

Annual and Midyear Report Form

State Name: ARKANSAS

Date: May 16, 2014

- Annual Report-Timeframe:** March 1, 2013 –Feb. 28, 2014
Due Date: May 31, 2014
- Mid-Year Report-Timeframe:** March 1– August 30, 2014
Due Date: September 30, 2014

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***** Please Note*****

All information written or reported in bold italics are from the past six months (new information). All other information was from the Mid-year report.

Arkansas

Briefly describe your accomplishments and actual outcomes in the following areas.

Facilitate collaboration among Early Head Start and Head Start Grantees and entities that provide child and family services to low-income families. Describe your accomplishments and outcomes in the four required priority areas.

- **School Transitions, including state data systems**

School Transition

- To foster seamless and long-term success of Head Start children by promoting continuity of services between Head Start Child Development and Learning Framework and State early learning standards including pre-K entry assessment and interoperable data systems.

OHS Priority Goal 2: To enhance and maintain collaboration, coordination, and alignment of transition services and curriculum by Head Start programs with state-funded pre-Kindergarten programs and the public schools.

List Strategies:

- 1. Identify ways to link Head Start and LEAs together in providing transportation assistance to families.*
- 2. Coordinate with (ADE) LEAs and State-Funded Pre-K in planning for successful transitions in order to meet the needs of pre-school and Kindergarten children.*
- 3. Establish an ongoing plan of action to address ways that pre-K and Kindergarten can come together on a regular basis to support school readiness efforts.*
- 4. To support the alignment of transitional services and program curriculum and resources from other agencies, which is integrated with the Child Development and Early Learning Frameworks for all Head Start programs, Common Core State Standards, and the state benchmarks.*

The HSSCO is collaborating and working with the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) in planning a statewide event to address several critical topics in early childhood education and maintaining communication between pre-k and Kindergarten teachers. The HSSCO has been meeting on a quarterly basis with the Department of Education and the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education (DCCECE) to put in place an ongoing system of collaboration and communication for School Readiness (SR)/Transition between State-Funded Pre-K, Head Start, HIPPIY, and the Public School system. These groups will come together for the second time on October 9, 2013 to address transition, school readiness, and data systems. The SR Institute will feature a speaker from

the National Center for Quality Teaching and Learning (NCQTL), a parent's perspective, and a speaker to update participants on the State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS). The speaker will highlight a framework for planning, implementing, and evaluating pre-K to third grade approaches, as well as, other transitional methods. An ongoing communication system called the Early Childhood Forum was also created to support the ongoing work and to maintain an open line of communication with all early childhood programs. School Readiness Teams are responsible for meeting on a regular basis on the local level throughout the school year to address school readiness, transition, and data systems. ***Arkansas is preparing for its third SR Summit coming up in November, 2014. We have added another member (Child Care) to the local SR teams. The HSSCO is collaborating and working with the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) and the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education (DCCECE).***

The HSSCO director continues to work with the state SR team and local school readiness teams across the state. The collaboration office has set up a communications forum for local teams to access in order to continue their work on the local level and to continue an open line of communication with state and local teams. The forum will be used to keep all; local early childhood programs and early childhood professionals up-to-date on state issues and initiatives. The open forum will started in February, 2013. The beginning topics include: ARCECEAM, State Legislative Updates, AECC, Grade Level Reading Campaign (GLRC), and suggestions for local SR teams and has expanded to EHS/CC Partnership, Fatherhood Initiative, and much more. To access the forum, go to www.arheadstart.org, go to the News Menu item and then click Forum. Instructions are provided for your convenience.

The AECC also assigned a school readiness state team to revise the Kindergarten Readiness Indicators Checklist (KRIC). The team has been meeting on a regular basis to update and align the KRIC with the State's Common Core State Standards (CCSS). The team will have a draft revision for the AECC to review and approve in October, 2013.

The State department, division of childcare and the HSSCO worked together along with school districts and Head Start representatives to complete the KRIC and align with the CCSS. There were some questions and more content to add to this document, as well as a definition for school readiness in Arkansas. Therefore, the revised KRIC will go back to the AECC in April, 2014 for approval.

The state of AR is excited about this goal and will continue to move forward in maintaining collaboration, coordination, and alignment of transition services and all aspects of preparing children for the public schools.

