

# EXHIBIT D1



ARKANSAS TOBACCO SETTLEMENT COMMISSION

# 2022 January-March Quarterly Evaluation Report



***Report presented to***

Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission  
101 East Capitol Avenue, Suite 108  
Little Rock, AR 72201



UNIVERSITY OF  
CENTRAL  
ARKANSAS™

***Report presented by***

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***August, 2022***

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# About the Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission



## ATSC Mission

The mission of the Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission (ATSC) is to provide oversight and assessment of the performance of the seven programs funded by the Tobacco Settlement Proceeds Act of 2000. The Act mandates the distribution of Master Settlement Agreement funds. The seven health programs that receive funding work to enhance the health and well-being of Arkansans through various projects, programs, and outreach.

## Funded Programs



### Arkansas Biosciences Institute

Robert McGehee, Jr., PhD, Director  
 Leslie Humphries, Program Coordinator (outgoing)  
 Jimmie Jarry, Program Coordinator (incoming)

### ABI Goal

To develop new tobacco-related medical and agricultural research initiatives to improve the access to new technologies, improve the health of Arkansans, and stabilize the economic security of Arkansas.



### UAMS Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health

Mark Williams, PhD, Dean  
 Liz Gates, JD, MPH, Assistant Dean for Planning and Policy

### COPH Goal

To improve the health and promote the well-being of individuals, families, and communities in Arkansas through education, research, and service.



### Arkansas Minority Health Initiative

ShaRhonda Love, MPH, Director (outgoing)  
 Kenya Eddings, MPH, Director (incoming)  
 Beatriz Mondragon, Grants Coordinator and Program Manager

### MHI Goal

To improve healthcare systems in Arkansas and access to healthcare delivery systems, thereby resolving critical deficiencies that negatively impact the health of the citizens of the state.



### Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program

Lana "Joy" Gray, Branch Chief

### TPCP Goal

To reduce morbidity and death associated with tobacco use by preventing initiation of tobacco/nicotine products and providing cessation services/resources to Arkansans who want to quit using tobacco.



### Tobacco Settlement Medicaid Expansion Program

Mary Franklin, Director, Department of Human Services Division of County Operations

### TS-MEP Goal

To expand access to healthcare through targeted Medicaid expansions, thereby improving the health of eligible Arkansans.



### UAMS Centers on Aging

AmyLeigh Overton-McCoy, PhD, GNP-BC, Director

### UAMS-COA Goal

To improve the health of older Arkansans through interdisciplinary geriatric care and innovative education programs and to influence health policy affecting older adults.



### UAMS East Regional Campus

Becky Hall, EdD, Director  
 Stephanie Loveless, MPH, Associate Director

### UAMS East Goal

To recruit and retain healthcare professionals and to provide community-based healthcare and education to improve the health of the people residing in the Delta region.

# Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission and Staff

## **Andrea Allen, Commission Chair**

Executive Director, A-State Delta Center for Economic Development  
Governor Appointee



## **Jim Hudson, Commission Vice Chair**

Chief of Staff, Arkansas Economic Development Commission (AEDC)  
AEDC Permanent Designee

## **Jerri Clark, Commissioner**

Director of School Health Services, Arkansas Department of Education (ADE)  
ADE Permanent Designee

## **Mary Franklin, Commissioner**

Director of Divisions of County Operations, Arkansas Department of Human Services (DHS):  
DHS Permanent Designee

## **Nick Fuller, Commissioner**

Deputy Director, Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE)  
ADHE Permanent Designee

## **Ken Knecht, MD, Commissioner**

Physician, Arkansas Children's Hospital  
Senate President Pro Tempore Appointee

## **Roddy Smart Lochala, DO, Commissioner**

Physician, Family Practice Clinic  
Attorney General Appointee

## **Renee Mallory, Commissioner**

Chief of Staff, Arkansas Department of Health (ADH)  
ADH Permanent Designee

## **Zsanica Ervin, Administrative Specialist III**

# Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission Evaluation Team

**Emily Lane, MFA, PhD(c)**

Project Director

**Betty Hubbard, EdD, MCHES**

Evaluator: Arkansas Biosciences Institute

**Ron Bramlett, PhD**

Evaluator: UAMS Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health

**Denise Demers, PhD, CHES**

Evaluator: Arkansas Minority Health Initiative

**Janet Wilson, PhD**

Evaluator: Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program

**Joseph Howard, PhD**

Evaluator: Tobacco Settlement Medicaid Expansion Program

**Ed Powers, PhD**

Evaluator: UAMS Centers on Aging

**Jacquie Rainey, DrPH, MCHES**

Co-PI & Administrator

Evaluator: UAMS East Regional Campus

**Rhonda McClellan, EdD**

Co-PI

Qualitative Report



## *Timing of Program Evaluation*

While all ATSC-funded programs rely on annual indicators to guide activities, the timing of evaluation varies across programs. Some programs are evaluated at the end of the fiscal year; others are evaluated at the end of the calendar year. For clarity in this report, we provide an illustration of program evaluation timing below, broken down by the four evaluation reports that the UCA evaluation team produces each year.

- **January-March Quarterly Report:**
  - Quarterly updates for all ATSC-funded programs
- **April-June Quarterly Report:**
  - Quarterly updates for ABI, COPH, TS-MEP, UAMS-COA, and UAMS East
  - Fiscal year evaluation of MHI and TPCP
- **July-September Quarterly Report:**
  - Quarterly updates for COPH, MHI, TPCP, TS-MEP, UAMS-COA, and UAMS East
  - Fiscal year evaluation of ABI
- **Annual/Biennial Report, inclusive of October-December data:**
  - Calendar year evaluation of COPH, TS-MEP, UAMS-COA, and UAMS East
  - Review of most recent fiscal year evaluation of ABI, MHI, and TPCP



# Collective Impact

Arkansas Biosciences Institute (ABI), UAMS Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health (COPH), Arkansas Minority Health Initiative (MHI), Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program (TCP), Tobacco Settlement Medicaid Expansion Program (TS-MEP), UAMS Centers on Aging (UAMS-COA), UAMS East Regional Campus (UAMS East)

## EDUCATION

### COMMUNITY EDUCATION (MHI, TPCP, UAMS-COA, UAMS EAST)



16,023

ARKANSANS EDUCATED

5,863

YOUTH EDUCATED



**FINDING A WAY FORWARD**

23rd Arkansas Cancer Summit  
Mental Health, Screenings & Survivorship  
Tuesday, March 8, 2022 - via Zoom

19th Clearing the Air in Communities of Color Conference  
Tobacco Control, Mental Health & Disparate Population Groups  
Wednesday, March 9, 2022 - via Zoom

Approximately 450 attendees participated in the joint "Finding a Way Forward" conference held on March 8-9. The 23rd Arkansas Cancer Summit was hosted by the Arkansas Cancer Coalition (a TPCP sub-grantee) with the theme "Mental Health, Screenings, & Survivorship." The 19th Clearing the Air in Communities of Color Conference was hosted by MISRGO with the theme "Tobacco Control, Mental Health, & Disparate Population Groups."



890

HEALTH PROFESSIONALS AND STUDENTS EDUCATED  
(ABI, COPH, TPCP, UAMS-COA, UAMS EAST)



17

DISTANCE-ACCESSIBLE COURSES OFFERED BY COPH



## SERVICE

5,032



EXERCISE ENCOUNTERS  
(UAMS-COA, UAMS EAST)

3,424



PATIENT ENCOUNTERS  
(UAMS-COA, UAMS EAST)

4,432



HEALTH SCREENINGS  
(MHI, UAMS EAST)



8,274



ARKANSANS SERVED THROUGH TS-MEP

be well



10,000



In March, TPCP announced Be Well Arkansas achieved the milestone of 10,000 callers enrolled in the tobacco cessation program since 2018. This quarter, 815 callers were enrolled.





