

**ANNUAL STATE PROFILE REPORT
March 1, 2009 - February 28, 2010**

Oklahoma

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A. Briefly describe your accomplishments in the following areas. Where possible, indicate the goals from your work plan and the desired and actual outcomes in:

1. *Facilitating collaboration among Early Head Start and Head Start grantees and entities that provide child and family services to low-income families. Describe your accomplishments and outcomes in the following areas.*

Goal Met by following activities: Foster effective working coalitions of Administration for Children and Families (ACF) officials, state officials, state Head Start association

members, Head Start program directors and staff, early childhood professionals, and professionals in other relevant disciplines.

Actual Outcome: Representatives of local Head Start grantee staff, Oklahoma Head Start Association members, and parents were included on at least one state level committee, task force, or other planning body related to each of the eight priority areas.

➤ **Health Care – Improving Access to Health Care Services**

✓ Oral Health

- The HSSCO Director actively participated in efforts to launch and sustain the Oklahoma Head Start Dental Home Initiative. Activities included:
 - presenting a session on “Head Start 101” at the launch event;*
 - writing a grant with the Children’s Oral Health Coalition (COHC) co-chair for the \$10,000 Dental Home Initiative Support funding of the Oklahoma Association of Community Action Agencies;
 - facilitating the first State Leadership Team meeting for the Initiative;
 - meeting with the COHC Co-Chair and State Team Leader to discuss plans for Head Start Dental Home Initiative dental training of family physicians and pediatricians; and
 - meeting with University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center Associate Director of Continuing Medical Education, COHC Co-chair, and University of Oklahoma Dental School Associate Professor of Pediatric Dentistry to discuss the process for obtaining Continuing Medical Education credit for oral health training for physicians.
 - The HSSCO Director presented a panel segment on opportunities for volunteering in Head Start programs at the annual Dental Hygienists Association meeting.
 - The Executive Assistant distributed electronically to Collaboration group members a link to the monthly *Oral Health Alert: Focus on Head Start* newsletter.
- ✓ Turning Point – The HSSCO Director participated in meetings of the Oklahoma Turning Point Council to obtain updates from the Oklahoma Health Improvement Partnership’s Town Hall meetings.*
- ✓ Mental Health – The HSSCO Director met with the Oklahoma State Health Department Mental Health, Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Coordinator, to discuss issues with regard to mental health services for Head Start children and families.*
- ✓ Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System & The Oklahoma Toddler Survey (PRAM/TOTS) – The HSSCO Director participated in steering committee meetings to discuss the survey questions for the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System and The Oklahoma Toddler Survey.*

- ✓ Healthy Childcare – The Executive Assistant distributed electronically to Collaboration group members a link to information on *Managing Food Allergies in Childcare* provided by Healthy Childcare.

➤ ***Welfare and Child Welfare – Improving Collaborations with Family Support Systems***

- ✓ Data Collection System – The HSSCO Director participated in the Office of Head Start Webinars on Early Childhood Data Collection systems and Needs Assessment Update.
- ✓ Educare Family Award – The HSSCO Director participated in the first annual Smart Start Oklahoma “Family Award” event recognizing outstanding efforts of enrolled families to ensure all Head Start and Early Head Start Standards for their children are met.
- ✓ Oklahoma Department of Human Services – The HSSCO Director completed research and submitted written responses to the Oklahoma Department of Human Services Director’s questions and concerns about the effectiveness of Head Start.
- ✓ Oklahoma Head Start Early Childhood Collaboration Advisory Board – The HSSCO Director planned and hosted the spring meeting of the Head Start State Collaboration Office Advisory Board to discuss Partners’ updates; State Early Childhood Advisory Council and Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO) responsibilities, Head Start T & TA systems, ARRA funds workgroups, and Oklahoma Interagency Memorandum Of Understanding Agreement on Serving Children with Disabilities.*
- ✓ Oklahoma Marriage Initiative – The Executive Assistant distributed electronically to Collaboration group members the *Oklahoma Marriage Minute* E-Newsletter from the Oklahoma Marriage Institute.
- ✓ Strengthening Families - The Executive Assistant distributed electronically to Collaboration group members updates on resources from the Center for the Study of Social Policy.
- ✓ 2-1-1 – The Executive Director of the Oklahoma Association of Community Action Agencies actively participated in the 2-1-1 Advisory Board, disseminated information on the state’s Head Start programs and provided input on 2-1-1 coordination that could impact Head Start families

Goal met by following activities: Serve as a facilitator to improve and expand services for low-income children in Head Start, childcare, and state preschool programs.

