

CONCURRENT SESSIONS @ 2024 ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE & EXPO

Take advantage of educational training opportunities featuring regional and national experts. Our breakout sessions are held on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of the conference week. Session proposals will be posted in rounds on our as confirmed. Scheduled date/time will be released as confirmed. Sessions are tentative and subject to change. Visit us at www.rivhsa.org or on the Whova app periodically for updates.

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| KEY | 1 Birth to 3: Early Care | 4 Parent, Family and Community Engagement |
| | 2 Preschool: Early Learning | 5 Program Management/Governance |
| | 3 Child Health and Development | 6 Federal – Office of Head Start |

*Sessions which are not eligible for CEU credits/state hours

BY TRACK (ROUNDS 1, 2, 3)

PRESENTER	SESSION TITLE AND DESCRIPTION	1	2	3	4	5	6
ALI	1. Unlocking Diversity: Navigating Cross-Cultural Communication This interactive session empowers you to build connections, fostering unity and respect. Dive into an engaging, interactive workshop on cross-cultural communication and the power of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Learn to navigate different perspectives with empathy. Join us to elevate your communication skills and embrace a world of understanding.	●	●	●	●	●	
BENSINGER	2. Parenting Programs That Work: Strategies for Increasing Involvement Join us to unlock the secrets to successful parenting programs! This presentation delves into proven strategies fostering parental engagement. We will explore how to choose a parenting curriculum, effective communication methods, and data tracking. Discover how you can empower parents, create a supportive environment for their child's education, and track parent engagement data through continuous quality improvement.	●	●	●	●	●	
GRAVELY	3. Father Engagement: Building Responsible and Positive Relationships This presentation features research outcomes highlighting the positive influences of fathers and male role models in Early Childhood Education. Participants will learn research-based male engagement initiatives. Presentation materials will share sustainable organizational systems that promote male involvement and healthy relationships between children and their community's male role models.	●	●	●	●	●	
GUNNELLS	4. Collaborative Fatherhood Programs in Head Start In our session, we'll discuss engagement barriers, consider ways to promote inclusivity, learn best practices and strategies for building community partnerships, harmonize voices towards a shared mission in fostering collaborative fatherhood programs, as well as review current research of father engagement at home and in schools.	●	●	●	●	●	
HARRIS, JL	5. Dimensions of Diversity: Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Experience this highly engaging, high-tech, and high-touch workshop, as we will help participants understand that the Head Start movement is made up of children, youth, families, and staff from all walks of life. We will explore the diversity wheel to learn about the dimensions of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging and become more aware of opportunities to welcome everyone to your organization as students, families, staff, and volunteers.	●	●	●	●	●	

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HARRIS, JL	6. LeaderSHIFT Experience the highly engaging LeaderSHIFT discussion that will lead participants down a path to become great leaders by identifying the need to constantly improve their mindsets and methods by naming, explaining, and demonstrating what to do so that they can make the biggest impact on their team and organization.	●	●	●	●	●	
HARRIS, O	7. Finding Joy Every Day the Importance of Mental Health This session aims to raise awareness of the importance of mental health and happiness among early childhood teachers and equip them with practical tools to find joy every day. Focusing on self-care and creating a positive classroom environment, teachers can enhance their own well-being while fostering a nurturing and joyful atmosphere for their young learners.	●	●	●	●	●	
IUDICA	8. Unlocking Potential: Nurturing Dual Language Learners and Strengthening Parent Partnerships in Head Start This presentation focuses on Dual Language Learners children in Head Start programs and the role of parents in their children's language development and educational success. We will review strategies for creating inclusive learning environments while fostering meaningful relationships. We will also address potential barriers, challenges and how to provide resources and support.	●	●	●	●	●	
LEE	9. Making Lemonade out of Lemons: A Plan to Move Forward; Taking Back Control of My Life! When initially faced with challenges, our lives and the lives of those closest to us change drastically. Immediately. For lack of a better cliché: like night and day; black and white. We know, instinctively, that our lives will never be the same. But, if we take positive steps to move forward in mental health recovery, our lives will become more manageable.	●	●	●	●	●	

