

## Report for the Missouri Coordinating Board for Early Childhood

April 2017

**2016 Head Start Needs Assessment.** The 2016 Missouri Head Start Needs Assessment report is available for viewing. You may access the report via the link:

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

**Brain Development, the Basis for a Healthy and Adaptive Life.** Partnered with Dr. Patsy Carter, Director of Children's Clinical Services, Department of Mental Health and Missouri Department of Social Services, Children's Division and the Cooperative Media Group, University of Missouri Extension on the development and recording of an informational video on brain development, entitled: Brain Development, the Basis for a Healthy and Adaptive Life. The 35 minute video provides information the trauma and toxic stress and the impact it can have on brain development.

**Regional Office Administration for Children and Families, Office of Head Start Missouri State Meeting.** Partnered with Regional Office and the Missouri Head Start Association to support a Missouri State Meeting with leadership from Missouri Early Head Start/Head Start Agencies on February 9, 2017. Participants received updates from the Kansas City Regional Office (Office of Head Start and Office of Child Care) and were provide with opportunities for dialogue and clarification related to implementation of the new Head Start Program Performance Standards and Child Care Development Fund Rules. Particular areas of interest included discussion on implications for implementation on background screening and training requirements.

**Office of Head Start Winter Regional T/TA Professional Development Meeting and National Head Start State Collaboration Office Directors Meeting in Washington, D.C.** Attended this combined meeting March 1-3, 2017. Objectives of this meeting were:

- Be updated on the transition plans moving forward
- Get informed on the National Centers' work that includes state systems
- Develop enhanced partnerships with Regional TA and OCC to further collective work

**Conference on the Young Years.** The Missouri Head Start State Collaboration Office collaborated with the Missouri Head Start Association and the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for a presentation at the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on the Young Years on March 10, 2017 in Osage, MO. The session, entitled ***Working Collaboratively to Promote School Readiness in Children Experiencing Homelessness*** focused on homelessness and trauma and the impact on young children's school readiness. The session included national and state homeless data, strategies, and resources to support homeless families and those at risk of becoming homeless. Participants:

- Enhanced their knowledge on research exploring homelessness and trauma and the impact on young children's school readiness and academic achievement in school settings;
- Discussed the McKinney-Vento Act and strategized on how McKinney-Vento Liaisons, Head Start, and child care providers can coordinate efforts, access resources, and connect homeless children and families to high quality early learning programs; and

- Discussed examples of local collaborations supporting families experiencing homelessness.

**Coordinated Early Head Start Meeting.** Early Head Start plays a vital role in the lives of the families. Programs are most effective when their services support the cultural diversity of their families and program staff demonstrate inclusiveness, respect, and responsiveness to all families. In partnership with the Missouri Head Start Association, the Missouri Department of Social Services, Children’s Division, Early Childhood and Prevention Services Section, the Missouri Head Start State Collaboration Office brought together leadership from Early Head Start programs across Missouri to learn and engage in a dialogue with Dr. Jean Ispa, Center for Children and Families Across Cultures, Human Development and Family Sciences on research, perspectives, and strategies to and support all families, especially those from diverse backgrounds and cultures.

**Partnership Guide.** A work group convened by the MHSSCO, and facilitated by Dialogic Dimension, LLC., has been conducting work since July 2016 for the purpose of developing an example (or template) "Memorandum of Understanding" as a resource for Missouri's local Early Head Start and Head Start *programs and partnering early learning programs and service agencies* as they enter into relationships with potential or ongoing like-missioned partners. Known now as the *Partnership Guide to Developing Local Agreements*, this document was designed utilizing a values-based approach. The guide includes key elements of an agreement while also allowing parties developing local agreements to individualize based on their identified values, guiding principles, activities, outcomes, and collaborative efforts in supporting children and families. The workgroup is in the process of reaching out stakeholders within their respective agencies/departments to garner perspectives of the draft guide. Once feedback is gathered and incorporated, the work will move into finalization and dissemination of the product.