

ARKANSAS EARLY CHILDHOOD COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEMS INITIATIVE

WORK PLAN AND TIMELINES

Early Care and Education Work Group

Activity	Indicators of Success	Date of Expected Completion	Responsible persons or entities
GOAL: CHILDREN WILL HAVE ACCESS TO HIGH QUALITY CHILD CARE AND EARLY EDUCATION PROGRAMS			
Monitor and evaluate implementation of the Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS), including a focus on specialized programs such as CHMS (Child Health Medical Services), DDS (Division of Developmental Disabilities) , etc.	Report of analysis of pilot program feedback with suggested recommendations documented and report on progress and status of implementation process.	Projected implementation July 31, 2010. Monitoring ongoing throughout the project period.	Early Care and Education (ECE) work group, DCC/ECE, and QRIS Implementation Team.
Identify and implement research- based methodology of child-centered early education including approved curricula.	A list of state approved early childhood curricula; training materials of curricula and methodologies are identified and available.	August 31, 2010 Reviewed and revised annually, if necessary	ECE Work Group and DCC/ECE
Expand and support access to high quality services and programs for infants and toddlers (0-3), using models such as Family Child Care and Head Start.	Funding sources available for 0-3 programs are identified and applications for funding are submitted as appropriate; opportunities for "blending" funds are identified.	June 30, 2011 Ongoing	ECE Work Group, working with all AECCS workgroups and the Partnership Council
Expand and support access to high quality	CCL standards are adapted and used	July 31, 2011	Early Care and Education

after school and summer programs for children.	in after school and summer programs.		work group
Increase infant and toddler specialists in the state's Child Care Resource and Referral Centers to address continuity of primary care giver.	Age-appropriate and related trainings are provided and documented for Resource and Referral personnel.	January 31, 2011	Early Care and Education work group
Promote and support the inclusion of children with special needs in child care settings.	Barriers and resources are identified. Licensing regulations are strengthened to support the provision of services to children with special needs in child care settings.	June 30, 2010	Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education Early Care and Education Workgroup
GOAL: ARKANSANS WILL HAVE INCREASED AWARENESS OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HIGH QUALITY EARLY EDUCATION			
Develop and implement a multi-faceted education and outreach campaign with two phases to focus on: (1) early childhood community (state agencies, educational practitioners, school administrators, etc.) to promote and support participation in the QRIS and (2) Arkansas citizens with a focus on the consumer of child care and early education services, business leaders, legislators, and the medical community.	Public Relations Team action plan steps are completed and documented.	First phase: August 31, 2009 Second Phase: January 31, 2011	QRIS Implementation Team, Communication Plan Workgroup, and Public Relations Team (a subgroup of ECE Work Group)
Increase opportunities for interaction and cross-communication between parents, educational providers, medical providers, and childcare providers.	Process and guidelines for cross-communication are developed and shared with focus groups; forums are convened of champions within each stakeholder group to share process and guidelines; and cross-communication sessions are held during in-state meetings (i.e.	Process and guidelines: June 30, 2010 Forums and sessions during in-state meetings: June 30, 2011	ECE Work Group, Medical Homes Workgroup, and Partnership council

	HIPPY, APEN, Kids Count, AECA).		
Increase opportunities to inform and update the Arkansas Early Childhood Commission (Early Learning Council) on the AECCS Initiative and its links to quality early education.	Presentations at quarterly meetings documented and evaluated. (Members of Commission sit on each workgroup).	June 30, 2010	ECE Workgroup, DCC/ECE
Promote the inclusion of specialized early childhood programs in QRIS.	Specialized programs are included in QRIS pilot, information regarding their participation is prepared and disseminated, and these programs serve as demonstration sites.	August 31, 2010	ECE Work Group, QRIS Implementation Team
GOAL: EARLY EDUCATORS (0-8) WILL HAVE ACCESS TO SYSTEMS THAT SUPPORT THEIR ABILITY TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO ALL CHILDREN			
Increase opportunities and access to professional development (to include after school and summer programs) to address competencies.	An inventory of current Division/ state funded trainings is developed and disseminated.	June 30, 2010	ECE Work Group
Monitor and support activities to help ensure the interaction of TAPP (early childhood professional development registry) and teacher licensure system.	Meetings are conducted and documented with Department of Education; TAPP registry, and the statewide professional development registry for public school systems is operating.	June 30, 2010 Ongoing.	ECE Work Group; DCC/ECE
Develop plan to work with higher education on pre-service competencies and establishment of 0-5 licensure.	Legislative bill is passed regarding 0-5 endorsement / certification, and plan is developed based on legislation.	June 30, 2010	ECE Work Group; DCC/ECE; Department of Higher Education
Increase number of qualified service providers and professionals.	The need for qualified providers is documented; the number of QA programs is increased in the state through the implementation of QRIS.	July 31, 2011	ECE Work Group, DCC/ECE; Partnership Council

Develop matrix of resources, including professional development, available to early educators.	Matrix is distributed, a portal site links all available registries/ trainings with search engine.	June 30, 2012	ECE Work Group
Expand information regarding state services and programs for young children to improve coordination and opportunities for funding.	Update ECCS service matrix to include funding sources and amount of funds available.	June 30, 2011 Ongoing	ECE Work Group; DCC/ECE
Increase infant and toddler specialists in the state's Child Care Resource and Referral Centers to address continuity of primary care giver.	Age-appropriate and related trainings are provided and documented for Resource and Referral personnel.	January 31, 2011	Early Care and Education work group