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LEWIS	10. ABCs of Fatherhood Engagement Children with involved, loving fathers perform significantly well in school, have healthy self-esteem, as well as exhibit empathy and pro-social behavior compared to children who have uninvolved fathers. This session will explore how involved fathering has a strong, positive impact on a child’s overall development and well-being. Creating a father-friendly environment that reflects and promotes the individuality, well-being, learning experiences of fathers, families and children conveys the message that fathers are important. Community partnerships are also a part of a supportive environment that focused on the interests and needs of fathers, connections to outside resources, and father engagement activities.	●	●	●	●	●	
REED	11. Curriculum Fidelity Curriculum fidelity refers to how closely programs apply curriculum content and processes as designed. It is key to ensuring interactions and activities result in children’s learning and school readiness. This session will provide tips and guidance on how to have power interactions with children including those with disabilities.	●	●	●	●	●	
TAYLOR	12. How to Increase In-Kind and Family Engagement: A Pain-free Solution to the Challenges of Non-Federal Share This session highlights our formula for increasing engagement using a child-outcomes focused approach. Participants gain transformative insight into the types of in-kind most agencies fail to track, which means they're leaving in-kind dollars on the table year over year. They also learn efficient paperless solutions that revolutionize the entire in-kind collection process.	●	●	●	●	●	
VAZQUEZ	13. The Academy at NHSA Focus Group Have you taken a course with The Academy at the National Head Start Association? Or are you an Academy+ member? We invite you to join us for an engaging discussion on our online courses tailored to meet the Head Start Program Performance Standards and beyond. Explore tomorrow's opportunities with us as we delve into a rich discussion about your experience with our online courses and your program’s professional development needs. Our courses are crafted and taught by NHSA staff and leading experts, ensuring a comprehensive and enriching learning experience. Come, be a part of this interactive session, and prepare yourself for the future!	●	●	●	●	●	

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VAZQUEZ	14. Awaken The Leader Within You! Are you a new or experienced Early Head Start or Head Start leader? If you are in a new leadership role or you want to discover the transformative leader within you, come to an interactive and reflective session where you will embark on a self-discovery journey of who you are now and the leader that you want to be. Go beyond your fears and discover the qualities to awaken the leader in you!	●	●	●	●	●	
WOODS	15. Leadership: It's Personal Authentic leadership is grounded in an individual's core values. Understanding those values keeps a leader centered on the important aspects of accomplishing organizational goals and shapes the dominant decision-making style. Leaders set the tone by creating a team synergy that helps to solve problems dynamically.	●	●	●	●	●	
CODLING	16. Trauma Informed Care: A Personal Touch Roughly 26 percent of children in the United States witness or experience a trauma before the age of 4. Almost 80 percent of these early traumas occurred at home and were perpetrated by the children's own parents. Many early childhood educators are likely to encounter young children who have experienced trauma on a daily basis. These traumas may include emotional, physical, or sexual abuse; domestic violence; various forms of neglect; adoption; foster care; incarceration or death of a caregiver; natural disasters; medical and surgical procedures; and serious accidents. This workshop will assist staff to better support children suffering from trauma.	●	●	●	●		
COGAN	17. Teaching Play Skills to Minimize Challenging Behaviors Children are not born with play skills. When they are in group situations, some find it stressful and lash out with challenging behaviors. Knowing their cultural background, what's expected at their developmental levels, and teaching them specific play skills can prevent many challenging behaviors.	●	●	●	●		

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CORBIN	18. Coaching through Challenging Behaviors: Leveraging Teacher Interactions and Increased Talk in the Classroom This training session equips directors and educators with evidence-based strategies to navigate and positively address challenging behaviors in young children through language and interactions in the classroom. Come learn effective strategies for nurturing young minds and preview the coaching model used to support children's growth and development while addressing challenging behaviors.	●	●	●	●		
GANAWAY-PASLEY	19. Strengthening Families This session is designed to help families become creative in positive discipline practices, reduce tension and conflict, learn different parenting skills and strategies, as well as improve their children's social skills and performance in school. Participants will understand emotional disability and how to help families become stronger together through a variety of tactics.	●	●	●	●		
HARRIS, K	20. Nurturing Literacy Through Engaging Play Nurturing literacy through engaging play addresses current challenges and literacy education by advocating for play-based learning. It highlights the benefits, technology integration, inclusive education, and the role of teachers and families offering a promising path forward in the future of learning. We will explore the role of engaging play in developing essential pre-reading and pre-writing skills and feature hands-on activities to create a literacy rich environment. Join us for an interactive and informative session on how to harness the power of play to nurture literacy.	●	●	●	●		
HERMAN	21. UCLA Health Care Institute: What's L.O.V.E.® Got to Do with It? Engaging Parents Through their Passion for Their Children's Health The key to children's health and school readiness is an ENGAGED parent. Learn the difference between involvement and engagement and how leading your organization with L.O.V.E.® will lead to well attended health promotion programs. Gain strategic tools that can assure parents are their best, positive impact on their child's health.	●	●	●	●		
YARBOROUGH	22. Let's Talk About Data This session will discuss the importance of collecting data in your program. Data should be used to make decisions on new priorities. Data can be used to show good news in a program, and it can also be used to show the need for making positive changes.	●	●	●	●		

