

**QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT
COVER SHEET**

1. Grant Number: 06CD0013/01
2. Grantee Name and Address: Arkansas Department of Human Services
Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education
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4. Project Title: Arkansas Head Start State Collaboration Office
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7. Period Covered by Report: (Check one)

First Quarter
Second Quarter
Third Quarter X
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12. Name of Federal Project Officer: Carmen Bovell-Chester
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13. Date Reviewed by Federal Project Officer:
14. Comments, (if any):

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT
September 1, 2006 – November 30, 2006
ARKANSAS HEAD START STATE COLLABORATION OFFICE

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1. Major activities and accomplishments during this period:

Education/Literacy

- Attended State Board of Education meeting on September 11th to discuss proposed changes in teacher qualifications in the Arkansas Better Chance for School Success program (state-funded pre-k). State regulations now allow for ABCSS teachers in classrooms other than public school settings to hold a Bachelors degree in early childhood education, child development or equivalent.
- Attended satellite conference downlink on pre-kindergarten services, sponsored by Pre-K Now on September 20th.
- Attended Education Cluster training on September 26th for Head Start programs in Arkansas.
- Participated in Office of Head Start conference call with other Head Start State Collaboration Office directors regarding state Pre-K and Head Start issues and concerns on November 1st and November 27th.
- Attended press conference on November 21st for Pre-K Now report “Economic Analysis of Pre-K in Arkansas” which stated that Arkansas would note a \$2.32 yield for every state \$1.00 invested in quality early childhood education.
- Participate in Invest Early steering committee meeting on November 28th to discuss upcoming legislative agenda on early childhood education.

Health

- Continued leadership role in collaborative effort with Division of Child Care & Early Childhood Education and Division of Behavioral Health Services on Arkansas Early Childhood Mental Health Initiative. Meeting held on September 25th with pilot sites, including ABCSS, Head Start, and other child care partners. Report made to Arkansas System of Care Stakeholders Planning Committee to discuss preliminary findings of Early Childhood Mental Health Initiative.

- Participation in monthly Arkansas Oral Health Coalition meetings.
- Participating in national workgroup with five other Head Start State Collaboration Offices and state dental director network to develop on-going communications process and mechanism to share information, initiatives and resources that will unite Head Start and state dental offices in an effort to increase services for children age five and under. Conference call held on September 19th.
- Participation in monthly CASSP Coordinating Council meetings.
- Participation in Arkansas Center for Health Improvement Health Insurance Roundtable meetings held on September 21st-22nd.
- Met with Community Mental Health Center director regarding exploring possibility of writing for grant to provide comprehensive mental health services for Head Start children and families.
- Continued service on the Arkansas System of Care Stakeholders Planning Committee, a group of twenty-four voting stakeholders representing families, consumers and advocates, community collaborators, providers of services and state agencies who will advise and assist the Department of Health and Human Services in the development of an effective “system of care” for behavioral health services to children and families in Arkansas. The Arkansas Head Start State Collaboration Office continues to host the Governing and Finance subcommittee meetings.
- Participated in meeting on September 8th to discuss new Medicaid regulations requiring proof of citizenship to obtain services.
- Met with Arkansas Commission on Child Abuse, Rape & Domestic Violence director and staff to discuss collaborative efforts and training opportunities for Head Start programs in relation to domestic violence issues. Preparation for another Forum on Endangered Children tentatively scheduled for February, which will focus on domestic violence and drug related concerns for children and families, particularly in the area of methamphetamine use.
- Attended “Medical Mile” appreciation dinner, as chair of the Arkansas Oral Health Coalition, in celebration of the completion of a portion of the River Walk trail, which the Arkansas Oral Health Coalition, as well as the Arkansas Head Start State Collaboration Office and other members of the Coalition, were contributing partners.

Disabilities

- Serving on “Welcome the Children” Advisory Committee. Plans being made for 2007 conference.
- Working collaboratively with partners in expanding to Arkansas the ECHO (Early Childhood Hearing Outreach) project, through the National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management, Utah State University. Participated in state team training held October 9th-10th. Training for pilot sites held during month of October, with hearing screenings beginning immediately for children birth to three years of age. Appropriate follow-up diagnostic and intervention services will be provided for children who do not pass the screening.
- Networking meeting held in Conway on September 19th, as a follow-up to the initial meeting held in January co-sponsored by the Arkansas Head Start State Collaboration Office and the Arkansas Department of Education, Special Education, Part B.
- Meetings held September 28th and October 31st with Part C staff to plan for networking meeting with Early Head Start, Migrant & Seasonal Head Start, and Part C Early Intervention staff. Networking meeting held in Conway on November 14th.
- Co-sponsored with Division of Child Care & Early Childhood Education, Department of Education, Special Education Part B, Arkansas Head Start Association and other partners, in collaboration with the Child Care Law Center National Inclusion Project a one-day forum on engaging the child care community and families in learning about the legal frameworks of the ADA and IDEA as they pertain to child care and early childhood education. Forum held in Little Rock on November 7th, with over 100 participants in attendance.
- Attended Arkansas Coalition for Education of the Deaf meeting on November 29th.

Child Care/ Welfare Reform

- Participation in Arkansas Early Childhood Professional Development System (AECPPDS) Steering Committee on September 29th.
- Newly appointed Head Start representative for Arkansas Head Start Association attended Arkansas Early Childhood Commission meeting held on October 17th.
- Hosted and participated in Arkansas Children’s Week planning committee meeting on October 10th.
- Exhibited at Arkansas Parenting Education Network conference held in Hot Springs on October 10th.