Actual Outcome: Collaborative partnerships among Head Start, childcare, and state preschool were documented.

- ***Childcare and Preschool – Improving Availability, Accessibility, and Quality of Childcare and Preschool Services***
 - ✓ Centers of Excellence – The HSSCO Director met with the Smart Start Oklahoma (State Early Childhood Advisory Council) Executive Director to develop a competitive process for the governor’s office to nominate eligible Head Start program candidates for Office of Head Start “Centers of Excellence” applications. Two Head Start grantees were nominated by the Governor as eligible to apply for the designation.
 - ✓ Childcare – The HSSCO Director co-presented on the HSSCO Data Collection Project “Early Childhood Collaborations: Mixed Delivery Approaches and How They Work” at the Early Childhood Association of Oklahoma Annual Conference. Collaboration toolkits were distributed.
 - ✓ Data Collection – The HSSCO Director participated in a workgroup considering use of stimulus funds to improve quality and accessibility of early childhood programs and develop more coordinated data systems.
 - ✓ Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness - The HSSCO Director presented on the Head Start Collaboration Data Collection Project, “Improving the Delivery of Early Care & Education in Oklahoma,” at the National Smart Start Conference in Greensboro, NC.*
 - ✓ School Readiness – The HSSCO Director worked with the Ready Schools Action Team of the State Early Childhood Council to develop an expanded definition of school readiness.*

Goal met by following activities: Build the best possible linkages between local, community based Head Start programs and state early childhood initiatives and policies.

Actual Outcome: Professional development opportunities in early childhood partners were expanded and/or improved.

- ***Education/Professional Development – Expanding and Improving Education Opportunities in Early Childhood Programs***
 - ✓ Higher Education – The HSSCO Director met with the Rose State College Child Development and Family Services Advisory Board for discussion of higher education and articulation issues.*
 - ✓ Family Services – The HSSCO Director participated in a Webinar on professional training systems for family services staff in Head Start.*

- ✓ Collaboration with State Technical Assistance System: The HSSCO Director met with the ACF Region VI HSSCO directors, ACF Region VI staff, T/TA consultants and Head Start State Association Presidents in Dallas, Texas, to discuss the status of T/TA system and related issues. She also met with the state-based TA program manager to discuss cross-sector professional development system issues.
- ✓ Cross-Sector Training: The HSSCO Director met with the Cross-Sector Professional Development Committee of the Early Education Professional Development Council to discuss joint training opportunities across the three early childhood sectors.
- ✓ Professional Development & Child Care – The HSSCO Director met regularly with the Early Education Professional Development Council to address training/professional development needs.
- ✓ NAEYC – The HSSCO Director participated in sessions on cross-sector professional development and sessions on the importance of play in the early childhood curriculum at the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Professional Development Institute.*
- ✓ National Governor’s Association – The HSSCO Director participated in a conference call on professional development hosted by the National Governor’s Association Center for Best Practices and Early Childhood Partners.*
- ✓ Oklahoma Department of Human Services – The HSSCO Director met with the Oklahoma Department of Human Services Programs Field Coordinator to discuss early childhood professional development.*
- ✓ National Child Care Information and Technical Assistance Center – The Executive Assistant distributed electronically to Collaboration group members monthly information on *What’s New in the Library* which provides links to new resources available in the library.

Goal met by following activities: Build the best possible linkages between local community based Head Start programs and state early childhood initiatives and policies.

Actual Outcome: Head Start data was compiled and analyzed, and the project report was distributed, and the best possible linkages were made between local community-based Head Start programs and state early childhood initiatives and policies.

