



## **Evaluation of Georgia Head Start State Collaboration Office October 2011**

The Head Start Act (as amended December 12, 2007) requires that each Head Start State Collaboration Office conduct an evaluation of services offered to determine how the Georgia Head Start State Collaboration Office best serves and supports the Georgia Head Start and Early Childhood community. As required, the results of the evaluation were aggregated to ensure confidentiality. This document contains the results of the evaluation and will be distributed to the Office of Head Start, Region IV Program Manager, as well as the Georgia Head Start Association and the survey responders.

Two evaluations were distributed during September 2011. Answers were based on a 12-month time frame from 10/1/10-9/30/11. The evaluation was distributed to 32 members of the Georgia Head Start Community and 26 Georgia Early Childhood stakeholders.

A total of 24 out of a possible 32 responses (75%) were received from the Head Start Community. A total of 10 out of a possible 26 responses (39%) were received from the Georgia Early Childhood Community.

For most of the survey questions, the following rating scale used was a five point scale from 0-5, where

1= Strongly Disagree

2=Disagree

3=Sometimes Agree, Sometimes Disagree

4=Agree

5= Strongly Agree

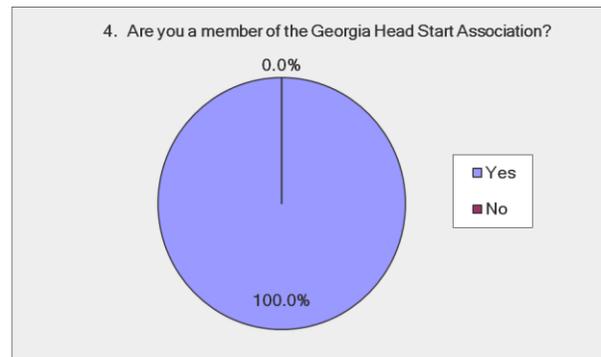
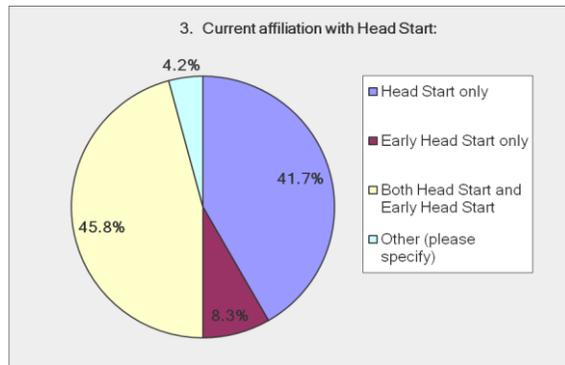
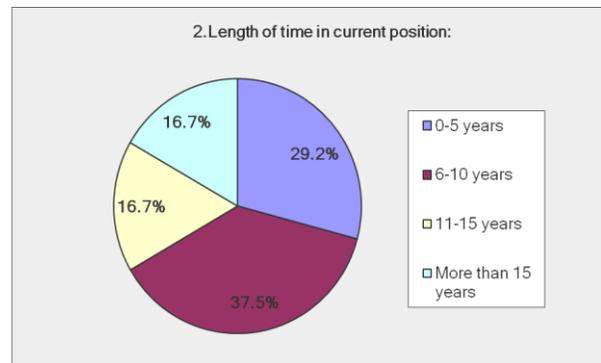
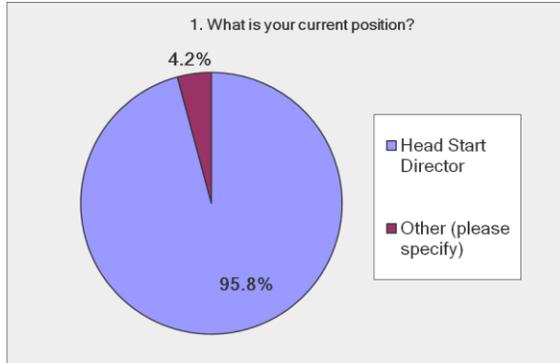
Not applicable/ Not Enough Information to Rate

The results of both evaluations are reported separately. The evaluation questions and their accompanying comments are included in the report.



