

# HSSCO ANNUAL STATE PROFILE REPORT

## Activities for January – December 2006

### Washington

#### **Collaboration Director**

Kelli Bohanon, M.Ed  
Department of Early Learning  
PO Box 40970  
Olympia, WA 98504-0970  
(360) 725-4940 (office)  
(360) 413-3482 (fax)  
kelli.bohanon@del.wa.gov  
www.del.wa.gov

#### **Lead Agency Contact**

Jone Bosworth, JD  
(360) 725-4877 (office)  
(360) 413-3482 (fax)  
jone.bosworth@del.wa.gov

#### **ACF Regional Contact**

Julianne Crevatin  
ACF/HHS Region X  
2201 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. MS-70  
Seattle, WA. 98121  
(206) 615-2615 (office)  
jcrevatin@acf.hhs.gov

#### **Washington State HSSCO in 2006: A Year of Transformation**

In 2006, the Head Start State Collaboration Office in Washington State endured a number of changes enacted by the Governor and the Legislature in the formation of an executive branch agency, the Department of Early Learning (DEL). DEL's purpose is to bring visibility, focus, and a streamlined effort to early learning infrastructure, funding, and leadership throughout the state. Additionally, the department has been charged with enhancing its capacity to partner with the private sector in an effort to establish and implement improved early learning opportunities for children and families. DEL went into effect on July 1, 2006, under the temporary leadership of an acting director, with the founding director, Jone Bosworth, sworn in by the Governor on September 12, 2006.

As mandated in the DEL legislation, the HSSCO was moved to DEL (from DSHS) in July 2006, creating a new environment for it to function within. In addition to the transition into a new department, the HSSCO Director, Sangree Froelicher, was promoted as the department's new Assistant Director for Systems, Partnerships, and

Collaboration division, resulting in an HSSCO director vacancy from September 2006 through May 2007. The HSSCO Project Assistant, Rachel Blacke, departed the agency in August 2006 and the position was not filled until February 2007 with the arrival of Stephanie Benfield. The new HSSCO Project Manager, Kelli Bohanon, was hired in May 2007 and officially assumed the role on June 18, 2007. Kelli is currently located within the DEL central office in Lacey and has been placed to function within the newly established Systems, Partnerships, and Collaboration division—placing the HSSCO in a pivotal position to participate with key individuals and stakeholders in planning and executing plans for building early childhood systems across the state.

Despite ongoing transformation at the state level, the HSSCO has continued to serve as a leader and catalyst in facilitating the development of multi-agency and public/private partnerships across the state. The HSSCO accomplished some of its goals and objectives over the last year, continuing to play a significant role in developing and supporting initiatives that improve opportunities and outcomes for children and families in Washington State.

**A. Briefly describe your accomplishments in the following areas. Where possible, indicate the goals from your work plan and the desired and actual outcomes.**

1. Help build early childhood systems and access to comprehensive services for all low-income children. Include a description of how you are supporting Head Start-child care-pre-kindergarten collaborations and Head Start-pre-kindergarten collaborations at the state and local levels.

➤ **Kids Matter:**

In 2006, the HSSCO continued its partnership with the Department of Health, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) Grant and Washington BUILD to facilitate the ongoing development and implementation of the Kids Matter framework. Through collaborative partnerships, efforts have produced the following:

- ✓ ***Kids Matter Full Report:*** A report outlining a collaborative and comprehensive strategic framework for building an early childhood system in Washington to improve outcomes for children.
- ✓ ***Kids Matter Executive Summary:*** A brief summary (10 pages) of the Kids Matter Full Report was created as a tool for policymakers who may not have the time to read the full report. The Executive Summary has proven to be an extremely useful tool for many and varied audiences.
- ✓ ***Gates Grant:*** The goal is to ensure Kids Matter becomes a living, active framework at the community and local level. To this end, Kids Matter will be implemented from the “inside-out”-- supporting communities in using the framework to guide them in a decision making process that cultivates their unique values, needs, and goals in developing early learning systems that work.
- ✓ ***BUILD “Building Connections” Grant:*** The goal of this grant is to give focus and funding support toward a merged systemic venture that will support the Governor’s Early Childhood Summit with the following

objectives: 1) fostering reciprocal learning between systemic community and state early learning efforts; 2) facilitating the development of a network—Communities in Practice—that provides opportunities for communities to learn from each other and jointly discuss challenges and strategies, so community leaders can significantly participate in future early systems planning and decision-making efforts.

