

Arkansas Special Education State Advisory Council Report Early Childhood Summary October 2018

Current Activities

- Continue working to support districts and cooperatives regarding DDS policy changes. CHMS (Child Health Management Services) and DDTCS (Developmental Day Treatment Clinic Services) have been retired and replaced with (EIDT) Early Intervention Day Treatment programs. A developmental screening 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)
- Attending the Governor's Proclamation Ceremony sponsored by the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) task force. Governor has proclaimed the month of September as being FASD Awareness Month
- Collaborating with the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) during the Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) meeting at the Butler Center concerning First Connections "review of program"
- Presenting a review of the Child Outcomes Summary process for Early Childhood Coordinators as part of the 2018 Special Education LEA Administrators' Academy in Hot Springs
- Building conversations with other states who have established effective practices concerning itinerant early childhood special services

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 available supports
- Project LAUNCH
 - Developing state and local networks to improve the coordination of the early childhood services, in particular by enhancing the practices, programs, and services for young children and their families in primary care services as well as behavioral health
- Suspension and Expulsion Work Group led by DHS Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education (DCCECE)
 - Increase understanding of behavioral needs of children in the EC setting
- B-5 Preschool Development Grant participation with DCCECE