



**JOURNEY
TOWARD
INCLUSIVE
EXCELLENCE**

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion,
and Belonging

2024 R7HSA ANNUAL HEAD START CAUCUS October 21-24, 2024

HILTON KANSAS CITY AIRPORT • 8801 NW 112TH ST, KANSAS CITY, MO 64153

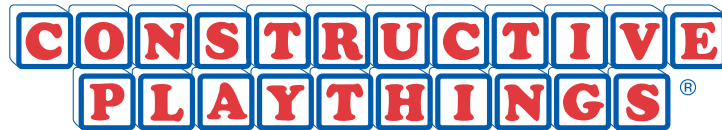


Region VII Head Start Association
IOWA | KANSAS | MISSOURI | NEBRASKA

312 SW Greenwich Dr., Ste. 105, Lee's Summit, MO 64082 • (816) 718-2260 • www.R7HSA.com

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Ripple Effects is sending Bouncy to the Caucus as a special guest!

Bouncy is a lovable service dog with a prosthetic leg who provides skill development and emotional comfort and support to children four-to-seven years old. Bouncy is an interactive way for programs to implement a coordinated approach when serving children with special needs as part of the DEIB conversation!



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Caucus Registration Link:

<https://tinyurl.com/R7HSA2024Caucus>




Hilton KCI Hotel Booking Link:

<https://tinyurl.com/R7HSARoomBlock>



Caucus Fee: \$519
(includes lunch on Tuesday, 10/22)
Pre-Track Sessions require separate fee.

Happy Birthday
 **Head Start**
Celebrating 60 Years!

May 18, 1965 – May 18, 2025



Head Start turns 60 next year! Need ideas for celebrating the ***Diamond Jubilee?***

Check out the *Celebration Toolkit* at [R7HSA.com/diamond-jubilee](https://www.R7HSA.com/diamond-jubilee)

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EVENT AGENDA

Monday, October 21, 2024

10:00am – 3:30pm • Pre-Track Sessions

\$89 fee per participant offered to registered Caucus attendees.

Includes a light lunch for attendees, access to online session materials and a certificate of participation.

Embracing AI for Enhanced Leadership in Head Start Programs

Presenters TBA: Learning Genie consultants with extensive experience in early childhood education, across the entire spectrum of Head Start/Early Head Start operations.

Join us for an engaging session tailored specifically for Head Start leaders looking to harness the power of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to drive program excellence and innovation. This session will provide an in-depth look at how AI can transform administrative and educational processes, making them more efficient, effective, and data-driven. Our expert speakers will share insights on the latest AI tools and technologies that can support Head Start programs in achieving their goals.

Key Outcomes:

- **Understanding AI in Education:** Gain a comprehensive understanding of what AI is and how it can be applied within the context of Head Start programs to support decision-making and operational efficiency.
- **AI-Driven Administrative Solutions:** Discover AI tools that can streamline administrative tasks, reduce the workload for staff, and allow more focus on direct program services.
- **Data-Informed Decision Making:** Explore how AI can assist in analyzing data to inform strategic planning, improve program outcomes, and ensure continuous quality improvement.
- **Practical Implementation Strategies:** Get practical advice and strategies for integrating AI into your Head Start program, including considerations for training staff and ensuring data privacy and security.

Who Should Attend:

This session is ideal for Head Start directors and administrators interested in leveraging AI to enhance their leadership capabilities and improve program outcomes.

Join us to explore the future of Head Start leadership with AI and leave equipped with the knowledge and tools to drive innovation in your program.

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Rallying for a Successful Leadership Journey

Presenters: Karen Surprenant, Independent Head Start Consultant and Content Area Expert, others TBA

Are you new to Head Start or new in your leadership role? If yes, this track is for you! *Rallying for a Successful Leadership Journey* is a full day of training designed to assist new leaders in building a foundational understanding of the Head Start Program. Participants will learn about important resources that can assist with overall program management, including supporting them in their leadership role. This session will open the door to opportunities as well as serve to connect participants with a network to draw on and assist them on their way to a successful Head Start Journey.

Part 1: Who's On First? Understanding the Head Start Ecosystem

This session will focus on national, state, and local Head Start organizations and their connections to the work everyone involved at the program level does to better serve at risk children and families. Participants will also have an opportunity to dig into systems by “Spinning” the Head Start Management Wheel while gaining a better understanding of how Head Start management systems interconnect ensuring programs are delivering quality services and on a continuum toward excellence. Participants will learn about key resources that will assist them personally in their leadership journey, including developing a deeper understanding of key resources designed to assist with program planning and operations at the local level.

