



# The Kansas Head Start Association

An Overview

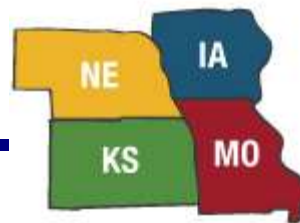
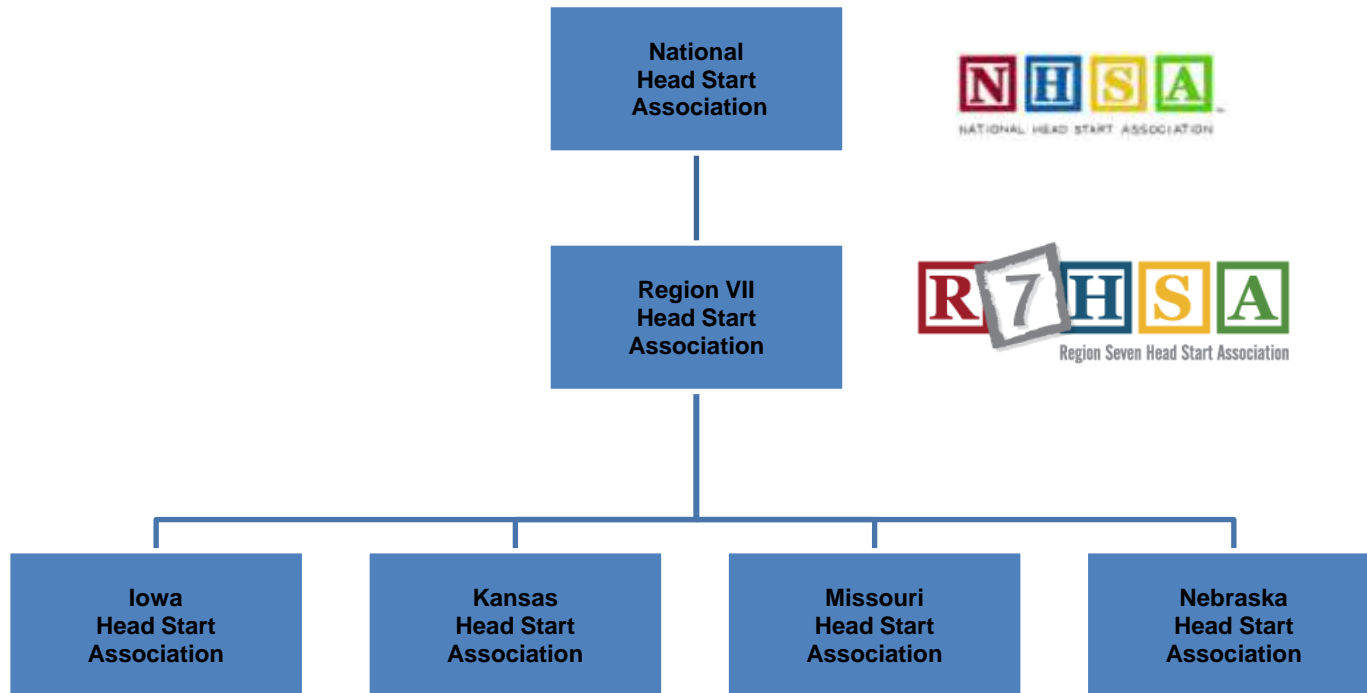
# Who Is KHSA?

- 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!

