



ARKANSAS HEAD START ASSOCIATION

AND

ARKANSAS HEAD START-STATE COLLABORATION OFFICE REPORT November 2009

2009 Arkansas Head Start Institute: Ivory Conley and Ann Williams served as the Institute Chairs. Barbara Sisco and Pam Draper were the Program Committee Chairs. The 2009 Arkansas Head Start Institute was held May 19-21, in Springdale, Arkansas at the Holiday Inn-NWA. Susan Johnston and Maugarra Walker-Hazley from the ACF Regional Office provided updates on May 19, from 3:15 p.m.-4:45 p.m. The opening general session was held on Wednesday, May 20, 8:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m. At the session, the 2009 Arkansas Head Start Awards were presented. Brian and Terri Kinder of Kinder Songs provided a keynote concert for participants. Our keynote speaker for the general session on May 21, from 8:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m. was Geania Dickey from ASU Childhood Services. Her topic was Everyday is a Great Adventure! Planning is currently underway for the 2010 Arkansas Head Start Institute.

2009 Arkansas Head Start Association Annual Meeting: At the Annual Meeting on May 20, the Arkansas Head Start Association held an installation ceremony for the following officers:

- President-Jerry Adair
- Vice President-Pam Draper
- Secretary-Janet Harris
- Treasurer-Ricky Pondexter

A full list of board members is available online at www.arheadstart.org and click on the about menu item and then the AHSA tab.

2009 Outstanding Arkansas Head Start Awards: The Arkansas Head Start Association announced the 2009 Outstanding Head Start Award Winners at the Opening Session of the 2009 Arkansas Head Start Institute on May 20, 2009 at the Holiday Inn-NWA in Springdale, Arkansas.

The following were selected as the 2009 Outstanding Arkansas Head Start Award Winners:

- Head Start Director: Barbara Sisco
- Head Start Staff: Margaret Flowers
- Head Start Teacher: Jennifer Thomas
- Early Head Start Teacher: Tina White
- Teacher Assistant/Aide: Keelie Botello
- Friend of Head Start: Mary Pat Cook
- Parents: Kyle and Kaleigh Goebel

A special Lifetime Membership Award was presented to Ivory Conley for over 40 years of hard work and dedication in serving families and children in Washington County as well as the state and nation.

Arkansas Early Childhood Commission (State Advisory Council): During the 87th General Assembly for the state of Arkansas, Act 28 was signed into law that expands the membership of

the Arkansas Early Childhood Commission, to include members from the Head Start Community, including additional members representing the Arkansas Head Start State Collaboration Office, an Arkansas Early Head Start program, and an Arkansas Migrant & Seasonal Head Start program. Head Start programs were already represented on the Commission. Governor Beebe has established the Arkansas Early Childhood Commission as the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care.

The HSSCO director participated in the Early Childhood Commission retreat held in April, and addressed the commission regarding Head Start legislative changes and the role of the State Advisory Council. During the July Commission meeting, the HSSCO director introduced the Head Start State-Based TA program manager, content specialist, and infant-toddler specialist to the Council. A short presentation was made to the Commission by the state-based program manager.

Congratulations to the following Head Start representatives on the Arkansas Early Childhood Commission:

- Janice Dancer-Head Start Representative
- Kim Qualls-Early Head Start Representative
- Shirley Pulliam-Migrant-Seasonal Head Start Representative
- Ann Patterson-Arkansas Head Start State Collaboration Office Representative

Arkansas Economic Summit on Early Childhood Investment: The Arkansas Head Start State Collaboration Office was a co-sponsor for the summit held on September 28. The focus of the summit was to illustrate to the business community the importance of investing in quality early childhood education.

Arkansas Head Start Association Bylaws Committee: The bylaws committee is currently working on recommendations for updating the bylaws for the Arkansas Head Start Association. The committee includes the following members: Shirley Pulliam-Chairperson, Florine Johnson, Nicole Turney, Ricky Pondexter, and Jerry Adair. The Arkansas Head Start Association is also in the process of developing a board manual.

Arkansas Head Start Association Membership Committee: The membership committee is developing resources to help increase membership and participation in the Arkansas Head Start Association. Committee members are Shirley Pulliam-Chairperson, Brenda Holder, Isabell Griswold, Florine Johnson, Carrie Alexander, Ricky Pondexter, Nicole Turney, and LaTonya Smith. Jerry Adair serves an ex-officio member.

Arkansas Head Start Collaboration Office Needs Assessment/Strategic Plan/Semi-Annual Report: The Arkansas Head Start State Collaboration Office goals were revised and incorporated into our strategic plan in May and are based on the needs assessment survey completed by Head Start, Early Head Start, and Migrant & Seasonal Head Start programs in Arkansas in April. The current strategic plan is used as a management tool in directing activities of the HSSCO in our efforts to enhance collaboration with state and local community partners.

The strategic plan focuses on enhancing collaboration and coordination within ten key activity areas:

- 1) Health Care
- 2) Services for Children Experiencing Homelessness
- 3) Welfare/Child Welfare
- 4) Child Care
- 5) Family Literacy Services

- 6) Services for Children with Disabilities
- 7) Community Services
- 8) Education (Publicly Funded Pre-K and Public School)
- 9) Professional Development
- 10) Outreach and Public Awareness

Copies of both the needs assessment and the strategic plan are available online at www.arheadstart.org. Click on the about menu item and then the AHSSCO tab to access documents pertaining to the Arkansas Head Start Collaboration Office. The semi-annual report for March-August 2009 outlining activities to address goals and objectives is also available online.

