



Texas Head Start

State Collaboration Office

Alferma Giles, Ph.D. – Director

November 3, 2017

THSA Board of Directors' Meeting

THSSCO Updates:

1. The THSSCO Notice of Grant Award for FY 2017-2018 was received in August/2017.
2. The THSSCO Updated Needs Assessment Report & Strategic Plan 2017-2018 has been published and is assessable on the [THSSCO Website](#). A copy of the report has been sent to the THSA Board of Directors.
3. The THSSCO Advisory Board Members participated in a quarterly conference call, to review the THSSCO Updated Needs Assessment Report & Strategic Plan for 2017-2018, and to begin working on the activities identified. Board Members will provide an update on the work activities carried out during the time period prior to the next conference call, January 30, 2018.

Activities for Health Care:

- The THSSCO is participating on a committee with the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Obesity Prevention Program, to implement nutrition standards in early childcare settings. 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 to coordinate efforts through trainings and resources.
- As a result of some identified overall Head Start/Early Head Start program needs that were identified in the 2015-2016 and the 2016-2017 THSSCO Needs Assessment, the THSSCO has worked in partnership with one of the collaboration office advisory board members from the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) over the past year, to develop a letter of collaboration, to support Head Start/Early Head Start Programs to engage and work more effectively with DFPS. The two page Letter of Collaboration, dated October 16, 2017, documents the collaboration, and DFPS efforts to support programs as written. It has been signed and is fully effective for programs to use as needed. The Letter of Collaboration was sent to all Head Start/Early Head Start Program Administrators.
- 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 meeting discussion consisted of the engagement of the OHP in the activities noted in the Updated THSSCO Strategic Plan for 2017-2018.
- One of the THSSCO OHP members who is also the state Dental Hygienist Liaison (DHL) for the National Center on Early Childhood Health and Wellness (NCECHW), announced that she will begin work 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. Ms. Stewart also announced that DHL's are able to work with Home Visiting Programs as well.

- Jean Gueniot – Region VI Health Specialist, serves as a member of the THSSCO OHP. She shared that she is continuing her efforts to create Health Manager Networks in Region VI. Currently there are two in existence (Arkansas and Oklahoma), and she’s working to establish six (6) in different areas across the state of Texas. She also speaks to Head Start/Early Head Start Grantees across the state about oral health concerns. It’s nice to see grantees supporting each other in oral health and sharing ways they are providing health education to families.

Activities Children Experiencing Homelessness:

- The THSSCO continues to work in partnership with the Texas Homeless Education Office (THEO) to provide information to Head Start/Early Head Start Programs to better access services. In light of Hurricane Harvey, the need for support has grown tremendously in the state. The THEO has been overwhelmed with the number of individuals in need of assistance from affected areas of the state. The THEO is working to determine the greater needs of families, to support them to access available resources.
- Individuals requesting information and data on Head Start/Early Head Start Programs affected by Hurricane Harvey in Texas should contact their Region VI Program Specialist.
- **Texas Project Launch**, one of the collaborative partners of the THSSCO, 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.

Activities for Early Childhood Systems Development:

- The THSSCO Continues to be the home of the Texas Early Childhood Professional Development System (TECPDS). www.tecpds.org.
- As of the date of this report, the TECPDS Trainer’s Registry consists of 1298 trainers, Active trainers – 796; Total number of trainings - 279.
- As of the date of this report, The Texas Work Force Registry consist of 2,018 active Practitioners/Teachers, and 169 active Directors. Registration on both registries continues to increase monthly. www.tecpds.org.
- The TECPDS continues to promote the use of CLI- Engage for Texas School Ready (TSR) Project participants and the CLI-Engage CDA and Texas Rising Start participants. For information, log onto: <https://cliengage.org/onlinecourse> .
- The TECPDS System & Registry updates include working to seek funding to support the deployments and statewide implementation of all new features made to the trainer’s registry.
- Dr. Tracy Jones, Program Manager of the TECPDS presented two trainings at the TX-Association for the Education of Young Children Conference in San Antonio, October 19-21. Discount School Supplies hosted a Trainer’s Ice Cream Social on behalf of the TECPDS.
- The updates of the CORE Competencies were completed on the [TECPDS](http://www.tecpds.org) Website for Practitioners/Teachers or Administrators to access.

Activities for State, Local Policies, Planning and Processes:

- Continues to participate in HHSC/ECI Governor Appointed Advisory Committee Meetings. The committee participated in board meeting on November 1, 2017.

- 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.

Stay Connected with the THSSCO:

Later in the month of November, we are excited to launch a **new website for THSSCO** that will have new information and resources available for you on the website, our valuable partners across Texas. You will receive an email announcing the launch of the website! We look forward to sharing it with you!

We are also planning to **re-launch our newsletter in January**. Within the next few weeks, we will be sharing a survey to collect your thoughts and feedback about how our newsletter can better serve you and share resources with our community. We appreciate everyone who reads and shares our newsletter, and hope that this re-launch will help us be more responsive to your interests and needs

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

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

MEETINGS/TRAININGS/CONFERENCES - PARTICIPATION

Texas Early Childhood Professional Development System Advisory Council Meeting

November 15 | Houston, TX

Early Care Obesity Prevention Committee Meeting

December 1 | Austin, TX

Signature(s): Alferma Giles **Date:** 10/31/17