

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

Current Activities for Early Childhood Program Advisors/619 Coordinator:

- **Part B / 619 Position:** Has been filled – Danita Pitts
- **Multi-state Inclusion Cohort:** The Arkansas Early Childhood Special Education Program, in partnership with Early Intervention (Part C) and the Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (ECTA), has been meeting bi-weekly to analyze Arkansas in relation to the twelve State Indicators of High Quality Inclusion. Analysis is finished and the team will begin developing action plans to increase state capacity to support inclusionary practices for the birth through five population.
- **Early Childhood Virtual Discussion Group:** Meetings are being held monthly to serve as a support network for early childhood special education providers.

Current Early Childhood Special Education Technical Assistance:

- **Virtual Child Outcomes, Present Level of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance (PLAAFP), Goals, and Progress Monitoring for Early Childhood Special Education:** Outlines the purpose and process for determining child outcomes as reported to Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) as well as procedures for incorporating these into writing a correct PLAAFP statement and goals/progress.
 - Presentation has now been completed for all programs in the state.
- **Site Visits:** These check-in visits will proceed but will be scheduled virtually until further notice.

Statewide Collaboration Projects:

- **AAIMH** (Arkansas Association of Infant Mental Health) Analyze mental health needs of infants/toddlers/preschoolers and available support services.
- **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 Beginnings.
- **ELAN** (Equity Leaders Action Network) led by Head start. Addresses inequities in preschool services for African American boys.
- **Excel by Eight (E8)** Formerly known as the Pritzker Grant, this is a 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.
- **Learn the Signs, Act Early Network!** A grant designed to bolster early identification of developmental delays and disabilities, including through use of the Learn the Signs, Act Early (LTSAE) parent developmental monitoring tool, and to advance the promotion of existing resources that enhance resiliency among families with young children during COVID-19 response efforts.
- **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.
- **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 2020 Virtual Inclusion Institute August 31 – September 3, 2020.
- Attended the 2020 National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE) Virtual Conference September 23 – September 25, 2020.
- Attended the 2020 LEA Academy September 24 – September 25, 2020.