{HSSCO Strategic Plan, Goal 2}

- **Professional Development**

Professional Development

- to collaborate with institutions of higher education to promote professional development through education and credentialing programs from early childhood providers in states

OHS Priority Goal 2: To enhance and support EHS/HS/MSHS program's ability to access quality professional development opportunities in order to maintain skilled and competent staff.

List Strategies:

1. *Share different ways that EHS/Head Start can access professional development quality training and resources.*
2. *To promote linkages with Child Care Resource and Referral Networks to promote Head Start programs*
3. *To promote local linkages between Head Start programs and the Traveling Arkansas' Professional Pathways (TAPP) for professional development.*
4. *To promote linkages between Higher Education for increased access to appropriate degree opportunities and to access online courses.*
5. *To link EHS/HS/MSHS programs to appropriate quality professional development trainings in the state that meets the needs of their program and program staff.*
6. *To facilitate the lead for connecting EHS/HS/MSHS programs to the National Centers for professional development: Quality Teaching & Learning, EHS National Resource Center, Program Management & Fiscal Operations, Health, and Parent, Family, & Community Engagement.*
7. *Collaborate with all state partners in accessing information on quality training among agencies/organizations and share with EHS/HS/MSHS programs. Including programs that serve children with disabilities services to dual-language learners, and to address cultural and linguistic responsiveness.*
8. *To collaborate with other state partners and facilitate ways to problem-solve and eliminate the difficulty for EHS/HS/MSHS programs to:*

Describe the outcome/results:

The DHS/DCCECE has hired a new professional development (PD) person for the state. Paige Cox works closely with all state agencies in collaborating and updating ways to enhance the professional development system in the state. The HSSCO attended the NAEYC Professional Development Forum with the Arkansas team. The team worked on a PD system for the state of Arkansas. The HSSCO serves on the states' professional development committee in working on ways to enhance and maintain free professional development training opportunities for child care providers and EHS and Head Start staff.

The HSSCO director provides ongoing state updates to EHS/Head Start programs through scheduled bi-monthly meetings, emails, conference calls, and random visits to programs. Directors are given information and resources on the national centers, upcoming training and technical assistance, and updated resources.

Representatives from the Arkansas Head Start-State Association (AHSA) and the HSSCO participated in the 2013 Region VI Head Start (5-state) Institute. The institute was held in Shreveport, Louisiana on August 5-8, 2013. Some of the professional development opportunities and activities that took place included:

1. Pre-Institute Sessions
2. General Sessions w/Guest Speakers
3. Institute Sessions w/presenters
4. Regional Office Update
5. Exhibitors, Networking, & State meetings

The HSSCO director participated in all aspects of the institute and presented the following sessions at the institute:

- CCSS: What does This Mean for Head Start
- State of the States Forum – All collaboration directors conducted a session together

The HSSCO participated in the following professional development trainings from March, 2013 until February, 2014:

1. NHSA Conference in Washington, D.C. – April, 2013
2. OHS B-5 Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. – April, 2013
3. HSSCO Directors Meeting in Washington, D.C. – April & July, 2013
4. Bi-Monthly AHSA Meetings in Little Rock – April, May, & July, 2013 with a variety of speakers each month
5. Safe Babies Court Team Conference in Little Rock – June, 2013
6. STAM in Washington, D.C. – July, 2013
7. BUILD in Washington, D.C. - July, 2013
8. Region VI Conference – August, 2013
- 9. HSSCO Meeting in D.C. in January, 2014**
- 10. BUILD Initiative in Chicago, Ill. – February, 2014**
- 11. National Fatherhood Clearinghouse – February, 2014**
- 12. AHSA Institute in Hot Springs, AR – March, 2014**

{HSSCO Strategic Plan, Goal 3}

- **Child Care and Early Childhood Systems/QRIS**

Child Care and Early Childhood Systems

- To coordinate activities with the State agency responsible for State CCDBG program and resource and referral, to make full-working-day and full calendar year services available to children. Include Head Start Program Performance Standards in State efforts to rate the quality of programs (Quality Rating and Improvement System, or QRIS) and support Head Start programs in participating in QRIS and partnering with child care and early childhood systems at the local level.

OHS Priority Goal 1: To enhance and maintain collaboration and coordination among EHS/HS/MSHS with child care in order to provide full-day, full-year comprehensive and quality services for children.

