



Head Start/Early Head Start Board Report September 2020

General:

The reopening committee continues to work on creating a plan for when we are allowed to have children again attend program. Staff continues to review updates from the Governor, National Head Start Association, as well as OCFS. Our current plan, which is subject to change is to bring in 5 children weekly starting September 14. Committee is working on logistics for transportation, bringing children into centers and classroom set up as well as staff entering classroom other than education staff. Our reopening plan has been submitted to all Head Start staff and we have conducted two Zoom session to go over any questions/ concerns that staff have. From the questions that staff raised a document was created and distributed to staff so all staff could review.

We have begun holding Zoom sessions for Pre-Service trainings. Many policies adjustments / addendums have been made to cover this COVID period. These addendums have been approved by Policy Council and will be given to staff during trainings.

We continue to work on appropriate ways to spend the monies related to the pandemic that our Covid-19 Funding of \$916,956 will cover. One project ordered is iLobby, which is a touchless/low touch sign-in to streamline the visitor sign-in process, which will be utilized at all of our sites for anyone that enters. In addition, our four larger sites will have included in their system the ability to conduct touchless temperature checks. Also purchasing decals for the floor to guide children as well as adults to maintain their social distance as well as additional masks for children. Recently we have used some of these monies to purchase through Creative Curriculum Cloud that will allow HS and EHS staff 24/7 digital access to the curriculum, and additional resources, and has the ability for two way communication with families. In the event we are forced to go with virtual learning this will be a great improvement. We are encouraging more outdoor classroom activities and have purchased many outdoor materials for the children such as garden sheds, easels, giant fan and water wheels, toddler tree house and a pump and play mud kitchen to name a few items.

Zoom meetings continue for staff as well as parent and policy council meetings. Many staff continue to watch webinars and participate in virtual trainings to assist with moving forward during this COVID epidemic.