

**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
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 1437, Slot S140
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203

Arkansas Head Start Association
1400 West Markham, Suite 406
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201
3. Telephone Number: (501) 371-0740 Fax Number: (501) 370-9109
4. Project Title: Arkansas Head Start State Collaboration Office
5. Period of Performance: June 1, 2006 thru August 31, 2006
6. Approved Project Period: March 1, 2006 thru February 28, 2011
7. Period Covered by Report: (Check one)

 First Quarter
 Second Quarter X
 Third Quarter
 Fourth Quarter
8. Principal Investigator's Name and Telephone Number: Ann Patterson (501) 371-0740
9. Authors Name and Telephone Number: Ann Patterson (501) 371-0740
10. Date of Report: September 1, 2006
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12. Name of Federal Project Officer: Victoria Marchand
 Name of Regional Office Contact: Carlton Reid
13. Date Reviewed by Federal Project Officer:
14. Comments, (if any):

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT
June 1, 2006 – August 31, 2006
ARKANSAS HEAD START STATE COLLABORATION OFFICE

REPORT CONTENTS

1. Major activities and accomplishments during this period:

Education/Literacy.

- Participated in meeting on June 1st discussing proposed changes in teacher qualifications in the Arkansas Better Chance for School Success program (state-funded pre-k).
- Participated in Smart Chart progress on Early Childhood Education in Arkansas hosted by Arkansas Advocates for Children & Families on June 7th.
- Participation in technical assistance audio call on July 12th sponsored by the Child Care Bureau, National Association of Early Childhood Specialists in State Departments of Education, and The Council of Chief State School Officers on implementing early learning guidelines in all care settings. This series of calls presents information on a national scope from the CCDF State Plan Report and CCSSO survey on how states are implementing standards and linking to professional development, assessment and program evaluation. State representatives share best practices and lessons learned. Arkansas has been selected to present at the next call scheduled for September 13th on “Early Childhood Education – Accountability and Building Capacity by Working with Partners.”
- Attended Arkansas Better Chance for School Success Rules and Regulations public hearing on July 31st. Offered comments on behalf of Arkansas Head Start Association and the State Collaboration Office in support of proposed change under consideration that would require ABCSS classroom teachers to hold a Bachelors degree in early childhood education, child development or equivalent.
- Continued meetings with Department of Education, Special Education, Part B on collaborative efforts and updates in preparation of follow-up networking meeting to be held September 19th to include Part B Coordinators and Head Start.

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 August 31st to discuss preliminary findings with evaluators of the project.
- Participation in monthly Arkansas Oral Health Coalition meetings. Hosted Coalition meeting on June 14th. Served on subcommittee in preparation for Governor's Oral Health Summit held on July 15th and served as emcee.
- Attended Region 6 Head Start Oral Health Initiative grantee meeting held in Dallas on August 10th-11th. Two Head Start agencies (CDI and UAMS) were recipients of the Oral Health Initiative grant and also participated in the meeting. HSSCO director and State Dental Director participated in panel presentation. Oral Health and Head Start CD-ROMs were distributed to the three Oral Health Initiative Grantees (from Texas) and others participating in the two-day meeting.
- 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 June 27th. Conference call also held on June 5th with Region 6 HSSCO directors and state dental directors.
- Participation in monthly CASSP Coordinating Council meetings. Serving on Public Policy and Legislative Committee for CASSP; meeting held on June 2nd.
- Appointed to the State Governing and Advisory Board for "Action for Kids" a children's mental health initiative in Lee, Phillips, Craighead and Mississippi counties in Arkansas. First meeting held on August 2nd.
- Selected to serve 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. First meeting of the Stakeholders Committee held on July 18th. Appointed to the Governing and Finance subcommittee; first meeting held on August 17th. Committee and subcommittee meetings will be held alternating weeks. The Arkansas Head Start State Collaboration Office will host the Governing and Finance subcommittee meetings through the end of the year.