Arkansas SpecialQuest Initiative: The Arkansas SpecialQuest Initiative will provide professional development on inclusion for the birth through Pre-K population. The SpecialQuest Approach is designed to touch the “head, heart, and hands” of families and professionals working together to create inclusive communities for young children with disabilities. This relationship-and team-based approach enhances and sustains inclusive services, family leadership skills, and integrated, collaborative service delivery. The Arkansas SpecialQuest Initiative Committee will select eight teams to participate in three 2 ½ day SpecialQuest training sessions (January 2010, May 2010, September 2010). Each team will consist of six members: two early childhood members from different organizations (any program providing services for children birth – five years of age), family member, Part B member, Part C member, and a health/mental health member. Teams will be assigned a learning coach who will serve as a mentor. Cleo Rodriguez will serve as the coordinator for the project. The initiative will be administered by the Arkansas Head Start Association.



Funding for the Arkansas Special Quest Initiative is provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009



Sponsors: Arkansas Department of Human Services-Division of Child Care/Early Childhood Education and Division of Developmental Disabilities Services, Arkansas Head Start Association, and Arkansas Head Start State Collaboration Office

AR MOM: The third annual Mission of Mercy (ArMOM) was held in northwest Arkansas on May 8-9, with the Arkansas HSSCO and local HS programs assisting with preparation and volunteering during the event. During two-days, 1,970 patients received 1,480 fillings and had 3,015 teeth extractions, amounting to a total of \$822,075 of donated dental care. There were 974 volunteers, including 184 dentists, 85 dental hygienists, 228 dental assistants, 12 pharmacists, 40 nurses, and 425 support staff.

Birth through Pre K Teaching Credential: The Arkansas Head Start Collaboration Office is working closely with the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education, Department of Education, and Department of Higher Education on the development of the birth through pre k credential which was created by Act 187 of 2009. A report will be presented in January 2010 to the Arkansas General Assembly.

Centers of Excellence: The Arkansas State Collaboration Office, in partnership with the Governor’s Office, Department of Education, and Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education, developed and distributed the application for Centers of Excellence in Early Childhood Education Recognizing Arkansas Head Start and Early Head Start programs of exceptional quality.

Dollar per Child: Arkansas programs have collected \$11,680.87 to support the National Head Start Association's Dollar per Child Campaign for 2009. For 2010, Arkansas has already collected \$3,208.47.

Head Start Body Start: Seven Arkansas Head Start programs have received funding for the Head Start Body Start to enhance quality of outdoor activities. Congratulations to Child Development, Inc., Cleveland County School District Head Start, EOA of Washington County, Head Start Child & Family Services, Inc., Mississippi County, AR EOC, Northwest Arkansas Head Start, and UAMS Head Start.

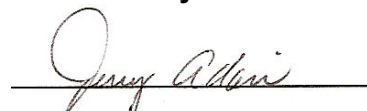
Head Start Health Fact Sheet: The HSSCO, in cooperation with the State-Based Head Start TA System and the Arkansas Head Start Association, developed a fact sheet on Head Start to be shared with Arkansas pediatricians and family practice physicians, through outreach with the Arkansas Foundation for Medical Care. The fact sheet is available online at www.arheadstart.org. To access the fact sheet, click on the news menu item and select the state news tab.

Head Start Update Newsletter: The Head Start Update is a joint newsletter of the Arkansas Head Start Association, Arkansas Head Start State Collaboration Office, and Head Start TA Network. The first issue was completed in Fall 2009. The first issue included the following articles: Cultivating Successful Teams, Your Health Services Advisory Committee and Oral Health, Health Services Fact Sheet, Promoting Children's Social/Emotional Development, Arkansas SpecialQuest Initiative, Are You Getting Ready for QRIS, Upcoming Events, and Child Development, Inc. Chosen for National Start. The winter issue will be distributed in December or January. If you would like to read a copy, please go to the Arkansas Head Start website at www.arheadstart.org. You will need to click on the news menu item. The Head Start Update will be located under the State News Section.

Homeless Outreach: Over the past month, we have experienced enhanced collaboration efforts with the Arkansas Department of Education pertaining to homeless outreach and educational services for children. Three meetings have been held which included the Head Start Collaboration Office, Head Start TA Network, and local Head Start programs along with the Department of Education and local school districts.

School of the 21st Century: HSSCO director was involved in the review of the School of the 21st Century (21C) Research and Practice Issue Brief, "The School of the 21st Century and Head Start Working Together." The brief outlined successful partnerships and opportunities for 21C Schools and Head Start to improve the quality and accessibility of early education services and enhance parent involvement to more children and families than each individually serve. The policy brief was printed by the Arkansas HSSCO and distributed to participants at the Arkansas Better Chance for School Success-Arkansas 21 Century-Arkansas Head Start networking meeting held in April, as well as to Head Start programs and participants at the Arkansas Annual Head Start Institute held in May. HSSCO director met with 21 Century School superintendents on evolving partnerships at the local level.

Submitted by



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