

## **Arkansas Special Education State Advisory Council Report Early Childhood Summary August 2017**

### **Current Activities**

- Building conversations related to providing special education services in the early childhood classroom.
- Working with DDS on process for each Developmental Day Treatment Clinic Services (DDTCS) center to formally state if they are going to provide IDEA services or how they will work with the LEAs in providing services.
- Attended OSEP Leadership Conference. Highlights include:
  - Information on the Council for Exceptional Children Division of Early Childhood Recommended Practices implementation.
  - Ways to move toward inclusive practices.
  - Suspension and Expulsion impacts for disproportionality.

### **Statewide Collaboration Projects (ongoing)**

- ELAN (Equity Leaders Action Network) led by Headstart
  - Group is looking at inequities in preschool services for African American boys
- AAIMH (Arkansas Association of Infant Mental Health)
  - Organization looks at mental health needs of infants through preschool and supports available
  - Meets monthly
- Project LAUNCH
  - State and local networks will be developed to improve the coordination of the early child-serving system, in particular behavioral health and primary care services, and to enhance the practices, programs, and services for young children and their families.
  - LAUNCH state council meets quarterly
- Suspension and Expulsion Work Group
  - Through DHS Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education (DCCECE). Reviews needs for students and looks at ways to increase understanding of needs of children behaviorally in the EC setting.
- None for Nine (Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder non-profit board member)
  - Quarterly board meetings
- Professional Development Leadership team in collaboration with Part C. Vision for the group:
  - To create a multi-tiered, connected network of professional development in evidence-based practices that results in successful outcomes for children birth to five and their families learning in inclusive environments.