## Georgia Head Start Community:

The following graphs report key demographics of the survey respondents. As the graphs demonstrate, the vast majority of respondents were Head Start Directors and were members of the Head Start Association. There was more variation in the length of time that the survey respondents had been in their current position and their current Head Start affiliation.



As the responses to the following questions demonstrate, the Georgia Head Start Collaboration Office appears to be working effectively. It is evident that the office should always be aware of including non-metro Atlanta area programs in pilots and projects whenever possible. The office should find a way to work more individually with programs on areas not included in the office priorities.

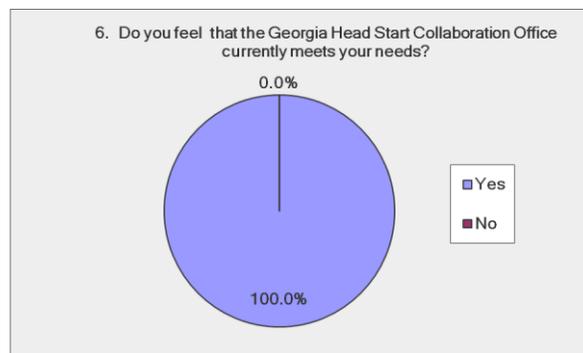
### Question 5:

The following questions were ranked from 1-5. The average score for each question is indicated.

1. Disseminates information to Georgia Head Start programs regarding policies that affect early care and education.	4.50
2. Responds to requests for information and assistance.	4.50
3. Serves as a spokesperson for matters pertaining to Georgia Head Start programs.	4.58
4. Collects, compiles, and analyses data on services delivered by Georgia Head Start programs.	4.54
5. Provides leadership and supports Head Start's involvement in the provision of Georgia's Pre-K Program.	4.54
6. Coordinates Georgia Head Start Professional development activities with those in other states and federally-funded early childhood programs.	4.38
7. Strengthens and supports Georgia Head Start's capacity to be a partner in state initiatives on behalf of children and families.	4.48

### Additional Comments for question 5:

- She provides great support to the programs.
- The commitment and dedication demonstrated by Janice Haker absolutely provides our program another resource of support. She is definitely a "go to" person when we have questions or concerns.



### Comments for question 6: Do you feel that the Georgia Head Start Collaboration Office currently meets your needs?

- Janice is a vital part of this organization.
- Janice has been a great resource over the last year.

- The Collaboration. Office should be more attuned to program challenges rather than relying only on those areas listed in the Office's survey.
- Janice's prompt response to questions and concerns helps our program provide high-quality services to children and families without interruption.

**7. Responses to the open-ended questions, “What are the strengths of the Georgia Head Start Collaboration Office?”, “What are the challenges working with the Head Start Collaborative office?”, and “How can the Head Start Collaboration Office be more effective?” are listed below. Additional comments conclude this section.**

- Its goal to have this collaborative effort.
- Effective partnership with Bright from the Start and Head Start administrative staff.
- It has proven to be a very viable resource for Directors and preschool programs.
- Having a person that gives us up to date information on State initiatives as well as having a voice in any changes or new initiatives.
- Communicates and provide information to Head Start Program management staff that helps in continuous provision of quality services to children and families.
- Very strong connections and collaboration effort!
- Keeping programs informed in a timely manner.
- Coordinates services; liaison with state entities
- The Georgia Head Start Collaboration Office is an excellent resource for current information on early childhood programs in conjunction with Head Start. The Director is quite knowledgeable and informed with the content standards, requirements and organizational structure of early care and learning agencies within the state.
- The Director has many years of experience with Head Start that enables her to facilitate coordination between early and education entities. She serves as an advocate for Head Start on the State level and works to provide information to all pre-school programs that can enhance their quality.
- Responsive, resourceful, knowledgeable, connected.
- Accessibility and prompt response to questions/concerns. Additional layer of support when issues arise.
- Willingness to speak to others about Head Start; Knowledge base of child care, homelessness and other issues ; Willingness to work with programs; Availability.
- Prompt response; intricate knowledge of GA PK and Head Start that allows for an exceptional collaboration; Attention to regulation and guidelines.
- Pro Head Start and Janice is a very hard worker.
- Knowledgeable, responsive.
- Great source of resource.
- Very active in all Head Start meetings and conferences and easily accessible for support and help in all areas.