# Collective Impact

Arkansas Biosciences Institute (ABI), UAMS Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health (COPH), Arkansas Minority Health Initiative (MHI), Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program (TPCP), Tobacco Settlement Medicaid Expansion Program (TS-MEP), UAMS Centers on Aging (UAMS-COA), UAMS East Regional Campus (UAMS East)

## RESEARCH



Arkansas Biosciences Institute

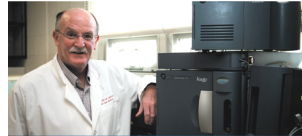
### CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH DATABASE



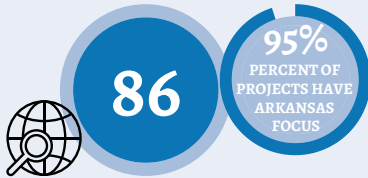
The ABI Board approved continued financial support in the maintenance of the Arkansas All-Payer Claims Database (APCD). At the five-year mark, there is impressive grant activity related to the APCD. For example, Dr. Bradley Martin's recent project uses the APCD to identify potentially modifiable factors such as how opioids are prescribed at the time of medication initiation. Research indicated that if the patient received a 14-day prescription, they were 300% more likely to continue opioid use than if they had been prescribed an initial dose of seven days. This project helped Dr. Martin lobby for a decrease in the initial prescription of opioid medications.

### HIGHLIGHTING AN ABI-SUPPORTED RESEARCHER

For 20 years, Dr. Luke Howard, a professor of food science at the University of Arkansas System, Division of Agriculture has investigated the bioactive phytochemicals that give berries their nutritional value and has explored ways to extract more health benefits from them.



### COPH RESEARCH PROJECTS



UAMS  
Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health

### HIGHLIGHTING A COPH RESEARCHER

For decades, Dr. Pebbles Fagan, professor and co-lead of the National Institutes of Health funded Center for Research, Health, and Social Justice has investigated tobacco-related health disparities and was most recently awarded the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco President's Award.



### MINORITY RESEARCH CENTER

The MRC funded two RFPs for FY22-FY23 to partner with Community Clinic and Philander Smith College. The MRC will work with Community Clinic to assess the impact of attitudes, norms, and perceived behavioral control of one's ability to utilize tobacco treatment in a healthcare setting, along with cessation success rates. The MRC will work with Philander Smith College to understand African-American students' attitudes and behaviors toward tobacco use during the pandemic.



## ECONOMIC IMPACT

\$23.6 Million

TOTAL CLAIMS PAID BY TS-MEP



\$18.3 Million

LEVERAGED IN FEDERAL MATCHING FUNDS



\$9,609

Community Partner Donations to UAMS-COA



\$284,828

Leveraged by UAMS-COA and UAMS East



### WELL-BEING RETURNS ON TOBACCO SETTLEMENT INVESTMENTS



ATSC funding during the quarter supported highly skilled jobs, research projects, health education programs, health screenings and COVID-19 vaccinations, clinical services, organizational and community partnerships, and vital healthcare for vulnerable Arkansans. Despite limitations imposed on programs by the pandemic, 87% of program indicators were on track or exceeding expectations to meet future goals. All things considered, the investment of ATSC dollars in the state has enhanced Arkansans' health and well-being and supported a culture of health.



# Collective Impact

Arkansas Biosciences Institute (ABI), UAMS Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health (COPH), Arkansas Minority Health Initiative (MHI), Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program (TPCP), Tobacco Settlement Medicaid Expansion Program (TS-MEP), UAMS Centers on Aging (UAMS-COA), UAMS East Regional Campus (UAMS East)

## Testimonials

**Arkansas Biosciences Institute:** Luke Howard, PhD, a professor of food science at the University of Arkansas System, Division of Agriculture investigates the naturally-occurring phytochemicals that can turn ordinary foods into health-boosting “functional foods.” Dr. Howard stated, “The potential to turn ordinary foods that are already in people’s diets into healthier foods that people want to eat everyday holds remarkable promise for human health. We have found ways to stabilize the bioactive compounds and fix their optimum potency during the processing, storage, and marketing. Most of the fiber and up to half of the bioactive compounds . . . are in the pomace that was once considered waste material after making fruit juice. . . . They have potent antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties. Inflammation is involved in virtually all human diseases. If you can suppress inflammation with functional food compounds you can mitigate many diseases or ease their symptoms.”

**UAMS Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health:** Pebbles Fagan, PhD, a leading expert on tobacco-related health disparities, received the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco (SRNT) President’s Award. She is the fifth recipient of the award in the society’s 28-year history. Megan Piper, PhD, Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco president and professor at the University of Wisconsin presented the award to Fagan. Dr. Piper shared, “It is my great honor to bestow upon Dr. Fagan the 2022 SRNT President’s Award in honor of her decades of work in nicotine and tobacco science and health equity. . . . The President’s Award is not given out every year, but this year I wanted to culminate the SRNT’s work on racial equity by recognizing the preeminent leader in the field.”

**Arkansas Minority Health Initiative:** The MHI partnered with Pulaski Technical College to host a health fair designed to educate participants on preventative health screenings, maintenance, physical activity, and nutrition, and to provide screenings and educational literature to attendees. One attendee shared, “I feel the health fair staff was great, knowledgeable, and friendly. They made the testing painless and gave good info.”

**Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program:** The Arkansas Cancer Coalition held the 23rd Arkansas Cancer Summit on March 8. The Summit focused on mental health, screenings, and survivorship. Comments from the event evaluation highlighted what participants learned that would apply to their professional or personal lives. One participant said, “The mental health wellness session was powerful and practical.” Another shared, “I learned that disposable e-cigarettes are the most used form of e-cigarettes among our youth.” A third participant reflected, “Menthol cigarettes were directly, intentionally, and specifically marketed to Black and African Americans.” Another participant stated, “You must take care of yourself so you can effectively take care of others.”

**UAMS Centers on Aging:** A participant in a Schmieding Center program said this about the center, “You are a very popular resource for our Social Work department as you are a wealth of information regarding caregiving, dementia, and local/state resources. . . . Thank you for sharing your expertise and information during these sessions. It can seem very lonely caring for someone with dementia, and you have widened our world a bit.”

**UAMS East Regional Campus:** A patient at UAMS East’s Family Medical Center this quarter praised the clinic, “This was the best experience I have ever had at a doctor’s office. They were very helpful. The front desk staff were both very pleasant. The nurse Kayla was nice. Dr. Lauren listened to me and explained everything so I could understand. Thank you so much for this staff. They are amazing.”



# Program Progress and Evaluation



# ABI Program Description and Goals

## *Program Description*

The Arkansas Biosciences Institute, the agricultural and biomedical research program of the Tobacco Settlement Proceeds Act, is a partnership of scientists from Arkansas Children's Research Institute, Arkansas State University, the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. The ABI supports long-term agricultural and biomedical research at its five member institutions and focuses on fostering collaborative research that connects investigators from various disciplines across these five institutions. The ABI uses this operational approach to address the goals as outlined in the Tobacco Settlement Proceeds Act. These goals are to conduct:

- Agricultural research with medical implications;
- Bioengineering research that expands genetic knowledge and creates new potential applications in the agricultural-medical fields;
- Tobacco-related research that identifies and applies behavioral, diagnostic, and therapeutic knowledge to address the high level of tobacco-related illnesses in Arkansas;
- Nutritional and other research that is aimed at preventing and treating cancer, congenital and hereditary conditions, or other related conditions; and
- Other areas of developing research that are related or complementary to primary ABI-supported programs.

## *Overall Program Goal*

The goal of the ABI is to develop new tobacco-related medical and agricultural research initiatives to improve the access to new technologies, improve the health of Arkansans, and stabilize the economic security of Arkansas.

# ABI Evaluator Summary and Comments

## *Opportunities*

The gradual lifting of COVID-19 restrictions offers opportunities to begin planning in-person events such as the ABI Annual Fall Symposium. Travel will be arranged for face-to-face meetings at the ABI sites and students will, in time, become more comfortable working in close proximity within ABI-supported labs. The ABI also anticipates that the number of FTEs and new research scientists will begin to increase.

