

HSSCO QUARTERLY REPORT

Activities for December 2007 – February 2008

Arkansas

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A. Briefly describe your accomplishments in the following areas. Where possible, indicate the goals from your work plan and the desired and actual outcomes.

- 1. *Help build early childhood systems and access to comprehensive services for all low-income children.***

Include a description of how you are supporting Head Start-child care-pre-kindergarten collaborations at the local level and Head Start- pre-kindergarten collaborations at the state and local levels.

Continuing work in collaboration with Division of Child Care & Early Childhood Education and Invest Early in Education (a coalition of early childhood professionals, parents and other individuals who led the campaign to make high quality preschool an important part of education reform in Arkansas). Working toward implementation of potential solutions identified through community forums held in 2007 to enhance collaborative efforts between Head Start and state-funded pre-k programs.

Ongoing communication with Governor's staff to ensure that Head Start continues as an important component of the comprehensive system of early education options within our state. Participated in National Governor's Association conference call held on December 17th focusing on State Early Childhood Advisory Councils.

Invited guest to Arkansas Advocates for Children & Families annual luncheon on December 6th honoring pre-k partners and giving special recognition to Governor Mike Beebe for his dedication and support of quality early childhood education in Arkansas.

Assisted Division of Child Care & Early Childhood Education in interview process for selection of Arkansas Better Chance program director.

Participation in pre-k discussions with Arkansas Advocates for Children & Families, Division of Child Care & Early Childhood Education, and Invest Early Coalition to propose enhanced collaboration for early childhood efforts during the 2009 state legislative session.

Panel presentation at Arkansas Association of Education Administrators Superintendent Symposium held on January 9th to discuss pre-school opportunities available throughout Arkansas, including Head Start, HIPPY, Arkansas Better Chance for School Success and public schools.

Met to discuss proposed effort in collaborative development of parent handbook for Arkansas Better Chance for School Success; presented to Head Start Association with representatives assigned to assist in this collaborative effort.

2. Encourage widespread collaboration between Head Start and other appropriate programs. Describe your accomplishments and outcomes in the eight priority areas.

- **Health Care**

Continued leadership role in collaborative effort with Division of Child Care & Early Childhood Education and Division of Behavioral Health Services in the Arkansas Early Childhood Mental Health Initiative. Participation in pilot sites meeting held on December 4th and routine conference calls.

Attended monthly CASSP Coordinating Council meetings on December 7th and January 4th and Arkansas Children's Behavioral Health Care Commission meeting on January 3rd.

Participation in monthly meetings of Arkansas Oral Health Coalition, as well as ASTDD and HSSCO conference call on February 12th. Attended Governor's Oral Health Summit held on February 15th which focused on Methamphetamine: Clinical, Legal and Policy Issues.

Participated in Delta Dental Symposium on Dental Care for the Indigent on December 3rd and Oral Health webinar on January 18th sponsored by NHSA and Delta Dental Plans Association. Meeting held with Delta Dental Plan of Arkansas in examining opportunities for partnership activities between Delta Dental and local Head Start, Early Head Start, and Migrant & Seasonal Head Start programs in Arkansas.

Serving on Advisory Committee for Evaluation looking at programs in Arkansas that are addressing childhood obesity. Assisted in development of online survey tool to gather information on types of groups and what they are doing to address the issue of childhood obesity. Shared information on "I Am Moving I Am Learning" being implemented in Arkansas Head Start programs.

Participated in Children's Health Summit held on January 24th. Attended Governor's Round Table on Health Care held at Arkansas Children's Hospital on February 7th. Attended Better Health Care Together Forum at Clinton Library on January 11th. Attended Arkansas Center for Health Improvement reception at Governor's Mansion on December 13th; Governor Beebe was present for the event.

- **Welfare**

Participation in Arkansas Coalition for Economic Security (ACES) activities, to promote economic security of all Arkansans through public education, advocacy and collaboration.

Meetings with Arkansas Voices for the Children Left Behind regarding co-sponsorship of Fourth Annual Southern Summit for Children of the Incarcerated and Their Families scheduled for April 7th-8th. This conference is being held in cooperation with The National Advocacy Partnership for the Bill of Rights for Children & Families Impacted by Incarceration.