OHS Priority Goal 4: To enhance and support strong collaboration AND coordination among EHS/HS/MSHS, state-funded pre-K, and public schools in building early childhood systems and access to quality comprehensive services for all children.

List Strategies:

1. *To support collaborative efforts between child care and Head Start to provide full-day/full-year service delivery models, shared trainings, and other partnerships and activities.*
2. *To promote local linkages between Head Start programs and the Child Care Resource and Referral Network.*
3. *To promote expansion of quality services for infant and toddler care.*
4. *Partner with Higher Education programs to access resources related to child care and cross trainings.*
5. *To facilitate the involvement of EHS/HS/MSHS programs in outreach and public awareness activities at the state and local levels.*
6. *Establish an ongoing, supportive, and collaborative relationship with child care.*
7. *Create or purchase a software tracking system for all early childhood programs that supports the State Longitudinal Data System.*
8. *To maintain collaborative and ongoing relationships with national, regional, state, and local community service organizations.*
9. *To provide information and update reports to the EHS/HS/MSHS programs bi-monthly regarding the focus and activities of the State Advisory Committee (SAC).*
10. *To unify early childhood data systems (program assessment data) across the State of Arkansas.*

The HSSCO director serves on the Arkansas Better Beginnings (BB) Quality Rating Improvement System committee. Programs in the state of Arkansas are currently going through the three-level process. Arkansas has approximately 891 quality approved centers that provide quality services to over 62,000 children.

In addition to these numbers, we have many programs that are in the process of completing levels one, two, and three. Head Start has approximately 88% of its programs that have completed all three levels. The BB QRIS committee is currently working on adding levels four, five, and maybe six. This committee meets occasionally. Sub-committees have been formed to add more focus on specific content areas that need to be updated. Arkansas is also looking to switch over to a starred system for BB/QRIS.

Arkansas is restructuring its Better Beginnings/QRIS.

Arkansas is applying for the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge (RTTELC) grant in the amount of \$37.5 million. The state has identified its mission, the focus areas, and activities to include in the grant. The focus areas include:

1. Professional Development
2. Collaboration & Partnerships
3. Family Engagement
4. QRIS

This grant will assist Arkansas in providing support and improvements in our voucher/subsidy, improves our QRIS centered around our Early Learning Frameworks, whereby, we will create one set of standards for all early childhood programs in Arkansas, as well as, focus on other activities in the four areas mentioned above.

Arkansas was not awarded the 2013 RTT grant, but did score in the top ten, which means that AR submitted a fundable grant. AR plans to continue to move forward with the plans that were shared in the RTT grant.

The Early Childhood Assessment System (ECAS) is now in draft form. The ARCECEAM task force has completed their work in developing a statewide assessment system. This dynamic document will go before the AECC/SAC in October for approval. The ECAS has 12 indicators integrated throughout a four-part system (see model below) to support strong partnerships, an aligned system, integrated services, quality assurances, and highlight specific and lasting outcomes for all children.



The HSSCO director led the efforts for this dynamic process and has completed all work for this task force. The AECC approved the selection and concepts for Teaching Strategies Gold Assessment. All information and selections from the group has been submitted to the director for the division of child care and early childhood education.

The Arkansas Grantee Roundtable was held in May, 2013. The planning committee worked closely in identifying and bringing key stakeholders in Arkansas together. The HSSCO, AR Head Start Association, Dallas Regional Office, AR HIPPIY, and the Division of Child care worked very closely together in planning this event. Two speakers from the National Fatherhood Clearinghouse moved the group forward on their thought processes regarding fatherhood in the state. In January, 2014, Arkansas will form for the first time a statewide fatherhood initiative in order to support all early childhood programs on the local level and helping to, not just get more fathers involved in their child's education, but to also show the importance of fatherhood in a variety of ways.

The HSSCO director reached out to the National Fatherhood Clearing house and the Regional Office to assist with the start of a statewide fatherhood initiative in Arkansas. The teams came together to work with Arkansas and the AR team is moving forward in building an infra-structure to assist and engage fathers in their child's education and life. The state committee has conducted three meetings and has completed a statewide action plan.

