

Arkansas Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (AECCS)

Partnership Council

The **Purpose** of the Arkansas Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (AECCS) Partnership Council includes the following:

- Provision of a communication forum with an early childhood focus.
- Interaction with/coordination of strategies and action steps from related early childhood initiatives, including ABCD (Assuring Better Child Health Development) and System of Care/Children's Behavioral Health Commission
- Building consensus around early childhood policies and priorities, including AECCS' areas of concern: early care and education, family support, parent education, medical homes, and social-emotional health.
- Guiding the AECCS implementation plans including components like ABCD and others designed to improve outcomes for children.

Rationale for creation of Council:

- Simplify the AECCS structure and process
- Bring additional stakeholders and players to the table and to the governance structure
- Help support an increased focus on children 0-3 (while continuing to include all children 0-8)
- Increase the focus on social/emotional/mental health (expansion of ABCD)
- "Elevate"/promote AECCS as the recognized early childhood "systems building" and coordination entity in the state (including policy identification and development)

Council Operations:

AECCS staff serves as support staff for the Council. This staff includes a Program Director, a Program Specialist, and an Administrative Assistant. The AECCS Program Director also provides support and serves as a member of the Council. An Executive Committee, determined by the Council members, coordinates Council activities and provides day-to-day oversight; subcommittees/workgroups help support the Council's work. The Council currently meets every other month with set agendas. Additional meetings and/or conference calls are scheduled as needed. Review of Council membership occurs on a regular basis to ensure appropriate representation.

Council Membership:

The following is a list of representatives from agencies, organizations, and other related groups that currently serve on the Partnership Council:

- AECCS Co-Chairs for
 - Medical Homes Work Group
 - Social-Emotional Health Work Group
 - Early Care and Education Work Group
 - Parent Education/Family Support Task Force
- Arkansas Department of Health, including TitleV/Maternal and Child Health, Local Public Health (Hometown Health), and Office of Minority Health
- Community Health Centers of Arkansas
- University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, including Partners for Inclusive Communities
- University of Arkansas-Little Rock,
- Arkansas Children's Hospital, including the Center for Effective Parenting
- Arkansas Department of Human Services, including the Divisions of Behavioral Health (which also includes Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention); Child Care and Early Childhood Education; Children and Family Services; Developmental Disabilities Services; Medical Services (Medicaid); plus the Office of Planning and Policy and the Director's Office
- Arkansas Department of Education, including Special Education and Special Projects Offices and the State School Nurse Consultant
- Coordinated School Health
- Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families
- Arkansas Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board
- Children's Behavioral Health Commission
- Head Start and Early Head Start
- Arkansas Better Chance Program (state pre-k program)
- Arkansas Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)
- Arkansas Chapter of the Academy of Family Practice Physicians (AAFP)
- Arkansas Center for Health Improvement (ACHI)
- Natural Wonders Partnership
- Arkansas HIPPY
- Arkansas Minority Health Commission
- Arkansas Insurance Commission
- Parents
- Arkansas Child Care Providers Association