

Report for the Missouri Coordinating Board for Early Childhood

April 2016

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

Liaison to the Board: Stacey Wright, Director

Announcements:

As you will recall, in 2015, Early Head Start (EHS) and Child Care partnership (EHS-CCP) grantees were funded across the nation by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). These grants are focused on increasing access to high quality early care and education for very young children and their families. During their first year, leadership teams from these newly funded grantees attended an orientation session coordinated by the Early Head Start National Resource Center (EHS NRC) with support from other Office of Head Start (OHS) and Office of Child Care (OCC) National Centers.

The National Center on Early Head Start Child Care Partnerships (NCEHS-CCP) recently hosted a regional training and consultation session in Kansas City, Missouri for the awardees in Kansas, Iowa, Missouri and Nebraska, as well as Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) Administrators, Head Start State Collaboration Offices, and other key partners. This March 15-17th post-orientation was focused on extending the learning that occurred during the initial orientations in 2015.

The regional meeting was individualized to meet the needs of grantees within Region VII. The sessions were interactive, participant driven, and included time for team process consultation sessions co-facilitated by regional and national T/TA teams. In addition, Plenary Sessions were offered on each day and Affinity Groups provided opportunities for facilitated activities designed to encourage networking, reflection, sharing and problem-solving. The EHS-CCP Grantees were expected to bring their child care partners and teams had the opportunity to select several topics they were interested in exploring during the event. Key topics included:

- Child Care subsidies
- Comprehensive services
- Credentials for staff
- Layering services and costs
- Partnership agreements

The event was designed to support EHS-CCFPs as they move into full implementation and to address the complexities of bringing together Early Head Start and child care to deliver high quality, full day/full year, comprehensive services for children and families.

Action Item: I would kindly request in a future CBEC meeting, to invite/include a presentation on the Missouri EHS/CC Partnership grants. The work occurring in this area across the nation, and including Missouri is making impacts on bridging EHS and child care and an initiative the CBEC should have interest. Ultimately, the initiative can result in an increased level of early care and education policy alignment across systems and funding streams that can ultimately improve quality across early childhood programs.