



*Supporting Head Start quality today, impacting Arizona's tomorrow!*

**AHSA Quarterly Meeting  
Standing Committee Agenda  
Integrated Health & Safety Committee**

DATE OF MEETING: 9/22/2020 Time: 10:00 AM -12:00 PM		<b>VIRTUAL MEETING BY ZOOM</b>
COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Bari Nemeth, Carolyn Willmer, Lizzy Schounard, Margaret Velasco, Marya Olmos, Marcia Archer, Alana Mozar, Jessica Varela, Norma Rodriguez, Annie Myers, Alice Haverland, Liz Hernandez, Luz Lopez, Connie Morrison, Agueda Vela, <b>Landers</b> , Chrisanda DeBois, Ariana Rangel, Martha Jimenez,		
NEXT QUARTERLY COMMITTEE MEETING: TBD and will also be by Zoom		
AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION/RECOMMENDATION	PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE/ PRESENTER
I. Call to Order & Welcome	Welcome and introductions	Carolyn Willmer
II. Adoption of Agenda	The agenda is solely Covid-19. Motion to adopt the agenda: Connie Morrison Seconded: Liz Hernandez	Carolyn Willmer
III. Approval of Minutes	The chair apologizes to the committee for not having the minutes for the last few meetings, she will be providing minutes later this week, by email, for everyone to review before the next meeting and introductions.	Carolyn Willmer
IV. Meeting Basics	Because the chair only has access to free Zoom, there is a 40-minute time limit, so the meeting had to be re-started several times. Marcia has kindly offered to do the invitations for future meetings, because she has the paid Zoom.	Carolyn Willmer

<p>V. Returned/Returning to School</p>	<p>Chicanos por la Causa is currently full enrollment, but all classes are virtual. CPLC reports they will be returning to partial in-person classes soon. Each class will have 10 on-site students, and 5 virtual students. This means on-site enrollment will be about 2/3 of normal. They are not open in Graham county. Tucson is experiencing a Covid-19 surge, which if it continues, may require shutting classrooms down again.</p> <p>CPLC is doing food distribution for enrolled children and siblings.</p> <p>City of Phoenix Deer Valley Head Start has re-opened classrooms, with some virtual classrooms that will be phased out until all enrollment is on-campus. Other education service providers range from planning year-long virtual enrollment to mixed enrollment, to full on-campus enrollment.</p> <p>Other grantees report similar situations.</p> <p>Grantees are very concerned about dealing with absences during the pandemic, with expectations of some staff being ill, and some staff having to isolate following exposure to Covid-19. Everyone anticipates issues with contacts in the same room or the same building. Agencies are coming up with their own versions of Covid questionnaires for children and possibly staff, based on standard questionnaires from public health agencies. Some agencies are also doing temperature screenings, however that is problematic during hot temperatures. There is confusion around questions like “Have you been to an area with a high infection rate?” No one has been able to define what this means.</p> <p>The committee recommended the Maricopa County Return to School Webinar, which is every Wednesday at 3:00.</p> <p>Chrisanda emailed the committee a great deal of useful guidance from Maricopa County on quarantine and isolation requirements, and other Covid-related issues.</p>	<p>Committee Members</p>
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<p>V. Immunizations</p>	<p>Some parents want to children to attend school but are afraid to take their children to be immunized. The group agrees that immunizations are even more important now, when immunization rates are down across the nation.</p> <p>Arizona law allows children to enroll with delinquent immunizations, but they must complete the necessary immunizations within 15 days. However, some Head Start programs (including City of Phoenix) don't allow the 15-day flexibility because it is more difficult to get children immunized after enrollment than before enrollment. The Office of Child Care Licensing is requiring this standard for virtual enrollment, as well as for children attending on-campus.</p> <p>Marcia reports that she received different verbal guidance; that Head Start programs could extend the 15-day deadline as long as they documented efforts to get the child immunized, and that CCL would be "understanding". The group agrees that verbal communication from CCL can vary widely, and that it's safest to follow written standards. The group also reports that local health departments are taking the immunization requirements very seriously. AzDHS sent out a notice about the annual Immunization Data Report, due in mid-November. Sites with 10 or fewer children aren't required to report, but several grantees are saying they will report for those sites anyway, to assist the state in tracking immunization rates.</p> <p>Carolyn mentioned that there have been lots of out-of-state children applying to her Head Start program this fall, and that she is connecting caseworkers and families with other state immunization registries, to collect out of state immunization records. She believes that all, or almost all, states have such registries, but each state has different requirements for obtaining the records.</p>	<p>Committee Members</p>

<p>VI. Vision and Hearing Screening</p>	<p>The National Head Start Office is allowing grantees to use their judgement on sensory screening, rather than insisting on the 45 day deadline. Some sites are already beginning screenings, while some are delaying further. Covid-19 levels in local communities factor into decisions about when to start screening.</p>	<p>Group</p>
<p>VII. Covid-19</p>	<p>Carolyn mentioned to the committee that she had learned some people have difficulty wearing masks for psychological reasons, following traumatic attacks where their mouth was covered. Other committee members mentioned that some people are unable to wear protective masks due to medical reasons. The committee agreed it's good to be aware of this possibility, when dealing with others (especially women) who are not wearing masks.</p> <p>Carolyn also mentioned that Maricopa County is seeking community partners for flu shot clinics, as there is a huge push to significantly increase flu shots this year, to avoid overwhelming the health care system with flu and covid patients. She recommended other agencies contact their local health department if they are interested in partnering. Carolyn is hoping management at City of Phoenix will approve her plans for a COP HS/EHS flu campaign of education and connecting families with clinics. She is in touch with Maricopa County and</p> <p>The group also discussed the difficulty some people are having in obtaining Covid testing. Testing clinics are available, including the Mountain Park Clinic locations, which are happy to test asymptomatic people who have been exposed. Anyone interested should call Mountain Park to arrange testing, and say they were referred by Head Start: 602-243-7277.</p>	<p>All members</p>



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	<p>Post-meeting note: The CDC recently changed the guidelines on testing, stating that people who have been exposed to Covid-19 don't need to get tested unless they are symptomatic. This defies common sense, as it is well-established that asymptomatic Covid-19 carriers contribute significantly to the spread of the disease. It is now public knowledge that the new guidance was forced on CDC by the Dept. of Health and Human Services.</p>	
VIII. CACFP and Other Food Programs	<p>Some grantees have already been doing CACFP training (virtually), however, CACFP has stated that training can't start until October 1<sup>st</sup>, because of the federal funding cycle. There are new training requirements: everyone on the permanent agreement must have training, which is 10 hours of training for those staff more directly involved in implementing CACFP, an annual refresher training. Those with experience with CACFP recommend Directors attend the "Introduction to CACFP" which is 15-30 minutes, so they understand what they are getting into.</p> <p>The question of how to document attendance for virtual trainings was raised, and it was suggested to use Zoom attendance lists.</p> <p>Marcia mentioned that the NSLP food waiver has been extended so that families can still get food from school districts for all children in the family.</p>	All members
IX. Adjournment	<p>Liz motioned to adjourn and Luz seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.</p>	Carolyn Willmer