

Report for the Missouri Coordinating Board for Early Childhood

October 2016

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

Liaison to the Board: Stacey Wright, Director

Announcements:

The Office of Head Start (OHS) announced in the Federal Register the first comprehensive revision of the [Head Start Program Performance Standards \(HSPPS\)](#) since their original release in 1975. The publication of this regulation marks an important milestone in the history of the Head Start program. The new standards build upon 50 years of leadership in comprehensive early childhood services and will further raise the quality of Head Start programs. The new HSPPS are streamlined, simplified, and reorganized to improve clarity and transparency to support high-quality program delivery and minimize administrative burden.

This final rule has been nearly a decade in the making, fulfilling Congress's call for a review and revision of the Program Performance Standards in the bipartisan *Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007*. The new standards were developed by incorporating the growing body of research on effective early care and education, consultation from subject matter experts and representatives from grantees and Indian tribes, and thoughtful consideration of the 1,000 public comments received on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM). The result is a new set of standards that reinforces Head Start's position as a leader in the field of comprehensive early education, reflects best practices for teaching and learning, allows local flexibility, and reduces the number of federal requirements by approximately one-third.

For more information, you may access the Program Instruction ACF-PI-HS-16-04 via the link below:

https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/policy/pi/acf-pi-hs-16-04?language_content_entity=en

Key Activity: 2016 Head Start Needs Assessment

MHSSCO is working with our contractor, UMKC Institute for Human Development on the 2016 Head Start Needs Assessment (update). The online survey closed Tuesday, September 6. Thank you to the programs that participated in this year's survey which primarily focused on Partnership with State Child Care Systems and Collaboration with Quality Rating System (QRS). While in the beginning stages of analyzing the data, we do know 22 surveys from 19 grantees and 2 different delegates were received.

Key Activity: MOU Development

MHSSCO, in cooperation with Missouri Head Start Association (MHSA) 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 through a two-prong, values-based approach:

1. The **Early Childhood Interagency Team (ECIT)** will develop a state-level, broad-based MOU.

The broad-based 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 workgroup** will work in parallel with the ECIT to create a template comprised of key areas/services and programs that reflect the development and support of the whole child and family.

The template will serve as a blueprint that can be tailored to the unique needs of programs, partnerships, and values of each community.

Key Activity: Head Start and Special Education partnerships

Partnered with the MHSA and DESE- Special Education to conduct a session on September 9, 2016 for Head Start Staff, Parents and Community Members at the MHSA council meeting. The main topics of the meeting included information on the roles and oversight of DESE in relation to local districts, overview of Special Education Law, including the Missouri State Plan, and Least Restrictive Environment.