



Texas Head Start

State Collaboration Office

Alferma Giles, Ph.D. – Director

January 19, 2018

THSA Board of Directors' Meeting

THSSCO Updates:

The THSSCO Director will begin preparing for the Annual Needs Assessment to email to grantees in early February to complete for 2017-2018.

The THSSCO will launch a new website in the very near future. There will have new information and resources available for you on the website, our valuable partners across Texas. We will re-launch our newsletter as well. A survey was sent to subscribers to collect their thoughts and feedback about how our newsletter can better serve and share resources with our community.

Head Start Collaboration Office Priorities – Current Activities & Engagement

Priority 2: Work with state efforts to collect data regarding early childhood programs and child outcomes:

The THSSCO is working with the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to change the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) Data to reflect specifically Head Start children in public schools, to support access to longitudinal data.

The THSSCO is supporting the Early Care and Education Research Scholars: Head Start Graduate Research Grant. The grant allows for data sharing on analyzing the knowledge, attitudes and practices of early childhood education teachers on the appropriate use of technology with young children.

Priority 3: Support the expansion and access of high quality, workforce ad career development opportunities for staff:

The Texas Head Start State Collaboration Office (THSSCO), which houses the Texas Early Childhood Professional Development System (TECPDS) has a partnership with the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), Workforce Solutions of Tarrant County (WSTC), and the Early Learning Alliance (ELA), which has provided:

- New, needed resources for early childhood professionals in Texas
- Opportunities for Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDB) to review and validate education, professional development, and employment records of Texas Rising Star Providers (QRIS) on-line
- Free Workforce Registry accounts for all Texas Rising Star Providers (QRIS) and Tarrant County Early Childhood Professionals

The partnership has allowed statewide integration of (TECPDS, QRIS and Children's Learning Institute - Engage), a revision of the Career Pathway Verification for early childhood professionals, system efficiency and quality improvement in professional development. The QRIS Systems Statewide Integration supports installation, initial implementation and exploration. The System efficiency allows:

- Targeting professional development and incentives

- QRIS regional gaps in training across Core Competencies and planning new professional development opportunities
- Offering incentives to join the registry, reward practitioners for staying in the field, move along the career pathway or increases in star ratings.
- Streamlining record analysis
- Increasing integrity through validated records repository
- Reducing duplicated effort to review records
- Distributes record validation across stakeholders

Core Competencies for Trainers: The THSSCO and the TECPDS has completed the initial language and competencies to include in the Core Competencies for Trainers. Volunteers from the TECPDS Advisory Committee will make final reviews and language determinations that will be used in the final document that will be published by the THSSCO.

The Core Competencies refer to unique, specific, basic concepts, skills and abilities that trainers of early childhood professionals should know, possess and be able to demonstrate in order to facilitate high quality trainings. Reports capturing TECPDS activity reflects growth, upgrades and revisions.

Through the partnership with Workforce Solutions of Tarrant County (which is in the Fort Worth Area), and Early Learning Alliance, TECPDS launched new features in 2017:

1. Interactive Career Lattice tool
2. Self-reported career pathway level
3. Validated career pathway level

Record validation by TECPDS Staff and LWDB Staff

Through TECPDS, Local Workforce Development Boards can:

- Provide FREE Texas Workforce accounts for their Texas Rising Star Providers in 2018
- Review and validate records submitted by TRS Providers, to speed-up record review process during TRS assessments
- Support the career development and advancement of their TRS Providers

The potential: No cost research-based professional development, TECPDS-Child Care Licensing Partnership, Strengthen regional professional development efforts, & sufficient data to inform policy.

Priority 4: Collaboration with State Quality Rating Improvement Systems (QRIS):

- Provide FREE Texas Workforce Registry accounts for Texas Rising Star Providers
- Provide FREE Texas Workforce Registry accounts for ALL practitioners and Center Directors through the TECPDS www.tecpds.org

Priorities 6: Regional

Health Care:

- THSSCO has engaged in a new partnership with the Texas Department of State Health Services Obesity Prevention Program, to implement nutrition standards in early childcare settings. The committee participates in regular conference calls, and had a face-to-face meeting on December 1, 2017. The committee will work to coordinate efforts through trainings and resources through June 2018. DSHS is working on a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to

implement nutrition standards in early childcare settings. Committee members contribute ideas and use their unique positions and talents to advance the mission.

