

## PHSA Monthly Update Call December 21, 2016

### Federal

- Trump Administration
  - Health and Human Services Secretary
    - Not thinking it's the greatest thing for Head Start
      - Proponent of pilot programs that would block grant us
    - Primary interest is to repeal ACA and coming up with an alternative
      - Hoping that the focus on health care will lead to a lack of focus on Head Start
    - New OHS Director
      - Most people are guessing but believe that we won't see a new OHS Director until late spring/early summer of next year
  - Department of Education
    - Proponent of school choice
    - Seems to be anti public education
    - Many are concerned that this will feed into a dismantling of the Department of Education
      - Less regulation
      - Giving \$ to states
      - Combining funding streams
    - Where Head Start fits in
      - Could be seen as not under her
      - Could be seen as early education and something that the federal government shouldn't be doing
      - NHSA goal is to stay off the radar
- Budget
  - Passed a CR
    - Through April
    - Basically flat funding
      - Some technical issue resulted in a very slight cut
      - Belief is that it will be absorbed administratively by OHS
  - Future HS Funding
    - Best guess is that it will remain flat for remainder of the year
- NIEER Report - <http://nieer.org/headstart>
  - Not complimentary to Head Start
  - Provided profiles of each state
    - Some states have lower class scores and fewer degreed teachers
    - This doesn't apply to PA because we are above national averages in these areas
  - Concludes that Head Start funding is unequal and that this is problematic
  - NHSA's position is that the report is based on inaccurate data
    - Tried unsuccessfully to work with NIEER to improve the report
    - Decided not to do a press release to call attention to it

- Here in PA
  - Don't believe that it will be an issue here in PA
- Head Start Monitoring
  - NHSA has reinstated the Monitoring Task force
    - Blair is co-chairing it
    - Will be providing feedback to OHS around revisions to the Monitoring System
    - Had good first meeting with very open communication with OHS staff working on monitoring
      - Raised key issues
      - They seemed aware of them and saw them as problematic
      - Did offer any concrete thoughts on where to go
    - Will continue work at the NHSA Winter Leadership Institute
  - Will need to happen quickly
    - Need a new system in place at the start of the next Federal Fiscal year in October of 2017
- Building/Strengthening Relationships with Republican Legislators
  - PA has 4 Republican Legislators that have been outspoken supporters of Head Start
    - Need to continue to develop these relationships so that they continue to advocate for us in the event that things take a bad turn

## State

- Keystone STARS Revisioning
  - Moving into the work of designing the system
  - 3 subgroups that we need Head Start participation on
    - Indicators
      - Charged with coming up with the specific indicators at each level
      - Basic Goals
        - Reduce them and only have ones that are linked to positive outcomes for kids
        - Have indicators that allow different programs to demonstrate quality based on their program
    - PD/Aligned Monitoring
      - Basic Goals
        - Ensure PD system supports programs with continuous quality improvement
        - Ensure that alternate sources of monitoring can be used so that programs aren't monitored for the same thing by different entities
    - Communications
      - Helping parents understand quality and importance of choosing high quality sites
      - Helping providers understand the new system and the benefits of participating

- Helping legislators understand need to fund STARS to ensure high quality
  - Page dedicated to the process on the PA Keys Website
  - Encourage people to get on the workgroups and participate
    - Only way to make sure that they system that they design works for Head Start
    - Please contact Karen with any questions and she'll help you get connected with the group you want to participate on
- State Budget Advocacy
  - Pre-K
    - Pre-K for PA continues to work on additional funding for HSSAP and PKC
    - Governor has indicated that he will ask for an increase
      - Don't know what it will be
      - Pre-K for PA is asking for \$8.5 million for about 10,000 additional children
  - Home Visiting
    - Working with ELPA to convince Governor to again ask for a HV line item
    - Met with Secretaries and they were very open and indicated that they will recommend that the Governor again include
  - Child Care
    - Working with ELPA and Pre-K for PA to advocate for a rate increase
      - Rate freeze makes it difficult for providers to continue
  - Budget Projection
    - Revenues are behind
      - Looking at around a 1.7 billion hole moving into next year's budget
    - Believe he is less likely to propose some kind of revenue package
      - Have a "veto-proof" house and senate
        - Enough Republicans in both chambers to over-ride any veto from the Governor
        - Many believe that the Governor's budget proposal is then less significant
        - Believe he will make a request and let the legislature decide how to fund
        - Recommend PA Budget and Policy Center - <http://pennbpc.org/>
          - Released a good report on how PA could generate revenues that would have the least impact on lower income/middle income people
        - Also working on Pennsylvania's Choice Campaign - <http://pachoice.org/>
          - Advocating for human services & education and raising revenue to cover it

#### PHSA

- Winter Administrators Meeting
  - Will be a bit later this year

- March 7 & 8<sup>th</sup> in Harrisburg
  - More information to come in New Year
- 2017 Annual Conference
  - April 19 & 20, 2017 at Penn Stater Conference Center
    - RFP for workshops is up through January 9<sup>th</sup>
    - Please consider submitting
    - Potential Sessions that we are working on
      - Practice Based Coaching Boot Camp for new coaches
      - Networking and content for existing coaches
  - Pre-Conference
    - April 18<sup>th</sup>
    - Looking at variety of possible sessions
      - Services to families experiencing homelessness
      - Trauma Informed Care/Teaching
      - Farm to Early Learning
- Number of things in early January
  - New PHSA Website
  - State Wide Report
- Request for Funding Numbers
  - Please update numbers
    - Directly in spreadsheet
    - Send them to Karen if you can't get into the sheet
    - If you don't have the time before the holiday, Karen will be calling in early January

#### Questions from Field:

- What is the scoop with the potential 1.9% federal cut for all discretionary programs?
  - Believe that it won't trickle down to programs – will be handled administratively and OHS will absorb it.
- Still haven't heard about duration funding officially, hoping that the money will come with my next year's grant. Have you heard that?
  - Yes, it's still starting to trickle out
  - Not many programs have been informed at this point
  - One program reported that they received start up costs but not operational costs and they've asked if it will be coming so that they can use it for May 1 start.
  - SUMDCO – talked with Brenda Hewitt and the RO doesn't even know – they've pushed the question up to OHS and are waiting to hear.
- Budget Proposal to un-fund Head Start
  - Lynn Evans Biga forwarded it to Blair who brought it up with NHSA
    - They don't believe that it has any legs but are still keeping an eye on it

- Routine ask from various groups to see what the budget would look like if they didn't fund various programs

Next Call – January 18, 2017