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BINDA	23. Prioritizing Maintenance Safety: Crafting Ideal Spaces for Success In this session, we'll explore systems, cutting-edge software tools, Focus Area Two Monitoring readiness, and strategic methodologies that aid in the provision of services in high-quality facilities with safe indoor and outdoor learning environments. Whether you're a facility manager, health staff, educator, or administrator, this workshop equips you with the insights needed to create an environment with minimal disruptions where children thrive. Join us for dynamic café-style conversations on the complexities of regulatory compliance and navigating the intricate landscape of regulations that govern Head Start facilities.	●	●	●		●	
THOMPSON	24. Best Practices for Head Start Transportation/Bus Driver and Monitor Training Meeting transportation requirements and bus safety is important to all Head Start programs. Head Start children depend on transportation personnel to provide them with a safe ride to and from Head Start centers. Transportation services are established as the mutual responsibility of the transportation personnel, administrative staff, and parents of children using transportation services. This training will focus on the connection between your transportation system and school readiness as well as the Health/Safety Protocol and student transportation, provide safe and effective strategies for loading and unloading students, and review compliance with Head Start Transportation Performance Standards.		●	●	●	●	
COOKE	25. Guiding Growth: Nurturing Infants and Toddlers Through Responsive Caregiving Get your treasure map out as we explore infant and toddler responsive caregiving, emphasizing attuned interactions, and nurturing relationships. Upon this journey, participants will discover essential techniques for fostering healthy development, creating secure attachments, and meeting the emotional, cognitive, and physical needs of young children.	●		●	●		

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CORBIN	<p>26. Inclusion Support Journey in Early Head Start: Best Practices and Lessons Learned Embark on a dynamic exploration of our transformative journey in Early Head Start as we delve into the realm of inclusion support. In this engaging session, we will unravel the best practices that have shaped the inclusive educational approach of a Tennessee-based program and will candidly share the valuable lessons learned along the way.</p>	●		●	●		
LEE	<p>27. The Intentional Teacher: How to Teach with Purpose and Passion Join us for a challenging yet informative training session on the importance of being an intentional teacher. Encouraging teachers to teach with purpose and on purpose, inspiring teachers to have expected outcomes for daily routines and activities.</p>	●	●				
WILLIAMS, BRA	<p>28. Tackling Classroom Transitions Need some new songs and rhymes to help you tackle classroom transitions? This session is packed full of resources you can replicate to keep transitions fun and productive. We'll demonstrate how to use songs and rhymes to hit instructional support indicators, so you can crush CLASS scores during transitions too!</p>	●	●				
WILLIAMS, BRA	<p>29. Hitting CLASS Indicators with Music and Movement Get ready to get down while experiencing best practices for implementing music and movement in your Pre-K classroom. We'll share strategies for using music to satisfy all CLASS indicators throughout your daily routine while rocking out to live performances.</p>	●	●				
BINDA	<p>30. Empowering Families: ERSEA Strategies for Stronger Engagement This dynamic session is designed to equip family services, managers, and administrators with the essential tools and insights needed to foster family engagement within the context of ERSEA. Through interactive discussions and activities, participants will explore strategies that empower families to actively participate in their children's education and support their holistic development. From effective communication techniques to building trusting relationships, we will delve into approaches that enhance family involvement and create meaningful connections leading to family engagement with shared responsibility for the success of children.</p>				●	●	

