

North Dakota Head Start – State Collaboration Office

Results of the 2010 Feedback Survey

An Evaluation of Obtaining Goals and Addressing Priority Areas

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Summary

The North Dakota Head Start - State Collaboration Office conducted a survey of partners to evaluate how well it is meeting objectives and addressing key priority areas.

Participants

- Participants include individuals from North Dakota Government Departments, community organizations, and joint government-community groups that partner with the Collaboration Office.
- 25% of survey participants are members of North Dakota Head Start Association (NDHSA).
- Approximately 60% of survey participants are involved with Head Start/Early Head Start Programs.
 - Most Head Start/Early Head Start participants are staff members but directors and parents did respond to the survey.
 - Individuals who work directly with American Indian, Alaska Native Head and Migrant & Seasonal Head Start/Early Head Start programs are represented in the survey.
 - Head Start/Early Head Start participants are from 14 counties, representing most of the North Dakota Head Start Sites.

Survey Results

In general, the Collaboration Office is making good progress on meeting its goals and addressing needs. Evaluation was based on questions related to 5 focus areas:

- **Improved communication and interactions to strengthen early childhood initiatives**
 - The Collaboration Office excels in this area with greater than 90% of the respondents indicating that the Collaboration Office
 - Played a key role in early childhood care/education programs by strengthening partnerships.
 - Informed local Head Start/Early Head Start programs about changes in government policies.
 - Made decisions that are based on data and research.
- **Engaged in activities to improve access and outcomes in health and safety/security**
 - The Collaboration Office was rated highly for its efforts in oral and medical health.
 - Although greater than 80% of respondents indicated that the Collaboration Office made good efforts on issues related to obesity and safety/security, these two areas could be improved.
- **Identified and addressed unmet needs**
 - The Collaboration Office is making progress towards this goal, but more effort may be needed to enhance access to economic assistance programs and to improve availability and affordability of quality child care services.
- **Empowered parents and community members and organizations**
 - The Collaboration Office should consider improvements in programs for children of migrant and seasonal workers, children without homes, and father engagement.
- **Supported the enhancement of education programs and standards**
 - This is one of the Collaboration Office's strengths. In particular, the Collaboration Office was recognized for efforts supporting the development of learning guidelines for early childhood education programs.

Overview

The North Dakota Head Start - State Collaboration Office is funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration of Children and Families. The goals of the Collaboration Office are to

- Assist in building early childhood systems and access to comprehensive services and support for all low-income children.
- Encourage widespread collaboration between Head Start and other programs and services (including health care, welfare, child care, education, family literacy, community services – services to children with disabilities and homeless children).
- Facilitate the involvement of Head Start in State policies, plans, processes and initiatives affecting the Head Start target population and other low-income families.

The purpose of this survey was to obtain feedback from Head Start/Early Head Start staff and parents, members of the North Dakota Head Start Association (NDHSA), employees from government departments/offices and members of community organizations that partner with the Collaboration Office. The survey was designed to evaluate how well the Collaboration Office is meeting objectives and addressing priority areas. This assessment is required by the funding agency, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration of Children and Families and will enhance the role the Collaboration Office has in Head Start/Early Head Start and the Community by identifying strengths and areas for improvement.

Methods

Survey:

All procedures were reviewed by the North Dakota Department of Human Services Institutional Review Board (IRB), and the project was given an exempt status. The feedback survey was developed by the Program Administrator and data analyst assigned to the project. The survey included demographic questions related to the individual's involvement with the Collaboration Office and survey questions designed to address objectives from the Collaboration Office's Strategic Plan and the priority areas defined by the Federal Head Start program. In addition, two open-ended questions about strengths and improvement areas were included in the survey. Completion of the survey was voluntary and no identifying information such as name or address was requested. A consent form was provided in the online survey and participants were given the opportunity to decline after reviewing the consent form. The survey (Appendix 1) and consent form (Appendix 2) are included in this document.

Data Collection and Analysis:

The survey was made available online using Survey Monkey and the link was emailed to participants. Responses were collected for three weeks. Raw data were downloaded onto the North Dakota State's research drive that is available only to authorized staff members in DHS. According to regulations, raw data will be maintained for 3 yrs. Only group data was provided to the Collaboration Office with data presented as percentages or counts. The comments obtained from the two open-ended questions were shared with the State Collaboration Office and may be submitted to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. In reporting the results, the data analyst

made every attempt to ensure that an individual could not be identified by demographic information or specific comments.

Each survey question could be rated using the following scale: **4** = A great Deal, **3** = Somewhat, **2** = Very Little, **1** = Not at all, or **N/A** = Not applicable. Participants were instructed to indicate “Not Applicable” if they did not have enough information to rate a particular item. Results for each rating type were calculated as percentages of total rated responses excluding “Not Applicable” responses. For evaluation purposes, percentages were combined to create two response categories, A great deal/Somewhat and Very little/Not at all.

The results in this report have been reviewed by the Head Start State Collaboration Office to evaluate progress, will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, and may be published as part of the Head Start Collaboration Office’s website and information sheets/brochures.

Results

Participants:

The survey was sent to Head Start/Early Head Start staff and parents, members or the NDHSA, and staff from State Government Departments and community partners. The Administrator of the Collaboration Office sent an email with the survey link to members on established distribution lists or to a contact within a group or organization asking that it be sent to members.

A total of 99 individuals accessed the survey with 76 respondents answering at least some of the survey questions. Of these 76 respondents, 70 answered all survey questions. If any survey questions were answered by a respondent, that participant’s survey and demographic information was included in the data set. Twenty-three individuals declined to complete the survey and/or completed only demographic information. Data from these respondents was excluded from the demographic description. Because of the anonymity of the survey, it is unknown if some of these respondents re-accessed the survey and provided complete evaluations.

Demographics: Based on 76 respondents

- **Amount of Time Interacting with the Collaboration Office:** Participants indicated that interaction with the Collaboration Office occurred
 - Daily 3.9%
 - Weekly 11.8%
 - Monthly 11.8%
 - Never 19.7%
 - Occasionally 52.6%

- **Involvement with Head Start/Early Head Start:** Of the 76 participants, 46 (60.5%) indicated they were involved in Head Start/Early Head Start with most of these individuals indicating they were involved with Head Start (47.8%) or both Head Start and Early Head Start (50.0%) as a staff member (47.8%), director (19.6%), or parent of a child or children (19.6%). During the survey period, one respondent contacted technical support because the three role categories were not

sufficient. The survey was modified to include “Other” as a role. During the remainder of the survey period, 13.0% of participants indicated “Other” as describing their role with Head Start/Early Head Start. Six respondents indicated their involvement with Head Start/Early Head Start was at the State not county level. Head Start/Early Head Start participants included 14 counties, representing 9 out of the 10 non-American Indian North Dakota Head Start Sites. Of the 46 Head Start/Early Head Start participants, 17.4% indicated involvement with American Indian, Alaska Native Head Start/Early Head Start programs, but only 6.5% indicated involvement with Migrant & Seasonal Head Start/Early Head Start programs.

- **North Dakota Head Start Association (NDHSA) Membership:** Of the 76 survey participants, 19 (25.0%) are members of the NDHSA with 63.2% of NDHSA members having been involved with NDHSA for more than 3 years.
- **Government Employees:** There was good representation from employees from local, county and state government departments and offices including the North Dakota State University System. Approximately 24% of all respondents indicated they are employees of either the North Dakota State Department of Health or Department of Human Services.
- **Community and Organization Partners:** There was good representation across the various organization and group partners of the Collaboration Office with 59.2% of all respondents indicating involvement in at least 1 of the following:

Ronald McDonald Care Mobile	Healthy ND Coordinating Committee
Early Childhood Higher Education Consortium	HNDECA
Office for the Elimination of Health Disparities	ND Oral Health Coalition
Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems	Head Start Dental Home Initiative
ND State PIRC Advisory Committee	Inter-Coordinating Council/Committee
ND Early Childhood Education Council	NDSEDA
ND Office of Head Start Training & Technical Assistance	

Rated Survey Items: Survey questions were divided into five focus areas. The results are summarized in Table 1.

- **Improved communication and interactions to strengthen early childhood initiatives**
The Collaboration Office excels in this area with more than 80% of respondents indicating that the Collaboration Office has worked A great deal/Somewhat on questions about communication. In particular, over 90% of participants highlighted the key role the Collaboration Office has in early childhood care and education programs and efforts to make decisions that are based on data and research. Greater than 90% of participants indicated that local Head Start/Early Head Start programs were informed of changes in federal and state policies. In addition, respondents felt that the Collaboration Office informed state agencies about changes in policies that could impact early childhood initiatives with ratings of “A great deal” (62.3%) or “Somewhat” (26.2%).

- **Engaged in activities to improve access and outcomes in oral health, medical health, obesity prevention, and safety and security within foster care, child welfare programs, and child protective services**

The efforts of the Collaboration Office to improve access and outcomes in oral and medical health were recognized by survey participants with approximately 90% indicating the Collaboration Office worked A great deal/Somewhat in these areas. Although approximately 80% of respondents indicated that the Collaboration Office made good efforts on obesity prevention and safety and security within foster care, child welfare programs and child protective services, these two areas could be improved as indicated by greater the 18% responses of Very little/Not at all.