- **Childcare**

Continuing work with Arkansas Children's Week planning committee meeting in preparation for 2008 Arkansas Children's Week activities to be held in April 2008. Head Start State Collaboration Office and Arkansas Head Start Association, in cooperation with the Region 6 TA Network will host workshop on "Teaching & Enhancing Learning through Music & Movement" with Al Stewart, Language & Literacy Specialist, on April 16th & 17th.

Attended Governor's Task Force on Best Practices for After School and Summer Programs initial meeting on January 22nd at the State Capitol. Governor Beebe spoke of his goal of building on the success of early childhood education in Arkansas and supporting quality care for children after school and during the summer. Participation in Arkansas Out-of-School Network meetings.

Attended Arkansas Early Childhood Commission meeting on January 15th.

- **Education**

Working with Arkansas legislative representatives, Department of Education, Division of Child Care & Early Childhood Education, and the early childhood community in proposing a “Birth to Five” licensure for Arkansas. This effort is in response to an Interim Study of the State Legislature.

Working in partnership with Southern Good Faith Fund in distribution of materials and information about the Aspiring Scholars Matching Grant Program as an outreach effort to Arkansas Head Start programs. The Aspiring Scholars program will offer matching funds for eligible families with children who save money for college in the State’s GIFT College Investing Plan. Attended Southern Good Faith Fund reception at Governor’s Mansion on February 7th.

- **Community Services**

Asked to serve on Governing Board of Arkansas Supportive Housing Network. Attended first meeting on January 15th and board training on February 29th.

Participated in Arkansas Crisis Response training on December 14th held at the new Arkansas Department of Emergency Management located at Camp Robinson in North Little Rock. On February 7th, tornadoes ravaged Arkansas and Arkansas Crisis Response teams throughout the state went on stand-by. Members worked in the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management’s Emergency Operations Center, schools, churches, businesses and disaster recovery centers. Responders worked with caregivers, clergy and disaster non-profits.

Preparing for second annual Arkansas Mission of Mercy (ArMOM) free dental clinic to be held on May 2nd – 3rd. HSSCO assisting with co-sponsorship of activities in the pediatric dental area during ArMOM.

- **Family Literacy Services**

Continuing work with Department of Education and Division of Child Care & Early Childhood Education in developing materials showcasing quality early childhood opportunities in Arkansas for use with Reach Out & Read, a project of the Arkansas chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

- **Services to Children with Disabilities**

Continued work with partners in ECHO (Early Childhood Hearing Outreach) project, through Arkansas Children’s Hospital, in coordination with the National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management, Utah State University. Webinar held on January 22nd which included Arkansas Early Head Start and Migrant & Seasonal Head Start programs, as well as other participants throughout the nation who are involved in ECHO.

- **Services to Homeless Children and Families**

Serving on Arkansas Homeless Coalition and Arkansas Homeless Policy Academy. Attend monthly meetings of Homeless Coalition and quarterly meetings of Homeless Policy Academy. Member of Action Task Force and Legislative Committee for Arkansas Homeless Coalition.

Participated in Holiday Caravan of volunteers on December 15th and distributed toys, blankets, clothes and food to the homeless in Little Rock and North Little Rock. This was a cooperative effort among the Arkansas Homeless Coalition, Arkansas Supportive Housing Network, and Alltel.

Attended news conference on January 30th at Little Rock City Hall to raise public awareness about the plight of the homeless in the central Arkansas area. Two community centers were open during extremely cold weather so the homeless would have a warm place to stay during the day.

Participated in Interfaith Hospitality Network sponsored walk on February 17th to increase public awareness and educate the community about children and families who are homeless.

3. Facilitate Head Start's involvement in the development of state policies, plans, processes and decisions.

Continued involvement with Arkansas System of Care Services and Supports workgroup, focusing on children's mental health reform.

Participated in several Kids Count Steering Committee meetings.

Routine meetings with ABCD (Assuring Better Child Health Development) Stakeholders Group, a multi-state learning project focusing on preventive care of children whose health care is covered by Medicaid. This project supports efforts to improve early identification of young children with developmental problems.

Attended and participated as a member of legislative Task Force on Substance Abuse Prevention; serving on subcommittee to identify community prevention providers and organizations throughout the state.

Participation on Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems state team; preparing for partnership meeting to be held in Baltimore, Maryland in March 13th-14th.