The ABI Board recently approved continued financial support in the maintenance of the Arkansas All-Payer Claims Database (APCD) in collaboration with the Arkansas Center for Health Improvement (ACHI). This database has become a valuable source of information to ABI investigators over the last several years with the intent of promoting high-value healthcare and to advance research. This partnership enabled the establishment of a parallel server based in the UAMS Biomedical Informatics Department which allows all ABI investigators access at no cost. This database has proven to be a very useful resource for investigators at all five ABI institutions. At the five-year mark, there is impressive grant activity due to the utilization of this resource. For example, Dr. Bradley Martin's recent APCD project, "Early Care Decisions and the Risk of Long-Term Opioid Use in Patients with Low Back Pain," has an overall goal to improve pain management for individuals. Dr. Martin uses the database to identify potentially modifiable factors such as how opioids are prescribed at the time of medication initiation. Improved decision making around these modifiable factors at initiation of care may provide the best opportunity to prevent long-term opioid use. This project helped Dr. Martin lobby for a decrease in the initial prescription of opioid medications from 14 to seven days. Research indicated that if the patient received a 14-day prescription, they were 300% more likely to continue opioid use than if they had been prescribed an initial dose of seven days. Kenley Money, the manager of this database at ACHI, will begin visiting the five ABI institutions to facilitate hands-on workshops to investigators to encourage the use of this valuable resource.

## *Challenges*

Although COVID-19 restrictions are gradually being lifted, the disease still affects the number of people who are comfortable with in-person meetings and the number of students who feel safe working in close proximity in ABI-supported labs. The prevalence of the infection has also restricted the number of new hires at the ABI institutions. When reviewing the historical information on both FTEs and new research scientists to Arkansas, it can be seen that both categories have declined for FY20 and FY21. For the number of FTEs supported with ABI and extramural funding, FY21 saw a drop to 252 FTEs, down considerably from the high of 402 FTEs in FY12. Similarly, the research scientists recruited to Arkansas dropped to only three new hires for FY21.

# ABI Evaluator Summary and Comments

## *Evaluator Comments*

I congratulate ABI on its 20 year anniversary. During the past two decades, ABI has had remarkable success and been transformative for research efforts across the state. Arkansas Bioscience Institute dollars have supported a generation of preliminary data and funding for innovative research, garnering over \$800 million in related extramural funds. These monies supported an average of 250-300 FTEs for high wage, knowledge-based support personnel at the five member institutions within the state. Since ABI's inception in 2002, researchers have exhibited an ongoing record of publications, presentations, and media contacts that allow investigators to disseminate their findings to the public and professionals. As research projects progressed at ABI, some findings led to unique intellectual property and commercial applications that were eligible for patent protection. All of these metrics provide evidence of the success ABI has experienced. It has been an enlightening opportunity for this evaluator to follow and report the progress of ABI over the past several years. I welcome the ability to follow its successes in the years to come.

# ABI Performance Indicators and Progress

## Long-Term Objective

The institute's research results should translate into commercial, alternate technological, and other applications wherever appropriate in order that the research results may be applied to the planning, implementation, and evaluation of any health-related programs in the state. The institute should also obtain federal and philanthropic grant funding.



**INDICATOR:** The five member institutions will continue to rely on funding from extramural sources with the goal of increasing leveraged funding from a baseline of \$3.15 for every \$1.00 in ABI funding.

- **ON TRACK**
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is on track. During FY21, investigators received \$6.19 in extramural funding for every \$1 provided by the Arkansas Tobacco Settlement. These combined funds are used to support pilot projects, purchase new equipment, gain access to core laboratories, hire critical research technicians, and develop collaborative relationships. Such efforts help build strong preliminary data and provide infrastructure support to make extramural grant applications more successful. Data for this indicator will be reported at the end of the fiscal year.*



**INDICATOR:** ABI-funded research will lead to the development of intellectual property, as measured by the number of patents filed and received.

- **ON TRACK**
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is on track. Patent filings and patent awards are key indicators of entrepreneurship, innovation, and potential commercial opportunities at ABI. In FY 2021, there were five patent filings and one patent award to ABI-supported research investigators. Data for this indicator will be reported at the end of the fiscal year.*



**INDICATOR:** The ABI will promote its activities through various media outlets to broaden the scope of impact of its research.

- **ON TRACK**
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is on track. For FY21, ABI made 92 media contacts that occurred in a variety of formats: 34 newspaper articles, 37 press releases, three news conferences, and 18 television/radio broadcasts. These contacts highlight the activities of ABI investigators and also increase the scope and impact of research conducted by this program. Data for this indicator will be reported at the conclusion of FY22.*

# ABI Performance Indicators and Progress

## Short-Term Objective

The Arkansas Biosciences Institute shall initiate new research programs for the purpose of conducting, as specified in § 19-12-115, agricultural research with medical implications, bioengineering research, tobacco-related research, nutritional research focusing on cancer prevention or treatment, and other research approved by the board.




**INDICATOR:** The ABI will allocate funding to its five member institutions to support research, while also monitoring that funded research activities are conducted on time, within scope, and with no overruns.

- **ON TRACK**
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is on track. During FY21 there were 227 new and ongoing projects conducted by the following institutions: 49 projects were conducted by the Arkansas Children's Hospital Research Institute; 75 within Arkansas State University; 12 within the University of Arkansas, Division of Agriculture; 42 within the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville; and 49 within the UAMS. These projects are monitored to ensure they are time efficient, cost effective, and within the scope of the researchers' defined agenda. Data regarding research activities will be collected at the end of FY22.*




**INDICATOR:** The ABI and its member institutions will systematically disseminate research results and ensure that at least 290 publications and 370 presentations are delivered each year. These include presentations and publications of results, curricula, and interventions developed using the grant funding, symposia held by investigators, and the creation of new research tools and methodologies that will advance science in the future.

- **ON TRACK, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** 
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is on track. Publications serve as the primary mechanism through which research results are disseminated to the public and scientific community. They also constitute a measure of investigator productivity while bringing positive national recognition to Arkansas. In FY21, ABI investigators generated 379 publications while the number of presentations fell below expectations. It should be noted, however, that 44% of publications were the result of collaboration between ABI scientists. Data on publications and presentations will be collected at the close of FY22.*




**INDICATOR:** Employment supported by the ABI and extramural funding will be maintained at a baseline of 300 full-time equivalent (FTE) with at least 65% of the FTE supported by extramural funds.

- **ON TRACK, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** 
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is on track. Since its inception in 2002, ABI funding and the related extramural funding have supported hundreds of full-time equivalent jobs annually in Arkansas. These knowledge-based jobs include research support personnel, biostatisticians, post-doctoral research fellows, and animal care technicians. For FY21 there were 252 full-time equivalent jobs directly supported with ABI and related extramural funding at the five member institutions. Data related to FTE will be collected at the end of FY22.*



**INDICATOR:** The ABI will facilitate and maintain research collaboration at a level of 20% - 25% among member institutions.

- **ON TRACK, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** 
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is on track. During FY21, there were 227 new and ongoing research projects. Of these projects, 35% were collaborative with other ABI institutions. In addition to collaborations between the five ABI institutions, other partners included many out-of-state programs. Data regarding levels of collaboration will be collected at the conclusion of FY22.*

# ABI Testimonial

## *Turning Ordinary Foods Into Functional Foods*

Luke Howard, PhD, is a professor of food science for the Arkansas Agricultural Experimentation Station which is the research arm of the University of Arkansas System, Division of Agriculture. He investigates the isolation and use of naturally-occurring phytochemicals that can turn ordinary foods into health-boosting “functional foods.” For the last 20 years, Dr. Howard investigated the bioactive phytochemicals that give berries their nutritional value and explored ways to extract more health benefits from them.

Dr. Howard stated, “I’m a food chemist. The potential to turn ordinary foods that are already in people’s diets into healthier foods that people want to eat everyday holds remarkable promise for human health. We have found ways to stabilize the bioactive compounds and fix their optimum potency during the processing, storage, and marketing. Most of the fiber and up to half of the bioactive compounds, like anthocyanins, are in the pomace that was once considered waste material after making fruit juice that has been pressed out of a fruit. They have potent antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties. Inflammation is involved in virtually all human diseases. If you can suppress inflammation with functional food compounds you can mitigate many diseases or ease their symptoms.”

# COPH Program Description and Goals

## ***Program Description***

The Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health (COPH) educates a public health workforce and advances the health of the public by investigating the causes, treatments, and prevention of human health problems. Preventing chronic disease and promoting positive health behavior is the most effective way to improve the health of all people. The College's mission of improving the health of all Arkansans is realized through teaching and research as well as service to elected officials, agencies, organizations, and communities. Examples of the complex health issues addressed include improving the multiple dimensions of access to healthcare; reducing the preventable causes of chronic disease; controlling infectious diseases; reducing environmental hazards, violence, substance abuse, and injury; and promoting preparedness for health issues resulting from terrorist acts, natural disasters, and newly emerging infectious diseases.

