

Report for the Missouri Coordinating Board for Early Childhood *January 2016*

Partner Group: Missouri Head Start-State Collaboration Office (MHSSCO)

Liaison to the Board: Stacey Wright, Director

Action Item:

As the entity responsible for coordinating a cohesive early childhood system in Missouri and a vision for ensuring children in Missouri are safe, healthy and capable of reaching their full potential, The MHSSCO is inviting a representative of CBEC to participate on the upcoming Round Table discussion on homelessness February 11, 2016. (See more info in below report). Missouri Coordinating Board for Early Childhood is an entity invested in the wellbeing of all children, especially the most vulnerable children. We believe the Coordinating Board can be a critical partner in this discussion focused on increasing an awareness and understanding of homelessness in Missouri, deepening partnerships, improving services to homeless children and families, and identifying potential new areas of collaboration.

Announcements:

2015 Head Start Needs Assessment Survey: To fulfill the requirements of the Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007, the MHSSCO has engaged in various processes to annually assess the needs for collaboration of Head Start grantees and delegates in Missouri to better address the issues faced by young children (birth to school entry) and their families with low income. The assessment focused on these five areas prioritized by the OHS:

- Partnership with State Child Care Systems (Emphasizing EHS-CC Partnerships);
- Work with States in Efforts to Collect Data on Early Childhood Programs and Child Outcomes;
- Support for Expansion and Access of High Quality Workforce and Staff Opportunities for Career Development;
- Work with State School Systems for Continuity between Head Start and Kindergarten Entrance Assessment; and
- Collaboration to Support Quality.

The assessment was conducted via an online survey accessed through an Internet link sponsored by UMKC-IHD. Twenty-one of 23 grantees that serve families throughout Missouri were represented in the dataset, including one of the two Migrant and Seasonal Head Start grantees that offer services in Missouri. The completed report can be found via the link:

<http://www.moheadstart.org/Missouri%20Head%20Start%20State%20Collaboration%20Office.aspx>

Partner with State Child Care Systems

As a part of our annual Head Start: A Critical Link in the Early Education System meeting, this year, the MHSSCO partnered with the Missouri Association for Community Action, the Missouri Head Start Association and the Region VII Administration for Children and Families Office of Child Care and the Office of Head Start to sponsor the “Head Start & Partners: Linking Together to Strengthen the Early Education System” meeting in Kansas City, Missouri. A capacity crowd of Missouri Agency Executive Directors (inclusive of Community Action Agency and Non-Community Action Agencies), Head Start/Early Head Start Directors, and Agency Fiscal Directors attended the day-long meeting. The meeting provided a mechanism to receive relevant information, share ideas and network. Also in attendance, was the Missouri State Child Care Administrator, Cindy Burks. All attendees participated in a hearing on the proposed CCDF State Plan and were actively engaged in activities and presentations throughout the day.

Homelessness

The MHSSCO is pleased to be working in partnership with consultant Eleanor Shirley, Dialogic Dimensions, to plan and implement a Round Table discussion on homelessness and the importance of partnership in addressing child and family homelessness. The Round Table discussion will take place at the Schepper’s Distributing Community Room located at 2300 St. Mary’s Boulevard in Jefferson City, MO on **February 11, 2016** from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM in conjunction with the Missouri Head Start Association (MHSA) council meeting. We are inviting representatives from key organizations, including state departments, academics, Head Start, public schools and other homeless service providers, to discuss homelessness and its impact in Missouri.

MHSSCO anticipates the following outcomes for the Round Table:

- Identify and discuss federal, state, local policies and programs that support homelessness;
- Discuss how Head Start programs and their partners develop effective partnerships that support family homelessness; and
- Discuss strategies to improve the long-term well-being of children in families experiencing homelessness.