

Welcome!

We are so glad you are here!

We will get started shortly.
In the meantime, we invite you to intentionally enter this space.



Silence your cell phone



Stretch



Close the door



Take a few deep breaths



Close browser windows



Emotionally release your to-do list



Check your audio and video



Take a bio break

***Inside the Georgia Healthy Start Collaborative:
Leveraging Healthy Start Partnerships as a Sustainability Strategy***

Thursday, February 12, 2026 | 1:30 – 2:45 PM ET



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The Healthy Start TA & Support Center is operated by the National Institute for Children's Health Quality (NICHQ). This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under grant number 1 UF5MC327500100 titled Supporting Healthy Start Performance Project.

Agenda

Housekeeping & Welcome

Alexis Hooper & Karen Chustz
Healthy Start TA & Support Center (TASC)

Opening Remarks & Introduction

Shontelle Dixon
*Division of Healthy Start & Perinatal Services
(DHSPS)*

Origins of the Georgia Healthy Start Collaborative

Jemea Dorsey & Latosha Elbert
GA Healthy Start Collaborative

Collaborative Mission and Structure Overview

Twanna Nelson
GA Healthy Start Collaborative

How the Collaborative Operates: Key Functions & Processes

Mitzi Fears
GA Healthy Start Collaborative

Program Highlights Across Georgia

Sustaining the Work: Reflections and Opportunities for Future Partnership

Heather Carr & Mitzi Fears
GA Healthy Start Collaborative

Q&A

Shontelle Dixon – HRSA

Next Steps & Closing

Alexis Hooper
TASC





Introduction

Shontelle Dixon

Division of Healthy Start & Perinatal Services
HRSA MCHB

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GEORGIA HEALTHY START

COLLABORATIVE

Partners for family well-being



South Georgia
HEALTHY START



706.321.6322



Historical Overview: Georgia Healthy Start Training and Statewide Engagement

Over the years all Healthy Start programs across Georgia actively participated in a variety of professional development trainings and statewide events to strengthen services for families and communities.

Examples of Key Trainings and Events

- GA Legislative Receptions
- Compassion Fatigue Training
- Fatherhood Webinars
- Community Outreach and Partner Engagement
- Ongoing Professional Development workshops
- Universal Referral Forms



GEORGIA HEALTHY START

COLLABORATIVE

Partners for family well-being

Georgia Healthy Start Collaborative: The COE will lead the efforts to continue convening all of Georgia's HS grantees. Grantees will meet to discuss challenges, best practices, and lessons learned to support effective quality HS Services in the state. The Collaborative will discuss opportunities to collaborate in areas of recruitment and retention, referrals between programs, and virtual events. Leaders from other federally funded programs including Title V will be invited to attend meetings.

Atlanta Healthy Start Initiative

Heart of Georgia Healthy Start

Georgia Strong Families Program

South Georgia Healthy Start

Southside Medical Center

Wellstar Healthy Start



The Georgia Healthy Start Collaborative brings together Georgia's Healthy Start grantees to explore and execute strategies that strengthen families, improve child wellbeing, and advance maternal and child health across Georgia through a collective impact approach.

COLLECTIVE IMPACT



Adapted from Kania and Kramer

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How the GHSC Operates

- **Title V collaboration**
- **Resource sharing**
- **Joint conference presentations**
- **Strategic planning**
- **Joint Community Consortium meeting**

South Georgia Healthy Start (SGHS)

Mercer University School of Medicine

- Heather Carr, Director of Program Operations
- Dr. Michael Kramer & Dr. David Goodman
Project Directors
- In 2025, SGHS led efforts to produce the **GA HS Collaborative Documentary**.



- Showcase the **purpose, goals, and impact** of HS programs in the state of GA, **individually and collectively**
- Demonstrate "**same purpose; different activities, methods, and services**" of the 6 GA HS programs
- Used to promote **education of the public, lawmakers, & potential funders** about the value and impacts of HS in GA
- Featured at the HS All-Grantee Meeting in Crystal City, VA in September 2025



Healthy Start Program Manager

Shana Taylor

New Site Perspective of the collaborative

- Learned from experienced sites
- Easy-to-use templates and tools
- Trainings that built our skills
- Encouraging connections and support
- Space to problem-solve together
- Gained clarity and confidence in year one



Wellstar Healthy Start Program

Kristen Flennoy, MPH, MA
Program Director



HS Georgia Collaborative Impact

- Established, long-standing programs
- Practice- and resource-sharing
- Regular touchpoints
- Visibility and policy leverage
- Network of like-hearted and like-minded MCH professionals





Future Plans for GHSC

- **Funding opportunities**
 - Collaboration on grants
- **Marketing**
 - Develop GHSC branded material
 - Provide Community Education
- **Data sharing**
 - Benefits of Healthy Start in Georgia
 - Universal referral system



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Q&A

Question for Each GHSC Site:

Based on your experience in this collaborative endeavor, what key advice would you offer to other Healthy Start grantees that might be considering a similar collaborative approach?

Have a question?

Please submit your questions using the Q&A feature

Seeking Additional Support?

Visit the Healthy Start TASC website or scan the QR code below to submit a TA request.



Your input is important to us!
***Please take a moment to complete the
satisfaction survey.***



Thank you!

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