➤ **University of Washington – CHILD Profile Parent Survey:**

The HSSCO provided funding to the University of Washington to include specific early learning questions on the biennial Department of Health CHILD Profile parent survey. The early learning questions were designed to gather feedback from parents around early learning, quality child care & preschool options, child development, kindergarten readiness, and health of their young children (birth–five). Data analysis and tabulation (aggregate and geographic) was also performed.

➤ **Gary Consulting Group:**

The HSSCO contracted with Gary Consulting Group for tribal relations consultation services. Gary Consulting Group assisted the HSSCO in conducting a formal listening season with AI/AN Head Start programs in Washington to better understand tribal concerns and needs within the context of both sovereignty and societal imperatives. Gary Consulting Group also prepared a “briefing book” for the HSSCO that provides detailed knowledge of tribal Head Start programs in the context of culture, communication venues and culturally relevant early childhood education approaches.

➤ **City of Seattle:**

The HSSCO sponsored a planning session designed to develop strategies and parameters to implement a collaborative partnership between the City of Seattle pre-kindergarten and Head Start programs. The City of Seattle wanted to create a partnership arrangement between its pre-kindergarten and Head Start programs that would allow for seamless services to children and families. The outcome of this planning session resulted in Head Start programs partnering with the City of Seattle to provide Step Ahead Pre-K programs.

2. Encourage widespread collaboration between Head Start and other appropriate programs. Describe your accomplishments and outcomes in the eight priority areas.

➤ **Education:**

**Collaborative Leadership Institute:**

The HSSCO continued to support the Collaborative Leadership Institute (CLI), the ten month intensive training institute for growing leaders in the early learning and care field. The goal of the CLI is a renewed and lasting network of leaders prepared to advance innovative approaches that benefit children and families in Washington. The CLI has completed two sessions, and the results have been very positive, though more recent follow-up with graduates is needed to assess outcomes. For the 2006 class for example, 57% expanded their role in community child and family initiatives, 38% indicated they had experienced career advancement since beginning the Institute, and 38% planned to pursue

their next degree through higher education. All participants have a greater understanding of their own leadership style and potential, and developed a network of colleagues from other disciplines and types of organizations that will help them as they work to improve early learning and help children in Washington.

➤ **Health Care:**

University of Washington – Early Head Start-Promoting First Relationships Collaboration : The HSSCO provided the opportunity to four Early Head Start programs to collaborate with *Promoting First Relationships: Reflective Support for Relationship-Focused Programs (PFR)*, a reflective practice program based out of the University of Washington. This project was specifically designed to address needs of Early Head Start staff and engage Early Head Start programs in setting up reflective systems for supporting staff and families.

➤ **Welfare:**

HS/EHS Data Share Agreements: The HSSCO has 31 data share agreements to provide DSHS client data to Head Start/Early Head Start programs in Washington for recruitment and enrollment purposes. Four data share agreements are with tribal Head Start programs. This past year, the HSSCO amended several data share agreements to allow for ECEAP recruitment (one stop shop). The Department of Early Learning currently holds responsibility for maintaining the data share agreements.

➤ **Services to Children with Disabilities:**

Infant/Early Childhood Conference: Sponsored the Infant and Toddler Early Intervention Conference for professionals and administrators serving young children with disabilities and their families.

Within the changing landscape of the new Department of Early Learning, the priority areas not addressed in 2006 through specific efforts (Services to Homeless Children and Families, Childcare, Community Services, and Family Literacy Services) should be further defined in the context of the HSSCO's role as the department engages in an intensive process for developing strategic priorities in 2007.

