

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

Medical Homes Work Group

Activity	Indicators of Success	Date of Expected Completion	Responsible persons or entities
GOAL: YOUNG CHILDREN WILL HAVE HEALTH INSURANCE.			
Work with and support Finish Line Coalition and related organizations to expand and improve AR Kids (health insurance) coverage of children.	Legislative bill is passed that will increase the state Medicaid financial eligibility to include children of families up to 250% poverty level and related policies are implemented.	March 31, 2010 Ongoing	Medical Homes (MH) Workgroup, Finish Line Coalition, State Medicaid Program, Natural Wonders Partnership
Provide opportunities for collaboration to improve child health systems of care by supporting and expanding initiatives of other health provider organizations such as AR Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), AR Chapter of the American Academy of Family Practice Physicians (AAFP), Arkansas Department of Health, Oral Health Coalition, Community Health Centers, and other health provider organizations.	List serve of members of organizations is available, Meetings are signed, sessions are held at professional conferences.	June 30, 2010	MH Workgroup, including representatives from AAP and AAFP; AECSS Partnership Council

GOAL: YOUNG CHILDREN WILL RECEIVE ADEQUATE HEALTH CARE AND PREVENTIVE SERVICES SUCH AS IMMUNIZATIONS AND EARLY, PERIODIC SCREENING, DIAGNOSIS, AND TREATMENT (EPSDT)/ WELL CHILD SCREENINGS.

Develop plans to support the ABCD (Assuring Better Child Health Development) statewide spread strategy, with a focus on the use of a standardized developmental screening tool as part of EPSDT/well child visits provided in a physician's office.	Plan developed and implemented for spread of strategies developed through the ABCD Initiative.	June 30, 2010	MH Workgroup; AECCS Partnership Council; Medicaid
Support efforts to increase EPSDT/well child visits and serve as advisory group for state level advocacy efforts.	65% of Medicaid enrolled children have an EPSDT screen.	June 30, 2011	MH Workgroup; DCC/ECE; Medicaid; AR Advocates for Children and Families
Expand the child health care consultation model.	Child health consultant training is provided; child health care consultation services increase by 50%.	Training: January 31, 2010 Consultation: January 31, 2011	MH Workgroup, DCC/ECE, Kids First at University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS)
Educate child health providers on use of Immunization Registry, expand access, and increase usage.	75% of primary care physicians participate in the immunization registry.	September 30, 2010	MH Workgroup, ADH Immunization Program, Medicaid
Educate parents on the Immunization Registry.	Educational materials are developed and trainings are documented.	June 30, 2010 Ongoing	MH Workgroup

GOAL: FAMILIES OF CHILDREN, EARLY EDUCATORS, AND HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS WILL HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF MEDICAL HOME AND RELATED CONCEPTS.

Develop a consistent definition of medical home that is suitable to use for implementation and develop a related medical home tool kit.	Information from other states and organizations about definition of medical home is compiled; operational definition of medical.	June 30, 2010	MH Workgroup; Medicaid
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	home is accepted for widespread use		
Develop plan to educate child care providers, early educators, and health care providers on medical homes.	Medical Homes fact sheets are disseminated to providers; trainings are provided and documented; fact sheets are used as part of QRIS.	June 30, 2012	MH Workgroup, DCC/ECE, Medicaid
Support implementation of Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS), specifically the Child Health component.	QRIS guidelines are consistent with Medical Home definition and support preventive child health services.	August 31, 2010 Ongoing	MH Workgroup, DCC/ECE

Social Emotional Health Work Group

Activity	Indicators of Success	Date of Expected Completion	Responsible persons or entities
GOAL: YOUNG CHILDREN WILL RECEIVE DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING INCLUDING SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL HEALTH			
Develop a process for developmental/social-emotional health screenings, including the identification and recommendation of screening tools.	List of recommended screening tools in compliance across child-serving systems with standardized protocols.	June 30, 2010	Social-Emotional (SE) Workgroup, MH Workgroup, Medicaid, DDS, DCCECE, DHS state collaboration office, Department of Education, FASD Project
Create and implement a cross system exchange of information about screenings.	Power point slides and fact sheets for various audiences.	September 30, 2010	SE Workgroup, professional organizations
Conduct a focused needs assessment including collection of baseline data.	Report of existing data collected and gaps in data identified.	June 30, 2010	SE Workgroup, DDS, Division of Behavioral Health, Division of Children and Family Services, Department of Education
GOAL: FAMILIES OF CHILDREN AND EARLY EDUCATORS WILL HAVE CAPACITY TO PREVENT AND MANAGE MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS AND ACCESS MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IF NEEDED			
Require that child care providers who utilize public funding sources have classroom environments and staff who	Survey is completed which identifies barriers and problems of providers.	June 30, 2011	SE Workgroup, ECE Workgroup, DDS, DCCECE, Medicaid, Depart of

