

SSIP Progress Report



FIRST CONNECTIONS – EARLY INTERVENTION IN ARKANSAS

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Joint Policy Statement - State Advisory Councils on Early Childhood Education and Care

Source: U.S. Departments of Health and
Human Services and Education

September 21, 2016

The U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services and Education have released a Joint Policy Statement providing guidance to *State Advisory Councils on Early Childhood Education and Care* on sustaining federal and state investments, and advancing work that supports the coordination of quality, comprehensive systems of early care and education at the state level.

The new policy statement, as well as reports and resources related to the work of the State Advisory Councils, can be found at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/ecd/early-learning/state-advisory-councils>.

OSEP Review of State's Phase II SSIP Submission

A team from the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) facilitated a virtual meeting in July to review the State's Phase II SSIP plan (submitted in April).

The purpose of the State Review Calls with OSEP is to discuss the plans with states to identify needed supports the state may need to implement the plan, for the state to provide clarification of points as needed, and for the OSEP team, the Part C team, and the National TA Partner or Partners attending the call to discuss feasibility of implementation.

OSEP Advisor Curtis Kinnard provided the following feedback on the Phase II submission:

"The overall SSIP is well organized and simple to follow for the reader" with a "good connection of Ph I and II, which is critical for the reader who may not be familiar with Ph I work."

"Ph I and II are easy to read, which is important to be a useful tool for the state and for various stakeholders so it's something people can pick up and read and easily find specific information."

[Plan] *"provided good background information on background, and how different agencies and stakeholders collaborated. Good connection between strategies and outcomes and gave a roadmap to the SiMR that shows starting point and points in between on the way to reach the SiMR."*

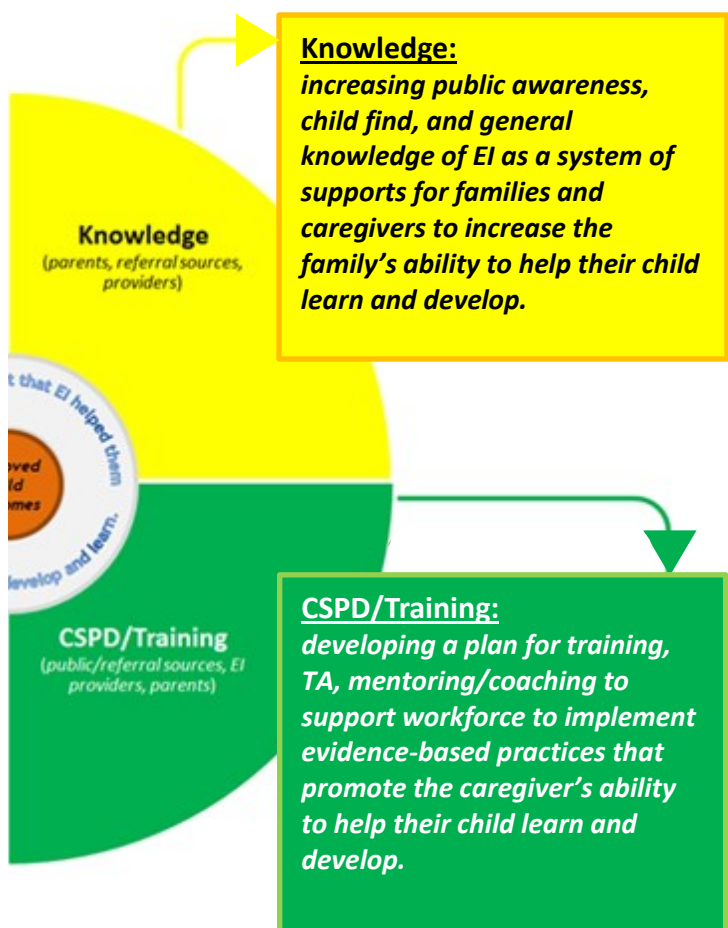
"Good outline of barriers and strategies to overcome them. Good alignment with work of other agencies / initiatives."

A special thank you goes out to the many interested individuals (stakeholders) who have contributed their time, ideas, and talents to supporting us in this work!

Arkansas' SiMR: State-identified Measureable Result for Part C

To increase the percentage of parents who report that early intervention helped them help their child learn and develop.

What Are You Doing? Initial Implementation Activities



Half of the Theory of Action Diagram (Phase I) showing initial implementation focus areas that are separate but working together to complete the whole cycle

“Remarketing” to improve knowledge of EI as a system of supports for families and caregivers:

- ✓ Critical Questions guided activities completed with First Connections administration and staff to reach consensus on answers to critical questions about what a Part C program does, how, and why
- ✓ New FC Web site provides information to parents, providers, stakeholders, and referral sources
- ✓ Parent Participation Agreement requirement
- ✓ New EI Overview shared with related agencies

SSISP, the plan for training, TA, mentoring/coaching to begin implementation of EBPs with target group, the UP sites:

- ✓ **Unlimited Potential (UP) Initiative:** Training has begun with the first cohort group (4 sites). Each site formed a local implementation team.
- ✓ UP local implementation teams selected an “internal coach” (or coaches). Coaches began training on using a strengths-based approach to coach colleagues to support them in implementing evidence-based practices with families they serve.
- ✓ UP local implementation teams drafted vision statements.
- ✓ UP local implementation teams began training on using the results of a family assessment to develop functional child goals and objectives on the IFSP. Family assessment training was followed up with training to modify the assessment to interview “other caregivers” to obtain information from early childhood professionals about the child’s participation in early learning settings to develop functional routines-based outcomes.
- ✓ Cross-Sector Professional Development Leadership Team formed two subcommittees to look at Personnel Standards and In-Service training to support EI practitioners, ECSE practitioners, daycare providers, and other early childhood professionals in implementing evidence-based practices.
- ✓ Each subcommittee identifies “who else” needs to be involved in the work and extends a personal invite.
- ✓ Each subcommittee completes the ECTA planning tool to draft an initial plan to reach identified goals in Personnel Standards and In-Service Professional Development.

Arkansas C/B Shares Information about Stakeholder Involvement in the SSIP at National Data Conference

Tracy Turner – Part C Coordinator, Carol Parker – Part C Data Manager, and Ravyn Hawkins – Part C SSIP Coordinator attended the national data conference hosted by the Center for IDEA Early Childhood Data Systems (DaSy) in New Orleans with Yvonne Greene – Part B/619 Coordinator, and other ECSE team members.

One of the primary goals of the conference was to support states in the systemic improvement planning work of early implementation and documenting beginning implementation in Phase III of the SSIP, with a variety of opportunities for states to learn from each other. Representing Arkansas, Yvonne and Ravyn co-presented information about their work with stakeholders using *Leading by Convening* principles to involve stakeholders in the SSIP work.