{HSSCO Strategic Plan, Goal 1 and 4}

The Traveling Arkansas Professional Pathways (TAPP) Registry details ten levels of career development based on training, education, experience in the field and professional development activities. The TAPP spectrum plots a course for any individual developing a plan for professional growth in early childhood care and education. The HSSCO director is working closely with the DCC to update this system in order to better serve it clients. A TAPP representative will attend the directors Class meeting to share some of the updates so far in September. ***The professional development registry has been updated and renamed as the Early Childhood Professional Development Registry.***

{HSSCO Strategic Plan, Goal 1 and 4}

- **Support of Regional Office Priorities**

Regional Office Priority Goal 5: To support Regional Office priorities, projects, and initiatives by maintaining an open line of effective communication and ongoing Human Development relationships and activities.

List Strategies:

- *To participate in monthly conference calls.*
- *To complete accurate monthly, mid-year, and annual reports of state activities.*
- *To participate and support RO activities and initiatives when asked.*
- *To collaborate with the Regional Office in planning the Region VI Institute.*
- *To work with the Regional Office in completing the HSSCO's Strategic Plan.*

- *To work cooperatively and consistently with the RO in supporting EHS/HS programs, while maintaining connections with the TTA systems and the National Centers.*

Describe the outcome/results:

The AR HSSCO has worked closely with the Dallas Regional Office liaison on an ongoing basis. The activities for the past year (March 1, 2013 through February 28, 2014) include face-to-face productive meetings with the program specialists, TTA teams, and the regional manager to plan and address better ways to work together. The regional office was very supportive in planning for the five-state conference and worked with the collaboration director via conference calls, emails, and onsite conference work. The regional office maintains accurate updates and provides grantee reports and needed information to support the work of the collaboration director through monthly conference calls and participation at Region VI Association Board meetings. Other communications include ongoing emails and phone calls.

The HSSCO director also worked closely with the National Centers in planning for the AR State conference and the School Readiness Summit.

The HSSCO director participated in monthly conference calls with the Office of Head Start and the Dallas Regional Office. The purpose for these calls is to provide updates on each state’s activities, planning updates, and to maintain effective communication between the Regional Office, each state (AR, TX, OK, NM, & LA) collaboration office, and on a national level. Other communications include ongoing emails and phone calls.

{HSSCO Strategic Plan, Goal 5}

Briefly discuss the following aspects of your work:

Your activities as a member of the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care

The Arkansas Early Childhood Commission (AECC) convenes on a quarterly basis (January, April, July, and October). The commission is charged with supporting and advising the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education by ensuring that all Arkansas children and their families have access to a safe high-quality, developmentally appropriate, nurturing, learning environment and by educating and assisting parents, providers, and communities to prepare children for future success. The work continues for strengthening and expanding partnerships with other agencies and organizations for connected action, as the commission focus on a diverse set of topics and activities. The AECC met in April, July, October in 2013, and January, 2014 for this annual report. The focus of these meetings included:

- Updating AECC’s Policies and Procedures
- Developing a new Mission

- Goals & Measurable for DCC
- School Readiness in Arkansas
- ASSET Mapping Project
- Early Childhood Assessment System
- Race to the Top Grant
- Selecting the Outstanding Early Child Care Professionals in AR
- Statewide Fatherhood Initiative

The HSSCO director serves as chair for the AECC.

The UALR College of Business team is working on an asset mapping system to include all DHS resources. The goal is to have a website that is efficient for the general public. They are looking for a name for the mapping project. The goals are to create an online mapping system, online resource guide and a place for to house the “Getting Ready for School” publications. It was noted that this is still a work in progress. Tonya Russell shared that DCCECE would have brochures from UALR, social media to let folks know about the new initiative. They will use the Better Beginnings website and word of mouth to get the information out to the public. UALR will also be sharing at meetings and events that they are scheduled to attend. The ARRA funds made this state activity possible for Arkansas.

The work you have completed to date on the required annual needs assessment update of the needs of Head Start grantees in the State with respect to coordination, collaboration, and alignment of services and alignment of curricula and assessments

The required annual needs assessment has been analyzed and those needs have been written as goals for the HSSCO’s 2012 - 2017 Five-Year Strategic Plan. The Arkansas Head Start-State Collaboration Office updates the strategic plan quarterly to identify the work that is being done and the completed goals. The AHSA’s Board reviews the plan annually for updates and changes (if any). The revised strategic plan is posted on the Head Start Enterprise System, ECLKC, and the AHSA’s website. The HSSCO will be preparing procedures for the next 5-year grant within the next year, whereby another needs assessment will be completed (2015).

