

The National Indian Head Start Directors Association continues to serve as a strong advocate for young Indian children and their families. During 2010 and the early part of 2011, NIHSDA has actively developed and implemented effective efforts in affecting Head Start and Early Head Start regulations, registered concerns and issues with the Office of Head Start with particular efforts toward improving the delivery of training and technical assistance services, articulated the membership's voice for adequate funding and has continued tracking activities undertaken by last year and this year's U.S. Congress actions regarding Head Start appropriations. The strength of NIHSDA is dependent upon the active support of its membership and the success the Association can be directly ascribed to our success.

- Conducted a quality Management Training Conference in San Diego, California with 85 of the 154 AIAN grantees attending representing 20 states with 385 individuals in attendance. There were 108 hours of training provided using 35 different presenters.
- Continued efforts in educating and informing Congress on Indian Head Start legislation and appropriations. This effort was undertaken in strong collaboration with NIHSDA's lawyer and lobbyist, Greg Smith. The Head Start Act is scheduled for reauthorization in 2012 and NIHSDA has begun preparing for the reauthorization process.
- NIHSDA continues to seek support through the "Three Dollar Per Child", Indian Child Advocacy Fund for the Association's legislative and regulatory promotion efforts. Contributions from NIHSDA friends, Head Start programs, Indian Head Start, state and regional association and Tribal governments are the basis for NIHSDA advocacy activities. Without this support NIHSDA would not be as successful as it has been over the years.
- Board members continue to serve and represent AIAN Head Start and Early Head Start on the National Head Start Association's board of directors; National Indian Collaboration Office advisory board; AIAN Research advisory board; and numerous early childhood development task forces. It is through such collaborative activities that NIHSDA stays attune to current discussion which may have an effect on AIAN early childhood development, care and education programming.
- Maintained positive collaborative efforts with the IHS Head Start Program for accessing and providing resources and training on Head Start/Early Head Start health services. This effort is coordinated through the efforts of Indian Head Services, Three Feathers Associates and NIHSDA.
- Continued to strengthen NIHSDA's relationships with the National Indian Education Association, National Congress of American Indians, National Child Care Association, Southwest Consortium of Indian Head Start Directors and the Northwest Coalition of Indian Head Start Programs. Particular efforts are underway in working with the Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Association and the National Head Start Association as

we move forward in addressing OHS's proposed regulations and in preparing for the reauthorization of the Head Start Act.

- Maintained open communication with the Office of Head Start key management staff and the AIAN Program Branch. Two quarterly meetings with the Office of Head Start (Yvette Sanchez Fuentes, Director) have been conducted and these meetings are to continue. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss NIHSDA issues and concerns, update on activities implemented or to be implemented by OHS. As a result of the meetings conducted The AIAN Branch (Nina McFadden) has participated routinely in the electronic board meetings.
- NIHSDA has submitted written communication on the T/TA delivery system; suggestions to include in the recompletion of the T/TA system currently operated by ICF International; and requesting strong participation of the Office of Head Start and AIAN Branch in the 2011 Management Training Conference to be held in the Washington, D.C area.
- NIHSDA submitted its comments on the Re-competition and Eligibility proposal regulations and will continue will continue to respond similarly as other proposed regulations are issued by the Office of Head Start.
- Prepared "talking points" for the 2010 and 2011 Tribal Consultation Process for members to use in preparing Tribal comments and suggestions. In 2010, 7 Tribal Consultations were conducted by OHS. Seven NIHSDA board members participated in these sessions. NIHSDA continues to advocate for an improved Tribal Consultation Process and has conducted discussion with OHS/AIANPB.
- NIHSDA has begun a Succession Planning Process which will be implemented in 2011. The succession planning is the result of Three Feathers Association's principles notifying the Board of Directors that Antonia Dobrec and Kathryn Helsel are planning to retire during 2012.