## ***Overall Program Goal***

The goal of the COPH is to improve the health and promote the well-being of individuals, families, and communities in Arkansas through education, research, and service.



# COPH Evaluator Summary and Comments

## *Opportunities*

The COPH underwent a re-accreditation site visit in December 2021 and received the site visitor's draft report in late January. The college has the opportunity to respond to the report with clarification or correction on matters of fact or substance. There were very few concerns put forth in the site visitor's report demonstrating the college's continuing efforts to comply with accreditation criteria and provide high quality education and opportunities to students. The concerns allowed the college to look more closely at capstone guidance documents and update the documents to provide more clarity in specific areas of the document. The college also had the opportunity to re-examine data collection from students and alumni and begin reviewing certain elements for discussion among leadership. The college will be reviewed by the Council on the Education of Public Health board of councilors who will meet in early June to review the site visitor's report and the college's response. The COPH expects a decision of full re-accreditation in late June or early July.

## *Challenges*

The COPH's senior systems developer and analyst left the college in early January 2022. That position serves the college in many ways, including website management, competency assessment tracking, data collection and analysis, and developing dashboards and systems tailored to the needs of the college. The COPH is examining ways to fill the significant gap that now exists for the college, and it is unlikely to be filled before July 2022.

## *Evaluator Comments*

The COPH is on track to meet all of its annual goals. The research of faculty and students is impressive and is being conducted largely in Arkansas with important health implications for the state. The college provides important consultative roles to committees and task forces that influence health-related issues for Arkansans across many diverse populations. The COPH also continues to provide remote and distance-accessible courses on timely public health issues.

# COPH Performance Indicators and Progress

## Long-Term Objective

Elevate the overall ranking of the health status of Arkansans.



**INDICATOR:** Through consultations, partnerships and dissemination of knowledge, the COPH serves as an educational resource for Arkansans (e.g., general public, public health practitioners and researchers, and policymakers) with the potential to affect public health practice and policy – and population health.

- **ON TRACK**
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is on track to meet the annual goal. Fifty-two activities were reported by faculty covering a wide variety of contributions. Thirty-six had statewide audiences, seven had national audiences, and five were focused on central Arkansas. These activities included providing presentations to professional or lay audiences; serving as consultants, contributors on expert panels, task forces, committees or boards of directors; or partnering with public health practitioners or community organizations that have a health-related mission.*



**INDICATOR:** COPH faculty productivity is maintained at a level of two publications in peer-reviewed journals per one full-time equivalent (FTE) employee for primary research faculty.

- **ON TRACK**
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is on track to meet the annual goal. Data for this indicator are reported in the October-December quarter and will be presented in the 2022 annual report.*



**INDICATOR:** Research conducted by COPH faculty and students contributes to public health practice, public health research, and the health and well-being of Arkansans.

- **ON TRACK**
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is on track to meet the annual goal. Currently, faculty are engaged in 38 research grants and projects, 34 of which are based in Arkansas. In addition, 48 student research projects are ongoing and all are based in Arkansas. A wide range of health topics are being investigated including, but not limited to, foster care, mental health services, telehealth, diabetes prevention, HIV in minority populations, underserved populations, cardiovascular disease, mammography screening, homelessness, and hypertension.*



**INDICATOR:** COPH faculty, staff, and students are engaged in research that is based in Arkansas.

- **ON TRACK**
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is on track to meet the annual goal. Currently, a majority of research projects (82 of 86, 95%) are based in Arkansas.*



**INDICATOR:** The COPH makes courses and presentations available statewide.

- **ON TRACK**
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is on track to meet the annual goal. Seventeen distance-accessible courses were made available statewide during this quarter. In addition, six presentations were made available remotely and included timely topics such as COVID-19 in children, opioid overdoses, and trauma care for children.*

# COPH Performance Indicators and Progress



**INDICATOR:** Twenty percent of enrolled students at the COPH come from rural areas of Arkansas.

- **ON TRACK**
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is on track to meet the annual goal. In total, 70 of 283 (or 25%) students enrolled in the COPH were from rural areas.*



**INDICATOR:** COPH graduates' race/ethnicity demographics for Whites, African Americans and Hispanics/Latinos are reflective of Arkansas race/ethnicity demographics.

- **ON TRACK**
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is on track. These data are reported in the April-June, July-September, and October-December quarters.*



**INDICATOR:** The majority of COPH alumni stay in Arkansas and work in public health.

- **ON TRACK**
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is on track. These data are reported in the April-June, July-September, and October-December quarters.*

## ***Short-Term Objective***

Obtain federal and philanthropic grant funding.



**INDICATOR:** The COPH shall maintain a 1.5:1 ratio of total annual fiscal year extramural award funding to annual fiscal year tobacco settlement dollars.

- **ON TRACK**
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is on track. Data and evaluation of this indicator are reported in the July-September quarterly report.*

# COPH Testimonial

## *Long-Time Tobacco Researcher Receives Prestigious Award*

Pebbles Fagan, PhD, MPH, a leading expert on tobacco-related health disparities at UAMS, received the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco (SRNT) President's Award. Fagan was recognized by the organization due to her decades of scientific excellence and efforts to combat health inequities related to nicotine and tobacco use. She is the fifth recipient of the award in the society's 28-year history.

"It is my great honor to bestow upon Dr. Fagan the 2022 SRNT President's Award in honor of her decades of work in nicotine and tobacco science and health equity," said Megan Piper, PhD, Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco president and professor at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. "The President's Award is not given out every year, but this year I wanted to culminate the SRNT's work on racial equity by recognizing the preeminent leader in the field of nicotine and tobacco science and health equity," said Piper.

Fagan is a professor in the Department of Health Behavior and Education in the Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health and director of the UAMS Center for the Study of Tobacco. She is director of research in the UAMS Office of Health Initiatives and Disparities Research and a member of the UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute's Cancer Prevention and Population Sciences Research Group. Fagan will co-lead the new National Institutes of Health (NIH) funded Center for Research, Health, and Social Justice – one of only 11 Multiple Chronic Disease Centers funded in the United States.

Fagan also serves as director of the Contextual Knowledge Core in Virginia Commonwealth University's Center for the Study of Tobacco Products. She previously served as program director for the Cancer Prevention and Control Program at the University of Hawaii Cancer Center and as a health scientist in the Tobacco Control Research Branch at the National Cancer Institute (NCI).

Fagan was a co-founder of the NCI's Tobacco Research Network on Disparities (TReND), the first national research network designed to stimulate novel collaborative research in tobacco-related health disparities. Continuing the work of TReND, she co-founded the SRNT Health Disparities Network, which has developed webinars, papers, and network activities to support nicotine and tobacco researchers of all races and ethnicities. Fagan is a graduate of the University of Virginia. She earned a Master of Public Health degree from Tulane University and a doctorate in health education and community health from Texas A&M. Fagan formally accepted the award at the society's annual meeting in March in Baltimore. She was the keynote speaker at the meeting's Presidential Symposium. Founded in 1994, the mission of SRNT is to stimulate the generation and dissemination of new knowledge concerning nicotine in all its manifestations, from molecular to societal. Today, SRNT has more than 1,000 members in more than 40 countries.

# MHI Program Description and Goals



## *Program Description*

The Arkansas Minority Health Initiative (MHI) was established in 2001 through Initiated Act I to administer the Targeted State Needs for screening, monitoring, and treating hypertension, strokes, and other disorders disproportionately critical to minority groups in Arkansas by 1) increasing awareness, 2) providing screening or access to screening, 3) developing intervention strategies (including educational programs) and developing/maintaining a database. To achieve this goal, the MHI's focus is on addressing existing disparities in minority communities, educating these communities on diseases that disproportionately impact them, encouraging healthier lifestyles, promoting awareness of services and accessibility within our current healthcare system, and collaborating with community partners.

## *Overall Program Goal*

The goal of the MHI is to improve healthcare systems in Arkansas and access to healthcare delivery systems, thereby resolving critical deficiencies that negatively impact the health of the citizens of the state.

