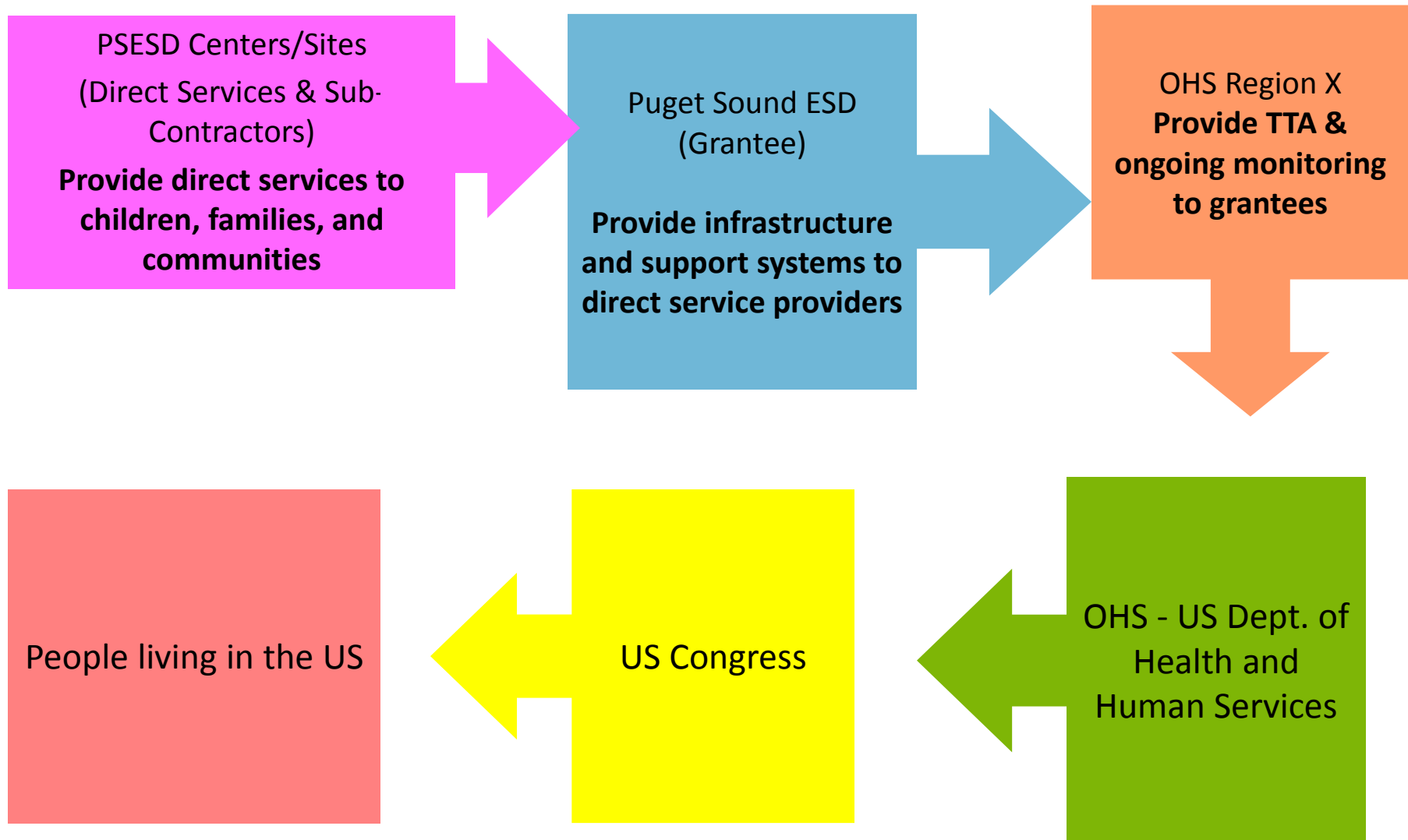


Program Update

- Designated Renewal System
- Federal Review Report

Center Directors Meeting, 9/18/2014

Accountability in Head Start and Early Head Start



What ensures accountability and quality?

Performance Standards

- the mandatory regulations that provide the structure for implementing, monitoring & enforcing quality services

Head Start Act of 2007

Designated Renewal System

- mandatory set of regulations that determine if a grantee is delivering a high-quality and comprehensive HS services

Designated Renewal System and Recompetition

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) established the Designation Renewal System through regulation that became effective on **Dec. 9, 2011**.

This regulation specifies seven conditions to determine whether a grantee is delivering a high-quality and comprehensive program and could be granted to continue to provide HS services without having to compete for continued funding.

If a grantee is found not to meet any of those seven conditions during the time periods specified in the regulation, then that grantee will be required to compete for continued funding.

