

## **Arkansas Special Education State Advisory Council Report Early Childhood Summary August 2018**

### **Current Activities**

- Continue working to support districts and cooperatives regarding the DDS policy changes. CHMS (Child Health Management Services) and DDTCS (Developmental Day Treatment Clinic Services) have been retired and replaced with the (EIDT) Early Intervention Day Treatment program. A developmental screen performed by DHS' Third Party Assessor is an additional eligibility criteria that has been added as of July 1, 2018. To receive EIDT services, the child must have a documented disability or delay, as shown on the newly required annual comprehensive developmental evaluation. In addition to having a developmental disability or delay, the child must now have a documented need for at least one therapy. (Physical, Occupational, Speech, or Nursing Services)
- Working with the Arkansas Special Education Early Childhood Professionals (ASEP) group to plan summer conference and review impact of DDS policy changes
- Attending Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) task force
- Attending Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC)
- Conference participation with Arkansas Association for Infant Mental Health (AAIMH)
- Presenting at Community Based Autism Liaison and Treatment Project (CoBALT)
- Building conversations related to itinerant early childhood special education services with other states that have established effective technical assistance for early childhood educators

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

- ELAN (Equity Leaders Action Network) led by Headstart
  - Inequities in preschool services for African American boys
- AAIMH (Arkansas Association of Infant Mental Health)
  - Mental health needs of infants through preschool and supports available
- Project LAUNCH
  - Developing state and local networks to improve the coordination of the early child-serving system, in particular behavioral health and primary care services, and enhance the practices, programs, and services for young children and their families
- Suspension and Expulsion Work Group led by DHS Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education (DCCECE)
  - Increase understanding of needs of children behaviorally in the EC setting
- IDEA Early Childhood Inclusion Community led by Early Childhood Technical Assistance (ECTA) Center
  - Enhance awareness and improve inclusive practices

