



Florida Head Start

State Collaboration Office

Kim Singer, HSCO Director

[OHS Addresses Child Safety Through Webinar](#)

In June, OHS hosted a webinar entitled, "Addressing Child Incidents Through a Culture of Safety." This extremely informative webinar highlighted several critical specifics related to the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) report that was released in 2022. Some particular highlights are as follows.

Types of Incidents

52% of the incidents that the OIG found were related to supervision. A child left more than three minutes unsupervised is the benchmark to be used when reporting these incidents. Other incidents were related to "child abuse", which could be things such as inappropriate discipline, emotional or verbal abuse, and physical child abuse. The remainder of the incidents were related to unauthorized releases, where a child is released to a person not on record.

Reporting

There were multiple questions and conversations regarding reporting on this webinar. The first person to call is your program specialist or your regional program manager. You should not wait to hear back from the state to determine if it is a substantiated incident. Although OHS would like to see this reporting done without delay, there is up to seven days to report it. It cannot be later than seven days, but ideally as quickly as possible so that all can be supported throughout. After seven days, monitoring findings will be issued to the program.

What to Report?

Any incident that results in serious harm or injury to the child must be reported. Incidents that violate the Head Start Standards of Conduct, such as humiliating children, emotionally abusing children, or using inappropriate discipline are examples. Physical punishment is also included as well. Incidents where children or left alone, unsupervised, or released to an unauthorized adult also need to be reported.

Understanding Child Incidents and Reducing Them

Lack of training can be a factor in child incidents. Training around Active Supervision is critical. Professional Development, so staff know how to keep children safe is integral, as well as educating staff about developmentally appropriate behaviors and challenging behavior. Second, staff wellness is found to be directly connected to child safety and adult wellness has to be supported by programs. Creating a strong "emotional climate" where staff feel like they are cared for matters. Third, programs need to understand and acknowledge that adults come to this work with their own personal beliefs. Training and professional development need to understand these philosophical and cultural differences.

ILookout, found on ECLKC as part of their iPD, is an online training from Penn State designed to be Head Start specific and OHS is working to make this an training that can meet the mandated reported requirement.

You can view the slides and webinar at:

[Addressing Child Incidents Through a Culture of Safety | ECLKC \(hhs.gov\)](#)



**You can reach out to
the Head Start
Collaboration Director
at any time at:**

Kimberly.Singer@del.fldoe.org

In this issue:

OHS Addresses Child Safety1

HSCO and ELC Work Together.....2

New Worlds Reading Initiative.....2

Emergent Literacy Micro-Credential
.....2

Head Start and Families
Experiencing Homelessness.....3

Upcoming Events.....4



HSCO and ELC Work Together to Share Family Child Care Home Success



The HSCO recently had the pleasure of partnering with the ELC of Palm Beach to present at the Florida Family Child Care Home Association Conference, held June 21-25 in Clearwater Beach. The two-part presentation was designed to share what a successful partnership can look like from both the Head Start grantee perspective as well as the family childcare homeowner side. Mr. Michael Arnette and Mrs. Josefa Arnette shared their experiences as a large family childcare home offering Early Head Start in Belle Glade, partnering successfully with the ELC of Palm Beach. The Arnette's shared their very positive experience partnering with Early Head Start and were very specific in their reflection of how it benefited all their children and families. ELC of Palm Beach Director Akia Davis and Assistant Director Francesca Brown did a very thorough job explaining the benefits of partnership and how it can work for all, including the children and families. It was a wonderful opportunity to showcase the excellent work and collaboration we can do to best meet the needs of our communities.

As programs struggle with staff shortages, family child care homes can be a viable option to partner with to provide high quality care for all children and families.

Thank you to the ELC of Palm Beach and the Arnette's for collaborating with the HSCO to make this a success.

New Worlds Reading Initiative

The New World's Reading Initiative has been expanded to include eligible VPK students. These students, scoring below grade level on the FAST STAR Early Literacy Assessment PM1 are eligible to receive free books on a monthly basis until the student exits fifth grade. Parent and teacher resources are also included. Books are distributed no later than October and continue until at least June.

Parents can apply at:

[Enrollment \(newworldsreading.com\)](http://newworldsreading.com)



Emergent Literacy Micro-Credential Available to all Early Learning Educators

All staff are eligible to participate in the Emergent Literacy Micro-Credential. Upon completion of the three components, the participant earns a \$2,000 stipend.

