



**ARKANSAS HEAD START ASSOCIATION
AND
ARKANSAS HEAD START-STATE
COLLABORATION OFFICE REPORT
March 2010**

Arkansas Association of Mental Health:

Ann Patterson, the Arkansas Collaboration Director, worked closely with other infant mental health advocates in establishing the Arkansas Association of Infant Mental Health. She is a charter member and has been elected to the board. Several Head Start programs and the Head Start TA Network have also been involved in the development of this new association.

Arkansas SpecialQuest Initiative:

The Arkansas Head Start Association received a grant from ARRA funding of \$225,000 to bring SpecialQuest to the early childhood community in Arkansas. Six Special Quest Community Teams & one State Team were selected to participate in the yearlong initiative. First of three trainings was held in January with two more scheduled in May and August/September. Each team is assigned a learning coach. The State team met and invited members from community teams to participate in meeting in March. The community teams are located in Northwest/Western Arkansas, Hope, Forrest City, Conway, Little Rock, and Jonesboro.

ECHO Project:

Early Childhood Hearing Outreach training (ECHO) targeting new EHS grantees and other EHS programs who have not been trained or who have been awarded additional EHS slots. With this training, Arkansas will have trained 100% of all EHS grantees in early childhood hearing outreach.

2010 Arkansas Head Start Institute:

The Arkansas Head Start Institute will be held July 21-23, 2010 at the Embassy Suites in Little Rock, Arkansas. Call for papers, hotel information, and exhibitor applications have been posted to the website at www.arheadstart.org. The registration information will be posted soon. Mary Kaye McKinney and Kim Qualls will serve as the Institute Co-Chairs. The Program Committee Chairs will be Shirley Pulliam, Jo Ann Williams, and Ricky Pondexter. At the Institute, the Arkansas Head Start will honor outstanding Head Start Directors, Staff, Teachers, Teacher Assistants, Parents and Friends. This year we will also recognize teacher and staff that have received higher education degrees from May 2008-May 2010.

Invest Early Initiative:

HSCO and AHSA are involved in Invest Early initiative in setting priorities for early childhood education in Arkansas, with an emphasis in serving more infants & toddlers in quality early childhood programs.

Bylaws and Membership Committees:

The Arkansas Head Start Association is currently working to strengthen their bylaws & looking at new membership opportunities for individuals.

Emergency Preparedness:

HSCO and TA network working with Arkansas Tech University in emergency preparedness research and activities for Head Start and other early childhood providers in Arkansas.

Medication Administration Initiative:

HSCO and state-based TA network, in coordination with Division of Child Care & Early Childhood Education and Arkansas Chapter of American Academy of Pediatricians, secured a grant from AAP to implement a Medication Administration initiative which will look at medication administration errors in child care and provide training for child care & early childhood education providers on appropriate medication administration.

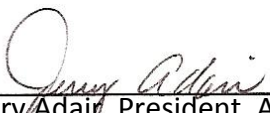
State Advisory Council:

State Advisory Council new members (Kim Qualls, Shirley Pulliam, & Ann Patterson–Janice Dancer, too) – actively involved in various activities of the Arkansas Early Childhood Commission. Preparing grant application for submission from the AECC.

Every Child Succeeds:

HSCO, along with representatives from Arkansas Children’s Hospital, HIPYPY, DCCECE, Arkansas Children’s Trust Fund, and Parents as Teachers, are working together to promote a statewide home visiting collaborative effort. Ark Childrens Hospital is exploring the potential of replicating Every Child Succeeds, a home visiting program of Cincinnati Children’s Hospital.

Submitted by



Jerry Adair, President, Arkansas Head Start Association

Ann Patterson, Collaboration Director, Arkansas Head Start-State Collaboration Office