

**Arkansas Department of Education - Special Education Unit
Advisory Council for the Education of Children with Disabilities
Early Childhood, April 2019**

Current Activities of Early Childhood Program Advisor/619 Coordinator:

- Leading membership drive initiative for the Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) that advises and supports the Department of Human Services Division of Developmental Services (DHS/DDS) First Connections program. First Connections provides early intervention services for infants and toddlers. This council is defined by the Individual Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and positions must be governor appointed
- Continue building conversations related to itinerant early childhood special education services with other states that have implemented inclusionary practices in early childhood with fidelity
- Reviewing documents for the New 619 Coordinators' Collaboration Space being developed by the Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (ECTA)
- Participating in the Part C and 619 Think Tank development of Leadership Competencies for Part C and Part B/619 Coordinators
- Serving as Affinity Group Representative for the Central Area of 619 Coordinators. The National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE) formed this affinity group to promote collaboration within state 619 Coordinators

Statewide Collaboration Projects:

- ELAN (Equity Leaders Action Network) led by Headstart
 - Addressing inequities in preschool services for African American boys
- AAIMH (Arkansas Association of Infant Mental Health)
 - Mental health needs of infants/toddlers/preschoolers and available supports
- Project LAUNCH (Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health)
 - Developing state and local networks to improve the coordination of the early child-serving system, in particular behavioral health and primary care services, as well as enhance the practices, programs, and services for young children and their families