

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

Current Activities for Early Childhood Program Advisors/619 Coordinator:

- Preparation has begun for the Early Childhood Technical Assistance (ECTA) Preschool Inclusion Cohort application process.
- Monthly meetings are being scheduled with some child care and prekindergarten providers (e.g. Head start and ABC) to discuss supports and collaboration.
- **Think Tank:** a meeting for all early childhood coordinators to discuss updates and barriers to the provision of services; first meeting was held December 12, 2019; 25 of 31 programs were represented.
- **Preschool Inclusion Team:** formation of 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; first meeting was held on January 10, 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. Presented at:
 - Southwest Arkansas Educational Service Cooperative and DeQueen-Mena Education Service Cooperative, October 2019
 - Arkansas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired and Arkansas School for the Deaf, November 2019
 - Russellville School District
 - Ozark Unlimited Resource Resources Service Cooperative, Harrison School District and Searcy County School District, December 2019
- **Site Visits occurred** for the following programs. Purpose is to provide support for programs.
 - Great Rivers Education Service Cooperative
 - North Little Rock Early Childhood
 - Dawson Education Service Cooperative
 - Northeast Arkansas Education Service Cooperative
 - Pocahontas Early Childhood
 - Greene County Tech Early Childhood
 - Paragould Early Childhood
 - Arch Ford Educational Service Cooperative

Statewide Collaboration Projects:

- **Preschool Development Grant** led by Department of Human Services (DHS) to look into a plan for Trauma Informed Care 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 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 Arkansas Early Childhood Association (AECA) Conference in Little Rock, AR in October 2019.
- Attended the Professional Learning Communities (PLC) Institute in San Antonio, TX in October 2019.
- Attended the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) conference In Nashville, TN in November 2019.
- Scheduled to attend the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) conference in Portland, OR in February 2020.