# MHI Evaluator Summary and Comments



## ***Opportunities***

The MHI continues to capitalize upon the topics and issues that are most important to their priority population. Additionally the agency takes advantage of every possible educational and screening outlet including new opportunities related to the pandemic, social media campaigns and live events, the Mobile Health Unit, and strong efforts to reach more people through multimedia outlets as well as working with new partnerships each quarter. In all, the MHI partnered with 20 organizations and municipalities this quarter: Arkansas Cancer Coalition, Chicot Memorial Medical Center, National Association of Social Workers, Arkansas Human Development Corporation, AR Prostate Foundation, AmBetter, City of Dermott, Philander Smith College, First Baptist Church, Brinkley Senior Center, Searcy Senior Center, Benton Senior Center, Clarendon Senior Center, AR Food Bank, Arkansas Department of Health, Central Arkansas Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., Arkansas Pharmacy Association, Harvest Regional, Northeast Arkansas Food Bank, and Blue Cross Blue Shield.

## ***Challenges***

Heart disease continues to be a paramount challenge in the state as the number one cause of death for minority Arkansans, and the MHI continues to fight the battle against heart disease. However, two more acute challenges exist. Although much of the state is open and COVID-19 has not affected MHI's events as drastically this quarter as compared to previous months, COVID-19 precaution policies remain important to dispensing both educational materials as well as screening events. Likewise, to provide screenings for minority Arkansans, the agency sometimes must take the weather-sensitive screening machines outside. Weather tends to be a constant challenge for the agency as it makes the machines inoperable from time to time. Lastly, the Mobile Health Unit needed repairs this quarter, which halted some screening processes.

## ***Evaluator Comments***

Throughout this quarter, the MHI continued its fruitful outreach efforts and has sustained robust numbers in all media categories. The pandemic may have opened up a new window of opportunity for outreach, which the MHI remains plugged into. The MHI's media presence continued to offer thousands of Arkansans the opportunity to gain crucial information regarding overall health, nutrition, physical activity, tobacco, breastfeeding, mental health, and COVID-19, among other topics. Furthermore, the MHI has taken advantage of outreach efforts to provide screenings and education related to the debilitating diseases commensurate with tobacco use and unhealthy lifestyles. The agency continues to see growth in its programs, exceeding expectations to meet the goal related to health screening and educational encounters. Utilization of the MHU has also helped the agency's efforts to raise awareness through education and screening efforts. In all, the MHI continues to provide vital services and information that will help minority Arkansans reduce death/disability due to tobacco, chronic, and other lifestyle-related illnesses.

# MHI Performance Indicators and Progress




## Long-Term Objective

Reduce death/disability due to tobacco, chronic, and other lifestyle-related illnesses of Arkansans.



**INDICATOR:** The MHI will raise awareness and provide access to screenings for disorders disproportionately critical to minorities as well as to any citizen within the state regardless of racial/ethnic group, as measured by the number of health screenings, educational encounters, counties reached, as well as efforts related to multimedia outreach.


- **EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** 
- **ACTIVITY:** *The MHI continues to exceed expectations toward their fiscal year goal to raise awareness and provide screenings to the Arkansas minority population. Each quarter this fiscal year, the number of screenings has increased. Additionally, each quarter, MHI has been able to increase all the ways in which the program raises awareness, including three additional educational literature requests and three additional Mobile Health Unit (MHU) events. With these additions, the agency was able to provide health education and materials to 1,299 attendees from all Arkansas counties, for a total of 4,295 health screenings. The three MHU events provided over half to the total screenings (2,706 of 4,295). Furthermore, the MHU reached 40 counties and served 409 participants. One partnership this quarter saw participation from all counties in Arkansas. During the statewide annual conference hosted by the National Association of Social Workers of Arkansas (NASW Arkansas), 158 screenings were provided to the 408 total participants. Moreover, through eight television stations in central and northwest Arkansas, the MHI tallied 816 television commercials on health related topics, with 139 specific to tobacco. The MHI's social media influence remained strong with hundreds of thousands impressions on Facebook, Twitter, and over-the-top streaming ads.*

## Short-Term Objective

Prioritize the list of health problems and planned interventions for minority populations and increase the number of Arkansans screened and treated for tobacco, chronic, and lifestyle related illnesses.



**INDICATOR:** The MHI will maintain the number of health screenings and educational encounters related to stroke awareness for minority Arkansans within a 10% variation of the previous fiscal year.


- **EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** 
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is exceeding expectations towards the annual goal. A steady increase in screenings has been achieved and, already, the MHI has exceeded goal expectations with an additional 503 blood pressure screenings this quarter. That brings the total screenings for the fiscal year to 2,264, nearly double the 1,149 from FY21. The MHI educated approximately 1,300 Arkansans this quarter through events and educational literature. Also, specific to stroke awareness, the MHI ran 277 television commercials encouraging exercise and abstaining from tobacco. The MHI is well positioned to fulfill this indicator.*



# MHI Performance Indicators and Progress




**INDICATOR:** The MHI will maintain the number of health screenings and educational encounters related to hypertension awareness for minority Arkansans within a 10% variation of the previous fiscal year.

- **EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** 
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is exceeding expectations. The MHI provided 503 blood pressure screenings this quarter. Almost 1,300 Arkansans were provided education and/or educational literature related to hypertension. Additionally, MHI ran 816 television commercials that encouraged viewers to eat healthy and exercise, and highlighted two activities that will help to keep blood pressure at a healthy level. The commercials also added encouragement to viewers to have their numbers checked via the Mobile Health Unit. Eight stations in Central and Northwest Arkansas ran these commercials.*




**INDICATOR:** The MHI will maintain the number of health screenings and educational encounters related to heart disease awareness for minority Arkansans within a 10% variation of the previous fiscal year.

- **EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** 
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is also exceeding expectations. The agency provided 453 cholesterol screenings with 1,299 educational encounters in every Arkansas county. Furthermore, 277 television commercials ran that focused on heart disease prevention by encouraging exercise and quitting smoking.*



**INDICATOR:** The MHI will maintain the number of health screenings and educational encounters related to diabetes awareness for minority Arkansans within a 10% variation of the previous fiscal year.

- **EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** 
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is also exceeding expectations. During this quarter, MHI focused heavily on diabetes awareness. One way it exceeded expectations toward this goal was by airing 816 television commercials that encouraged exercise and illustrated the importance of knowing your glucose numbers. The agency provided 491 glucose screenings with 1,299 educational encounters in every Arkansas county.*



**INDICATOR:** The MHI will conduct ongoing needs assessments to determine the most critical minority health needs to target, including implementation of a comprehensive survey of racial and ethnic minority disparities in health and healthcare every five years.

- **ON TRACK**
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is on track. A formal survey of racial and ethnic minority disparities is conducted every five years and will be completed in FY24. As always, the MHI continues to put efforts forward to provide education to minority Arkansans through various media outlets, including 816 television commercials and 917 radio commercials. This quarter, the program focused its social media messaging on COVID-19 and vaccination, the Southern Ain't Fried Sundays program, the importance of "knowing your numbers," stroke awareness, HIV, and diabetes. Combined, these topics garnered nearly several impressions on social media, 3,000 on Twitter, 657 on Facebook, and over 300,000 over-the-top streaming impressions.*



**INDICATOR:** The MHI will develop and implement at least one pilot project every five years to identify effective strategies to reduce health disparities among Arkansans.

- **ON TRACK**
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is on track to meet the long-term goal. Planning for Camp iCan is underway. It will involve a three-day program with activities, workshops, and exercises that promote healthy eating, physical activity, and self-confidence. Workshops will equip campers with the necessary tools to understand and combat key risk behaviors that lead to unhealthy lifestyles. Further information will come in a future evaluation report.*



# MHI Testimonial



## *Program Praise*

This quarter, the MHI partnered with the city of Dermott in Chicot County to host a health fair at the Dermott Fire Department and also partnered to host a health fair with Pulaski Technical College. These events were designed to educate participants on preventative health screenings, maintenance, physical activity, and nutrition, and to provide screenings and educational literature to attendees. Attendees at these events shared some brief reflections on their experiences. One attendee at the Dermott event said, "This was great. I learned a lot that I did not know." Another attendee in Dermott expressed, "I'm glad to know [MHI] came to our town and hope they will return." A participant at the Pulaski Technical College health fair stated, "I feel the health fair staff was great, knowledgeable, and friendly. They made the testing painless and gave good info."

