

Arkansas Head Start Association
Directors/Staff/Parents/Friends Class Meeting

September 18, 2024

Minutes

Sara Wilhite called the meeting to order at 11:02 am.

Roll Call: The following members/guests participated via zoom: Shelby Chaplin, Rochelle Trice, Sherry Valentine, Jackie Govan, Maybelline Hensley, Myra Wood, Shawna Lynch, Samantha Foster, Latasha Dodd, Amy Salazar, Cat Hards, Shawn Meddock, Sara Wilhite, Deana Howell, Dorothy Jenkins, Jennifer Thomas, Whitley Bryant, Nicole Nesheim, Devorac Rogers, Tamara Griffith, Gracie Gonzales, Sandy Aguirre, Crystal Lehr, Lauren Trusty, Amy Thomas.

Consideration of Agenda: Tomekia Moore will not be on the agenda.

Approval of Minutes: *Amy Salazar made a motion to approve the minutes. Dorothy Jenkins seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion carried.*

Guest Speakers:

Tonya Williams, Office of Early Childhood was unavailable

Nicole Nesheim, Ph.D., Hatch shared information about their multimodal approach utilizing print-based and digital resources to ignite learning domains. This supplements your current curriculum and focuses on key foundations and seven domains of learning. The literacy differentiator capitalizes on what the children know. This approach is based on evidence-based research and helps level the playing field for all children. There is also a caregiver guidebook for support at home. For more information email, nnesheim@hatchearlylearning.com.

Old Business:

Dollar per Child: Deana Howell reported that \$250 had been collected.

Membership Dues Report: Deana Howell reported that \$ 40,045.00 has been collected with a balance due of \$ 3,920.00.

Birthday Celebrations: The members celebrated September and October birthdays.

Arkansas Head Start Association Strategic Planning: The Planning Process has been completed and chairs should be working with their teams to put the plans into action.

Revised AHSA Bylaws: Shirley Pulliam was unavailable. We still need the updated copy which indicates all changes.

Statewide Racial Equity Website: Jackie Govan shared that the launch dates will be Wednesday, November 13, 2024. Lakeshore will be putting together a toolkit for each Head Start program that participated. The site is intended for use by all early childhood programs. There will be one or two speakers. The flyer is being finalized.

New Business:

Arkansas Community Action Agencies Association-Tomekia Moore was unavailable to report.

The Future of the AHSA/HSSCO: Jackie Govan led a discussion about the future of the Arkansas Head Start State Collaboration Office and Arkansas Head Start Association. We have a little over a year on the current lease. At the end of the lease, the Collab Office will be housed at the Office of Early Childhood. The association needs to come

up with a plan for what happens when we lose collab funding. Sara asked for a copy of the budget that reflects the loss of the collaboration funding.

2025 Suggestions for Institute: There was discussion about the format for the 2025 institute. The committee recommends a three-day institute in June and a director's retreat in September.

Statewide Book Study-Wellness Model: Jackie Govan shared that we were halfway through the book with two more sessions in October.

Arkansas LEADS/School Readiness Summit Update: The summit will be held November 1, 2024. Jackie has a planning meeting scheduled for Friday, September 20, 2024.

Arkansas Early Childhood Commission Board Election: Jackie Govan shared that the Head Start position is open on the Arkansas Early Childhood Commission. Three directors have indicated willingness to serve: Shirley Pulliam, Aria Bullard, and Angela Blankenship. The committee voted via chat to Jackie. Shirley Pulliam was selected as the recommendation for the Head Start Representative.

Update on Arkansas Head Start Association's CD Account: The CD matured in September with \$741.23 in interest and has been renewed at 4.06%

Play-Based Learning: Jackie Govan shared information on thematic learning that helps to regulate children's behavior. She shared that it is something important to think about as you move towards innovation. It produces a big change in sharing and social skills.

Reports:

Arkansas Early Childhood Commission (SAC): The July Meeting was cancelled.

Arkansas Head Start-State Collaboration Office: Jackie Govan shared highlights of the changes to the Head Start Performance Standards. She shared that she is getting ready for year five of the collab grant. We are incorporating Arkansas Imagination Library Affiliates into the school readiness summit. Leigh Kenner from the State Board of Education is serving on the committee. The Regional Office is hosting a Workforce Summit in Richardson, Texas in October. The Collab Directors have been asked to serve on a panel and facilitate a state meeting. Jackie will share the flyer with programs. Please try to join the November 12th Powerful Conversations with Fathers featuring Kevin Carnes. The recording will be posted on the website.

Region VI Head Start Association: Jackie Burton was unavailable.

Arkansas Head Start Association Institute: Sara Wilhite shared information earlier in the meeting.

National Head Start Association Updates: Jackie Govan shared that NHSA had put together a toolkit celebrating National Hispanic Month with activities to do with children. They have a Program of Excellence and currently 12 programs in the nation have been recognized. They are promoting a Kids on Campus-What's in if for Head Start partnership with colleges and universities. They are working on a toolkit for recruiting staff and parents.

Announcements (if any)

Dates to Remember...

Arkansas

- a. AAIMH-Friday, October 11, 2024, 10:00 am-3:00 pm
- b. The Heart to Care Fashion Show, Saturday, October 12, 2024, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm
- c. Arkansas Poverty Summit, October 24, 2024, 10:00 am-1:00 pm
- d. Powerful Conversations with Fathers: November 12, 2024, Kevin Carnes, Lakeshore

e. EHS-CCP Meeting: November 19, 2024

Regional

a. Region 6 Head Start Association Conference: New Mexico-October 22-25, 2024

b. Region VI Head Start Association Board Meeting-To Be Announced

National

a. National Head Start Association's 2024 Fall Leadership Institute, Washington, D.C., September 23-26, 2024

b. NAEYC Conference: California, November 6-12, 2024

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

Next Meeting Date: Class Meeting: November 20, 2024, Arkansas Head Start Association Office

Adjournment: Sara Wilhite adjourned the meeting at 12:24 pm.

Submitted by,

Deana Howell

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Administrative Services Manager