➤ **Community Services** – *Improving Collaboration Among Community Partners*

- ✓ Data Collection System – The HSSCO Director participated in an Office of Head Start conference call on the Data Collection Collaborative and efforts to assist states in developing coordinated data collection systems.
- ✓ Community Partners – The HSSCO Director participated in two community neighborhood meetings to promote increasing collaboration between public schools, Head Start, and other early education programs.*
- ✓ Needs Assessment – The HSSCO completed the Needs Assessment of Head Start programs, analyzed the results, prepared the final report, and submitted it to the Region VI ACF office in Dallas and the Office of Head Start. The HSSCO State Director updated and modified the Strategic Plan of Work based on results of the Needs Assessment.*
- ✓ Head Start Fact Sheet – The Communications Director compiled statewide Head Start data and published the 2010 Head Start Fact Sheet and posted it on the Web site.
- ✓ State Profiles Report – The Communications Director compiled information for the annual report, and the HSSCO Director prepared and submitted the Annual State Profiles Report.
- ✓ First Semi-Annual Report – The Communications Director compiled information for the semi-annual report, and the HSSCO Director prepared and submitted the first semi annual report.
- ✓ Department of Human Services - The Executive Assistant distributed electronically to the Collaboration group members information on the 2010 DHS Partnership Conference.

Goal met by following activities: Serve as facilitator to improve and expand services for low-income children in Head Start, childcare, and state preschool programs

Actual Outcome: Head Start programs have improved access to family and financial literacy resources.

➤ **Family Literacy Services – Improving Access to Family Literacy Services**

- ✓ National Center for Family Literacy – The HSSCO Director participated in a Webinar on Head Start’s new family literacy initiative that includes emphasis on math and financial literacy.*
- ✓ Family Literacy Newsletter – The Executive Assistant distributed electronically to Collaboration group members the TIPS (Training, information and Practical Strategies) family literacy newsletter.*

- ✓ Barbara Bush Foundation – The Executive Assistant distributed information through electronic communications to Collaboration group members about the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy grants for projects to support development of literacy skills for adult primary care givers and their children.*
- ✓ Literacy Coaching - The Executive Assistant distributed electronically to Collaboration group members information about the Literacy Coaching February 2010 Institute presented by the Center for Early Childhood Professional Development at the University of Oklahoma.

Goal met by following activities: Serve as facilitator to improve and expand services for low-income children in Head Start, and state preschool programs.

Actual Outcomes: The State Interagency Agreement (MOU) on Serving Children with Disabilities was updated and signed by partners to include the Oklahoma Department of Commerce as the State Agency representing Head Start grantees of the Region VI Office of Head Start; the Region XI American Indian Head Start Branch representing the American Indian Head Start grantees; and appropriate representatives of the Region VI Administration for Children and Families Office of Head Start. Services for low-income children in Head Start and state preschool programs were improved and expanded.

➤ ***Activities Relating to Children with Disabilities – Improving Opportunities for Children with Disabilities***

- ✓ Oral Health – The HSSCO Director prepared an electronic version of the Oral Health Pocket Guide for Children with Special Health Care Needs for duplication and distribution to additional health partners.
- ✓ Expanding Opportunities for Inclusion – The HSSCO Director met regularly with this workgroup to improve opportunities for inclusion of children with disabilities in child care and other early childhood settings.
- ✓ Memorandum of Understanding on Disabilities – The HSSCO Director delivered to the Oklahoma Department of Commerce for signing the final state Interagency Memorandum of Agreement with Head Start on serving children with disabilities. Susan Johnston, ACF Regional Program Manager, signed the final copy and it was filed with the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth.*
- ✓ Oklahoma Parent Center – The Executive Assistant distributed through electronic communications system the Oklahoma Parent Center newsletter. The Center is a statewide advocate for children with disabilities and provides training and information to parents.*
- ✓ University Affiliated Developmental Disabilities Network – The Executive Assistant distributed electronically to Collaboration group members *Focus*

Facts on Community Living that highlights specific information and data relevant to developing and sustaining positive community environments.

- ✓ Assistive Technologies - The Executive Assistant distributed electronically to Collaboration group members links the Oklahoma ABLE Tech newsletter on Oklahoma's Assistive Technology Program connecting Oklahomans with disabilities to assistive technology.

Goal met by following activities: Foster effective working coalitions of ACF officials, state officials, state Head Start Association members, Head Start program directors and staff, early childhood professionals, and professionals in other relevant disciplines.

Actual Outcome: Representatives of local Head Start grantee staff, Oklahoma Head Start Association members, and parents were included on at least one state-level committee, task force, or other planning body related to each of the eight priorities.