- Point of contact for Information. Ensures that State Pre-K classes are in line with the Head Start Performance Standards.
- GHSCO is effective in working with DECAL in ensuring HS is represented in state initiatives. GHSCO ensures HS is updated in a timely manner through active participation in GHSA meetings and email notifications.
- Accessibility- Janice is easily contacted by email.
- Director is always available to assist with Pre-K/Head Start questions.

**8. What are the challenges working with the Georgia Head Start Collaboration Office?**

- none
- None at this time.
- N/A
- There is a need to more evenly design select representation from urban, outline counties and from rural head start programs when pilot opportunities are available in the state. ALL OPPORTUNITIES FOR PILOT PROGRAMS AND PRODUCTS SHOULD NOT ALWAYS BE GIVEN TO URBAN HEAD START PROGRAMS.
- N/A
- None
- None
- At this point I have not experienced challenges that prohibit meeting my needs.
- none
- I have not experienced any challenges working with the office.
- Sometimes, the Office's goals overshadow the goals/challenges of the GA Head Start community.
- They need support staff.
- Our ability to respond to requests for information with some turnaround time frames.
- None
- None
- none
- N/A
- I have not experienced any challenges in working with the GHSCO.
- None to date



## 9. How can the Georgia Head Start Collaboration Office be more effective?

- Staying abreast of new things prior to gaining knowledge of when something actually happens. Also, looking at best practices in other states. It would be nice to see Georgia set the standard for new initiatives in this area.
- By always providing services that work with programs like Head Start.
- N/A
- N/A
- Can't think of any way.
- The office is very effective and does not expect anything that the office doesn't provide.
- I am certain that there are areas for improvement, but I cannot determine any presently.
- Unsure, she is always willing to get this done for us and/or supply the resources.
- Expand its size to actually provide more specific training for developing programs (agencies) as related to statewide collaborative efforts.
- The office is doing a wonderful job.
- N/A
- A monthly or quarterly newsletter may be an effective tool which could be utilized by the GHSCO.
- None.

## 10. Please make any additional comments you would like about the Georgia Head Start State Collaboration Office.

- None at this time.
  - None.
  - Our professional relationship has been very productive and effective with Georgia Head Start Association as well as our local programs.
  - The State Collaboration Director has served as my advocate during the expansion of the number of Pre-K children per classroom. This expansion creates a problem for the Head Start/Pre-K classroom. Together we were able to ensure that the Head Start Performance Standards relative to Head Start classrooms was met.
  - Janice brings experience, knowledge and compassion to this group; she is a friend and a colleague.
  - Janice does a remarkable job in this position. No one could do it better.
  - Janice does an excellent job and is always willing to help as possible.
  - Janice is a very informed partner with the Head Start association and always brings vital current information to meetings and sends out e-mails to keep the Head Start community informed about current issues.
  - N/A
- 



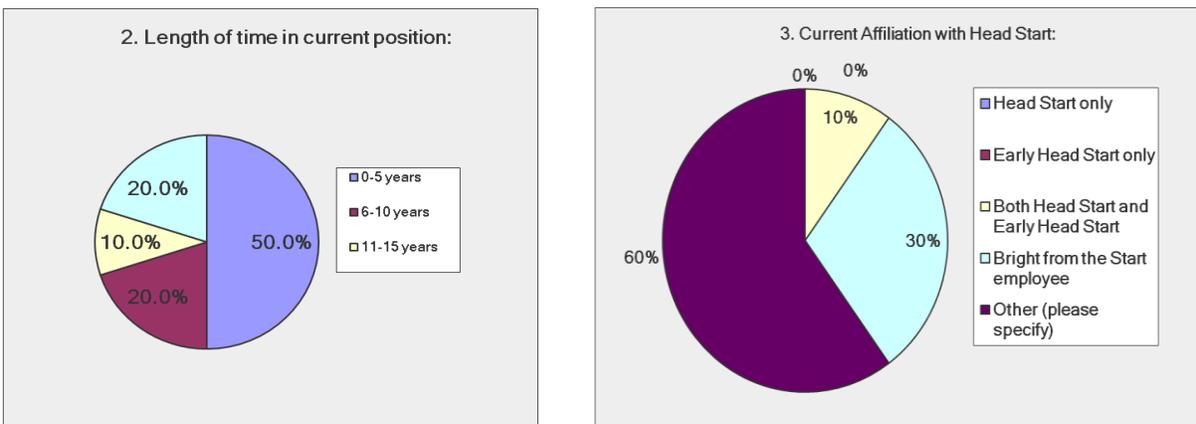
## The Georgia Early Childhood Community:

Ten out of a possible 26 early care and learning stakeholders responded to the survey (39%). Of these, two were only partially completed. Generally, the stakeholders feel that the office is operating effectively as evidenced by ratings from 4.13 to 4.7 on a 5 point scale. One hundred percent of the responders feel that the Collaboration Office is currently meeting their needs.

Some responders suggest that the Office could use more funding and staff support and that a meeting with Head Start and State Early Childhood Leadership could be scheduled.

Responders included State Home Visiting Project Manager, Region IV TTA Coordinator, Special Assistant to ACF Regional Administrator Program Manager, Executive Director, Director of Infectious Diseases and Immunizations prevention programs coordinator, and a Program Manager.

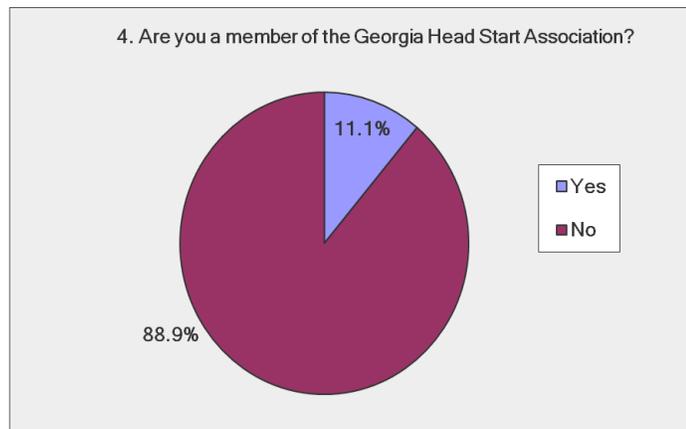
The results of the Georgia Early Childhood Community follow:



### Other Head Start affiliations reported in question 3:

- Partner
- Federal Agency Administration for Children & Families
- ECE Stakeholder
- DPH
- Partner agency
- Attend some group work meeting





**Question 5 responses:**

Respondents were asked to respond to the questions listed below using a five point scale where