Disabilities

- Serving on “Welcome the Children” Advisory Committee. Several meetings held to evaluate first annual conference held in May. Plans being made for 2007 conference.
- Serving on Arkansas Coalition for Education of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing; participated in meeting on August 2nd.
- Attended State Interagency Coordinating Council meeting (Part C) on July 19th.
- Working collaboratively with partners in expanding the ECHO (Early Childhood Hearing Outreach) project, through the National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management, Utah State University, to Arkansas as a cooperative effort among Early Head Start, Migrant & Seasonal Head Start, Arkansas Children’s Hospital, and the Arkansas Department of Health and Human Services, EHDI Program. Six Arkansas Early Head Start programs (BRAD, EOA of Washington County, Arkansas Human Development, FACT, and UAMS/Easter Seals), as well as the delegate agency for Migrant & Seasonal Head Start (CAPCA) were chosen, through an RFP selection process to participate in this collaborative effort. The goal of this project, funded by ACF, Office of Head Start, is to initiate a concentrated state-based effort to enhance the capacities of Migrant Head Start and Early Head Start grantees to conduct objective hearing screenings for children birth to three years of age and to ensure that appropriate follow-up diagnostic and intervention services are provided for children who do not pass the screening. Activities will commence on October 1st and run through September 30, 2007.
- Hosted and coordinated conference call on July 19th with Child Care Law Center National Inclusion Project and Arkansas partners including Arkansas Head Start, Division of Child Care & Early Childhood Education, Special Education Part B, Division of Developmental Disabilities Part C, and Partners for Inclusive Communities. Discussion centered around the expansion of the project into Arkansas and 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.

Child Care/ Welfare Reform

- Participation in Arkansas Early Childhood Professional Development System (AECPPDS) Steering Committee conference call on June 13th.
- Conference call participation on June 30th with Child Care Bureau and Head Start State Collaboration directors in update on the State Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Initiative and the mental health System of Care.
- Arkansas Head Start Association president attended the Arkansas Early Childhood Commission meeting held on July 18th.

- Participated in Arnett Caregiver Interaction Scale informational training with the Division of Child Care & Early Childhood Education and early childhood education consultants on July 10th.

Homeless

- Reviewed McKinney-Vento homeless grants for Arkansas Department of Education on June 13th.
- Serving on Arkansas Interagency Council for the Homeless. Attended Homeless Coalition meeting on August 9th.
- Policy Academies of both target groups (Chronically Homeless and Homeless Families with Children) voted in May to merge and work together in addressing homeless issues in Arkansas. Attended first joint meeting of the working groups on July 13th.

National/Community Service

- Meeting held on July 6th with National League of Cities representative for Arkansas, Little Rock public officials and other child advocates regarding quality after school programs and activities for children and youth in Arkansas.
- 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 August 1st to plan for and discuss upcoming Regional Forums to be held in West Memphis and Springdale. Preparation being made for Kids Count Pre-Legislative Conference scheduled for November 30th.
- Attended Governor's Family Friendly Awards committee meeting on July 31st to evaluate 2006 luncheon and awards and to plan for the 2007 nomination process and awards luncheon.
- Participated in the Arkansas Community Services Block Grant Program Implementation Assessment (PIA) on August 14th.

- Continuing work with “Arkansas Coalition for Economic Security” in addressing priority initiatives as they relate to serving low income children and families in Arkansas. Participated in meeting on July 14th to plan for “The State of Working Arkansas” an educational forum on the economic climate in Arkansas and the implications for working families. The forum was held on August 30th and featured Jared Bernstein, Economist with the Economic Policy Institute and author of *All Together Now: Common Sense for a Fair Economy*.
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. Served as Region 6 representative with Head Start Bureau in planning for national HSSCO directors meeting held June 21st – 23rd in Washington DC. Participated in conference call on June 7th to finalize details and agenda. Participated in national meeting for HSSCO directors and also attended the National Head Start Research Conference held in Washington DC on June 26th-28th. Worked with Arkansas Head Start Association conference and program planning committees for Arkansas Head Start Institute held in Hot Springs July 25th-27th. A recognition luncheon was held in conjunction with the Institute in honor of Head Start teachers and staff who had completed degrees during the past two years. Seventy-seven teachers and staff were in attendance for the recognition lunch, with a total of ninety-two honorees that had attained degrees. Participation in Mid South Summer School on Alcohol and Other Drugs held at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock on June 5th-9th.
 4. Dissemination Activities: Dissemination of “Oral Health & Head Start in Arkansas” CD-Rom to Region 6 Head Start Oral Health Initiative grantees and others in attendance at recent grantee meeting.
 5. Activities planned for next reporting period: Continuing work with partners in expansion of ECHO (Early Continuous Hearing Outreach) to Arkansas Early Head Start and Migrant & Seasonal Head Start programs. Arkansas Homeless Conference scheduled for September 13th-15th. Region 6 HSSCO directors meeting in Dallas on October 3rd-4th. Preparation for Early Childhood Summit to be held in collaboration with Community Outreach and Legislative Affairs (COLA) on October 2nd.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Patterson

