

Arkansas Building Effective Services for Trauma (ARBEST)

Quarterly Legislative Report (October 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016)

OVERVIEW

Arkansas Building Effective Services for Trauma (ARBEST) was established in the spring of 2009, when the Arkansas State Legislature approved funding to improve screening, monitoring, and continuity of care for children experiencing physical or sexual abuse. Several changes were made to the ARBEST website in July 2013 in order to maintain quality assurance for the Mental Health Appropriation for the state's Child Advocacy Centers (CAC). These changes enhance procedures for monitoring the type and duration of care for each child and their family referred to a CAC-contracted mental health professional (MHP). All ARBEST activities are housed within the UAMS Psychiatric Research Institute (PRI) to minimize redundancy and allow for improved communications between UAMS and the state's CACs, CAC chapter, MHPs, child welfare workers and other stakeholders. ARBEST holds quarterly Advisory Committee meetings with representatives from the UAMS Departments of Psychiatry, Pediatrics and Family and Preventive Medicine; the Children's Advocacy Centers of Arkansas (the Executive Director and members of the Mental Health Workgroup); and the Arkansas Commission on Child Abuse, Rape and Domestic Violence.

TIMELINE

- March 2016 – 14 out of 14 CACs respond to the RFQ for CAC Mental Health Services for FY17
- June 2016 – Legislative Review Committee approves Professional Contract Service.
- July 2016 – FY16 fourth quarter payment is distributed to CACs
- October 2016 – FY17 first quarter payment is distributed to CACs

MENTAL HEALTH APPROPRIATION RESULTS

- 1,132 children were registered by the state's CACs during the 2nd quarter of FY17.
- 216 (32%) children who were eligible for counseling were registered by mental health professionals across the state affiliated with a local CAC. Registration indicates intent to provide mental health assessment and/or treatment to a child.
- 1,435 hours of mental health services were provided to children and their families by mental health professionals during the 2nd quarter, which is an average of 6.6 hours per child.
- An additional 209 hours of indirect services were provided by MHPs, the majority of which included attendance at Multidisciplinary Team meetings, supervision, and outreach.
- 10 CACs met the goal of providing mental health services to at least 30% of children registered by the CAC or providing 94 hours or more of direct service to their clients.
- 4 CACs did not meet the goal of providing mental health services to at least 30% of children registered by the CAC or providing 94 hours or more of direct service to their clients. Based on the performance standards listed in the ARBEST Mental Health Appropriation Agreement, these CACs received a decreased proportion of their funding for the 2nd quarter.

MENTAL HEALTH APPROPRIATION GOALS (July 1, 2016 – September 30, 2016)

- The 4 CACs that did not meet the 30% goal of registering new eligible clients or providing 94 hours of direct service will receive technical assistance during the 3rd quarter of FY17.

RELATED ARBEST ACTIVITIES

During the 2nd quarter of FY17, ARBEST was also engaged in the following activities to support the mental health of children with suspected abuse and their families:

- Partner Trainings
 - 10/3/16 – Connecting for Children’s Justice (Murfreesboro, TN)
 - 10/27/16 – The 2016 Court Appointed Special Advocates Conference (Little Rock)
 - 12/1/16 – Arkansas Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers 2016 Conference (Fayetteville)
- 10/11/16 - Introductory Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Training (Fort Smith)
 - A total of 76 therapists from 24 Arkansas counties attended the training
- 11/7/16 - Child-Parent Psychotherapy Training (Little Rock)
 - A total of 19 therapists from 10 Child Advocacy Centers and 3 mental health organizations attended the training
- ARBEST Webinars:
 - 10/19/16 – Preventing Suspension & Expulsion in Early Care and Education Settings: Your Role, Your Rights and New Supports (Nicola Edge, Ph.D.)
 - 11/17/16 – Assessment Use in Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (Benjamin Sigel, Ph.D.)
 - 12/6/16 – “But I Don’t Want to Talk about It...”: Victim Dynamics and the Forensic Interview (Erin Kraner)
- Preparation for the Introductory and Advanced Trauma-Focused Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) trainings to be held May 2017 in Little Rock.
- Publication of three e-newsletters

FY 2017
Q1 (October – December 2016)

ARBEST General Activities	
Salaries/Fringe	\$145,958
Supplies	18,083
Training	18,978
CAC Data Entry	8,169
Other	500
Sub-Total	191,688
Admin Fee	
Total	\$191,688

CAC Mental Health Appropriation	
CACs	\$76,641
Total	\$76,641