Designated Renewal System, Recompensation 7 Conditions

- **Quality**

1. grantee has one or more deficiencies;
2. grantee has not established and taken steps to achieve its goals for improving school-readiness and has not analyzed individual child-level assessment data;
3. grantee has low scores on the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS);

Designated Renewal System, Recompetition 7 Conditions

- **Licensing and Operations**
4. Revocation of an agency's license to operate by a state or local licensing agency;
 5. Suspension of a grantee to operate a HS/EHS program

Designated Renewal System, Recompetition 7 Conditions

- **Fiscal and Internal Controls**
6. Debarment from receiving federal or state funds or is disqualified from the Child and Adult Care Food Program; or
 7. A determination that a grantee has one or more “material weaknesses” or is determined to be unable to ensure that it can continue as a “going concern”

Deficiency

- *Deficiency* means: An area or areas of performance in which an Early Head Start or Head Start grantee agency is not in compliance with State or Federal requirements, including but not limited to:
 - (A) A threat to the health, safety, or civil rights of children or staff;
 - (B) A denial to parents of the exercise of their full roles and responsibilities related to program governance;
 - (C) A failure to perform substantially the requirements related to Early Childhood Development and Health Services, Family and Community Partnerships, or Program Design and Management; or
 - (D) The misuse of Head Start grant funds.

Federal Review Report

- PSESD Head Start and Early Head Start Program had a Federal Monitoring Review November 17-21, 2013. We have received our Federal Review Report:
 1. We have the full compliance in the following domains of the review: Fiscal Integrity, Family & Community Engagement, Child Development & Education.

Federal Review Report

- PSESD Head Start and Early Head Start Program had a Federal Monitoring Review November 17-21, 2013. We have received our Federal Review Report:
 2. We have some areas of noncompliance in the following domains of the review: Program Governance, Management Systems, and ERSEA. We have been granted a 120-day improvement timeline for the noncompliance areas, by October 7th, 2014.

Federal Review Report

- PSESD Head Start and Early Head Start Program had a Federal Monitoring Review November 17-21, 2013. We have received our Federal Review Report:
3. Our CLASS scores are higher than national averaged scores in all three domains
- Emotional Support: PSESD – 6.3, National – 5.5
 - Classroom Organization: PSESD – 5.9, National – 5.0
 - Instructional Support: PSESD – 3.1, National – 2.1

Federal Review Report, Noncompliance

Management Systems

SYS1.1 Part 1304.51 (a)(1)(iiii)

- The grantee did not develop written plans stating who was responsible for ensuring required staff-to-child ratios, including children from each grantee-operated program were maintained in the classroom. The program tracked EHS/HS children by classroom; however, it did not track and was not aware of class sizes of the predominant ages of children in blended classrooms when state-funded and/or private-pay children were included. In addition, not all stakeholders were involved in the planning process, so no written plans were developed for tracking the total number of children enrolled in each classroom or their ages.
- There was no evidence the grantee involved program staff in its decision to remove bus monitors at some centers. During an interview, a bus driver stated drivers did not understand who some centers had bus monitors while theirs did not. The grantee was unable to provide written documentation demonstrating how the decision to remove bus monitors from the Kent buses was a part of a systemic process of ongoing program planning or how stakeholders were involved in the process.

Federal Review Report, Noncompliance

Management Systems

SYS1.2 Sec.641A(g)(1) Self Assessments –

- The grantee self-assessment did not cover all service areas. A review of the self-assessment planning timeline 2009-2014, last updated in September 2013, provided evidence the grantee assessed service areas based on a 5-year timeline.

SYS2.1 Sec. 641A(g)(3)

- The newly formed blended classrooms were not monitored to ensure the number of children enrolled aligned with the HS performance standards. No staff were assigned to monitor how many children were enrolled in the blended classrooms, which included children from each of the grantee's funding streams. There is no tracking record to determine the total number of children – in addition to the HS children – enrolled in blended classrooms, so it was not possible for staff to monitor to ensure classes were not overenrolled. In addition, it's not clear how the grantee monitored the ages of the non-HS children in each classroom to ensure age-appropriate child-to-teachers ratios were maintained.

Federal Review Report, Noncompliance

ERSEA

ERSEA 1.2 Sec.645(a)(1)(B)(iii) (II)(bb)

- The grantee did not prioritize the selection of children to ensure those below the poverty level and those eligible for public assistance were deemed eligible to participate prior to children from families with income below 130% of the poverty line. The program prioritized children with IEPs, IFSP, and diagnosed disabilities higher than children who were income eligible or on public assistance.
- A review of the Category for Selection Priorities-Preschool section found income-eligible children and children eligible for public assistance were prioritized behind children with IEPs, IFSDs, and diagnosed disabilities. A review of 44 Enrollment Priority Listing reports generated 11/20/13 found 13 prioritized over-income children with IEPs and IFPs over income-eligible children and children on public assistance.

Federal Review Report, Concerns

ERSEA2.1

1-7% of the sample of child files did not contain the following:

- A statement signed by a program employee
- A statement identifying the child's eligibility category

CHS2.1

1-24% of the files reviewed indicated that the program has not performed or obtained all required developmental, sensory, behavior, motor, language, cognitive, perceptual, social, and emotional screenings within the 45-day requirement.