- **Identified and addressed unmet needs**

The Collaboration Office is making progress towards this goal, and survey participants acknowledged the role the Collaboration Office plays in identifying service gaps and underserved populations (88.7% rated as A great deal/Somewhat). However, more effort may be needed to enhance access to economic assistance programs and to improve availability and affordability of quality child care services as suggested by ratings of Very little/Not at all as 19.6% and 17.9% for these two unmet needs; respectively.

- **Empowered parents, community members and organizations by encouraging active participation in advocacy, program design, and planning.**

The survey results highlight the need for improvements in programs for children of migrant and seasonal workers with 40% of respondents indicating the Collaboration Office worked Very little/Not at all on this issue. However, it should be noted that only 40 of the 71 individuals that answered this question felt they had enough information to evaluate the role of the Collaboration Office in programs for children of seasonal and migrant workers. Programs for children without homes and initiatives for father engagement and involvement could be improved as indicated by more than 20% responses of Very little/Not at all.

- **Supported the enhancement of education programs and standards.**

Enhancing education programs and standards are strengths of the Collaboration Office. In particular, the Collaboration Office was recognized for efforts supporting the development of learning guidelines for early childhood education programs with “A great deal” (68.4%) and “Somewhat” (26.3%) making up the majority of the ratings for this item. Nearly 90% of participants indicated that the Collaboration Office supports activities to enhance the number of highly qualified early childhood educators in North Dakota and supports career development of early education professionals.

Table 1: Summary Results of Rated Survey Questions

	Total Number of Respondents	Number of Respondents that Rated this Item	Number of Respondents that Responded "Not Applicable"	% of "A Great Deal" or "Somewhat" Responses	% of "Very Little" or "Not at All" Responses
Improved Communication and Interactions to Strengthen Early Childhood Initiatives					
Played a key role in the development and enhancement of early childhood care and education programs through strengthening partnerships.	76	63	13	90.5%	9.5%
Informed state agencies about changes in federal and state policies that could impact early childhood initiatives.	76	61	15	88.5%	11.5%
Informed local Head Start/Early Head Start programs about changes in federal and state policies that could impact early childhood initiatives.	76	51	25	90.2%	9.8%
Informed and educated families and early education professionals by providing up-to-date materials related to available programs and early childhood initiatives.	76	55	21	87.3%	12.7%
Supported enhancement of centralized and cross-functional databases.	76	53	23	88.7%	11.3%
Made decisions to support early childhood initiatives that were based on available data and research.	76	59	17	96.6%	3.4%

Table 1: Summary Results of Rated Survey Questions

	Total Number of Respondents	Number of Respondents that Rated this Item	Number of Respondents that Responded "Not Applicable"	% of "A Great Deal" or "Somewhat" Responses	% of "Very Little" or "Not at All" Responses
Engaged in Activities to Improve Access and Outcomes in the Following Priority Areas					
Oral health	73	55	18	90.9%	9.1%
Medical health	73	53	20	88.7%	11.3%
Obesity prevention	72	48	24	81.3%	18.8%
Mental health	73	52	21	86.5%	13.5%
Safety and security within foster care, child welfare programs, and child protective services	73	49	24	79.6%	20.4%
Identified and Addressed Unmet Needs					
Collaborated across early childhood programs to identify service gaps and under-served populations.	72	62	10	88.7%	11.3%
Engaged in activities to expand access to government sponsored economic assistance programs.	72	56	16	80.4%	19.6%
Supported initiatives to increase opportunities for children with disabilities.	72	59	13	86.4%	13.6%
Supported initiatives to improve the availability and affordability of quality child-care services.	72	56	16	82.1%	17.9%

Table 1: Summary Results of Rated Survey Questions

	Total Number of Respondents	Number of Respondents that Rated this Item	Number of Respondents that Responded "Not Applicable"	% of "A Great Deal" or "Somewhat" Responses	% of "Very Little" or "Not at All" Responses
Empowered Parents and Community Members/Organizations					
Encouraged active participation in advocacy, program design, and planning in the following areas					
Programs for children without homes	71	46	25	76.1%	23.9%
Programs for children of migrant and seasonal workers	71	40	31	60.0%	40.0%
Programs supporting American Indian, Alaska Native children	71	49	22	81.6%	18.4%
Family literacy programs	71	52	19	82.7%	17.3%
Father engagement/involvement	71	53	18	77.4%	22.6%
Supported the Enhancement of Education Programs and Standards					
Supported initiatives to create early learning guidelines for early childhood education programs.	70	57	13	94.7%	5.3%
Supported activities to enhance the number of highly qualified early childhood educators in North Dakota.	70	57	13	89.5%	10.5%
Supported career development of early education professionals.	70	57	13	89.5%	10.5%

Appendix 1: Survey

The North Dakota Head Start-State Collaboration Office is committed to early childhood initiatives and would appreciate your input to evaluate current progress towards its goals.