# TPCP Description and Goals



## *Program Description*

The Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program (TPCP) includes community and school education prevention programs, enforcement of youth tobacco control laws, tobacco cessation programs, health communications, and awareness campaigns. The TPCP also sponsors statewide tobacco control programs that involve youth to increase local coalition activities, tobacco-related disease prevention programs, minority initiatives and monitoring, and evaluation. The TPCP follows the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Best Practices for Tobacco Control 2014 as a guide for program development. Outcomes achieved by Arkansas's TPCP include reducing disease, disability, and death related to tobacco use by preventing initial use of tobacco by young people, promoting quitting, eliminating exposure to secondhand smoke, and educating Arkansans about the deleterious health effects of tobacco use.

## *Overall Program Goal*

The goal of TPCP is to reduce morbidity and death associated with tobacco use by preventing initiation of tobacco/nicotine products and providing cessation services/resources to Arkansans who want to quit using tobacco.

# TPCP Evaluator Summary and Comments



## *Opportunities*

This quarter, TPCP announced Be Well Arkansas achieved the milestone of 10,000 callers enrolled in the tobacco cessation program. This accomplishment is even more significant in light of the fact that, as reported in previous reports, several callers to the tobacco cessation quitline have stated the stress associated with the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted their attempt to quit and led some to drop out of the program.

Along with the two annual events, the PPYC continued to engage youth across the state. Two Project Prevent Statewide Chapter meetings and two Project Prevent Next Generation Chapter meetings were held in February and March. (Note: Next Generation is made up of youth in grades 4-6.) The PPYC Chapters also engaged in peer-to-peer education and facilitated tobacco control and other healthy behavior events during the quarter. For more information about Project Prevent and its statewide youth engagement, go to the following website: <https://projectpreventar.org/>.

The MRC reported that the ability to cross-educate from the research center to the sub-grantees has been fruitful. In the past, and presently, the MRC has provided grant awardees the opportunity to present information during the MISRGO conference. On March 8-9, the 23rd Arkansas Cancer Summit, "Finding a Way Forward: Mental Health, Screenings, and Survivorship," was held virtually in conjunction with the 19th Clearing the Air in Communities of Color Conference, "Finding a Way Forward: Tobacco Control, Mental Health, and Disparate Population Groups." Dr. Dustin Morris presented at the Clearing the Air in Communities of Color Conference on his research sponsored by the MRC. The topic was "Tobacco and Opioids." With these types of collaborative efforts, the information shared with MISRGO sub-grantees can then be disseminated even further to grassroots members.

## *Challenges*

Although a number of in-person Project Prevent Youth Coalition (PPYC) Chapter activities occurred and statewide conferences were held this quarter (see the Opportunities and Testimonials sections for additional information), the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impede in-person activities. This is especially apparent when attempting to provide presentations in local communities where normally sub-grantees would have the opportunity to present to large audiences. Additionally, the Minority Research Center (MRC) and the Minority Initiative Sub-Recipient Grant Office (MISRGO) report that COVID-19 concerns continue to provide challenges for their outreach work. Finally, these two agencies are still in the process of relocating offices and look forward to being settled in the new spaces.

## *Evaluator Comments*

As noted in previous reports, we are beginning to see a return to pre-COVID-19 in-person activities or virtual adaptations to various tobacco control programming and services. For example, a number of in-person Project Prevent Chapter activities and statewide conferences were held this quarter, and more than 1,200 unannounced compliance checks were completed by the Arkansas Tobacco Control (ATC). Additionally, two statewide conferences were offered virtually (by the ACC and MISRGO). Because TPCP operates on the fiscal year, a summary of indicator goal achievements will be provided in the next quarterly report.

# TPCP Performance Indicators and Progress



## Long-Term Objective

Survey data will demonstrate a reduction in numbers of Arkansans who smoke and/or use tobacco.



**INDICATOR:** By June 2025, TPCP will work to decrease the current smoking/smokeless tobacco/Electronic Nicotine Delivery System (ENDS) use rate among youth (grades 9-12) from 13.7% to 11.7% for smoking, from 12.7% to 11.7% for smokeless tobacco, and from 13.9% to 12.9% for ENDS.

- **ON TRACK, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** A small red and white icon of a coronavirus particle.
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is on track towards the long-term goal. Although current social distancing protocols due to COVID-19 impact the ability of TPCP and its partners to have direct contact with youth in grades 9-12, the PPYC has been able to support a number of statewide Chapter meetings this quarter (see the Opportunities section for additional information). An annual summary of progress towards this goal will be provided in the fourth quarter of FY22.*



**INDICATOR:** By June 2025, 1) TPCP will work to decrease smoking use among adults (18+) from 22.3% to 20.3%, 2) decrease ENDS use among adults (18+) from 5.7% to 3.7%, and 3) decrease the pregnancy smoking rate from 13.9% to 11.9%.

- **ON TRACK, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** A small red and white icon of a coronavirus particle.
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is on track towards the long-term goal. Although current social distancing protocols due to COVID-19 impact the ability of TPCP and its partners to have direct contact with adults and pregnant women, this quarter, Be Well Arkansas achieved the milestone of 10,000 callers enrolled in the tobacco cessation program (see the Opportunities section for additional information). An annual summary of progress towards this goal will be provided in the fourth quarter of FY22.*



**INDICATOR:** By June 2025, the number of comprehensive smoke-free/tobacco-free policies will increase from 219 to 400.

- **ON TRACK, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** A small red and white icon of a coronavirus particle.
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is on track towards the long-term goal. Although current social distancing protocols due to COVID-19 impact the ability of TPCP and its partners to have direct contact with community members and various policymakers, (see the Challenges section for additional information), virtual training and conferences continued during this quarter (see the Opportunities section for additional information). An annual summary of progress towards this goal will be provided in the fourth quarter of FY22.*

# TPCP Performance Indicators and Progress




## Short-Term Objective

Communities shall establish local tobacco prevention initiatives.




**INDICATOR:** By June 2022, 500 presentations will be conducted to educate the public and decision makers on the economic burden of tobacco use, current and emerging tobacco/nicotine products, implementing smoke-free/tobacco-free policies, and dangers of exposure to secondhand smoke.

- **IN NEED OF IMPROVEMENT, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** 
- **ACTIVITY:** This indicator is in need of improvement and has been significantly impacted by COVID-19 restrictions with only 28 and 14 presentations conducted during the first two quarters of FY22. It is promising, however, to see that 41 presentations were conducted this quarter. Sub-grantees conducted 37 presentations with a total of 1,115 youth and adults participating in the education opportunities. In addition, the following trainings/conferences were held. TPCP offered one Tobacco Treatment Specialist (TTS) training with 40 attendees and one Dimensions training with 15 attendees. The ACC held the 23rd Arkansas Cancer Summit on March 8. The event focused on mental health, screening, and survivorship with approximately 205 attendees. Also, one ACC BTI training was held with 10 attendees (see testimonials for more information on the BTI training).




**INDICATOR:** By June 2022, TPCP will maintain the sales to minor violations at 6.5% or below (Baseline in FY19 = 6.3%).

- **ON TRACK, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** 
- **ACTIVITY:** This indicator is on track. Although still in the double digit range, the sales to minor violations decreased from 14% last quarter to approximately 12% this quarter, thus explaining the "On Track" designation. During the current quarter, ATC conducted 1,211 unannounced compliance checks (and zero behind-the-counter compliance checks) with 140 sales to minor violations for a non-compliance rate of 11.56%. Additionally, ATC received a total of 30 sales to minor complaints. Five complaints were received through 1-877-IDTeens and 25 complaints were received through the online form. During the quarter, ATC agents were able to conduct a recheck on 29 of the complaints. Of the 29, six of the retailers failed the recheck. Finally, ATC conducted one training session for three retailers and store owners with 20 attendees.



**INDICATOR:** By June 2022, Project Prevent will establish seven new school chapters within the Red Counties (Red Counties are those counties with low life expectancy).