➤ **Services to Homeless Children – Ensuring Coordination of Services and Support for Homeless Children**

- ✓ Governor's Interagency Council on Homelessness (GICH) – The HSSCO Director:
 - presented for discussions during the Access to Mainstream Resources Committee meeting findings of the HSSCO Needs Assessment with regard to homelessness services of all Head Start grantees operating in the state;
 - presented a segment in a statewide videoconference on how Community Action Agencies and Head Start programs can work with local partners to improve services for homeless children and families; and
 - met with committee chairs and GICH chair to review and strategize use of committee structure and processes of GICH.
- ✓ Governor's United We Ride Council – The Communications Director participated as a member of the Governor's United We Ride Council and provided information to the GICH Access to Mainstream Resources committee on potential transportation opportunities for homeless residents. He also provided information on organization, membership, committee structure, and activities of the Council.
- ✓ Department of Transportation - The Executive Assistant distributed electronically to Collaboration group members information on public input sessions for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation Locally Coordinated Public Transit/Human Services Transportation Plan.

2. Facilitating Head Start's involvement in the development of state policies, plans, processes and decisions, including your activities as a member of the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care.

- Establishment of the State Early Childhood Council
 - ✓ Followed up on MOU with OPSR, Governor's Office to change statute
 - ✓ Development of and support for legislation and addition of HSSCO as public member of the board
 - ✓ Organizational alignment of state and federal responsibilities
 - ✓ Revision of committees and workgroups to address state and federal responsibilities
 - ✓ Member of Policy and Workgroup Coordinating Committee of SAC

- Cross-Sector Professional Development System
 - ✓ Chair Professional Development and Workforce Workgroup that reports to Policy and Workgroup Coordinating Committee
 - ✓ Worked with state partners to create a state team to participate in the PDI Cross-Sector PD Work Day at the NAEYC Annual Professional Development Institute.
 - ✓ Served on EEPDC

- Health Systems
 - ✓ OHCA Child Health Advisory Task Force
 - ✓ Lead Poisoning Prevention; Coordinator added to advisory board
 - ✓ Oral Health Task Force
 - ✓ Oral Health Dental Home Initiative
 - ✓ CSHCN Pocket Guide

- Inter-operational Early Childhood Collaborations
 - ✓ Collaboration Data Collection Project, CD Toolkit, and presentations at Smart Start National Conference, State ECAO Conference, and NHTSA
 - ✓ Ready Schools and School Readiness Definition

- Disabilities
 - ✓ Expanding Opportunities
 - ✓ State MOU

B. Briefly discuss the following aspects of your work:

1. Provide a detailed description of the work you have completed to date on the required annual needs assessment update of the needs of Head Start grantees in the State with respect to coordination, collaboration, alignment of services and alignment of curricula and assessments, and a description of the work you have completed on developing the five-year strategic plan.

- The First Annual Needs Assessment of Head Start grantees in Oklahoma (including Migrant/Seasonal and American Indian state data) was completed in June of 2009 and posted on the OKACAA Web site Head Start page. Results were shared with all (including Migrant/Seasonal and American Indian) Head Start directors and advisory board partners as well as distributed widely upon request.

- Specific proposed activity priorities based upon needs assessment findings in each of the ten HSSCO Priority Areas were established for the 2009-2010 funding year grant application and presented to Head Start directors and advisory board members.
- Through this process, specific activities were identified for inclusion in the updated 2009-2010 Strategic Plan of Work submitted with the Year Five Refunding Application. The final Strategic Plan of Work was shared with Head HSSCO Advisory Board members at a final meeting of the 2009 – 2010 grant funded year (February 2010).
- The HSSCO established a Needs Assessment Timeline to be followed in subsequent years so that the annual update cycle would repeat at one year intervals beginning with the first month of each new grant funded year (March 2010).
- The HSSCO Advisory Board’s first meeting of the current grant funded year (2010 – 2011, Year Five of the Five Year Cycle) is scheduled for June 3, 2010. At this meeting, the HSSCO Advisory Board will review the status of the current Strategic Plan of Work activities for the first quarter and based upon priorities identified by further analysis of the needs assessment, will discuss recommendations for items to be included in the Strategic Plan of Work to be submitted with the next FIVE YEAR Grant Application.
- The Head Start Association will meet on June 9, 2010 and the HSSCO Director will share the work of the HSSCO Advisory Board and the status of the current Strategic Plan of Work with the Head Start Directors for further discussion of recommendations to be included in the Strategic Plan of Work to be submitted with the next FIVE YEAR Grant Application.

