



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:
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Agenda Item Number: {{item.number}}

Agenda Date: September 24, 2024

In Control: Head Start Policy Council Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Department of Human Services

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Melody Woosley

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Review of Head Start Performance Standards Compliance Timeline

SUMMARY:

This item presents the following from the Department of Human Services (DHS) Head Start, Early Head Start, and Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership programs for action by the Head Start Policy Council.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Administration for Children and Families released a final rule on August 21, 2024 in the Federal Register, Supporting the Head Start Workforce and Consistent Quality Programming. The rule updates the Head Start Program Performance Standards (the Performance Standards) to respond to concerns affecting the sustainability of Head Start programs. Changes to the standards increase wages and benefits for Head Start educators and other staff, better integrate mental health

supports across program services, strengthen processes to support child health and safety, and enhance family engagement services. They also modernize the process programs use to identify and meet community needs.

These updated Performance Standards provide clear federal requirements for:

- Wages and benefits to support the Head Start workforce
- Better integration of mental health across all aspects of Head Start programming
- Quality improvement and clarity of requirements in other service areas

ISSUE:

Rules and regulations for the Head Start, Early Head Start, and Early Start-Child Care Partnership grants as set forth by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) require the Head Start Policy Council to review programmatic actions to oversee certain key responsibilities.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no anticipated impact to the general fund as a result of these actions.

ALTERNATIVES:

The review of the items included in this memorandum are required for program compliance with U.S. Department of Health and Human Services rules and regulations for Head Start, Early Head Start, and Early Head Start- Child Care Partnership programs.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff will present a briefing on this item subject to possible action by the HSPC Committee. Staff recommends review and approval of the items included in this memorandum.