

Health Advisory Committee

Fostering a culture of health and wellness for Head Start children, families, and staff.



Each grantee must establish and maintain a Health Services Advisory Committee (HSAC). This includes Head Start parents, professionals, and other volunteers from the community. The knowledge of these members can be drawn upon to address community issues affecting local families. The HSAC addresses issues related to the health field in medical, dental, mental health, nutrition, and the human services field. They also discuss any other concerns that may affect the community.

The HSAC is involved in many aspects of program design and management. They assist in the planning of each component area by reviewing and providing input for policies and procedures utilized to govern the program. Various members of the committee also participate in the end of the year program evaluation using the Self-Assessment Tool which determines compliance or non-compliance with Head Start Performance Standards.

The HSAC meets a minimum of two times a year with additional meetings held as needed. Each member of the committee signs an agreement to serve for two years.

HSACs can assist local programs in a variety of activities, including:

- Developing and reviewing health-related plans, policies, and procedures;
- Training staff and families on health topics;
- Advocating for interpreters and health information sensitive to the languages and cultures of families;
- Identifying current and emerging health issues affecting Head Start families; and
- Accessing community health resources.