

ARKANSAS HEAD START ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

Wednesday, March 19, 2025, 1:30 pm-2:30 pm

Minutes

Sara Wilhite called the meeting to order at 1:34 pm. The following members were present: Christie Campbell, Shirley Pulliam, Angela Blankenship, Whitley Cooper, Jackie Burton, Sara Wilhite, Jennifer Thomas, Susan Templeton (zoom), Latasha Dodd (zoom). Guests present were: Jackie Govan, Teona Ford, and Deana Howell.

Consideration of Agenda: Sara Wilhite asked for changes to the agenda. There were no changes.

Approval of Minutes: Sara Wilhite asked the board to review the minutes. ***Whitley Bryant made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Jackie Burton seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion carried.***

Old Business

A. Dollar per Child: Deana Howell reported that \$5,588.13 had been collected which was around \$0.78 per child. A reminder will be sent out to programs.

B. Membership Dues Report: Deana Howell shared that \$42,285 had been collected with \$1,690 due for 2024/2025. At this time, we have received \$5,030 in prepayments for 2025/2026.

C. Treasurer's Report: Shirley Pulliam gave the Treasurer's Report. The current balance for the Arkansas Head Start Association is \$35,609.21. Jennifer Thomas made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted. Jackie Burton seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion carried.

D. Arkansas Head Start Association's Strategic Plan-Jackie Burton shared that the committee will provide a draft copy of the updates to the strategic plan.

E. Arkansas Head Start Association Bylaws-Shirley Pulliam shared that she will get the copy with the corrections.

Jackie Govan wanted to express special thanks to Playgrounds Etc for providing lunch.

Class Reports: Angela Blankenship provided an overview of the Class Meeting. Guest speakers presented on the CHW program, UAMS Mobile Unit, Inspire Care 360, and Organwise Guys. The committee discussed proposed budget changes due to the

separation. When the Collaboration Office separates, Deana will move to a work from home position. The association budget will be dependent on trainings and membership dues. There will be a Directors Retreat on September 11-12, 2025. There will also be recommendations for Jackie to recommend Sara Wilhite and Jackie Burton to serve on the NHSA Board. The Collaboration Office Needs Assessment will be coming soon.

Committee Reports

A. Arkansas Early Childhood Commission/State Advisory Council-Shirley Pulliam has not been officially approved.

B. Arkansas Head Start-State Collaboration Office-Jackie Govan shared that they are making revisions to minimum child care licensing standards. Goals make sure standards are safer. The standards included licensing rules, program requirements, and quality standards. Working to ensure that rules for health and wellbeing as well as a better defined approach for technical assistance before it goes to the Governor's Office. They currently have 14 vendors with 22 contracts.

C. Arkansas Head Start Association Institute-Sara Wilhite reminded the Board that the deadline for Early Bird Registration is March 30, 2025. The institute will be held June 23-24, 2025 at the Fairfield Bay Conference Center.

D. Region VI Head Start Association-Jackie Burton shared the board will meet virtually on April 7, 2025 and that the next conference will be October 21-23, 2025, in Texas.

E. National Head Start Association-Jackie Govan on the impact of the administrations changes on Head Start. We are seeing loss of staff at OHS and Regional Office

New Business

A. Future Plan for the Arkansas Head Start Association-Covered earlier in the meeting.

B. Items Needing Approval:

- Mills Rogers-Keynote Speaker for November
- Meeting Date Change to May 28th (changed after the meeting to May 14th.)
- Proposal for AHSA Office to convert to a work from home setup.
- No meeting in July due to the June institute.
- Approve Institute Format
- Directors Retreat-September 11-12, 2025
- Recommend Jackie Burton and Sara Wilhite to serve on NHSA Board of Directors.

Shirley Pulliam made a motion to approve all items as listed. Angela Blankenship seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion carried.

C. Arkansas Imagination Library: Jackie Govan shared that they are looking at ways for children in foster care to receive the books. They also have a contract with Hospitals to help with enrollment of newborns.

D. AHSA's Website: Jackie Govan solicited feedback from board members on critical things to address on the website video update.

Dates to Remember...

- Family Service Credential Training-February-April 2025
- NHSA Conference-Columbus, Ohio-May 19-23, 2025
- AHSA Institute-Fairfield Bay, Arkansas, June 23-24, 2025
- ACAA Regional Conference-Hot Springs, Arkansas-October 6-10,
- 2025 Powerful Conversations-Zoom-May 13, August 12, November 11, 2025
- AECA will be October 8-10, 2025

Next Meeting Date: Class Meeting: May 28, 2025 (Virtual) (Changed to May 14th after the meeting.)

Adjournment: Sara Wilhite called for a motion to adjourn. ***Whitley made a motion to adjourn at 2:06 pm. Shirley Pulliam seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion carried.***

Submitted by,

Deana Howell, Administrative Services Manager