

ARKANSAS HEAD START ASSOCIATION
DIRECTORS/STAFF/PARENTS/FRIENDS CLASS MEETING

Wednesday, January 15, 2025

Minutes

Roll Call: Sara Wilhite called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm. The following members were present: Melinda Calhoun, Dorothy Jenkins, Jennifer Thomas, Teona Ford, Virginia Gianelloni, Sherry Toney, Sandra Borreson, Sara Wilhite, Krista Morrison, Myra Wood, Amy Salazar, Latasha Dodd, and Melissa Risher. Guests: Jackie Govan, Deana Howell, and Benny Baker.

Consideration of Agenda: Sara Wilhite asked the members to review the agenda. There were no changes.

Approval of Minutes: Sara Wilhite instructed members to review the minutes. ***Amy Salazar made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Melinda Calhoun seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion carried.***

Old Business:

Dollar per Child: Deana Howell reported that \$409 has been collected to date which includes \$104 from Newton County Special Services Corporation that was received after the report was published.

Membership Dues Report: Deana Howell reported that \$42,285.00 has been received with a total of \$1,690.00 due. Mid Delta Community Services and UAPB Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership currently owe for January-December 2025.

Birthday Celebrations (January and February): Amy Salazar had a January birthday.

Arkansas Head Start Association Strategic Planning: Jackie Govan stated that everyone needs to go back and read the strategic plan. Chairs should be prepared to report at each meeting.

Revised AHSA Bylaws: Shirley Pulliam was unavailable. We still need the updated copy.

Statewide Racial Equity Website Toolkits: Jackie Govan shared that the books are in, but we are working on getting the toolkits.

New Business

The Future of the AHSA/HSSCO-Update: Jackie Govan shared that the Office of Early Childhood is going to honor allowing the Collaboration Office to remain with the association until the end of the lease. We have a storage unit where we can store materials. Tonya Williams has agreed to help with the transition. They are working to put things in place to ensure a smooth transition.

2025 Suggestions from Institute Committee: Jackie Govan shared that 2025 is bringing a new focus. Jackie shared the Registration Packet that provided information on the June and November Institutes. She is working with Sherri Killins to be the keynote speaker for June and Rose Mary Allen to be the keynote speaker for November. Sherri Killins requested \$3,600. Jackie plans to offer \$3,000 all inclusive. She shared that we are saving money by using the Fairfield Bay Conference Center. The meeting space will be \$6,000 and the Catering minimum is \$6,000 plus tax and service fees. We are currently planning for five breakout rooms.

The Call for Papers will focus on the following:

June Content Focus Areas:

1. The Final Rule-Head Start Program Performance Standards (Mental Health, Salaries, Wage Parity, etc.)
2. Office of Early Childhood Leads
3. Positive Behavior Support
4. Change with a focus on Policies and Procedures
5. Innovative Ways to Address Individuality and Make it Work for your Program

November Content Focus Areas:

1. Trauma Informed Care
2. Systems and Services
3. Building Support Systems
4. Health Services/Children with Disabilities
5. Quality Programs

Guest Speaker: Jackie Govan introduced Benny Baker, Director of Sales, Fairfield Bay Conference Center. He provided an overview of the Fairfield Bay area. Fairfield Bay is a small retirement community near Greers Ferry. They are excited to give us access to amenities. The conference center is owned by the community and has 13,000 sf of flexible space that can be used for our institute. They will have all the audiovisual equipment available. There is a 10-lane bowling alley across the street from the conference center.

Arkansas Early Childhood Commission Board Election: The Arkansas Head Start Association Board will be voting to recommend Shirley Pulliam as our representative to the Arkansas Early Childhood Commission.

Head Start Final Rule: Jackie Govan shared that the Dallas Regional Office is waiting for guidance from the new administration prior to launching training on the final rule.

Reports:

Arkansas Early Childhood Commission (SAC): Shirley Pulliam was unavailable to report.

Arkansas Head Start-State Collaboration Office: Jackie Govan shared that the Workforce Summit and the Regional Roadshow which included Regions VI and VII were very well thought out. Jackie shared that she was working on assessment data for the annual report

due on January 31st. She shared that she is continuing to work on the collaborative partnership with the Arkansas Community Action Agencies Association. She will be sponsoring a book study on “Stop Overthinking” which utilizes twenty-three techniques to focus on the positive and powerful ways to stop focusing on negative thoughts. Jackie Govan shared an overview of the evaluations from the School Readiness Summit. The percentage of participants between Local Leads, Head Start, and Arkansas Imagination Library was balanced. There was positive feedback for the summit. Participants would have liked more time spent on the assimilation activity. Some indicated we needed more focus on bringing teams into network and bond. They wanted more information from the state that keeps in the loop to know what is happening or coming.

Region VI Head Start Association: Jackie Govan shared that Crystal Pena is the President. We need to appoint a new director alternate for Region VI as well as a parent representative. The 2025 conference will be in Texas October 21-23 followed by Oklahoma in 2026 and Arkansas in 2027. The board is looking at putting new policies and procedures into place. The board will meet in April and July.

National Head Start Association Updates-Jackie Govan shared that NHSA is getting ready for the Winter Leadership Institute and working on updates for the impact of the new administration on Head Start. The National Head Start Association Conference will be May 19-22, 2025, in Columbus, Ohio. The Parent Conference will be December 9-11, 2025.

Director Alternate to Region VI: The members discussed qualifications for the alternate. Jennifer Thomas volunteered to serve. ***Melinda Calhoun made a motion to approve Jennifer Thomas as the Director Alternate to the Region VI Head Start Association Board. Dorothy Jenkins seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion carried.***

Announcements (if any)

Dates to Remember...

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 Winter Leadership Institute, Washington, DC, January 27-30, 2025

Next Meeting Date: Class Meeting: March 19, 2025 (Face to Face)

Adjournment: Sara Wilhite called for a motion to adjourn. ***Sherry Toney made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:54 am. Amy Salazar seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion carried.***

Submitted by,

Deana Howell, Administrative Services Manager