3. Facilitate Head Start's involvement in the development of state policies, plans, processes and decisions.

The HSSCO has continued to provide a single point of contact for Head Start within the state and worked closely with the state association with recruiting HS/EHS participation in state planning efforts. The HSSCO connected groups working on related issues and assured local Head Start representation on various state work groups and committees. Finally, the HSSCO continued to invest funds in a number of cross- agency and community organization collaborative initiatives. Key projects in 2006 included:

➤ **Joint Advisory Council :**

Over the last year and ½, the HSSCO has gone through a merger process to blend Advisory Council memberships with the Foundation for Early Learning, Kids Matter and BUILD, bringing together several key early learning leaders and stakeholders in their advisory capacity. Meetings were held in October, March and June. There is representation from the Region X Office, WSA, HS/EHS T&TA, and HS/EHS Directors on the Joint Advisory Council.

➤ **HS/EHS School Site Data Request:**

The HSSCO provided support to the Early Learning Council - K-12/Early Learning Work Group by gathering and tabulating school site data from all Head Start/Early Head Start programs (including Region XI & XII) in Washington. A formal report was shared with this group as well as with the Region X Office, T/TA and all Head Start programs in Washington State.

➤ **Family Policy Council Simulation Project:**

The HSSCO provided funding for the Family Policy Council's Simulation Project which brought together participants from multiple perspectives (private, public, philanthropy, and communities) to improve understanding of how systems behave and the short-term/long-term effects of different policy interventions intended to help families thrive. An agent-based computer simulation model will be created to chart the complex interrelationships of actions that affect at-risk children and families.

**B. Briefly discuss the following aspects of your work:**

1. Describe how you have supported and collaborated with the Regional Office on national and regional priorities (e.g. Fatherhood, Faith-Based and Community, Healthy Marriage, Youth and Rural Initiatives and TA Network, professional development, Community Action Agencies, State Head Start Association, and other activities).

In 2006, the HSSCO continued to work closely with the Regional Office, the T/TA Network, and the Head Start Association as significant partners by involving them in the majority of HSSCO projects and initiatives. Individuals from the Regional Office, T/TA Network, and the Head Start Association were invited to participate in many levels of the planning and implementation of projects and initiatives in 2006.

2. Describe additional activities and successes in the past year.

In 2006, the HSSCO continued to sponsor a number of "partnership" conferences for the purpose of supporting professional development opportunities in the field of early learning. Two of those conferences held in the last year include:

➤ **Healthy Child Care Washington & HS/ECEAP Health Symposium:**

This sponsorship provides opportunities for statewide partners to attend various videoconferences and/or in-person Region X trainings that present the latest information around best practices in the development and implementation of quality early learning systems.

➤ **Infant and Early Childhood Conference:**

This annual conference provides professional development opportunities for early childhood practitioners and administrators, with a specific focus on serving children with disabilities in a variety of settings.

**C. Briefly describe your efforts to support the coordination of Head Start services to Hispanic children and families in your State.**

In 2006, the HSSCO did not participate in supporting the coordination of services to Hispanic families in Washington State in any definite manner. At this time, there are not clearly identified Hispanic initiatives within the state with regard to Head Start or Early Head Start programs. It is imperative to mention, however, that the HSSCO continues to support action that creates opportunities for improving early learning systems and processes that serve to be inclusive of *all* populations within the state (*i.e., children with disabilities, homeless children, children representing all racial and ethnic backgrounds, children in foster care, etc.*). Finally, as the five-year goals of the HSSCO are continually assessed within the changing context of the new department and the early learning landscape across Washington State in 2007, it is possible that the specific early learning needs of Hispanic children and families may be more closely addressed through collaborative projects or initiatives behind the leadership of the HSSCO.

**D. How do your responses to the questions above impact your approved work plan for the current or coming year?**

As the HSSCO's evolving role in the Department of Early Learning is more specifically defined and DEL strategic priorities are firmly established in 2007, it is anticipated that new directions will be identified in addition to maintaining some efforts and initiatives currently in motion. DEL will be embarking on a strategic planning process in early 2007, and the HSSCO will participate in and focus on aligning efforts with the results from the process to inform its directions in the coming year and beyond. Further, the HSSCO will examine its role in promoting action and providing leadership to projects related to all eight priority areas—particularly those that may not have been addressed to the extent that others were in 2006. The HSSCO will also continue to maintain its leadership role in Washington State's early childhood systems building plan, *Kids Matter*. In summary, the HSSCO's work plan and grant funds for the coming year will be greatly influenced by and aligned with DEL strategic planning, ongoing development of the *Kids Matter* plan, and existing projects and initiatives.