- **ON TRACK, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** 
- **ACTIVITY:** This indicator is on track to meet the fiscal year goal. While no new Chapters were established in the third quarter (during the first two quarters four Chapters were established in Red Counties), Project Prevent was busy with multiple activities statewide. The annual event Ready.Set.Record. Film Festival was held virtually on February 18. This year 211 videos were received with 550 students participating. On February 22, the Project Prevent Coordinator began delivering the trophies and prizes to the winners across the state. Additionally, the First Annual Next Generation Summit was held on March 16 at the Little Rock Zoo. Approximately 50 youth participated in the Summit. Additional information is provided in the Opportunities section, in addition to various photos of the Project Prevent events within this report.

# TPCP Performance Indicators and Progress




**INDICATOR:** By June 2022, ADH Health Communication will maintain a comprehensive, multiplatform media plan to prevent youth initiation, eliminate exposure to secondhand smoke, and promote cessation. (Report Annually)

- **ON TRACK**
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is on track to meet the fiscal year goal. Because this indicator is related to various social media platforms, COVID-19 restrictions are not expected to directly impact this indicator. The media plan is reported on annually; therefore, an update will be provided in the fourth quarter report for FY22.*




**INDICATOR:** By June 2022, Be Well Arkansas will consistently maintain a tobacco cessation quit rate higher than the previous baseline level of 28% for those enrolled in the program. (Report Quarterly: # of callers requesting service; # of callers enrolled in tobacco cessation counseling {Reset Annually})

- **ON TRACK, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** 
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is on track to meet the fiscal year goal. As noted in previous reports, some participants have relayed to the Be Well Arkansas (BWA) staff the additional challenges of tobacco cessation in light of COVID-19 stressors. During the current quarter, BWA completed 858 intakes by phone and 262 intakes by online sign-up. Of the 1,120 intakes, 815 individuals enrolled in the cessation program. For the quarter, BWA received 1,446 incoming calls inquiring about tobacco cessation, hypertension, and/or diabetes. The BWA Call Center mailed out 121 diabetes and 213 hypertension pamphlets as requested by callers. The quit rate will be reported annually in the 4th quarter of the fiscal year.*




**INDICATOR:** By June 2022, provide quarterly updates on the implementation of the Be Well Baby program.

- **ON TRACK, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** 
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is on track to meet the fiscal year goal. As discussed in previous reports, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Be Well Baby program required retooling to be offered in a more virtual format and experienced a delay in implementation. However, with each quarter during FY22, an increasing number of women have been enrolled in the program. For the current quarter, 20 women were enrolled. A total of 72 counseling sessions (including both prenatal and postpartum sessions) were conducted between January and March.*




**INDICATOR:** By June 2022, the MISRGO will work with five new faith-based churches/organizations to implement No Menthol Sunday (NMS) activities.

- **ON TRACK, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** 
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is on track to meet the fiscal year goal. While COVID-19 restrictions have impacted the ability to interact with faith-based churches/organizations, MISRGO is in the process of organizing an event that will be held in May. At this time, one organization has committed to the event.*




**INDICATOR:** By June 2022, the MISRGO will execute an annual event that supports the mission of the program and report on funded and non-funded attendees.

- **MET AHEAD OF SCHEDULE, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** 
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator was met for FY22. The 19th Clearing the Air in Communities of Color Conference was held virtually on March 9 with approximately 250 attendees. The theme for the conference was “Finding a Way Forward: Tobacco Control, Mental Health, and Disparate Population Groups.” Additional information on the event can be found in the Opportunities and Testimonials sections of this report.*

# TPCP Performance Indicators and Progress



**INDICATOR:** By June 2022, the MISRGO will provide and report on technical assistance through direct stakeholders and property owners regarding reducing tobacco related disparities in Arkansas.

- **ON TRACK, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** 
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is on track to meet the fiscal year goal. It is expected that COVID-19 restrictions will continue to impact the ability of MISRGO to provide technical assistance to stakeholders and property owners. While no technical assistance was provided during the current quarter, MISRGO reports that information was given on how the A-State Media Communications Department could benefit from the local tobacco coalition's grant funding. Additionally, they discussed ways to integrate current department community outreach into the proposal.*




**INDICATOR:** By June 2022, the MRC will distribute requests for proposals (RFP) to fund research studies focused on: 1. Tobacco cessation among African-American women tobacco users, 2. Tobacco use among minority groups in a time of COVID-19, and 3. Tobacco and opioid use among minority youth and young adults.

- **ON TRACK**
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is on track to meet the fiscal year goal. When the MRC first distributed the RFP, there was no response. However, its redistribution in December has resulted in the funding of two RFPs for FY22-FY23. The MRC will be working with Community Clinic and Philander Smith College on the topics of utilization of tobacco treatment in a healthcare setting and tobacco use during COVID-19, respectively. The MRC will work with Community Clinic to assess the impact of attitudes, norms, and perceived behavioral control of one's ability to utilize tobacco treatment in a healthcare setting, along with cessation success rates. This study will employ the Reasoned Action Approach for multi-phased data collection. Data will be analyzed to identify overall attitudes, subjective norms, and perceived control. These findings will inform a multivariate regression analysis to establish the areas that predict one's intention to quit smoking and compare to the measured success rates as reported. This study will take place within a Community Health Center among any of its fifteen locations across northwest Arkansas. Participants will be adults, age 18 years and older, who identify as Hispanic or Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander. The MRC will work with Philander Smith College to understand African-American students' attitudes and behaviors toward tobacco use during COVID-19. Philander Smith College will use a qualitative narrative with a combination of virtual and in-person interviews/focus groups. The study will target 200 African-American traditional (age 18-24) and non-traditional (age 25 and up) college students.*



**INDICATOR:** By June 2022, the MRC will conduct three virtual and/or face-to-face meetings in minority communities to discuss tobacco usage among minority groups.

- **ON TRACK, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** 
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is on track to meet the fiscal year goal. It is expected that COVID-19 restrictions will continue to impact the ability of MRC to conduct face-to-face meetings; however, virtual opportunities are available. During this quarter, MRC conducted two virtual meetings with coalitions. See the Opportunities section for additional information.*




**INDICATOR:** By June 2022, the MRC will submit three open editorials to small town newspapers focusing on tobacco-related issues in rural communities in Arkansas.

- **ON TRACK**
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is on track to meet the fiscal year goal. While no editorial was submitted this quarter, MRC reports it will focus on editorials beginning in the month of April for Minority Health Month.*

# TPCP Performance Indicators and Progress




**INDICATOR:** By June 2022, GASP faculty and staff will report the number of new students recruited into their program, the number of students who have graduated from the program, and the number of students who have been provided a stipend.

- **ON TRACK, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** 
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is on track to meet the fiscal year goal. It is expected that COVID-19 restrictions will impact recruiting success for the Graduate Addiction Studies Program (GASP). While no new information is available this quarter, seven students were recruited into the program during the first quarter of FY22. Final fiscal year reporting will be provided next quarter.*



**INDICATOR:** By June 2022, GASP faculty will identify programs interested in initiating tobacco prevention curriculum for juvenile justice programs in Jefferson County, Arkansas.

- **ON TRACK, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** 
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is on track to meet the fiscal year goal. It is expected that COVID-19 restrictions will impact the ability to work with juvenile justice programs. While no new information is available this quarter, one meeting was held in the first quarter regarding the initiation of a tobacco prevention curriculum for juvenile justice programs in Jefferson County. Final fiscal year reporting will be provided next quarter.*




**INDICATOR:** By June 2022, GASP faculty will explore the possibility of a learning partnership between Be Well Arkansas Quit Tobacco Program and the GASP students.

- **ON TRACK, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** 
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is on track to meet the fiscal year goal. It is expected that COVID-19 restrictions will impact the ability to establish a learning partnership. While no new information is available this quarter, one meeting was held in the first quarter regarding the establishment of a learning partnership. Final fiscal year reporting will be provided next quarter.*



**INDICATOR:** By June 2022, GASP faculty and staff will develop an alumni survey addressing employment and credentials earned since graduation as well as GASP strengths, weaknesses, and areas for potential growth in substance use workforce development. Quarterly reports will highlight progress on the creation, administration, and evaluation of this survey.