Part 2: Reflecting on the Past and Planning your path Forward as a new Head Start Leader

This session will include an in-depth look into the history of Head Start and assist new leaders gain a deeper understanding of the mission and values set forth by the founders of the program.

Part 2 of this track will include an opportunity for new leaders to pause and examine their own values as well as strengthen their leadership skills. This session will challenge participants to open their heart and mind and experience all Head Start has to offer each and every person associated with this amazing program. Participants will leave the session with a greater understanding of the complexity of the program as a whole, while also gaining a better knowledge of valuable tools and resources that will assist program leaders in the service of the nation's most at risk children and families.

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Practice Based Coaching

Presenters: Region VII T/TA Team

This updated one-day PBC training explores each component of the PBC model:

- Collaborative Partnerships
- Shared Goals and Action Planning
- Focused Observation
- Reflection and Feedback

This training will give new coaches everything they need to implement the Practice-Based Coaching model. It is also applicable for those who have been coaching and just want a refresher.

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

R7HSA Board of Directors Meeting – hybrid meeting



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EVENT AGENDA

Tuesday, October 22, 2024

9:00am • Caucus Welcome & Kick-Off

9:30am – 3:30pm

Office of Head Start Federal/ Regional Updates & Important Information



You will not want to miss: The entire day is dedicated to bringing attendees the opportunity to hear directly from OHS leadership as well as engage in conversations regarding key issues and national initiatives.

The informative morning session will include a national perspective on “The Big Picture” of Head Start, facilitated by a member of the national leadership team out of the Washington, DC Office of Head Start.

The afternoon session will include a look at “The Regional Picture” facilitated by Clarence Small, Region VII Regional Program Manager and the Regional Office Team. This session will focus on specific key topics that have and continue to impact programs across Region VII as well as serve to strengthen program operations.

3:30 – 4:00pm

Wrap-Up/Sharing the “Head Start Joy” Rally Kickoff

R7HSA is excited in the launch of a Joy Rally at the Annual Head Start Caucus.

The Rally is designed to energize participants by re-igniting Joy and Passion across the Region.

Participants will be given an opportunity to share how they find Joy in their work and on a personal level.



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EVENT AGENDA

Wednesday, October 23, 2024

9:00am • *Welcome Back & Sharing the Joy of gathering with peers and colleagues*

9:30am – 3:30pm

Journey Toward Inclusive Excellence (DEIB)

Presenter(s): Jennifer Miller of JSM Diversity, PLLC

Lunch break (on your own) will occur mid-way through the session. Participants will be encouraged to spend the 1.5-hour break with someone they have never met before.

This full training day of training will be dedicated to gaining an understanding and importance of creating an inclusive environment across the Head Start Program that is built on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging. The interactive session will uncover the meaning of Unconscious Bias using storytelling and activities.

Participants will be introduced to learning resources that can be applied at the program level. Prepare to open yourself up to the possibilities of creating a more inclusive and diverse organization that represents the children and families as well as the entire community you serve.

A pre-assessment survey will be distributed to registered participants that will be used to help build a responsive training experience for attendees.

3:30pm

Wrap Up with Q&A

4:00 – 4:30pm

Sharing the Joy with Others



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EVENT AGENDA

Thursday, October 24, 2024

8:30 – 9:45am

State Breakout Meetings



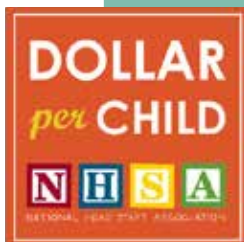
10:00am – Noon

Policy Forum/Legislative Update



R7HSA is excited to announce that Tommy Sheridan, Deputy Director of the National Head Start Association will once again join the Region VII Caucus and bring the latest “Hill” news straight from Washington, DC. Do not miss this opportunity to hear about legislation that may have a direct or potential impact on the Head Start Program including services to the children and families you serve.

With continued talk of the possibility of Head Start Reauthorization and in the midst of an important election year, participants are encouraged to stay for this very important session.



**R7HSA proudly supports the
National Head Start Association’s
Dollar Per Child Initiative!**

Help us reach our goal of raising \$1.00
for every child served across Region VII.



Learn more at the Registration Desk!

Noon – 12:30pm

**Wrap-Up/
Sharing the Joy Back Home**



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SAVE THE DATES!
**2025 R7HSA
ANNUAL
CONFERENCE**

June 10-12, 2025
June 9th tentatively
reserved for pre-track events

**Sheraton Hotel at the
Overland Park, Kansas
Convention Center**

Interested in Presenting?
Contact Donna@R7HSA.com



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