

**PHSA Initial Thoughts about the Head Start Program Performance Standards
Conference Call
September 15, 2016**

- Welcome
 - Today's call is the first in PHSA's plan to support programs with implementing the new Standards
 - Goal is to provide programs with the opportunity to raise concerns that they might have about the Standards and identify areas for PHSA to focus on both in terms of advocating for program needs with OHS and the RIII OHS and how we can structure professional development moving forward
 - Next weeks webinar will focus on the Preamble to the Standards
 - OHS sees the Preamble as the foundation for the changes in the standards
 - It includes the context/reasoning behind the changes
- First things to note
 - OHS has worked hard to change Head Start's orientation to the Standards
 - It was their goal to leave things flexible enough to develop strategies/solutions to implementing the standards that fits with their program and their community
 - It was their goal to move away from a limited set of responses to the standards where one answer fits the majority of programs
 - Believe that they won't be issuing lots of PIs or IMs
 - They are avoiding situations that would make them offer clarification that could actually impact flexibility – what works for one program could be very limiting to another
 - Tracy Duarte with HSSCO
 - Shifting from a compliance mentality to one that focuses on responsiveness, innovation and high performance
 - Encourage grantees to figure out answers to questions by
 - Reading the standards
 - Looking at their community needs assessment and other program data
 - Articulate how their strategy meets the Performance Standards given the data that they have
 - An inability to articulate and prove your case is an indication that it isn't the right response
 - This approach will have a huge impact on how they approach monitoring

- Realize that this will be stressful given people's concerns about the DRS
 - PHSA understands the anxiety and hopes to alleviate some of it
 - Point out that the majority of programs that were placed in DRS not because of findings from monitoring events
 - CLASS scores
 - Self-reported health and safety issues
 - Failure to adequately address deficiencies over periods of time; not findings from a single monitoring event
- Points raised by programs
 - Requirement for participation in State's QRIS is a concern
 - PHSA board has had ongoing conversations with OCDEL and they have been indicating that they are going to do everything that they can to set up a system where a Head Start program in good standing comes in at a high STAR level without having to do extra to demonstrate that they meet the standards associated with that level
 - Page 22 under licensing and square footage requirements - Facilities must meet state and local licensing requirements even if they aren't licensed by the state
 - Are we supposed to be following state cc regulations or is it federal regulations because PA is a Race to the Top state
 - Some read it just as the square footage but others read it as all of the licensing requirements
 - If it says comply with that is one thing but if it says licensed by that is another thing and we probably don't want to go there
 - Coaching – page 56-57 under HR and qualifications
 - Required to have a research based coaching strategy in place
 - Concern that what OHS is training programs to do is not what the regulations are now requiring
 - Expulsion
 - Concerned that it's a rigid interpretation
 - Only way it is allowed if you followed the child to another services – what if that service isn't available at that time?
 - Other places where it says that HS aren't to be mental health hospitals for children and it seems to contradict the other section
 - Program Governance – does PC have to approve hiring?
 - Serving Younger Children
 - If state has a quality, full day pre-k program available that the program must prioritize 3 year olds
 - 1020 hours and how to work with school districts
 - Districts only allow us in the building on certain days

- Are in 6 hours but we nap
 - Need to read it closer but people are interpreting it as the full time and not just instructional time
 - Is good that they went to hours and not days
 - Entering data into state's longitudinal data systems
 - Where are we on conversations about making sure that the data systems that we are using can be linked to the state's system?
 - PHSA question – how does this impact HSSAP?
 - Federally there are stops in place that the Secretary can change requirements around duration if the funds aren't there to implement
 - Don't see enough additional \$ to increase duration in HSSAP
 - Don't think that there will be much flexibility for programs to decrease slots to increase duration in HSSAP if programs must comply with the standards for that programming
 - Caring for our Children Basics
 - We are looking at this to be used as a resource; is that other people's as well?
 - It is PHSA's interpretation
 - Look at the Preamble because there is something different called Caring for Our Children and that is different
 - ERSEA – saving up to 3% of enrollment for homelessness for an additional 30 days
 - When you put it into the Enterprise system it's flagged as out of compliance
 - Home Based CDA
 - What is equivalent coursework?
- Next steps
 - PHSA meeting with OCDEL to look at many of the issues around HS complying with state systems
 - Include program directors
 - PHSA Board
 - HSSCO and even PA Key
 - Need to look at instances where you have to do something vs. instances where they want you to as long as it doesn't cause an undue burden
 - PHSA is cognizant that what might be feasible for one PA Grantee is actually a burden for another