2. Describe how you have supported and collaborated with the Regional Office on national and regional priorities (such as Fatherhood, Faith-Based and Community, Healthy Marriage, Youth and Rural Initiatives and TA Network, professional development, Community Action Agencies, State Head Start Association, and other activities).

- Regional Office – The Office of Head Start Region VI Area Lead for Oklahoma participated in the HSSCO Advisory Board meeting in February 2010 and provided an overview of the Head Start Roadmap to Excellence and other updates from the Regional Office on national and regional priorities.
- The HSSCO Director participates in regular monthly conferences calls with the Region VI Liaison and other HSSCO Directors of the region to share updates on regional and national priorities from the Region VI Office and from all the other states of the region.
- The HSSCO Director serves as the “Friend” Representative from Oklahoma on the Region VI Head Start Association Board of Directors and provides a

quarterly update on HSSCO and State Association activities to that board with regard to regional and national priorities.

- Healthy Marriage – The Oklahoma Marriage Initiative newsletter is distributed electronically through the Head Start Collaboration E-Group.
- Rural Youth – The HSSCO Director is a member of the National Rural Education Association and shares relevant information from the association with Head Start directors and partners.
- TA – The HSSCO, OKACAA Conference Planner, and Head Start Association President worked together to plan appropriate training for Head Start staff based upon results of the State-based TA and HSSCO needs assessments of local programs.
- Professional Development – The HSSCO Director provided requested information to the Regional Program Manager about challenges with state child care licensing regulations with regard to conflicting and/or non-aligned Head Start and state Pre-K teacher qualifications.
- CAA's – The HSSCO is located in the Oklahoma Association of Community Action Agencies Offices and 1.3 FTE other staff within the OKACAA office are assigned to work on HSSCO activities, and the HSSCO director's and other assigned staff monthly reports are reviewed by the OKACAA Board of Directors.
- Head Start Association – The HSSCO prepares monthly information packets for all Head Start Directors (including American Indian Directors) for the monthly meetings of the Oklahoma Head Start Association (OHSA). The Oklahoma American Indian Head Start Directors Association President participates in meetings of the OHSA and monthly directors' meetings. The HSSCO Director provides updates on collaboration activities and presents reports at OHSA meetings.

C. Briefly describe your efforts to support the coordination of Head Start services to American Indian/Alaska Native and Migrant and Seasonal Head Start programs in your State.

1. The HSSCO included the American Indian/Alaska Native and Migrant/Seasonal Head Start Needs Assessment results for Oklahoma in the HSSCO Needs Assessment of local Head Start programs in Oklahoma. Results were analyzed and priorities were established for consideration in developing the Strategic Plan of Work.
2. American Indian Head Start data is included in the Head Start Fact Sheet in total state data as well as reported separately for some specific items.

D. Describe additional activities and successes in the past year.

1. Increased High School Graduation Rates/Drop-out Prevention – The HSSCO Director served as board member of the For Youth Initiative and met with the board chair, Oklahoma City Councilperson, and the For Youth Initiative Board to discuss Drop-out Prevention Day at the Capitol. The State Director identified education partners and gathered informational material and data on the importance of early childhood education to be distributed to legislators and other state officials.

2. Oklahoma Academy – The HSSCO Director was appointed to and met with the Academy Education and Workforce Town Hall Action Committee to discuss the academy’s goals of drop-out prevention and increasing early childhood programs in the state.

3. Potts Family Foundation, Smart Start and Other Partners – The HSSCO Director participated in a breakfast meeting with nationally recognized economists and early childhood presenters, and hosted a luncheon table for the first state “Summit on Early Childhood Economic Investment” to inform the state-wide business community about the economic impact of high quality early childhood programs.*

E. How do your responses to the questions above impact your approved work plan for the current or coming year?

1. The HSSCO director and staff will gather input from partners and prepare the grant application for the next five-year grant cycle by November 30, 2010.

2. The HSSCO staff, advisory board, and Head Start directors will review the status of the activities in the Strategic Plan of Work to ensure all goals and objectives have been met for the current five year funding period.

3. The HSSCO director and staff will prepare the five year report and fifth year State Profiles Report within 90 days of the end of the current funding cycle.

* Reported in the first Semi-Annual Report submitted September 30, 2009.