Who Is KHSA?

• A statewide membership association of our 29 Kansas Head Start and Early Head Start programs, representing:
  – More than 2,500 staff
  – 11,500 children and families
  – 19,000 volunteers, including 11,600 parents
  – More than 25,000 members of our Kansas Head Start community

• Established in 1997—We’re 16 years old
  – 17 on Nov 25, 2014!
Who Is KHSA?

• The unified voice of Head Start in Kansas which strengthens and supports our members through:
  – Education and training
  – Funding from grants and corporate partners
  – Advocacy at the federal and state levels

• Together, we’re a powerful voice!
We’re Part of a National Network

National Head Start Association

Region VII Head Start Association

Iowa Head Start Association

Kansas Head Start Association

Missouri Head Start Association

Nebraska Head Start Association
How Does KHSA Work?

• Each program selects 4 Affiliate Program Members (APM’s)—a director, friend, parent and staff—who meet 3 times a year at APM Meetings (normally in October, January and April)

• APM’s at the AMP meetings elect the 15-member Board
  – At least 9 APM’s
  – Up to 6 at-large members representing business, higher education and other key partners.
How Does KHSA Work?

- Director
- Friend
- Affiliate Program Members (APM’s)
- KHSA Board of Directors
- Parent
- Staff
- Governance & Leadership
- Audit
- Finance
- Professional Development
- Member Services
- Leadership Development
- Home Visiting
- Mental Health
- Advocacy
- Financial Literacy
KHSA Board Members

• Two, Two-year terms
• Four consecutive years
• Responsible for:
  – Developing and overseeing implementation of the strategic plan
  – Approving all policy statements issued
  – Approving the budget at least annually
  – Ensuring fiscal and legal integrity of KHSA
  – Planning and carrying into operation such other measures they deem proper and expedient to promote the mission/vision
KHSA Board Members

• Meet 6 times per year (4 face-to-face)
• Are expected to attend all meetings
• Notify Executive Director of absences
• Led by president, vice-president (president-elect), secretary and treasurer
• Will sign board member agreement
What We Do

• Advocacy
  – Educate and influence policymakers about Head Start needs and issues
  – Work with our Congressional delegation in Washington and with the Governor and Kansas Legislature.

• Professional Development
  – Educate staff, parents and partners

• Special Projects
  – Focus on priority needs within programs: mental health, financial literacy, oral health, parent health literacy, etc.
Advocacy

• Strong relationships with our 6 members of Congress

• Positive changes to federal Head Start legislation

• Work closely with partners and Governor on early education in Kansas
  – $10 million Early Head Start
  – Early Childhood Block Grant $22 million
Benefits of Block Grant to Head Start and Early Head Start

- Early Learning Communities Models for the Kansas Preschool Program
  - 1.1 Million for 2014
  - Began in three communities (Coffeyville, Liberal and Rossville), now expanded to 12 more school districts
  - Integrated preschool services among Head Start, school district and child care
  - Project Coordinator: January Scott
Professional Development in Action

• KHSA is a major provider of training to Head Start staff and parents in the state.

• We offer:
  – A state-wide conference every two years
  – Special trainings based on member needs
  – Networking sessions for specialty groups (i.e. education and health coordinators, home visitors, etc.)
Professional Development

• Successful conferences every two years for HS/EHS and partners
  – 2008 “Ready to Learn: Building Healthy Minds and Bodies” featured national IMIL trainer
  – 2010 “Building Connections: Resources and Relationships for a Stronger Early Learning Community” featured a keynote from NHSA Executive Director, Yasmina Vinci
  – 2012 “Path to School Readiness”
  – 2014 “Collaborating for Quality – Strengthening the Conversation”

• Special trainings, such as
  – Basic and advanced home visitation
  – Creative Curriculum
  – CLASS Reliability Training
  – Bridges Out of Poverty
  – Succession Planning
Grant Projects Based on Programs’ Priority Needs

• Parent Health Literacy
• Parent Financial Literacy
• Home Visitation Training (not currently funded, but working with SRS to renew funding)
• Mental Health
• Oral Health
Parent Health Literacy

- Project Coordinator: Debbie O’Neal
- Educating parents about caring for children’s minor illnesses and injuries at home
- Reduction in unnecessary ER and doctor visits
- Expanding beyond Head Start into health departments, safety net clinics, congregations
- Developed a video training piece for use in hospitals
Parent Financial Literacy

- Started with EHS funding
- New funding:
  - Kansas Health Foundation
  - Bank of the West
  - Pending applications
- Open to all EHS & HS programs in Kansas
- Working at expanding to HS staff

- Project Coordinator: Peggy Kelly
- Focus groups with parents
- Interviews with directors
- Survey of curricula & resources
- Piloted: MoneySmart
- Great data, modifications
Home Visitation Training

• Basic and advanced training offered twice a year to all programs doing home visits with families
• HV Coaching
• DCF contract ended in November, they are working on a new contract with July 1 start date
Mental Health

• United Methodist Health Ministry Fund
• Define what services are needed to support children age 0-6(8) and their families
• Use that to write a Medicaid state plan amendment
• Advocate for state to submit SPA for approval
• Assist providers in using existing funding mechanisms to provide more services
• Capacity
Oral Health

- Kansas Cavity-Free Kids is a 5-year initiative providing equipment, supplies, education and technical assistance
- Supplements federal funding and links programs to local, state and national resources
- Adopted the Cavity Free Kids curriculum for preschool and created a companion piece for home visitors working with families of children prenatal to 3
- Limited funding remaining
- Working on securing additional funding
- Project Coordinator: Kathy Hunt
How You Can Get Involved

• Join a committee. . .
  – **Member Services** works on the web site, awards and communications with staff, parents, partners
  – **Advocacy Task Team** will be working on new ways to engage parents in grass-roots advocacy
  – **Leadership Development**
  – **Home Visiting**
  – **Mental Health**
  – **Financial Literacy**
How You Can Get Involved

• Learn more about us on our web site: www.ksheadstart.org

• Contact us:
  – Erick Vaughn, Executive Director evaughn@ksheadstart.org
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Thanks for Making A Difference for Kansas Children & Families!