

Report for the Missouri Coordinating Board for Early Childhood

July 2016

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

Liaison to the Board: Stacey Wright, Director

Announcements:

MHSSCO, in cooperation with Missouri Head Start Association and other key partners, conducted a formal review of early childhood Missouri Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) that aligns with the federal and state requirements for Head Start and Early Head Start. The MOU's are of particular importance with regard to child care and public school partnerships in order to support the comprehensive and school readiness needs of young children, deemed at risk due to poverty and other factors, and the needs of their families.

It was determined that the MOU's could be improved and become living, working documents by completing the following goals in a two-prong, values-based approach:

1. At the State level a small group, will develop a MOU.

The MOU will draw upon a set of guiding principles and values and respective key elements to focus on effective partnerships among all relevant State agencies that serve the Head Start/Early Head Start population and other children living in poverty.

2. The MOU will guide the development of a comprehensive template that can be utilized by local programs and their community partners.

The template will serve as an outline and can be tailored to the unique needs of programs, necessary partnerships, and values of each community.

Tentative Plan:

- ECIT team will begin outlining guiding principles and MOU elements that will comprise the State MOU. Work will commence in June 2016.
- Work group comprised of local and State representatives will launch in late July 2016 and begin work on the template—this operationalizes the formal MOU report recommendations completed in February, 2016.
- Opportunities for professional development will be integrated into the work group's activities which will be facilitated by an outside, independent consultant.
- MOU template will be developed and drafts will be disseminated and reviewed by MHSSCO and key partners, such as the MO Head Start Association Council.
- Feedback will be generated and considered in the work group's activities in the development of the MOU template.
- The MOU template will be available for programs and agencies that may choose to utilize it as a partnership resource.

Timeline for completing this work will be through April 2017. If questions, contact Stacey O. Wright, Director, Head Start-State Collaboration Office.