



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

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Agenda Item Number: {{item.number}}

Agenda Date: May 28, 2024

In Control: Head Start Policy Council Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Department of Human Services

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Melody Woosley

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Correspondence II – ACF-OHS-IM-24-01 Strategies and Recommendations for Supporting Mental Health

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:

Head Start programs, including preschool programs, Early Head Start programs, Migrant and Seasonal programs, and American Indian and Alaska Native programs, have a long history of providing comprehensive services alongside early education services. They support a program-wide culture that promotes children's mental health and social and emotional well-being.

Children's mental health is foundational for family well-being, children's overall healthy development, and long-term success. In recent years, Head Start programs have called for guidance on how to be more intentional in integrating mental health supports into programs. These calls stem from a reported rise in behavioral and developmental concerns, higher rates of staff turnover, and limited availability of specialized mental health services. This IM provides evidence-informed mental health strategies and associated resources that can help address these challenges as part of a renewed effort across federal early childhood funding agencies to integrate mental health supports into programs.

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.