

Report for the Missouri Coordinating Board for Early Childhood
October 2014

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

Liaison to the Board: Stacey Wright

Current Activities:

1. The MHSSCO partnered with the Missouri Head Start Association and the Cooperative Media Group at the University of Missouri to develop a Missouri HS video, *Embracing Differences: A Head Start Tradition*. This video provides HS parents' perspectives on how HS was a critical partner in supporting their child and family through the screening, referral, and/or Individual Education Plan (IEP) process, navigating the disabilities system, and how important it is to trust the work of HS staff. The video also provides information on supporting a child and family beyond HS, including the transition to school and supporting environments within their community. Programs have been integrating this video into activities including, but not limited to, pre-service training for staff, parent committee meetings, recruitment efforts, health services advisory meetings, transition activities, and strategies aimed at promoting and supporting family engagement and advocacy. The video can be found on-line via the link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NQHQdQbgsyY&feature=youtu.be>
2. Based on the results from the most recent HS Needs Assessment within the priority area of Transition and K-12 Alignment, along with the increased emphasis on Transition and K-12 Alignment as a national priority area of the HSSCO and the collective interest among HS, Local Education Agencies (LEAs), and family members on the school readiness of young children, the MHSSCO has convened an interagency team to plan and implement a Transition and K-12 Alignment Summit in December 2014. The Summit goals will be focused on:
 - Fostering a shared definition and understanding of school readiness and transition;
 - Educating stakeholders on the importance of smooth transitions; and
 - Securing buy-in from stakeholders at local and state levels.
3. The MHSSCO served as the catalyst in convening a collaborative group with a vested interest and a shared goal of supporting grantees and their partners with efforts in ensuring the safety and well-being of children. These partners included the Office of Head Start, the Region VII Office of Head Start; the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), Section of Child Care Regulation (SCCR); the MHSA; the HS T/TA System; the Urban League Head Start; the West Central Community Action Head Start; and the Missouri Valley Community Action Head Start. As a result of this collaboration, the partners conducted a webinar entitled "Who's Watching the Children?" on June 16, 2014. Thirty (30) participants representing EHS/HS programs attended the webinar. The professional development opportunity served as a train-the-trainer model with all materials provided for the grantee to use following the initial webinar. The event offered an in-depth approach to child supervision that: a) included a review of HS as well as state licensing regulation as a foundation; b) developing supervision strategies of children as linked and measured by CLASS indicators; and c) further integrated the strategies into outcomes from the

Family Engagement Framework. The webinar continues to be available via the link <http://www.moheadstart.org/TrainingAndEventMaterials.aspx>

4. The MHSSCO has recently entered into an interagency agreement with Dr. Louis Manfra, Assistant Professor, Human Development and Family Studies, University of Missouri, to design and conduct a study on Head Start-Local Education Agency Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs). Dr. Manfra and his team will survey HS and Local Education Agency representatives to compare perceptions on the productivity of their partnership and what qualities enhance the partnership. The anticipated completion of the study and final report is early 2015.
5. 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 HS grantees and delegates in Missouri to better address the issues faced by young children (birth to school entry) and their families. Drawing upon national models and technical support, the MHSSCO developed a comprehensive survey instrument to provide information about the strengths of Missouri HS and EHS programs and the challenges they encounter in coordinating services and collaborating with other entities. The MHSSCO engaged in extensive data collection from Missouri HS grantees in 2008-2009, 2010, and 2012 by using adaptations of this comprehensive survey instrument. These findings were supplemented by qualitative data collected from grantees during a 2011 Webinar and a 2013 MHSA meeting. For the 2014 assessment, the MHSSCO supplemented the 2012 needs assessment findings by administering an abbreviated on-line form of the survey. Fifteen (15) of the 22 Missouri grantees, four (4) delegate agencies of one (1) of the grantees, and one (1) of the two (2) Migrant and Seasonal HS grantees were represented in the dataset.

The MHSSCO needs assessment findings provide current pertinent information about the partnerships in which Head Start and Early Head Start programs are engaged and some of the issues they encounter. The MHSSCO believes it is important to inform the CBEC of the needs assessment findings and assist the CBEC in communicating key information to the appropriate Work Groups. Communicating the summary of the needs assessment results to the CBEC, its workgroups and similarly the ECCS Steering Committee and its local infrastructure teams contributes to State and local awareness of Head Start/Early Head Start perspectives and successful partnerships.