jamesearlhollywood@gmail.com">jamesearlhollywood@gmail.com</a> Melissa Risher <a href="mailto:melissa.risher@fact-inc.com">melissa.risher@fact-inc.com</a> Jennifer Pinkston <a href="mailto:JPinkston2@uams.edu">JPinkston2@uams.edu</a>
Goal # 4: Quality Approved EHS/HS Centers	Sherry Toney <a href="mailto:Sherry.Toney@fact-inc.com">Sherry.Toney@fact-inc.com</a>	Denise Middlebrook <a href="mailto:dmiddlebrook@uams.edu">dmiddlebrook@uams.edu</a> Cugini Madison <a href="mailto:madisoncuginie@uams.edu">madisoncuginie@uams.edu</a>
Goal # 5: Collaborative Partnerships/Activities	Jackie Govan <a href="mailto:Jackie.govan@arheadstart.org">Jackie.govan@arheadstart.org</a>	Deana Howell <a href="mailto:deanah@arheadstart.org">deanah@arheadstart.org</a> Jenni Smith <a href="mailto:jsmith@arearlylearning.org">jsmith@arearlylearning.org</a> James Hollywood <a href="mailto:jamesearlhollywood@gmail.com">jamesearlhollywood@gmail.com</a>
Goal # 6: AHSA Board Leadership	Jacqueline Burton <a href="mailto:jackie.burton@mcaeoc.org">jackie.burton@mcaeoc.org</a>	Sara Wilhite <a href="mailto:swilhite@lbcec.com">swilhite@lbcec.com</a> Angela Blankenship <a href="mailto:angela.blankenship@bradcorp.org">angela.blankenship@bradcorp.org</a> James Hollywood <a href="mailto:jamesearlhollywood@gmail.com">jamesearlhollywood@gmail.com</a>
Goal # 7: Dollar per Child	Deana Howell <a href="mailto:deanah@arheadstart.org">deanah@arheadstart.org</a>	Jackie Govan <a href="mailto:Jackie.govan@arheadstart.org">Jackie.govan@arheadstart.org</a> Krista Morrison <a href="mailto:kmorrison@arearlylearning.org">kmorrison@arearlylearning.org</a>
Goal # 8: Racial Equitable Professional Development	Jackie Govan <a href="mailto:Jackie.govan@arheadstart.org">Jackie.govan@arheadstart.org</a>	Teona Ford <a href="mailto:teona.ford@fact-inc.com">teona.ford@fact-inc.com</a> Christie Campbell <a href="mailto:christiecampbell1114@gmail.com">christiecampbell1114@gmail.com</a> Deana Howell <a href="mailto:deanah@arheadstart.org">deanah@arheadstart.org</a> James Hollywood <a href="mailto:jamesearlhollywood@gmail.com">jamesearlhollywood@gmail.com</a>

**Revised AHSA Bylaws:** Shirley Pulliam shared that she is still waiting on the changes made by Denise Middlebrook.

**Statewide Racial Equity Website Launch:** Jackie Govan was excited to announce that the Stepping Up to Equity in Arkansas website <https://arkansaselan.org/> went live on November 13, 2024.

### New Business

**The Future of the AHSA/HSSCO:** Jackie Govan reported that the Collaboration Director Position would be moving to the Office of Early Childhood when the current lease expires. Some options discussed were sharing space with another organization such as the Arkansas Community Action Agencies Association or closing out the office and working from home. The committee discussed other fundraising options such as a Walk-A-Thon during the week of Children’s Week.

**2025 Suggestions from Institute Committee:** Jackie Govan shared the following suggestions:

- June 24-25, 2025
- September 25-26, 2025-Director’s Retreat
- November Mini Institute
- Registration Fees:

- *\$180 Early Bird Registration*
- *\$280 Pre-Registration*
- *\$140 One Day Registration*

Jackie shared that we will be working on securing a location.

**Arkansas Early Childhood Commission Board Election:** Jackie Govan shared that Shirley Pulliam has been recommended to the Office of Early Child as the Head Start representative to the Arkansas Early Childhood Commission.

**Region VI Head Start Association Institute-2026:** Jackie Govan shared that Region VI had Arkansas down to host in 2026 but there is confusion about the schedule since we had ours in 2022.

**Head Start State Collaboration Office Refunding Application:** Jackie Govan provided an overview of the funding application that will be submitted to the Regional Office prior to December 1, 2024, and gave programs an opportunity to review the program narrative. It will be voted on at the Board Meeting.

**Head Start Final Rule:** Jackie Govan shared that there will be training coming out for programs by the Office of Hed Start that will share specific examples for comparing salaries.

## Reports

**Arkansas Early Childhood Commission (SAC):** Jackie Govan shared that they met in October and that she provided a written report due to a scheduling conflict. She tried to get a copy of the minutes, but they had not been completed at this time.

**Arkansas Head Start-State Collaboration Office-Jackie Govan** She shared that the Collab Office has sponsored several events based on the needs assessment. We will stop doing the Dads Reading on the Carpet due to low participation. The Fatherhood Mentoring in the high schools was very successful but ended due to Covid. We are having low turnout at the Early Head Start Child Care Partnership Meetings. She shared information on the Learns Act. There is now a local lead in all 75 counties. The School Readiness Summit focused on a triad with Head Start, Local Leads, and Arkansas Imagination Library. Jackie shared information on the Family Service Credential Training that will be held February-April 2025. The Child Development Early Learning Standards are being updated.

**Region VI Head Start Association:** Jackie Govan shared that they had filled vacancies in officer for the Region VI Board. She presented information about updating the Region VI Head Start Association Bylaws. The board is also working on updating their policies and procedures.

**Arkansas Head Start Association Institute:** Sara Wilhite shared that the focus will be on mini-institutes.

**National Head Start Association Updates:** Jackie Govan shared that the NHSA Board met in September but she did not attend. Tommy and Yasmina have been sharing information on what could happen based on the election.

**Announcements (if any):** Jackie Govan shared information about upcoming state and national events.

**Arkansas:** Family Service Credential Direct Service Provider Training -9 Days: February 11, 12, 13; March 11, 12, 13; and April 8, 9, 10

**National:** National Head Start Association Parent Conference: San Diego, CA, December 16-19, 2024

**Next Meeting Date: Class Meeting: January 15, 2025, Virtual**

**Adjournment:** Sara Wilhite called for a motion to adjourn. ***Shirley Pulliam made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:51 pm. Jackie Burton seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion carried.***

Submitted by,

Deana Howell, Administrative Services Manager

Arkansas Head Start Association