1= Strongly Disagree

2=Disagree

3=Sometimes Agree, Sometimes Disagree

4=Agree

5= Strongly Agree

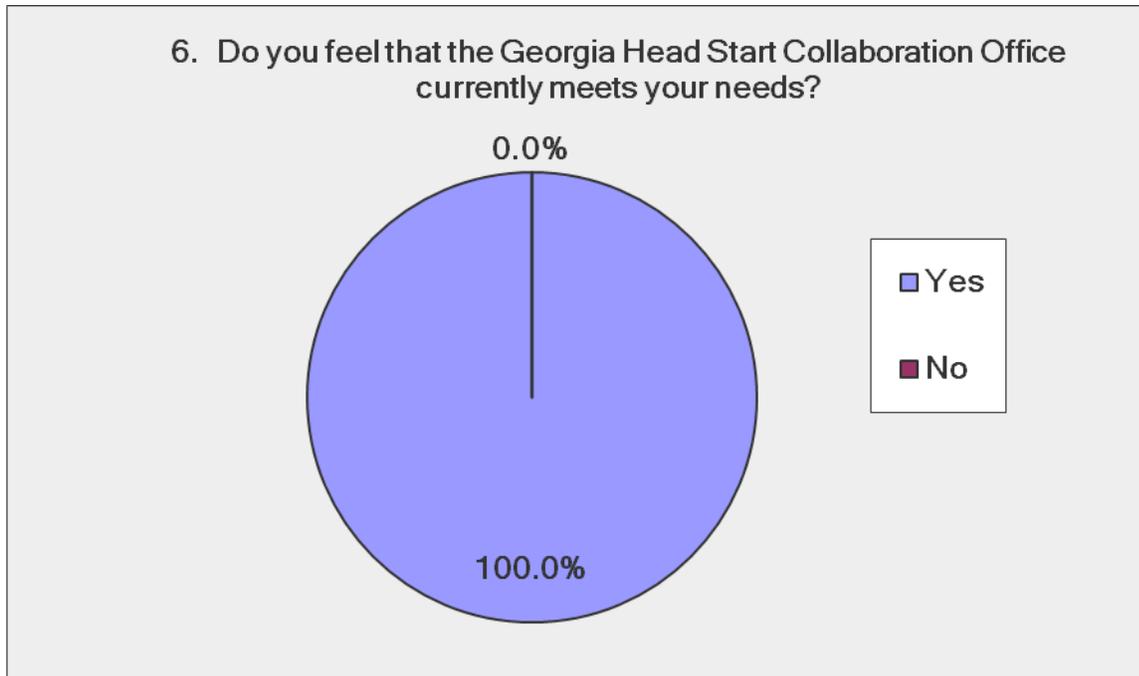
Not applicable/ Not Enough Information to Rate

Listed below are the averages for each item: The following questions were ranked from 1-5 and the average score is indicated beside each. Scores ranged from 4.13-4.70.

Answer Options	Rating Average
1. Disseminates information to Georgia Head Start programs regarding policies that impact early care and education.	4.38
2. Responds to requests for information and assistance.	4.67
3. Serves as a spokesperson for matters pertaining to Georgia Head Start programs.	4.50
4. Collects, compiles, and analyzes data on services delivered by Georgia Head Start programs.	4.13
5. Provides leadership and supports Head Start's involvement in the provision of Georgia's Pre-K Program.	4.70



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|---|------|
| 6. Coordinates Georgia Head Start Professional Development activities with those in other states and federally-funded early childhood programs. | 4.43 |
| 7. Strengthens and supports Georgia Head Start's capacity to be a partner in state initiatives on behalf of children and families.              | 4.70 |



Reponses to the open-ended questions, “What are the strengths of the Georgia Head Start Collaboration Office?”, “What are the challenges working with the Head Start Collaborative office?”, and “How can the Head Start Collaboration Office be more effective?” are listed below. Additional comments conclude this section.

**7. What are the strengths of the Georgia Head Start Collaboration Office?**

- The ability of the Collaboration Director to access data about Head Start programs statewide, and her timely response to requests for information.
- In the position to provide a profile of the entire state early care learning systems.
- Knowledgeable in regard to the child care needs of the communities for both EHS and HS. Blended Pre-K and Head Start classrooms.
- Participation in ECE, Janice Haker's leadership, involvement in professional development efforts, support of GAYC and other conferences.
- Excellent leadership.
- Interest in networking.



**8. What are the challenges working with the Georgia Head Start Collaboration Office?**

- There are no current challenges.
- Not applicable.
- Low staffing and not always available.
- None that I am aware of.
- None.
- N/A

**9. How can the Georgia Head Start Collaboration Office be more effective?**

- The office could organize a meeting between Head Start programs and State Leaders to discuss the future of early childhood education in the state of Georgia.
- Continue to be an integral part in discussions around statewide support and programming for preschool aged children.
- No suggestions.
- Additional funding for the Office.
- I feel the dept is operating excellently under Ms. Haker.
- N/A

**10. Please make any additional comments you would like about the Georgia Head Start State Collaboration Office.**

- Ms. Haker is a major asset to the State Collaboration Office: she knows and appreciates the work of Head Start programs, and she is an objective partner in assisting everyone to enhance the quality of services to young children and their families.
- No additional comments.
- BFTS could showcase the Collaboration Office more as an integral part of their agency.
- I have collaborated with this office for the past 5 years and we have made great strides.