meet ABC and quality approval minimum requirements, with an emphasis in social emotional training.			Education
Review other State Plans for training certification of behavioral health providers serving the 0-8 population.	Notebook of compiled information and summary of recommendations for training certification.	June 30, 2010	SE Workgroup
Continue and expand partnerships and professional development opportunities for mental health professionals, parents, foster parents, DCFS staff, and early intervention professionals (therapists, case managers, DDS staff, etc).	Training and communication avenues are identified and available.	June 30, 2010	SE Workgroup, Family Support Workgroup, Parent Education Workgroup, System of Care (SOC), DCCECE, Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Project, DBHS, DCFS, Interagency Coordinating Council

Family Support Work Group

Activity	Indicators of Success	Date of Expected Completion	Responsible persons or entities
GOAL: PROVIDERS AND FAMILIES WILL HAVE INCREASED AWARENESS AND ACCESS TO AVAILABLE FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES AND RESOURCES.			
Encourage family support agencies/organizations to register their services with Arkansas 211 through conference presentations and information dissemination.	211 presentations are held during in-state conferences (i.e. HIPPIY, APEN, Kids Count, AECA) and documented.	June 30, 2010	Family Support Work Group, Children's Trust Fund
Promote family use of Arkansas 211 by encouraging providers to increase family awareness of this service.	211 presentations are held during in-state family conferences and documented.	June 30, 2010	Family Support Work Group, Children's Trust Fund
GOAL: PROVIDERS AND FAMILIES WILL HAVE INCREASED PROVIDER AND PARENT AWARENESS OF PROTECTIVE FACTORS.			
Increase provider awareness of the community café concept through professional development activities and information dissemination.	Two Community Café workshops are documented.	June 30, 2010	Family Support Work Group, Children's Trust Fund
Promote the implementation of community cafes in child care and early childhood education setting through trainings and technical assistance.	At least 5 centers are implementing the Community Cafés.	June 30, 2010	Family Support Work Group, Children's Trust Fund

GOAL: ARKANSANS WILL HAVE INCREASED AWARENESS OF THE STRENGTHENING FAMILIES INITIATIVE

Provide professional development activities and information dissemination to increase provider awareness of the Strengthening Families Initiative.	SFI presentations to child care administrators are documented.	January 31, 2011	Family Support Work Group, Children's Trust Fund
Work with the Child Care Resource and Referral Centers to assist in the dissemination process regarding the Strengthening Families Initiative.	Meetings between Resource and Referrals and DCCECE about implementing PCAN curriculum are conducted and documented.	June 30, 2010	DCCECE

Parenting Education Work Group

ACTIVITY	Indicators of Success	Date of Expected Completion	Responsible persons or entities
GOAL: STATEWIDE PARENTING EDUCATION WILL IMPROVE			
Work with Arkansas 211 program to improve taxonomy of parent education services.	Taxonomy of parent education services is changed.	June 30, 2010	Parent Education Task Force, Arkansas 211 program committee
Utilize Parent Education Task Force to improve statewide collaboration.	Two meetings of the Parent Education task force are held and documented; additional future meetings are planned.	June 30, 2010	Parent Education Task Force
GOAL: THE QUALITY OF PARENT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAMILIES WILL IMPROVE			
Identify needs for parent education in Arkansas through a needs assessment process, including review of current research and curricula.	Needs survey is conducted.	June 30, 2010	Parent Education Task Force
Improve parent education opportunities and services based on results of needs assessment.	Report of needs survey results is disseminated.	September 30, 2010	Parent Education Task Force
Enhance the quality of parent education programs and services through core competencies.	Draft of core competencies is developed and implemented.	Draft: June 30, 2010 Competencies implemented: June 30, 2012	Parent Education Task Force