- One of the collaborative partners of the THSSCO, Texas Project Launch, provided Mental Health Consultation (MHC) Training October 2-3, 2017 in Austin, TX. The training focused on individuals currently providing MHC, those interested in providing consultation, or individuals supporting mental health consultants, and on strategic planning in regards to implementation and expansion of the MHC services around the state.
 - As a part of the Texas LAUNCH Developmental Screening Workgroup, the THSSCO Director participates in monthly meetings to carry out the action plans that were developed by the workgroup members.

Aspirational Goals:

- Provide developmental screening to all children in Texas following the American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations.
- Identify early childhood developmental delays and needs early.
- Provide early childhood interventions and resources for all children that received a positive developmental screening.
- Improve early childhood developmental outcomes for all children in Texas.
- Increase Texas children's school readiness.

Training was provided for EHS/CCP on the ASQ3 and/or ASQSE for those needing support.

- The Oral Health partners (OHP) group convened for a quarterly conference call on October 30, 2017. The group's collective purpose supports the oral health needs of Head Start/Early Head Start Children in Texas.
- The state Dental Hygienist Liaison (DHL) for the National Center on Early Childhood Health and Wellness (NCECHW), serves as one of the Oral Health Partners supporting the THSSCO in the area of oral health. Ms. Stewart announced that she will begin working on recruiting a hygienist from every American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA) component in Texas, so there are community DHL's available to serve on local EHS/HS Health Advisory Committees, provide assistance with dental referrals and oral health educational presentations for EHS/HS staff, students and/or parents/caregivers. DHL's will work with Home Visiting Programs as well.
- The THSSCO in collaboration with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) and the local Head Start or Early Head Start Programs in the DFPS region, developed a letter of collaboration in lieu of an MOU, due to the complexity and time-frame of developing one. DFPS commits to collaborating with the local Head Start or early Head Start program at the regional level, to be determined by regional representatives as outlined in the language in the DFPS Letter of Collaboration.
- The THSSCO participates in monthly conference calls with the Region VI T/TA Health Specialist, Jean Marie Gueniot, to keep abreast of the health related topics, meetings, trainings and information sharing related to the state, region and national office. The Region VI T/TA Health Specialist supported grantees in Texas to create 6 Health Manager Networks across the state. Locations include (central, north east, central, north central, west and south communities). The networks will allow managers of health-related content areas to meet and/or communicate virtually on an ongoing basis to share successes, challenges, resources, and strategies.

Homelessness:

- The THSSCO continues a partnership with the Texas Homeless Education Office (THEO) to support homeless children and families across the state. Hurricane Harvey devastated many areas of Texas, and as a result, the THSSCO Director communicated with the Texas Homeless Education Office (THEO) to request resourceful information to share with Head Start/Early Head Start families, www.theotx.org. Programs were provided with information to the Texas Homeless Network, www.thn.org, which includes a map with a list of the local homeless coalitions (LHC) and Continuum of Care (CoC) communities that receive HUD Funding, to support homeless intervention services.
- THSSCO Advisory Board Member from the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services provided a link to a guided workbook that helps children make sense of their experience with Hurricane Harvey. <https://www.mercycorps.org/my-hurricane-story>. The THSSCO also provided resourceful information to programs that was received from several other sources, and continues to work with the THEO to provide information and resources that families can connect to as needed.

Disabilities:

- The THSSCO Continues to participate in the Health & Human Services Commission /Early Childhood Intervention Governor Appointed Advisory Committee to support children with disabilities

Other:

- The THSSCO Director continues to serve as a member of the Home Visiting Consortium with TexProtects, to bring together Texas Home Visitation program, to increase the awareness of home visitation in Texas, and to coordinate legislative efforts.

THSSCO Web Link: <http://thssco.uth.tmc.edu>

Texas Early Childhood Professional Development System: www.tecpds.org

MEETINGS/TRAININGS/CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Texas Health and Human Services Commission Early Childhood Intervention Meeting

January 10 | Austin

Region VI Head Start Association Meeting

January 12 | Dallas

THSA Board Meeting

January 19 | Houston

Home Visiting Consortium Meeting

February 13 | Austin

Signature: *Alferma Giles* **Date Submitted:** 1/9/18