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HUBBARD	<p>31. Unleash the Flavor of Excellence: The SAUCE for Revitalizing Head Start by Engaging Families, Empowering Communities</p> <p>In this dynamic and innovative session, we will explore how to reignite the spark that made Head Start a star by embracing the core ingredients that lead to success. We will delve into new and creative ways to reenergize family services staff, strategically recruit children, as well as engage parents, families, and the community to create a more impactful and engaging Head Start program. Participants will leave equipped with the SAUCE, comprehensive toolkit of strategies and approaches, to spearhead a paradigm shift in family engagement within their Head Start programs. Through theory-practice integration, passion-driven progress, and a commitment to change, you will become catalysts for a brighter, more empowered future for children and families.</p>				●	●	
HUBBARD	<p>32. Management Wheel: The Wheels of TRUST. Are You Rolling in The Right Direction?</p> <p>In this dynamic session, we will focus on the management systems wheel within the context of family services. Join us to gain a deep understanding of how to ensure that your program is rolling in the right direction, building trust every step of the way. Transparency – Responsibility – Unity – Support - Teamwork (TRUST) are the essential components of effective management in any organization, especially in Head Start programs. The Wheels of TRUST will equip participants with a comprehensive toolkit of strategies and approaches to help ensure your team is review ready.</p>				●	●	
IUDICA	<p>33. Driving Progress for Continuous Quality Improvement: Tracking and Integrating Family Engagement Data, In-kind Collection, and Surveys Strategies</p> <p>Discover how to achieve and monitor continuous improvement in family engagement and in-kind collection. Join us to learn effective tools to boost in-kind and track family engagement for enhanced program success and outcomes using data collection and surveys.</p>				●	●	

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PARSONS	34. Family Fusion Geared toward program directors as well as family service managers and advocates, this session presents a problem-solving model to increase family engagement with attention to diverse populations. Join us for a discussion on how continuous quality improvement processes can significantly increase family engagement and embrace diverse populations. Participants will receive an overview of the four-stage Plan-Do-Study-Act process and how data can be used to track and increase family engagement. In this interactive session, participants will create their own engagement plan including a mid-year assessment and follow-up action plan.				●	●	
COLWELL	35. Fiscal Perspective on the Annual and Post Award Head Start Grant Applications This session will share what information the Region IV Grants Office reviews when an Annual or Post-Award Application is submitted as well as reviewing the most requested items. Further clarification will be provided regarding what belongs in each Object Cass Category on an SF-424A, the type of information needed in narratives, and any supporting documentation.					●	●
JONES, P	36. Head Start Financial Reporting This session will cover the various financial reports (Audits, SF-425, SF-428, SF-429A, SF-429B, SF-429C) required for Head Start grants, the frequency of submission, which systems to use, and some helpful tips on completing the reports correctly.					●	●

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BACON	<p>37. Who’s Really Qualified: Head Start Staff Qualifications Amid Staff Shortages</p> <p>Staff qualifications and competencies under the Head Start Program Performance Standards have always been complex and tricky. As Head Start programs face staff shortages across the country, it is more important than ever to truly understand the Head Start requirements for each position. On November 20, 2023, the Office of Head Start issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that proposes increased wages and other initiatives to help Head Start programs recruit and retain qualified staff. However, in the meantime, Head Start programs must navigate the existing staff qualifications requirements while competing with other employers in their communities. In this session, we will discuss what qualifications are required for various positions as outlined in the Head Start Program Performance Standards, which staff qualifications allow for grantee flexibility, and what to do with that flexibility. We will also cover issues surrounding important timelines for meeting applicable qualifications and competencies.</p>					●	
BEHRMAN	<p>38. The Supervision Boot Camp: From Supervisor to SuperVIBER</p> <p>People don’t quit their job, they quit their supervisor. Essentially, that’s the finding of recent research from the Gallup organization. Outstanding employee performance (and retention) requires outstanding supervision. Yes, wages and benefits are important, but so too is the vibe and climate created by the supervisor. This workshop will review the key principles of supervision, including the proper balance and practices around support and accountability, the mindset, values and character of outstanding supervisors, non-attachment to results, and how to handle challenges when the going gets tough.</p>					●	
BEHRMAN	<p>39. Program Planning and Self-Assessment Demystified</p> <p>The Head Start Performance Standards provide specific requirements around establishing and achieving program goals, including strategic long-term goals responsive to community needs, focused on the delivery of program services (inclusive of health and safety practices), and inclusive of school readiness. Informed by the community assessment, self-assessment and monitoring, these goals result in plans that are submitted to the Office of Head Start. This session will provide meaningful, easy-to-understand guidance, tools and templates for program leaders and participants to streamline and coordinate these processes and plans for better clarity, utility, and impact.</p>					●	

