

Division of Elementary and Secondary Education - Special Education Unit
Advisory Council for the Education of Children with Disabilities
Early Childhood, April 2020

Current Activities for Early Childhood Program Advisors/619 Coordinator:

- Arkansas Part B 619 program, in partnership with Early Intervention (Part C), has been chosen by the Early Childhood Technical Assistance (ECTA) to be one of five states to participate in the Preschool Inclusion Cohort.
- Monthly meetings are being held with Head Start and ABC state leaders to discuss supports and collaboration.
- **Think Tank:** a meeting for all early childhood coordinators to discuss updates and barriers to the provision of services. The next meeting is scheduled for May 12, 2020.
- **Preschool Inclusion Team:** A statewide early childhood taskforce to begin analyzing barriers to preschool inclusionary practices across the state, as well as, to design action plans for overcoming these barriers; second meeting was held on February 28, 2020. The next meeting is scheduled for April 17, 2020.

Current Early Childhood Special Education Technical Assistance:

- **Child Outcomes and Present Level of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance (PLAAFP) for Early Childhood Special Education:** outlines the purpose and process for determining child outcomes as reported to Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) and procedures for incorporating these into writing a correct PLAAFP statement, as well as common errors to avoid. Presentations being scheduled to complete trainings at all statewide programs by July 1, 2020.
- **Goal Writing for Early Childhood IEPs:** involves training in how to utilize the PLAAFP statement to create goals.
 - Presented at Ozark Unlimited Resources Educational Cooperative.
- **Site Visits occurred** to provide support for programs for Fort Smith School District Early Childhood Program.

Statewide Collaboration Projects:

- **ARISE** (Arkansas' Implementation of Suspension and Expulsion Reduction Policies) A multi-year project to look at how data informs Social Emotional Learning and suspension/expulsion practices in Early Childhood in Arkansas.
- **Natural Wonders** A workgroup for people interested in the various aspects of child health in order to learn and understand the problems facing Arkansas' young.
- **AECCIG** (Arkansas Early Childhood Collaborative Impact Group: formerly Arkansas Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (AECCS) Medical Home Workgroup) Work on drafting recommendations and providing feedback for the plan and standards for Better Beginning.
- **ELAN** (Equity Leaders Action Network) led by Head Start. 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.
- **Pritzker Grant** Planning grant and initiative to allow a team to develop a well-informed plan for infant and toddler support within the broader realm of developing successful children overall.
- **TECI (Teaming for Early Childhood Inclusion) Project** - This project is led by the Partners for Inclusive Communities and is designed to build capacity within the early childhood education network for successful inclusion of children with disabilities.

Professional Conference Participation by the Early Childhood Team:

- Attended the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) conference in Portland, OR in February 2020.