The HSSCO has incorporated some of the strategic plan goals in the annual and mid-year report to show the connections from the strategic plan in relation to the work that is being done in the HSSCO.(see this report).

Arkansas has begun preparation for the 2014 Needs Assessment Survey. The HSSCO director has added military families to the needs assessment document. All EHS/Head Start programs will complete the revised needs assessment and submit to the HSSCO for analysis in preparation for the five year grant funding.

How you have involved the State Head Start Association and other partners in the ongoing work of the State Collaboration Office throughout the grant year

The HSSCO director serves on so many committees in the state to see how to coordinate services to Head Start/EHS programs with other state partners. Other partners include such agencies and organizations as: Arkansas advocates, Invest Early, Medical Homes, AR Health Department, Parenting in Arkansas, UALR, Oral Health Coalition, Dept. of Higher Education, and many more. The HSSCO puts forth every effort to share information with the AHSA in a variety of ways.

The Arkansas Head Start Association reviews, approves, and/or disapproves budgets, the Collaboration Grant, and all other board items prior to submission. The Collaboration Director provides state reports to the Arkansas Head Start Directors Class and Arkansas Head Start Association Board of Directors at their bi-monthly meetings. The Collaboration Director and Administrative Services Manager disseminate information via emails on upcoming initiatives and trainings frequently. The Arkansas Head Start-State Collaboration Office solicits input from the Arkansas Head Start Association about representation from Head Start and Early Head Start on state-level committees. The Collaboration Director meets via conference call with the Arkansas Head Start Association President on a regular basis

The AHSA's Board meets bi-monthly, whereby the HSSCO director provide national, regional, and state updates and information to all Head Start directors. During this time, the director plans for a state Institute planning meeting, Class (Directors, Staff, Friends, & Parents), meetings, and the AHSA's Board meeting. The AHSA's Board monitors and approves all financial changes and updates. In August, the HSSCO recommended to the 'AHSAs board to amend its policies and procedures to include a parent representative on the board. The parent representative will serve on the board as others, but would also advocate for other parents to attend so that we could get their perspective and input regarding state issues.

The AHSA supports state efforts and initiatives by identifying representatives on the following commissions, task forces, and committees:

- ECAS
- AECC
- School Readiness Task Force
- The Region VI Board

Plus, Head Start programs lead the way for coordinating and developing the school readiness local teams across the state of Arkansas. These teams work together in working on transition, school readiness goals, and data systems.

- The HSSCO director visits all EHS/Head Start programs that have been placed on the list for Designation Renewal.
- New Head Start/EHS Directors - The HSSCO director also provided support and outreach to new EHS/Head Start directors by visiting their sites to share information

and to offer support for their new position. A welcome packet is given to each new director that provides information about the AHSA, the HSSCO, and a list of all EHS/Head Start programs in the state and their contact information. Currently we have four new EHS/Head Start directors in the state. All visits and information sharing was completed by the end of June, 2012.

AHSA's Audit Report

The financial records for the AHSA/HSSCO was audited by the Shoptaw, LaBahn, & Company, P.A. as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, and the related statements of activities and statements of cash flow for the years then ended. The report showed that the AHSA/HSSCO is in conformity with accounting principles accepted in the United States/. The company provided an audit report in accordance with Government Auditing standards, which highlights consideration of the AHSA's internal controls over financial reporting and compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants.

AHSA Class/Board Bi-Monthly Meeting

The AHSA had its bi-monthly meeting (March, May, July, September, November, and January), whereby, EHS/Head Start grantees attended the Class and Board meeting. The HSSCO and the AHSA is working to involve more parents in these meetings. We have guest speakers to come in occasionally to share information during each meeting for directors, staff, and parents.

Governor's EHS Appointment to Commission

In updated the membership for the Arkansas Early Childhood Commission, The HSSCO director sent out a survey to identify interest for representation on the commission. After receiving feedback from directors, the HSSCO director recommended Rhonda Ahrent for consideration as a commissioner. The Governor appointed Rhonda Ahrrrent as the EHS representative to the commission. Rhonda is the Director for the BRAD Head Start/EHS program in Pocahontas, Arkansas. The AHSA now has three members from the association who have been appointed by the Governor to the commission (Head Start, Migrant Head Start, and EHS). EHS and Head Start is well represented!