Ratings:

4 = A great Deal 3 = Somewhat 2 = Very Little 1 = Not at all N/A = Not applicable

If you do not know how the Collaboration Office has addressed each of these goals please answer "Not applicable".

Improved Communication and Interactions to Strengthen Early Childhood Initiatives						
1	Played a key role in the development and enhancement of early childhood care and education programs through strengthening partnerships.	4	3	2	1	N/A
2	Informed state agencies about changes in federal and state policies that could impact early childhood initiatives.	4	3	2	1	N/A
3	Informed local Head Start/Early Head Start programs about changes in federal and state policies that could impact early childhood initiatives.	4	3	2	1	N/A
4	Informed and educated families and early education professionals by providing up-to-date materials related to available programs and early childhood initiatives.	4	3	2	1	N/A
5	Supported enhancement of centralized and cross-functional databases.	4	3	2	1	N/A
6	Made decisions to support early childhood initiatives that were based on available data and research.	4	3	2	1	N/A

Engaged in Activities to Improve Access and Outcomes in the Following Priority Areas						
7	Oral health	4	3	2	1	N/A
8	Medical health	4	3	2	1	N/A
9	Obesity prevention	4	3	2	1	N/A
10	Mental health	4	3	2	1	N/A
11	Safety and security within foster care, child welfare programs, and child protective services	4	3	2	1	N/A

Identified and Addressed Unmet Needs						
12	Collaborated across early childhood programs to identify service gaps and underserved populations.	4	3	2	1	N/A
13	Engaged in activities to expand access to government sponsored economic assistance programs.	4	3	2	1	N/A
14	Supported initiatives to increase opportunities for children with disabilities.	4	3	2	1	N/A
15	Supported initiatives to improve the availability and affordability of quality child care services.	4	3	2	1	N/A

Appendix 1: Survey

Please assess the performance of the North Dakota Head Start-State Collaboration Office by responding to each statement below using the following rating scale:

Ratings:

4 = A great Deal 3 = Somewhat 2 = Very Little 1 = Not at all N/A = Not applicable

If you do not know how the Collaboration Office has addressed each of these goals please answer "Not applicable".

Empowered Parents and Community Members/Organizations						
Encouraged active participation in advocacy, program design, and planning in the following areas						
16	Programs for children without homes	4	3	2	1	N/A
17	Programs for children of migrant and seasonal workers	4	3	2	1	N/A
18	Programs supporting American Indian, Alaska Native children	4	3	2	1	N/A
19	Family literacy programs	4	3	2	1	N/A
20	Father engagement/involvement	4	3	2	1	N/A

Supported the Enhancement of Education Programs and Standards						
21	Supported initiatives to create early learning guidelines for early childhood education programs.	4	3	2	1	N/A
22	Supported activities to enhance the number of highly qualified early childhood educators in North Dakota.	4	3	2	1	N/A
23	Supported career development of early education professionals.	4	3	2	1	N/A

Based on your knowledge of or interactions with the North Dakota Head Start-State Collaboration Office. Please provide examples for the following statements.

The collaboration office has successfully _____.

Comment:

The collaboration office has could improve on _____.

Comment:

Appendix 2: Consent Form

Objective: The purpose of this survey is to obtain feedback from individuals who have been involved with the North Dakota Head Start-State Collaboration Office. Participants include Head Start/Early Head Start staff and parents, members of the North Dakota Head Start Association, and staff from State and community partners.

Survey: The survey includes questions about your knowledge of or interaction with the Collaboration Office and will take approximately 15 min to complete.

Benefits: By providing feedback you will enhance the Collaborations Office role in Head Start/Early Head Start and the Community by enabling the Collaboration Office to build on its strengths and identify areas for improvement.

Participation: Please note that your participation is **voluntary** and **confidential**. No identifying information such as name is required to complete this survey.

Data: Individual responses to open-ended questions will be reviewed only by the Head Start-State Collaboration Office and the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. All other data will be presented only as group responses. Data will be used in the following manner:

- Reviewed by the Head Start-State Collaboration Office to evaluate progress in meeting strategic goals
- Submitted to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families
- May be published as part of the Head Start Collaboration Office's website and/or information sheets/brochures.

Questions: If you have questions about this survey, please call Linda Rorman, Administrator, Head Start-State Collaboration Office at 701-328-1711 or Mariah Tenamoc, Research Analyst in Decision Support Services, North Dakota Department of Human Services at 701-328-8978.

If you have questions about your rights as a person who is taking part in a research study, you may contact Maria Gokim, Chair of the Department of Human Services' Institutional Review Board at 701-328-8946.