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CODLING	<p>40. Program Governance the Right Way This session is designed to provide participants with an understanding of the roles and responsibility of program governance. It will also provide a deeper understanding of why the Office of Head Start requires programs to reinforce these responsibilities for the safeguarding of our children. The governing body has legal and fiscal responsibility to administer and oversee the program while policy council is responsible for the direction of the programs. Participants will consider their own role and responsibilities - we will answer the question of who is responsible for what, when, and why.</p>					●	
DAVIS, P	<p>41. Developing and Implementing an Efficient and Effective Financial Management System Head Start and Early Head Start grantees and their delegate agencies are required to develop management systems to develop, track, as well as accomplish program and financial goals/objectives. This workshop will provide participants with strategies and guidance for their revision of the financial management systems according to the Uniform Guidance.</p>					●	
DAVIS, P	<p>42. Using Non-Federal Share to Achieve Program Objectives Head Start and Early Head Start programs are required to establish objectives to implement services to Head Start/Early Head Start children and families. The objectives must be developed with funds and resources from the federal and local levels. This workshop provides participants with information on how to identify and effectively use the non-federal share in the implementation of the objectives.</p>					●	
GRAVELY	<p>43. Program Governance: Do You Know Your Role and Responsibility? At The Gravely Group, we believe that there is a critical role that nonprofits play in communities across the nation. Thus, it is imperative that a Head Start Board function at a high level to ensure a clear and strategic organizational direction that supports the agency's efforts to successfully navigate the challenges, responsibilities, and opportunities of a new and changing environment.</p>					●	

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HANSON	44. Wage Comparability: Moving from Compliant to Actionable The Head Start Act, current and proposed regulations, require a wage comparability study (WCS). Beyond compliance, a high-quality WCS supports agencies in recruiting and retaining staff, program planning and budgeting. Learn the key steps for completing a WCS that is more than compliant: it is actionable!					●	
JONES, R	45. A Change Is Coming! So many questions to be answered regarding the proposed changes to the Head Start Program Performance Standards. Head Start Programs will need to review their existing systems, especially human resource management, to ensure they are applicable to program operations and Head Start Program Performance Standards. Grant recipients must be strategic about fiscal considerations and the utilization of their Board of Directors to meet staff recruitment and create innovative plans to grow their future workforce. Join us for strategic discussions and innovative practices dialogue with seasoned experts to put your program on a steady path to support effective systems and a path of professional growth for your program amidst the winds of change.					●	
REED	46. Standing On Business in 2024 This session will provide a unique opportunity to learn how to stay ahead of the curve as we deal with staff recruitment and retention, director retention, the proposed performance standards, and full enrollment. Leave with strategies you can take back to your program and actually use immediately.					●	
REID	47. Got a Question, Get an Answer Join us for a solution-based discussion led by fiscal experts on Budgeting, budget revisions, spenddown, cost allocation plans, 425/428/429's, change of scope applications, NFM, Focus Area 2 preparation, fiscal self-assessments, staff vacancies, as well as the opportunity to elevate the experience with a question/answer segment.					●	
TORAL	48. Communities of Practice: Creating a Sense of Belonging and Purpose in Your Team (Part 1/2) Learn how to embrace communities of practices to strengthen your Head Start team. By promoting psychological safety and building a sense of belonging and purpose, leaders can cultivate their team. Learn strategies to build teamwork, communication, and goal-orientated discussions while having fun.					●	

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*Sessions which are not eligible for CEU credits/state hours

BY TRACK (ROUNDS 1, 2, 3)

PRESENTER	SESSION TITLE AND DESCRIPTION	1	2	3	4	5	6
WILLIAMS, BRE	49. Facilities, Materials and Equipment Facilities remain an on-going area of concern for many Head Start Programs in the South. Reasons include natural disasters as well as aging buildings that need constant maintenance and repair. This session will provide the needed insight for approval of the 1303 questionnaire, procuring of materials, as well as purchasing and recording of equipment at your Head Start Program.					●	