



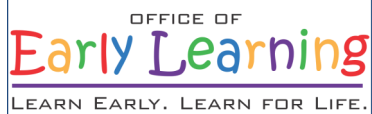
# Florida Head Start State Collaboration Office

Nacole Guyton, Director

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### Sneak Peek

16 by 16	1
Staff Roll Call	1
On the Road	2
Creating Connections	2
Let's Collaborate	2
FL Health Network	3
Upcoming Webinars	3

## 16 by 16

FIRST WORDS® Project is a longitudinal research investigation in the Florida State University Autism Institute in the College of Medicine directed by Dr. Amy Weatherby. The major goal is to identify early signs of developmental language disorders, autism spectrum disorder, and other communication delays in children from 9 to 24 months of age.

FIRST WORDS® Project aims to improve screening tools and early detection of communication problems by maximizing the role of the family and



to help families support their child's development and access intervention services sooner.

Did you know that children should have 16 gestures by 16 months? The 16 by 16 Series helps parents to recognize the 16 gestures that typically developing children exhibit by 16 months. Consistently, autism goes undetected in young children because the signs are missed. To access the

16 by 16 and other resources such as growth charts and videos, visit [firstwordsprojects.com](http://firstwordsprojects.com).

In addition to the resources for parents, the project also supports caregivers and practitioners through a series of courses designed to assist early educators with having a conversation about autism with families. To access these courses visit [autismnavigator.com](http://autismnavigator.com).

## Staff Roll Call

The collaboration office is committed to facilitating communication between all Head Start and Early Head Start programs in the state of Florida. To that end, the collaboration office will develop a database for each grantee

to access that will consist of grantee and staff contact information to be disseminated to each program in the state. Please be on the lookout for a survey monkey link. Complete the survey by the date specified. The

information will be compiled and released to all programs.



## On the Road with the Collaboration Director

I had the opportunity to visit several Head Start and Early Head Start programs thus far.

- Miami-Dade County Public Schools
- ELC of Miami-Dade Early Head Start
- LSF Duval County Head Start
- Pasco County Schools Head Start
- Hillsborough County Head Start/EHS



The centers, staff, and parents were impressive in each program!

I also had the opportunity to tour centers at Hillsborough County Head Start with Captain Robert Bialas, Region IV Program Manager and Misty Montier, Region IV Program Specialist. I'm always inspired by how grantees leverage federal, local, and state resources to provide high quality services to children and families.

I look forward to the opportunity to visit many more programs in the near future!



## Creating Connections | Enhancing Lives

If you haven't already, please be sure to register yourself and your staff for the Florida Head Start Association (FHSA) Conference, *Creating Connections | Enhancing Lives* to be held April 16-19, 2018 in the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel in Orlando, Florida. This conference is sure to be a wonderful professional development experience for all! The Head Start Collaboration Office will

present a session on Succession Planning for Continuous Quality Improvement. There will also be several sessions to support Early Head Start Family Childcare Homes and Childcare Partnerships, School Readiness, Management and Leadership, Health, Family Services, and more!

Don't miss this dynamic event!

For more information visit [www.FLHeadStart.org](http://www.FLHeadStart.org).



## Let's Collaborate! MyPeers HS/EHS Director's Forum

**MyPeers** is an user-friendly virtual learning network where you can brainstorm, exchange ideas, and share resources with early childhood colleagues from across the country.

It was created by the Office of Head Start (OHS) to help you connect and learn with people who share your interests and program responsibilities. These informal connections can be a great source of encouragement and insight. The FHSA and HSCO will launch a MyPeers platform for Florida HS/EHS Directors in April.

This is where we both offices will collaboratively share resources, announcements, and materials with HS/EHS Directors in the state.

If you haven't already viewed the introductory webinar, please visit <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov> to register today!

# Florida Regional Health Network



The HSCO is seeking to establish a planning committee to continue the work established in the Florida Regional Health Network. Many of you may be familiar with this network as it was established by the HSCO office in collaboration with ICF, the Region IV Training and Technical Assistance Network that provided a meeting/PD for Health Managers in the state.

The process for implementation is changing and instead will include a Health Network planning committee that will take on the role of establishing the agendas and implementation. The Health Network planning committee will be comprised of HS/EHS Health Managers from various regions in the state.



If you or your health manager are interested in being a part of this Health Planning Committee, email [Nacole.Guyton@oel.myflorida.com](mailto:Nacole.Guyton@oel.myflorida.com)

## Upcoming Webinars

### The Head Start Management Systems Wheel: Program Planning and Data & Evaluation

Thursday, March 8, 2018  
3-4:30 p.m. ET



Register today at <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov>