

**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
5. Period of Performance: December 1, 2006 – February 28, 2007
6. Approved Project Period: March 1, 2006 thru February 28, 2011
7. Period Covered by Report: (Check one)

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

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT
December 1, 2006 – February 28, 2007
ARKANSAS HEAD START STATE COLLABORATION OFFICE

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1. Major activities and accomplishments during this period:

Education/Literacy

- Participated in Governor's press conference on January 25th releasing results of preliminary report of the longitudinal study of the Arkansas Better Chance for School Success Program. Governor Mike Beebe stressed that his long-standing commitment for quality early childhood education included quality Head Start programs and that state funding for additional pre-k slots was to supplement and not supplant federal funding for Head Start throughout Arkansas.
- With a general education curriculum that will transfer to any public institution of higher education in the state, the Arkansas Course Transfer System (ACTS) was implemented statewide on December 1st, 2006. Act 672 of 2005 directed the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board to create a transfer curriculum for all public two-year colleges and universities. Comparable courses in the ACTS curriculum are guaranteed to transfer to any public institution of higher education in Arkansas.
- Attended Education Cluster trainings on December 5th and February 6th for Head Start and Early Head Start programs in Arkansas.
- Routine meetings with Arkansas Advocates for Children & Families and Division of Child Care & Early Childhood Education to discuss collaborative issues relating to Arkansas Better Chance for School Success and local Head Start programs.
- Participated in Invest Early meeting on February 13th to discuss ongoing legislative agenda for 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 January 25th with evaluation team and Division of Child Care & Early Childhood Education.

- Participation in monthly Arkansas Oral Health Coalition meetings.
- Participation in monthly CASSP Coordinating Council meetings.
- 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 is scheduled for spring and will focus on domestic violence and drug related concerns for children and families, particularly in the area of methamphetamine use.
- Continued service on the Arkansas System of Care Stakeholders Planning Committee who is advising and assisting 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. System of Care stakeholders meetings held on December 11th and February 22nd. HSSCO director served as facilitator for Medicaid Retreat for System of Care stakeholders committee on February 23rd – 24th. Proposed legislation to be filed on behalf of the Stakeholders Planning Committee in an effort to reform children’s mental health services in Arkansas.
- Continued involvement in Arkansas Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Planning Initiative; participated in Social-Emotional/Medical Home committee meetings on January 12th and February 9th.

Disabilities

- Serving on “Welcome the Children” Advisory Committee. Plans being made for 2007 conference, scheduled for May 2nd-4th, to be held in North Little Rock. HSSCO is a sponsoring organization of this event.
- Continued work with partners in expanding within Arkansas the ECHO (Early Childhood Hearing Outreach) project, through the National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management, Utah State University. Meetings held with ECHO team at Arkansas Children’s Hospital and other partners to explore possibilities of resources for expansion to other Early Head Start and infant & toddler programs in Arkansas.
- Attended Arkansas Coalition for Education of the Deaf meeting on February 28th. Supported effort to incorporate family support group.
- Participated in conference call with initial group from Arkansas discussing the options of bringing “SibShop” to Arkansas. SibShop is a facilitated group for siblings of children with disabilities. Other interested partners include Arkansas Children’s Hospital, Partners for Inclusive Communities, and the Disability Rights Center of Arkansas.

Child Care/ Welfare Reform

- Participation in Arkansas Early Childhood Professional Development System (AECPPDS) workgroup meetings on December 13th.
- Meeting on December 6th held with Division of Child Care & Early Childhood Education, State Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Planning Initiative, Arkansas Head Start State Collaboration, and Special Quest representative to discuss possible enhancement efforts for Arkansas in the area of early intervention.
- Continuing work with Arkansas Children's Week planning committee; Arkansas Children's Week is April 22nd-28th.
- Participated in Arkansas professional development registry meeting on January 8th.
- Hosted Quality Review System meeting for Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Initiative at HSSCO on February 15th.
- Continued involvement in State Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Planning Initiative. Participated in Parent Support & Family Education workgroup meeting on February 26th.