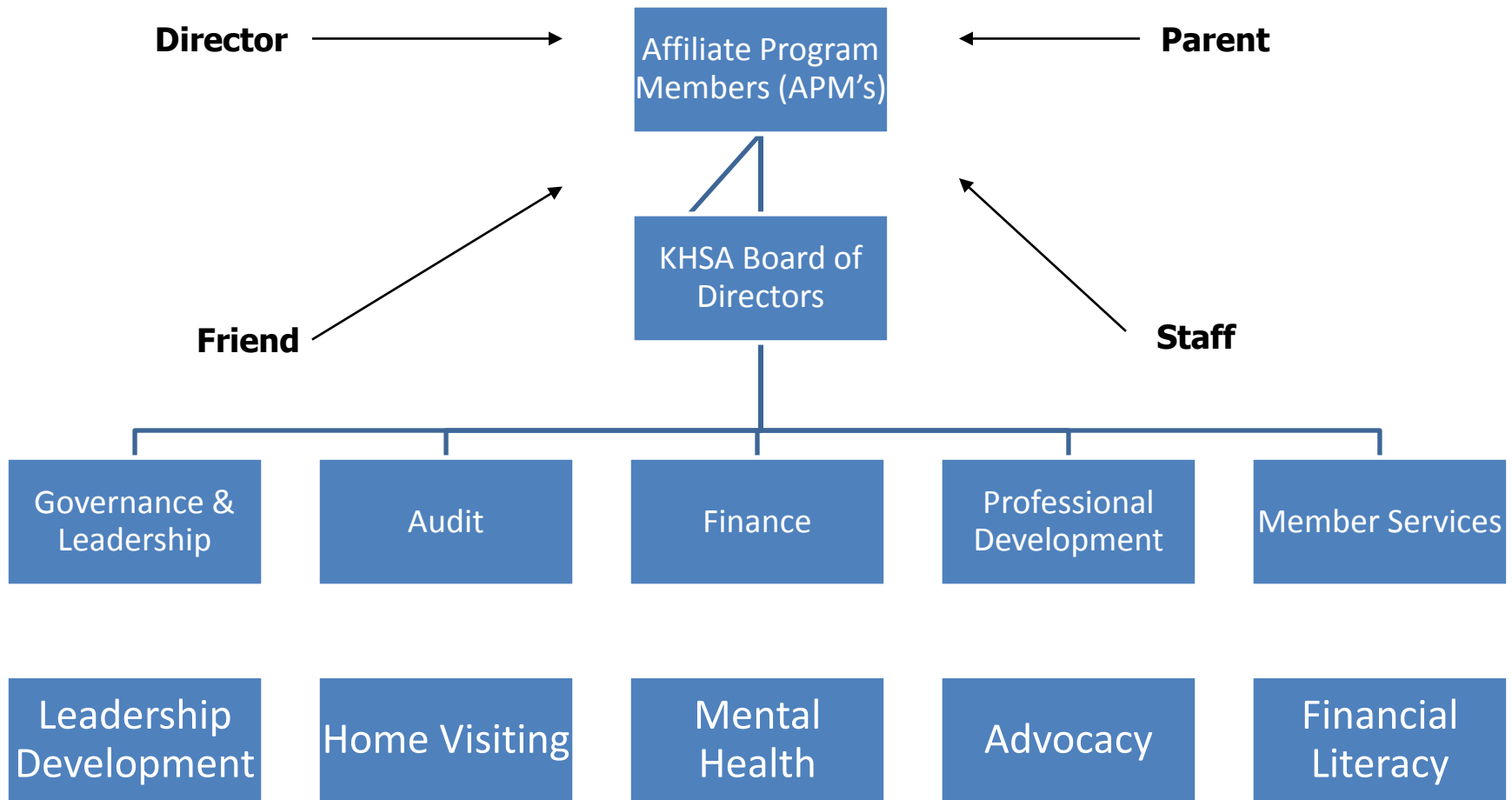
# We're Part of a National Network



# 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?



# 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.)**

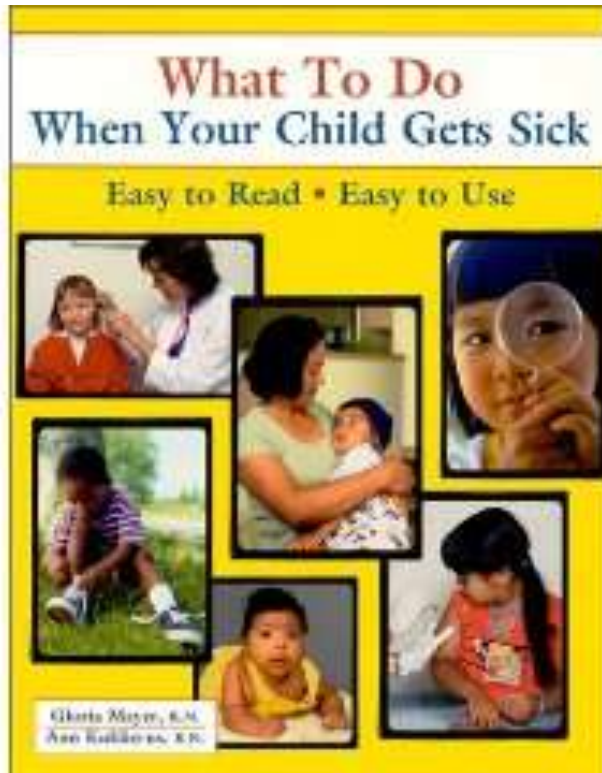
# Professional Development

- 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



A project of Kansas Head Start Association

- 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



A project of Kansas Head Start Association

- 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](http://www.ksheadstart.org)
- Contact us:
  - Erick Vaughn, Executive Director  
[evaughn@ksheadstart.org](mailto:evaughn@ksheadstart.org)
  - Karen Brichoux, Office Manager  
[kbrichoux@ksheadstart.org](mailto:kbrichoux@ksheadstart.org)
  - Julie Kelemen, Fiscal Manager  
[jkelemen@ksheadstart.org](mailto:jkelemen@ksheadstart.org)
  - Phone: 785-856-3132
  - Fax: 785-856-3134

# Thanks for Making A Difference for Kansas Children & Families!

