



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

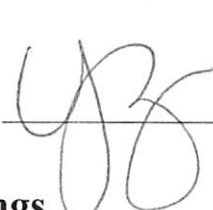
ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
Office of Head Start
8th Floor Portal Building
1250 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20024

To: Board Chairperson

*Mr. Michael Stuart
Board Chairperson
Redlands Christian Migrant Association
402 W Main St.
Immokalee, FL 34142*

From: Responsible HHS Official

*Ms. Yvette Sanchez Fuentes
Director, Office of Head Start*


7/9/10

Date

Overview of Findings

From 4/25/2010 to 4/30/2010, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) conducted an on-site monitoring review of the Redlands Christian Migrant Association Migrant and Seasonal Head Start program. We wish to thank the governing body, Policy Council, staff, and parents of your program for their cooperation and assistance during the review. This Head Start Review Report has been issued to Mr. Michael Stuart, Board Chairperson, as legal notice to your agency of the results of the on-site program review.

Based on the information gathered during our review, it was determined that your Migrant and Seasonal Head Start program is in compliance with all applicable Head Start Program Performance Standards, laws, regulations, and policy requirements. Accordingly, no corrective action is required at this time.

Since 2009 two new features were added as applicable to triennial and first year reports. First, if during the course of a review an area of noncompliance was identified and corrected on site, the report will include a narrative to describe the area of noncompliance and a narrative to describe the corrective action the grantee took to correct the finding. No further corrective action is necessary for an area of noncompliance reported as corrected on site.

Secondly, program strengths identified during the on site review will also be included in triennial and first year review reports.

Beginning in Fiscal Year 2010, if you are a grantee serving preschool age children in the center-based option, a sample of your preschool classrooms will be observed using the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS). This classroom observation instrument looks at the teacher/child interactions, as well as interactions between children. If you operate a center-based

program for preschool age children, the results of CLASS will be included in your monitoring report as a separate attachment. The Office of Head Start encourages grantees to consider the CLASS results in planning ongoing efforts to improve classroom quality.

The ACF Regional Office will contact you soon to address any questions you may have about this report.

Distribution of the Head Start Review Report

Copies of this report will be distributed to the following recipients:

Ms. Sandra Carton, Branch Chief, Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Programs

Ms. Irma Cruz, Policy Council Chairperson

Ms. Barbara Mainster, CEO/Executive Director

Ms. Charlene Edwards, Head Start Director

Overview Information

Review Type:	<i>First Year</i>
Organization:	<i>Redlands Christian Migrant Association</i>
Program Type:	<i>Migrant and Seasonal Head Start</i>
Team Leader:	<i>Ms. Trevondia Boykin</i>
Funded Enrollment HS:	<i>1840</i>
Funded Enrollment EHS:	<i>Not Applicable</i>

Area of Strength

The grantee had a strength in providing comprehensive services in environments that were authentic and genuine extensions of the family's native cultures and home environments. In addition, the grantee communicated effectively with families and staff across 21 Florida counties, 18 geographical areas, and 95 centers, resulting in positive outcomes for children and parents.

In an effort to preserve the rich history and legacies of the migrant families, a mosaic wall was erected extending around the exterior perimeter of the Immokalee child center. The wall depicted in full color the faces of the various families and children, the farm workers and main industries, and names of all those who participated in the building of the wall. In vivid pictures and positive messages, it told the story of the heritage, struggles, and triumphs of the migrant families and was designed to instill a sense of pride and accomplishment in their unique way of life. Eighty-five percent of the staff were families of the community. Parents expressed the wall also served as a constant reminder of the strength of their families and the possibilities realized through the Head Start experience.

The outdoor play areas also served as outdoor classrooms and extensions of families' home cultures. These areas were fully equipped with traditional playground equipment such as climbing structures, bikes, and sandboxes along with book tables, dramatic play props, wooden blocks, and gardens depicting the main core of the migrant way of life.

In addition, the grantee served over 8,000 children and families across 21 Florida counties with over 1,700 staff members in 95 centers. With such a vast service area including remote rural locations, communication was determined to be a strength. The center staff stated they were fully supported by content area specialists who were easily accessible and provided guidance and technical assistance. Staff attended weekly team meetings and monthly area meetings, which were inclusive of all Head Start staff and partners. The grantee had a functioning State-wide advisory committee of health care professionals to assist in updating policies and program enhancements. There was also strong evidence the program's Community Assessment was fully utilized to build on the strengths of the communities and to design communication systems sensitive to the needs of the families. At least 85 percent of the grantee's staff were hired from the communities served and had firsthand knowledge of the migrant way of life. Staff members were recognized and trained and subsequently promoted to more specialized or professional positions. This practice increased the communication level with families, since most of the staff was bi-lingual as well as bi-cultural and had a complete understanding of the migrant way of life, resulting in high-quality services for the families enrolled.

— END OF REPORT —