Homeless

- Serving on Arkansas Interagency Council for Homeless and Homeless Policy Academies. Attended Homeless Coalition meeting on January 10th & February 14th and Homeless Policy Academy meeting on February 8th.
- Working with homeless advocates to obtain funding for a Homeless Trust Fund that would create affordable housing options for disabled, elderly and children, and to continue the work of the Legislative Task Force for the Study of Homeless.

National/Community Service

- Continuing work with Arkansas Coalition for Economic Security in addressing priority initiatives. Meeting on January 12th and February 16th at HSSCO to finalize plans for Beans & Cornbread Reception for Arkansas legislators to be held on March 5th.
- Kids Count Steering Committee meetings held on January 11th and February 5th in preparation for Kids Count Day at the Capitol scheduled for March 8th.

- MOU meeting held on February 6th to discuss collaborative opportunities among Head Start, Community Action, Community Services and Child Care. Updated current MOU agreement; signatures obtained.
- As member of the Arkansas Crisis Response team, HSSCO director asked to chair Mental Health Protocol Committee. As more individual interventions are used, questions have arisen that are unique for group interventions; having a written document will provide a clearer direction to all members.
- Attended Usability Housing Standards public forum at University of Arkansas at Little Rock on February 7th.

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. Submitted continuation application for funding for Head Start State Collaboration Office. Continued education and awareness activities for new governor and administration, as well as monitoring ongoing state legislative session which began in January. Attended Governor Mike Beebe's inauguration on January 9th. Attended Arkansas Head Start directors and staff class on January 10th. Joanna Grymes, chair of the Arkansas Early Childhood Professional Development System, met with directors and staff to discuss and gather input for the Arkansas Early Childhood Professional Development Registry. Attended Arkansas Head Start Association Board of Directors meeting on January 11th. Attended Arkansas Advocates for Children & Families annual meeting and awards luncheon on January 11th honoring past legislators for their work to better the lives of children and families in Arkansas. Attended and participated in National Head Start State Collaboration meeting held in Washington DC on January 17th- 19th, in conjunction with the National Forum on Pre-K and Head Start on January 17th. Other participants from Arkansas involved in the Pre-K-Head Start Forum included Dee Cox, Early Childhood Specialist with Arkansas Department of Education; Jerry Adair, Director, Head Start Child & Family Services and representative for Arkansas Head Start Association; Rich Huddleston, Director, Arkansas Advocates for Children & Families; Tonya Russell, Director, Arkansas Department of Health & Human Services, Division of Child Care & Early Childhood Education; and Karen Jones, Region VI Head Start Association and National Head Start Association representative. Participated in Region VI Head Start State Collaboration directors' conference call on December 1st. Attended MidSOUTH Summer School Task Force meeting on December 1st to plan for MSSS training institute to be held in June 2007. Met with independent evaluator regarding evaluation process for

HSSCO grant activities. Met on December 7th with representatives from Arkansas Head Start Association and Governor-elect Mike Beebe's chief policy representative, Kathryn Hazelett, to discuss AHSA position paper on "Early Childhood Education Collaboration" in Arkansas. Working in collaboration with Arkansas Head Start Association in discussing enhanced collaborative efforts with Arkansas Better Chance for School Success.

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

5. Activities planned for next reporting period: Beans & Cornbread Reception for Arkansas legislators, sponsored by the Arkansas Coalition for Economic Security, to be held on March 5th. Arkansas Kids Count Day at the Capitol to be held on March 8th. Arkansas Oral Health Coalition Planning Retreat on March 19th. Governor's Family Friendly Awards Luncheon on April 5th. Continuation of involvement in Arkansas legislative session as it relates to sharing information of Arkansas Head Start programs and the Arkansas Better Chance for School Success collaborative efforts, issues and concerns and monitoring legislation with possible impact in relation to priority areas for the HSSCO.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Patterson