



# Head Start Health Advisory Committee

Presented by Gabe Johnson





# Agenda

1. Introducing yourself
2. What is a CAA?
3. What is Head Start?
4. What is the Health Advisory Committee?
5. What is your role on the committee?
6. Q&A

# Introduction

Please introduce yourself. We would like to learn about you.

- Please give us your name
- Your job or Head Start location of your child
- The area you are representing- (dental, parenting, medical, safety, etc.)
- A few details about you. What do you like to do on your free time, interests, and hobbies?



# What is a CAA?

**A Community Action Agency or CAA are local non-profit organizations that carry out community actions programming. CAAs were founded by the 1964 Economic Opportunity Act to fight poverty. Each CAA has a variety of programs to meet specific local needs and each CAA is unique to the communities it serves.**

**Each CAA is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of three groups in equal parts: Low-income community members, public officials, and private sector leaders**

# What programs do Community Action Agencies offer?

As mentioned in the last slide, each Community Action Agency tailors their programs to meet the needs of the communities in which they serve. Here is a list of some of the programs CAAs have nationally.

Let's talk about what we have locally at our CAA.

- Head Start
- Adult Literacy Programs
- Dropout Prevention
- After School Enrichment and Tutoring
- Teen Centers
- Recreation and Sports Programs
- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants & Children (WIC)
- Well-Baby Clinics
- Summer Enrichment Programs
- Summer Food Programs
- Child Care Food Programs
- Pregnancy Prevention
- Senior Nutrition
- Substance Abuse Education, Prevention & Counseling
- Summer Youth Employment Programs
- College Counseling and Placement
- Budgeting and Money Management
- Child Care
- Commodities
- Emergency Assistance
- Energy Assistance
- Food Pantry
- Housing
- Self-Sufficiency
- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)
- Weatherization
- Transportation

# What is Head Start?



## **Purpose**

Head Start and Early Head Start programs are free and federally funded. They are designed to promote school readiness for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers from families who meet income eligibility requirements.

## **Models**

Head Start offers a variety of models for programming including home based, center based, locally designed, and partnership models to fit the needs of the community.

## **Head Start vs. Early Head Start**

Early Head Start serves pregnant mothers up to 3 year olds and Head Start serves children 3 to 5 years old.



# Head Start:

- Head Start programs operate in every state, many tribal nations, and several U.S. territories.
- Our programs focus in the areas of early learning development, family well-being, family engagement, and health and wellness.
- The goals of Head Start are:
  - to create welcoming learning environments that support all children, regardless of circumstances
  - build strong relationships as a foundational driver for early learning with children and families
  - Promote positive health including physical activity, oral hygiene, balanced nutrition, addressing mental and behavioral health needs, ensuring children receive screenings needed for growth



- Provide parenting support and strategies
- Connect families to community and federal assistance
- Engaging parents as their child's lifelong advocate
- Better the family situation so the family, as a whole, can grow in a healthy environment

# What is the Health Advisory Committee?



The Health/ Mental Health Services Advisory Committee (HMHSAC) is an advisory group usually composed of local health providers who represent a wide variety of local social services agencies.

They may include pediatricians, doctors, nurses, nurse practitioners, dentists, nutritionists, mental health ,safety experts, and really anyone who has knowledge in health, safety and wellness.

Head Start staff and parents also serve on the HMHSAC. Effective partnerships are key to the success of this approach.

HMHSACs help programs to make decisions about health services and strengthen the communities where Head Start families live.

It also assists programs in identifying resources, develop policies or procedures, and other activities.



# Weaving Connections: Health Services Advisory Committee

Clicking the link below will open a video presented by the Head Start

[Weaving Connections: Health Services Advisory Committee | HeadStart.gov](#)

Note: the link to the above video is also located on our website

# What is your role on the committee?

Bring yourself.

Discuss emerging health issues, trends, and what you are seeing in your areas of expertise.

Assist in developing policies and procedures.

Mobilize community resources and share connections.

Meet other area professionals and assist in connecting our programs.





# Q & A

Please feel free to ask any questions you may have.



# Conclusion

Thank you for saying yes to our Head  
Start Health Advisory Committee!

We look forward to working with you  
and learning about what you know.