Head Start 101

Session 2: What Head Start is All About

Teresa Gilbert, Facilitator
TODAY’S SESSION OVERVIEW

- Goals
- Philosophies
- Core Values
- Structure
- Important Things to Know
THINGS NEEDED TODAY

- Handouts
- Questions to Capture
- Agency Organizational Chart
HEAD START'S GOAL

✗ To bring about a greater degree of social competence in children.
  + By social competence is meant the child's everyday effectiveness in dealing with his environment both now and in the future.
  + Social competence takes into account the relationships of intellectual development, physical development, mental health, nutritional needs, and social needs.
What is meant by the philosophy of something?
PHILOSOPHY OF HEAD START

❌ Each child is a unique individual
❌ Child benefits from comprehensive services
❌ The child’s entire family must be involved
  + Foster social competence
    ❌ Improve health/physical abilities
    ❌ Encourage self-confidence
    ❌ Enhance communication skills
    ❌ Establish patterns for success
    ❌ Increase family’s ability to relate to each other
    ❌ Enhance sense of self-worth
PHILOSOPHY OF HEAD START

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CORE VALUES

- Supportive learning environment
- Inclusive of many cultures
- Empowerment of families
- Embracing of comprehensive vision
CORE VALUES

- Respect individual development
- Treated as an individual
- Relationship with larger community
- Continuum of care
STRUCTURE

- Federal to local
  - Department of Health & Human Services
  - Administration for Children & Families
STRUCTURE

❌ Federal to local

+ Department of Health & Human Services
+ Administration for Children & Families
+ Office of Head Start
+ Regional offices
+ Local grantee
+ Local delegate
STRUCTURE

- What is your structure?
  + What is the name of your grantee?
  + Do you have any delegates?
  + Where does Head Start fit into the larger picture of your agency?
  + Who is your Executive Director?
  + Who is your Head Start Director?
  + Can you find yourself on the organizational chart?
WHAT ARE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS?

- Regulations that are issued by the U.S. Government for the operation of Head Start programs
- Found in the Code of Federal Regulations
WHAT ARE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS?

- Developed and revised as needed by the Department of Health and Human Services
- Your program is legally bound to meet all these standards
What is the Head Start Act?
WHAT ARE LICENSING STANDARDS?

- Vary state to state
- Program to program
- State license for providing child care
- Department of Children & Family Services

What about your program?
- What agency regulates your licensing?
- Do you know the name of your rep?
WHAT IS POLICY COUNCIL?
WHAT IS GOVERNING BODY?
WHAT IS POLICY COUNCIL?

- Advisory group
- Made up of parents and community reps
- Members elected
- Must approve several things for program operation
WHAT IS GOVERNING BODY?

- Oversight board for program
- Has legal and fiscal authority
- Must interface with Policy Council
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