B. Briefly discuss the following aspects of your work:

1. Describe how you have supported and collaborated with the Regional Office on national and regional priorities (e.g. Fatherhood, Faith-Based and Community, Healthy Marriage, Youth and Rural Initiatives and TA Network, professional development, Community Action Agencies, State Head Start Association, and other activities.

Participated in Region 6 Head Start State Collaboration Directors conference calls with Regional Office.

Participated in conference call on January 15th in finalizing plans for the national meeting of Head Start State Collaboration directors to be held in Washington D.C. Attended national HSSCO directors meeting on February 19th-20th.

Participated in meetings with Arkansas Head Start Association Board of Directors, Head Start directors, and AHSA Annual Institute Planning Committee on January 16th and 17th. In cooperation with AHSA, assisted with Parent Leadership Development on January 16th where more than forty parents, Head Start staff and other early childhood education staff participated in the training.

Participated various conference calls with the Office of Head Start in the following areas: promotion of early childhood partnerships at the federal level; roles and responsibilities of the HSSCO as identified in the new Head Start Act; and the role of the HSSCO in the Head Start grantee replacement process.

Initiated conference call and dialogue with Texas Head Start State Collaboration Office and TA Liaisons for Texas and Arkansas to discuss potential replication of the Texas Save Our Smiles project.

Worked in cooperation with the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, Arkansas Head Start Association, TA Network Liaison, and Division of Child Care & Early Childhood Education in sponsoring Asthma Basics for Children Train the Trainer Workshop for Head Start programs in Arkansas, as well as representatives from the Arkansas Better Chance for School Success programs. Local efforts were discussed for sharing this information with parents, other staff and the community on how to appropriately manage children with asthma who are receiving care & early education in Head Start and state pre-k funded centers around the state.

Routine meetings with Jan Cox, liaison from Booz-Allen-Hamilton, contractor for Region 6 ACF Head Start, to Arkansas Head Start State Collaboration Office. Also participated in mental health cluster conference call with Region 6 TA Network on January 25th.

2. Describe additional activities and successes in the past quarter.

The Arkansas Head Start State Collaboration Office and the Arkansas Commission of Child Abuse, Rape & Domestic Violence are working together to co-sponsor additional forums on “Endangered Children in Arkansas” which are scheduled for March and April around the state. The forums will include topics on indicators of child abuse, children’s cognitive and social/emotional development, working with children of incarcerated parents, child maltreatment and mandated reporting, and drug endangered children.

Participated with Division of Child Care & Early Childhood Education, in coordination with Governor’s Office and NCSL sponsored visit with Hawaii legislators on January 9th-10th, to discuss the Arkansas Better Chance for School Success state-funded pre-k program, legislation, and collaborative efforts. Met with Head Start Fellow and former Hawaii HSSCO director in conjunction with visit to discuss specific activities of collaboration between ABCSS and Head Start programs in Arkansas.

Assisted and participated in research for and writing of System of Care Early Childhood grant proposal which was submitted to SAMHSA in January.

Met with independent evaluator in discussing year-end evaluation of HSSCO and survey dissemination.

Attended HIPPY Advisory Council meeting held on February 5th and HIPPY Conference Awards Luncheon on February 27th.

C. Briefly describe your efforts to support the coordination of Head Start services to Hispanic children and families in your State.

Serving on Welcome the Children Advisory Committee and conference planning committee; the primary goal of this project is to provide training and technical assistance for early childhood providers, including Head Start, and other educators in understanding cultural issues, learning strategies to support Latino children, and making appropriate referrals of children who exhibit possible developmental delays. Plans are being finalized for the annual Welcome the Children conference scheduled for April 30th – May 2nd. Training was also provided through Welcome the Children on Cultural Diversity & Second Language Development and Working with Families from Latin American countries on February 21st-22nd.

D. How do your responses to the questions above impact your approved work plan for the current or coming year?

The Arkansas Head Start State Collaboration Office is pleased with progress made during the fourth quarter of our grant period. Similar to activities throughout the year, we continue to spend an extensive amount of time in promoting and enhancing state and local collaborative efforts between Head Start and Arkansas Better Chance for School Success, the state-funded pre-k program for 3 and 4 year old children from families at 200% or below of the Federal poverty level. The HSSCO works in cooperation with the Arkansas Head Start Association in identifying opportunities for enhancing collaborative efforts between pre-k and Head Start.