Participants will be asked to complete an application and will be paid by Business Services through the UF Lastinger Center and the learner is paid directly. This micro-credential is job embedded, meaning the work can be done within the context of the classroom experience and it supports the language and literacy requirements of the CDA professional portfolio as well. This credential supports student outcomes for school readiness, applies evidence based practices and helps the participants to engage in effective progress monitoring. **You can enroll at:**

[Emergent Literacy Microcredential | Lastinger Center for Learning.\(ufl.edu\)](http://EmergentLiteracyMicrocredential|LastingerCenterforLearning.(ufl.edu))



Head Start and Families Experiencing Homelessness

In June, the HSCO hosted a Lunch and Learn with the county Continuums of Care (CoC) to provide information about the Head Start program and to begin conversation about how Head Start programs can best work together within their communities to best meet the needs of families experiencing homelessness.

This rich conversation was followed up by a presentation at the July 18th FHSA Director meeting held at One Goal. Antonio Byrd, Chief Operating Officer of the Tampa Education and Homeless Sectors Hillsborough Homeless Initiative and Laura Rice, Manager for the Department of Homeless & Community Services Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners had a robust conversation with attending Head Start directors to share important information relating to the McKinney Vento definition of homelessness and the HUD definition and how Head Start and their CoC can work together in their communities. This is a continuing conversation and the HSCO welcomes any grant recipient who has created successful partnerships with their CoC in their counties to please share their experience so that we can further collaborate and learn from each other.



You can now catch up with the Office of Head Start in a new way. Follow them on their new Instagram account at [@headstartgov](https://www.instagram.com/headstartgov) to stay updated



Upcoming Events

Early Head Start Institute | Region IV Head Start Association

Join us at the 2023 Early Head Start Institute conference hosted by Region IV Head Start from **September 25 - 28, 2023** to expand your understanding and application of key frameworks, quality initiatives, and best practices regarding the care and development of expectant mothers, infants, and toddlers. EHSI brings together diverse audiences of emerging and seasoned professionals, parents, and partners who share a commitment to sharing experiences, nurturing young children, deepening practices, engaging families, and strengthening communities.

For more information about the conference and registration please visit:

[Early Head Start Institute - Region IV Head Start Association \(rivhsa.org\)](https://rivhsa.org)



Fall Leadership Institute | NHSA

The Fall Leadership Institute hosted by the National Head Start Association will take place from **September 18 -21, 2023** in Crystal City, VA. This event presents an opportunity to hear from national political figures thought leaders, and early childhood experts on what all this change means for Head Start. Key decision-makers in our nation's capital are in the process of considering difficult spending trade-offs, with competing priorities facing a limited pool of money. Decisions made this fall stand to have a profound impact on Head Start's work. It is critical that members of Congress and their staff hear firsthand how important Head Start is to the communities they serve.

For more information about the conference and registration please visit:

[Fall Leadership Institute - NHSA](https://nhsa.org)



Parent and Family Engagement Conference | NHSA

The annual Parent and Family Engagement Conference hosted by the National Head Start Association will take place **December 4 - 7, 2023** in New Orleans, Louisiana. NHSA's annual Parent and Family Engagement Conference is the only national event that focuses on how Head Start parents, families, and staff can best partner to promote both family engagement and children's development. Participants will have the opportunity to explore a wide range of new resources and thinking on the forefront topics of early childhood development and how Head Start programs can address the needs of children, families, and staff.

For more information about the conference and registration please visit:

[Parent and Family Engagement Conference - NHSA](https://nhsa.org)



Annual Conference | FLAAYC

The FLAAYC annual conference will take place **October 11 - 15, 2023**, in Orlando, FL. Each year, FLAAYC hosts Florida's premier Early Childhood Education Annual Conference that brings its members and other individuals within the ECE community together.

For more information about the conference and registration please visit:

[Annual Conference | FLAAYC](https://flaeyc.org)



NBCDI 2023 National Conference | NBCDI

The National Black Child Development Institute National Conference Unleash the Promise and Genius of Black Children and Families will take place **October 13th-15th, 2023**, in Charlotte, NC. The conference brings together parents, educators, school district leaders, policymakers, elected officials, caregivers, healthcare professionals, and corporate leaders to focus not only on the unique challenges facing Black children and communities but also to highlight their success, resilience, assets, and genius.

For more information about the conference and registration please visit:

[NBCDI 2023 National Conference | NBCDI](https://nbcidi.org)