Arkansas Head Start Association Institute

The Arkansas Head Start Association and the State Collaboration Office did not host a state conference in 2013 due to the Sequestration cuts. Plans are being made for the 2014 AHSA Institute.

AHSA's Web-site

The HSSCO has worked hard with her administrative manager to enhance the association's web-site. The HSSCO director works closely with the AHSA in updating activities, events, and resources on the association's web-site. The web-site is updated every quarter with new information, new ideas, pictures, videos, newsletters, job announcements, and new activities for EHS/Head Start programs to access.

As director for the HSSCO and working closely with the AHSA, it was very important for the web-site to be user friendly and easily assessable. Therefore, the HSSCO has included a

communications update for folks who may be in a hurry and just want to listen. On the other hand, we also have a written update on the forum for folks who have time to view all the different areas, while also making it assessable to other partners in the state.

Some of the other enhanced changes on the web-site include: Video Messaging, Pictures, & Updates, Archival Data, Conference Videos, Arkansas Statewide Forum, Content Areas, Quarterly Updates, and focus on the Child with digital information and content.

Region VI Head Start Association

The HSSCO director is working closely with the Region VI Head Start Association. The director provided strategic planning for all board members in helping the organization to re-structure and to return to its original By-Laws and policies and procedures. The association now has an active strategic plan that will move the organization forward.

A description of the work you have completed on developing or revising the five-year strategic plan

The strategic plan and goals are visited during the AHSA Board meetings and updated as needed. Plans are in motion to complete the needs assessment for the upcoming five-year grant. However, the HSSCO director has embedded the goals from the strategic plan into the mid-year and annual reports.

Goal(s) Reported:

OHS Priority Goal 1: To enhance and maintain collaboration and coordination among EHS/HS/MSHS with child care in order to provide full-day, full-year comprehensive and quality services for children.

OHS Priority Goal 2: To enhance and maintain collaboration, coordination, and alignment of transition services and curriculum by Head Start programs with state-funded pre-Kindergarten programs and the public schools.

OHS Priority Goal 3: To enhance and support EHS/HS/MSHS program’s ability to access quality professional development opportunities in order to maintain skilled and competent staff.

OHS Priority Goal 4: To enhance and support strong collaboration and coordination with EHS/HS/MSHS programs in building early childhood systems and access to comprehensive community services for children.

Regional Office Priority Goal 5: To support Regional Office priorities, projects, and initiatives by maintaining an open line of effective communication and ongoing Human Development relationships and activities.

Goal 6: To enhance and maintain collaboration and coordination among EHS/HS/MSHS and local providers for access to comprehensive health services.

Goal 7: To enhance and maintain collaboration and coordination with EHS/HS/MSHS programs in accessing and identifying needed services for children experiencing homelessness.

Strategies: *Strategies for each goal is listed in the strategic plan, however, the HSSCO is working closely with the AHSA to ensure that these goals and strategies are being done in order to address the needs of Head Start grantees with respect to coordination, collaboration, and alignment of services. An update is listed in the table below to show the goals that have been completed, ongoing, and specific timelines for completion.*

Goal #s	Timeline	Status	Ongoing
<i>Priority Goals 1-4</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>Still Working On</i>	
<i>Priority Goals 5</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>Complete</i>	<i>/</i>
<i>Goal 6</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>Still Working On</i>	
<i>Goal 7</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>Complete</i>	<i>/</i>
<i>Goal 8-10</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>Still Working On</i>	
<i>Goal 11-12</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>Still Working On</i>	

Outcomes/Results:

The Arkansas Head Start-State Collaboration Office updates the strategic plan quarterly to indentify the work that is being done and the completed goals. Even though some of the goals are completed, they are still ongoing. Ongoing means that a system (communication, coordination, alignments) is in place that is working for Head Start grantees, partners and/or other stakeholders, whereby, they are benefitting and receiving what they need in order to move forward in their programs. The AHSA’s Board reviews the plan annually for updates and changes (if any). The revised strategic plan is also posted on the Head Start Enterprise System and the ECLKC.