- Continued involvement in State Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Planning Initiative; participated in Social Emotional & Medical Homes workgroup meeting on October 5th. Attended Parent Support & Family Education workgroup meeting on October 23rd. Meeting on November 6th to discuss upcoming national collaborative meeting with Head Start State Collaboration directors and State Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems directors to be held in January.
- Participation in newly established workgroup which will focus on transportation issues in relationship to state-funded pre-k in Arkansas. Meeting held on October 11th.
- Attended Children & Youth legislative committee meeting on November 9th to discuss quality after school programming for children in Arkansas.

Homeless

- Serving on Arkansas Interagency Council for Homeless and Homeless Policy Academies. Attended various meetings to plan for “stand down” which was held at Philander Smith College in Little Rock on September 16th. There were 115 women, 200 children, 177 non-veteran men and 174 veteran men for a total of 666 homeless. There were 268 registered volunteers, bringing the total of 934 people involved in the stand down. Plans also finalized for Homeless Outreach Dinner held in Little Rock on November 21st. The dinner was a collaborative effort among many faith-based organizations, churches, the Arkansas Democrat and Republican parties and service providers, including the Arkansas Homeless Coalition.
- Arkansas Homeless Conference held on September 13th-15th in Little Rock.

National/Community Service

- Continuing work with Arkansas Coalition for Economic Security in addressing priority initiatives. Meeting held on October 13th.
- Participated in Arkansas Crisis Response Team strategic planning meeting held on July 28th for Board members, committee chairs, team leaders and managers. HSSCO director serving as co-chair of the Education Committee. Arkansas is hosting the second national crisis response conference to be held in North Little Rock in November.
- Kids Count Steering Committee meeting held on September 5th to discuss Regional Forum participation and plan for Kids Count Pre-Legislative Conference. Pre-Legislative Conference held on November 30th; Governor-Elect Mike Beebe addressed the conference at the opening session.

- MOU meeting held on September 27th and November 21st to discuss upcoming collaborative opportunities among Head Start, Community Action, Community Services, and Child Care. Currently updating our MOU.
- As member of the Arkansas Crisis Response team, assisted in preparation for Second National NOVA (National Organization for Victim Assistance) Crisis Responder training held in North Little Rock on November 10th – 13th. Arkansas Head Start State Collaboration Office was recognized as a participating sponsor of the event. James Lee Witt, past director of FEMA, and Deena Burnett, widow of Tom Burnett who was on Flight 93, spoke to conference attendees. Twenty-one states and four countries were represented at the conference.

2. Problems: None

3. Significant Findings and Events: Routine communication with liaison from Booz-Allen-Hamilton, contractor for Region VI ACF Head Start, to Arkansas Head Start State Collaboration Office. Ongoing discussion of current state initiatives in early care & education, oral and mental health, and ideas for involvement in various activities, including state quality approval certification process for increasing the number of Head Start programs in Arkansas with state quality approval. Participated in round table discussion on September 20th with Head Start directors and staff in discussing options for rising unemployment rates and employee contracts. Attended Arkansas Head Start Association directors meeting on September 20th and AHSA Board meeting on September 21st. Participated in Pal-Tech tutorial conference call on September 28th. Co-sponsored Early Childhood Summit on “A Focus on Brain Development and the Early Childhood Years” in collaboration with Community Outreach & Legislative Affairs (COLA), and in conjunction with the Arkansas Senate Interim Committee on Children & Youth and the House Interim Committee on Aging, Children & Youth, Legislative & Military Affairs, held in Little Rock on October 2nd. Participated in Region 6 Head Start State Collaboration Directors meeting in Dallas on October 3rd-4th. Attended MidSOUTH Summer School Task Force meeting on October 13th to plan for MSSS training institute to be held in June 2007. Attended Region 6 Head Start Association Annual Training Institute in Oklahoma City on October 17th-18th; also participated in Region 6 HSA Board meeting held on October 17th. Attended Arkansas Early Childhood Association (AECA) annual conference in Hot Springs on October 19th. Region 6 Head Start State Collaboration conference call held on November 7th with Shannon Hills and other state collaboration directors in our region. Worked with Arkansas Head Start Association in developing position paper on Early Childhood Education Collaboration, focusing on issues and recommendations for enhanced local collaboration between Head Start and Arkansas Better Chance for School Success (the state funded pre-k program). Met November 16th with Coalition for the Bill of Rights for Children of Incarcerated Parents to discuss issues facing children of incarcerated parents, including support for caregivers and children during parental incarceration.

4. Dissemination Activities: Beginning initial dissemination of Arkansas Head Start Association's position paper on "Early Childhood Education Collaboration" to programs and state-level partners.

5. Activities planned for next reporting period: Submission of continuation application of funding for Head Start State Collaboration Office. Education and awareness activities for new governor and administration, as well as upcoming legislative session to begin in January 2007. Working in collaboration with Arkansas Head Start Association in discussing enhanced collaborative efforts with Arkansas Better Chance for School Success, the state funded pre-k program for 3 and 4 year old children from families up to 200% poverty level. National Head Start State Collaboration meeting to be held in Washington DC in January in conjunction with national forum on Pre-K and Head Start and collaborative efforts with the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Initiatives.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Patterson