



Arizona Head Start Association

Integrated Health & Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: March 7, 2023 Time: 2:30 – 4:00		Location: Virtual Meeting ID: Passcode:	
Committee Chair: Marcela Zepeda Committee Vice Chair: Marcia Archer			
<u>COMMITTEE HEAD START MEMBERS PRESENT:</u>			
Alhambra Head Start:	Catholic Charities West Side Head Start:	Chicanos Por La Causa: Priscila Armenta Marcela Zepeda	Child Crisis Arizona:
Child Parent Centers:	City of Phoenix: Selina McCabe-Charley	Deer Valley Head Start:	Fowler Head Start:
Greater Phoenix Urban League Head Start:	Maricopa County:	Northern Arizona Council Of Governments:	Pinal Gila Community Child Service: Jaida McLemore Connie Morrison
Southwest Human Development: Bari Nemeth Jessica Varela	Urban Strategies:	Washington Head Start:	Western Arizona Council of Governments:
<u>COMMITTEE COMMUNITY PARTNER MEMBERS PRESENT:</u> Carolyn Willmer			
<u>COMMITTEE HEAD START & COMMUNITY PARTNER MEMBERS ABSENT:</u> Alhambra Head Start, Catholic Charities West Side Head Start, Deer Valley Head Start, Fowler Head Start, Greater Phoenix Urban			

League Head Start, Maricopa County, Pinal Gila Community Child Service, Washington Head Start, Western Arizona Council of Governments

GUEST/VISITOR:

Jessica Rivera-Garcia, AZHSA Director

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: April 4, 2023, at 2:30 PM

Topic	Presenter	Minutes
1) Call Meeting to order & Agenda Revision		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The meeting was called to order at 2:33 PM.
2) Committee Updates (<i>election, request for support, etc</i>)		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Committee will meet on a monthly basis at 2:30 PM on the first Tuesday of each month.• Newsletter<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The Newsletter will be used to report at Board Meetings on a quarterly basis.• Attendance is tracked.
3) WIC MOU		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• WIC MOU last revision after Board approval.• Jessica suggested to keep paragraph #5 on attachment A but removed the wording on application form. Jessica explained that we do referrals for other services so it made sense to keep paragraph # 5. All attendees agreed.
4) Final Rule – Mitigating the Spread of COVID in Head Start Programs –Masking		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marcela shared Final Rule for Masking.• The final rule removes the requirement for universal masking for all individuals ages 2 and older.• This final rule requires that Head Start programs have an evidence-based COVID-19 mitigation policy, developed in consultation with their Health Services Advisory Committee.• This final rule does not address the vaccination and testing requirement, which is still under review. The vaccine requirement remains in effect.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considerations for an Evidence-based COVID-19 mitigation policy were shared. Marcela added that formal monitoring will begin in the 2023-2024 program year. • Attendees shared that they had their policy in place.
5) Community of Health & Safety		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marcela shared that the Office of Head Start (OHS) holds a strong and uncompromising position when it comes to the safety of children. That OHS is committed to continuous quality improvement to improve oversight of Head Start programs, and to supporting programs in preventing incidents that jeopardize children’s safety. Marcela reminded attendees to embrace the belief that children have the right to be safe by creating a culture of safety and provide "an environment that encourages people to speak up about safety concerns, makes it safe to talk about mistakes and errors, and encourages learning from these events." • To commit to keeping children safe and secure - it is foundational to the provision of Head Start services • To be alert and aware that child health and safety incidents occur more frequently at the <i>beginning of the school year</i>, when <i>staff are stressed</i> and <i>classrooms are understaffed</i> • To develop strategies to mitigate potential lapses in supervision, unauthorized release and/or inappropriate discipline • And to provide ongoing training on active supervision and mandated reporting requirements. • Marcela shared resources on: • 10 Actions to Create a Culture of Safety • https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/culture-of-safety.pdf • Cultivating Wellness: 8 Dimensions of Staff Well Being • https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/cultivating-wellness-8-dimensions-staff-well-being.pdf

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asked attendees How does your program create, build, promote, and implement a culture of safety and staff wellness? • Members shared the different ways their programs are implementing staff wellness.
6) Updates		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminder for AZHS Representation needed at the Early Childhood Nutrition Advisory Group- Maricopa County. Meetings held bi monthly at 9am. • Nutrition Month Celebration. "Fuel for the Future" 2023 theme. • Event shared. AZHSA & DES Webinar for HS Parents. Overview of each benefit, eligibility requirements, required documentation and how to apply for benefits.
7) Open Discussion		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed rule Child Nutrition Programs March 1st 2023.
8) Adjourn		Meeting was adjourned at 3:46 PM.
Minutes taken by: Marcela Zepeda		