The Arkansas Home Visiting Network (HVN) was formed to build support and collaboration among all home visiting programs in Arkansas. The Arkansas Department of Health received a grant to expand the home visiting programs in Arkansas. The funds went to support the first five programs listed below, however, existing home visiting programs such as EHS and Save the Children are still a part of the network. The network consists of the following programs:

- *Nurse Family Partnership*
- *HIPPY*
- *Parents As Teachers (PAT)*
- *Following Babies Back Home*
- *Healthy Families America*
- *EHS*
- *Save the Children*

The HSSCO director has been in communication with the State Department of Education to complete a MOU with for Part B services for pre-school children with disabilities on the state level. The department is short-handed at this time, but do plan to complete the agreement on the state level. The HSSCO will meet with a representative from DCFS in September to start the work in

developing a state memorandum of Understanding/agreement to support the work with Head Start (foster care) and the local DCFS office.

Your efforts to support the coordination of Head Start services to American Indian/Alaska Native and Migrant and Seasonal Head Start programs

There are two migrant and Seasonal programs in the state of Arkansas and Louisiana that are also regular Head Start program providers. In coordinating services for these programs, the Arkansas Head Start-State Collaboration Office maintains a section of its web-site that specifically indicates where these programs are located and the services that they provide. The CAPCA Head Start program is the lead grantee for migrant services in AR and LA. MCAEOC is the delegate, whereby, programs are located in AR and MO.

The HSSCO also collaborates with Welcome the Children in planning statewide training and workshops that addresses the needs of working with Migrant and seasonal children and families to ensure that the program needs are being met. The HSSCO also donates a collaborative partnership grant to Welcome the Children in the amount of \$200 to support their quality training efforts in training Head Start programs on such topics as: Cross Cultural Perspectives, Anti-Bias Curriculum, Enhancing Language Development, Exploring Differences within Families, and much more.

We currently have no American Indian/Alaska Native programs in Arkansas.

Describe additional activities and successes in the past six months.

- In the past 6 months, The Arkansas Comprehensive Early Childhood Education/Assessment Model is in its final stages for completion. The 12 indicators' model will be used in the RTT. The SAC approved a proposal by the HSSCO director to create an early childhood system and assessment for all early childhood programs in the state. The task force has met each month over the past year to outline this model. Through these meetings and processes, the team has developed a dynamic system that will call for some a lot of changes in the state, as well as, some huge outcomes for Arkansas' children and families as we look at quality education for all children. The assessment for all early childhood programs will create consistent data to show exactly where our children are academically. This will also support our longitudinal Data system for all programs across the state.
- The HSSCO director is working closely with the Grade-Level Reading Campaign launched by the Winthrop-Rockefeller Foundation. The campaign goal is to reduce by half the number of children who are not reading proficiently by the end of third grade. The issue originated from student

results on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), whereby, 70% of Arkansas's children scored below proficient and AR ranked 35th in the nation on the test. Also, 24% of Arkansas' third graders scored below proficient on the 2011 Benchmark exam. Arkansas plans to foster a culture that understands the importance of reading, build capacity at the top level to make policy changes and implement programs as needed, expand the knowledge base about what works to increase reading levels, and to develop and advocate for policy solutions that will increase reading proficiency levels among elementary school children. The HSSCO is working closely with Head Start programs by:

1. Releasing a video that showcase the importance of grade level reading,
2. Conducting a statewide activity for Head Start programs across the state with a reading focus, and
3. Conducting a statewide "Read-A-Thon with all Head Start programs.

The HSSCO director has lead the efforts for the GLRC in working with EHS/Head Start programs by creating initiatives that would lead to a positive outcome for the campaign. The GLRC outcome is that *"By 2020, all children in AR will read on grade level by the end of the third grade."*

- The Arkansas Head Start-State Collaboration Office and the Oral Health Coalition continue to work together to provide oral health standards and support to EHS/Head Start programs in Arkansas. The HSSCO director provided information on additional grant funding for dental hygienists in order to support the continued work with Head Start programs. This information was provided to the Collaboration director from the dental hygienist liaison, Karen Donaldson. This came at a great time since the Oral Health Coalition had lost its funding, as a result, Dr. Whitaker is no longer working with the oral health coalition. The HSSCO director also provided assistance to the coalition by sharing measurable goals from the last Oral Health Summit with the director of the coalition. ***The HSSCO director is working closely with the Oral Health Coalition in planning the Governor's Oral Health Summit, which is scheduled for June, 2014.***
- The Arkansas Court Team for Maltreated Infants and Toddlers meet each month to:
 1. Defining a continuum of services and how to best access early intervention services. These services will be incorporated into the case plan.
 2. The committee has established Tuesdays as the time for the post removal conferences for any new potential court team case.
 3. We established a new committee called the "Kinship Placement". This committee is working to access what types of services are needed for relatives with permanent custody. The committee is drafting a questionnaire to ascertain what services are currently in place and which are lacking.

4. The parent partners are working on possible grant opportunities for parent partners. They have developed new forms to use with families. These forms are being reviewed at DHS before being forwarded to OCC for legal vetting.
- The Social Emotional Workgroup has been working diligently to complete a state social emotional strategic plan to submit to the DHS/DCC to review for the continued work that still needs to be done, especially since DCC no longer has the grant funding to support this effort. The workgroup has been meeting on a regular basis to complete this plan. The plan has been submitted to DCC as the workgroup waits for feedback and to identify what the next steps will be.
 - The Arkansas Mission of Mercy (ARMOM) was held in Arkadelphia, Arkansas on May 31 through June 1, 2013. It was a huge success with dentists from all across the state providing free dental services to children and families for two days at Henderson state University. The HSSCO director worked with the group during the two days in assisting with registration, cleaning utensils, prepping parents and children, and much more! ARMOM will be held in Northwest Arkansas next year. ***The 2014 MOM is scheduled for May in Springdale Arkansas.***
 - The HSSCO director has been asked to serve on three additional boards, advisory councils, and/or task force:
 1. Welcome the Children (WTC) Advisory Board
 2. Southeast Educational Development Laboratory (SEDL) The SEDL Board met for the first time on July 25-26, 2013 in Texas.
 3. Head Start Performance Standards (HSPS) work group – This group is working with the Office of Head Start and the NHSA to revise the HSPS. At this time we are only making revisions in the following areas:
 - a. **1305 ERSEA**
 - b. **1304 Operation of Head Start Programs**
 - (1) Early Childhood Development & Health Services
 - (2) Family and Community Partnerships
 - (3) Program Design & Management
 - c. **1306 Head Start Program Staffing Requirements**
 - (1) Program Staffing Patterns
 - (2) Staff Qualification Requirements
 - (3) Program Options
 - ***As a result of our Grantee Roundtable that was held in 2013, Arkansas has launched a statewide fatherhood and family initiative to engage fathers in their child's early childhood education and to provide statewide activities and resources for local programs. The team is***

strong, motivated, and moving forward to provide the best mechanisms and to carry out the established action plan.

- ***The HSSCO director launched a statewide Read-A-Thon with Head Start/EHS programs to support the Arkansas' Grade Level Reading Campaign (GLRC), which states, by 2020, all children in Arkansas will read on grade level by the end of the third grade. During this three two month period, over 4,000 books were read to EHS/Head Start children statewide. Also in support of the GLRC, the HSSCO director is working closely with all Books-A-Million bookstores in Arkansas to conduct a book drive for Head Start/EHS children in Arkansas so they will have books in their home to read over the summer.***
- ***Arkansas has applied for a grant with the Kellogg Foundation to create a statewide parent advisory group, pilot the existing Kindergarten Entry Assessment, and to improve and update the existing early learning standards. We are waiting to hear back from the foundation, but expect to start the grant in June. The grant is for one million dollars and will be funded through the HSSCO.***
- ***The HSSCO, Winthrop Rockefeller, Division for Child Care, and the Invest Early Coalition are working together to support local programs in applying for the EHS/Child Care Partnership grants. The FOA has not been released, but the state has set up meetings to share information and to give participants a chance to meet, build relationships, and to decide what, if any resources they would need from the state. These meetings have been very successful! Plus, if the commitments remain the same, Arkansas will be well represented across the state for agencies applying for the grant.***
- ***The HSSCO director is very much involved in state decisions and is definitely a team player in working with a variety of agencies and state partners in Arkansas. EHS/Head Start programs have been included in the work of several state agencies who have received grant funding (Home Visiting, Medicaid, Oral Health, etc.) to do specific work in early childhood education.***

*HSSCO – J. Dedman
Annual Report*

*Report Sent to:
ACF
DHS/DCC
AHSA*

Posted to: ECLKC & the HSES