- **ON TRACK, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** 
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is on track to meet the fiscal year goal. While no new information is available this quarter, during the first quarter, an additional 11 surveys were collected. Final fiscal year reporting will be provided next quarter.*



# TPCP Testimonial



## *Highlights from Tobacco Conferences*

The Arkansas Cancer Coalition (ACC) held a Brief Tobacco Interventions (BTI) training in February. The ACC reported 10 attendees. BTI training covers the following topics: pharmacotherapy, motivational interviewing, and low dose CT scans. From the follow-up survey, attendees reported that as a result of attending the training, they were more confident in addressing tobacco/nicotine use with their patients. This will lead the participants to counsel more patients on tobacco and nicotine use, as well as referring them to the Be Well Arkansas program.

As noted in the Opportunities section, the ACC held the 23rd Arkansas Cancer Summit on March 8. The Summit focused on mental health, screenings, and survivorship. In all, 205 people attended the virtual conference and 118 of the attendees were from various fields in healthcare. The event offered the following continuing education credits for the listed disciplines: Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES), Respiratory Therapists, Joint Accreditation (physician, RN, respiratory therapists, etc.), Social Work, and Registered Dietetics. Below are comments from the event evaluation, which asked participants to share something they learned at the summit that would apply to their professional or personal lives.

- *“How to reach teen smokers.”*
- *“Cancer screenings to assess risk and disease in my patients.”*
- *“The health and disparities in the rural areas.”*
- *“Education on e-cigarettes for patient education.”*
- *“How to effectively screen for mental health issues.”*
- *“Referrals for breast/cervical tests.”*
- *“Reduce electronic cigarette use in patients.”*
- *“The mental health wellness session was powerful and practical.”*
- *“The different e-cigs that are popular and are trending with our youth.”*
- *“You must take care of yourself so you can effectively take care of others.”*
- *“Menthol cigarettes were directly, intentionally, and specifically marketed to Black and African Americans.”*
- *“The effects of tobacco use and minorities.”*
- *“38.4% of high school students were exposed to ads via internet.”*
- *“The health effects of electronics cigarettes.”*
- *“Navigating mental wellness journey for cancer patients.”*
- *“Tobacco does affect dopamine output.”*
- *“FDA (Food and Drug Administration) regulations of e-cigs.”*
- *“I learned that disposable e-cigarettes are the most used form of e-cigarettes among our youth.”*
- *“Surprised at the vaping and younger generation.”*
- *“E-cigarettes are also unsafe.”*
- *“The long-term effects of COVID on current cancer patients and those who may be diagnosed in the future.”*
- *“I will be completing the mental health first aid class that was discussed in the breakout session.”*

Out of the 205 attendees who completed the post survey, 47% (96 attendees) reported this was their first time attending the Summit. Approximately 91% of the attendees rated the Summit as excellent/very good.

In conjunction with the Arkansas Cancer Summit, MISRGO held the 19th Clearing the Air in Communities of Color Conference on March 9 with a focus on tobacco control, mental health, and disparate population groups. Out of the 133 attendees who completed the post survey, approximately 97% indicated they were very satisfied/satisfied with the speakers and content. Additionally, 100% of the survey respondents indicated the conference provided useful information/skill application.

# TS-MEP Description and Goals

## *Program Description*

The Tobacco Settlement Medicaid Expansion Program (TS-MEP) is a separate and distinct component of the Arkansas Medicaid Program that improves the health of Arkansans by expanding healthcare coverage and benefits to targeted populations. The program works to expand Medicaid coverage and benefits in four populations:

- Population one expands Medicaid coverage and benefits to pregnant women with incomes ranging from 138–200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL);
- Population two expands inpatient and outpatient hospital reimbursements and benefits to adults aged 19-64;
- Population three expands non-institutional coverage and benefits to seniors age 65 and over;
- Population four expands medical assistance, home and community-based services, and employment supports for eligible adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and children with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The Tobacco Settlement funds are also used to pay the state share required to leverage federal Medicaid matching funds.

## *Overall Program Goal*

The goal of the TS-MEP is to expand access to healthcare through targeted Medicaid expansions, thereby improving the health of eligible Arkansans.

# TS-MEP Evaluator Summary and Comments

## *Opportunities*

With the TS-MEP program, the Arkansas DHS provides support for the four TS-MEP populations as well as the state's overall Medicaid efforts. The DHS has had the legislative authority for over fifteen years to use any savings in the TS-MEP programs to provide funding for traditional Medicaid. These savings are not used to provide any funding for the Arkansas Works program. As the state of Arkansas continues to explore opportunities for Medicaid reform, new possibilities for using TS-MEP funds may emerge.

## *Challenges*

As a result of the implementation of the Arkansas Works program, traditional Medicaid expenditures have decreased. Many Medicaid-eligible adults aged 19-64 are covered by the Arkansas Works program and receive their coverage through Qualified Health Plans in the individual insurance market. Arkansas Medicaid pays the monthly insurance premiums for the majority of these individuals. For the TS-MEP populations, Pregnant Women Expansion was expected to significantly decline as individuals are provided health coverage outside of the TS-MEP. As of now, successful performance has been measured by growth in the number of participants in the TS-MEP initiatives. The Arkansas Department of Human Services (DHS) may need to continue to explore new performance measurements for the TS-MEP initiatives as individuals are transitioning into new coverage groups.

## *Evaluator Comments*

The TS-MEP has been impacted by the significant changes in the healthcare system. The COVID-19 pandemic has influenced all populations served through TS-MEP. With many elective medical procedures being placed on temporary hold at the beginning of the pandemic, there was a decrease in claims as individuals delayed seeking treatment. This may explain the increase in the number of seniors served by the ARSeniors program as more procedures become available. Additionally, the extending of health coverage during the public health emergency can possibly explain the decreases that have been seen in the Pregnant Women Expansion population. Since coverage is only being terminated due to death, moving out of the state, incarceration, or at the request of the client, there has been less need to apply for coverage specifically for pregnancy. There was also a slight decrease in the number of persons with developmental disabilities being served this quarter. The hospital benefit coverage population has had a significant decrease over the past two quarters. The Arkansas DHS suspended cost share requirements for day one hospitalizations as DHS works to implement guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services with changes across the eligibility and claims management systems during the public health emergency. This has resulted in a reduction in the number of persons needing to use the hospital benefit coverage.


# TS-MEP Performance Indicators and Progress

## Long-Term Objective

Demonstrate improved health and reduce long-term health costs of Medicaid eligible persons participating in the expanded programs.



**INDICATOR:** The TS-MEP will demonstrate improved health and reduced long-term health costs of Medicaid eligible persons participating in the expanded programs.


- **IN NEED OF IMPROVEMENT, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** 
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is in need of improvement to meet the annual goal. With the implementation of the Arkansas Works program, more individuals will have health coverage beyond the TS-MEP initiatives. Therefore, the TS-MEP long-term impact will be limited compared to the influences outside of the TS-MEP. During this quarter, the TS-MEP provided expanded access to health benefits and services for 8,274 eligible pregnant women, seniors, qualified adults, and persons with developmental disabilities. This is a decrease of 487 persons served over the previous quarter. Total claims paid for the TS-MEP populations this reporting period were \$23.6 million. Additionally, TS-MEP funds are also used to pay the state share required to leverage approximately 70% federal Medicaid matching funds. This amounted to more than \$18.3 million in federal matching Medicaid funds during this quarter, which has a significant impact on health costs and health outcomes for the state of Arkansas.*

## Short-Term Objective

The Arkansas Department of Human Services will demonstrate an increase in the number of new Medicaid eligible persons participating in the expanded programs.




**INDICATOR:** The TS-MEP will increase the number of pregnant women with incomes ranging from 138-200% of the FPL enrolled in the Pregnant Women Expansion.

- **IN NEED OF IMPROVEMENT, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** 
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is in need of improvement to meet the annual goal. During this quarter, there were 905 participants in the TS-MEP initiative Pregnant Women Expansion program. This is a decrease of 45 women being served from the previous quarter. This reduction may be due to the extended coverage during the public health emergency. This program provides prenatal health services for pregnant women with incomes ranging from 138-200% FPL. In this quarter, the TS-MEP funds for the Pregnant Women Expansion program totaled \$709,415.*




**INDICATOR:** The TS-MEP will increase the average number of adults aged 19-64 years receiving inpatient and outpatient hospital reimbursements and benefits through the Hospital Benefit Coverage.

- **IN NEED OF IMPROVEMENT, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** 
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is in need of improvement to meet the annual goal. During this quarter, the TS-MEP initiative Hospital Benefit Coverage provided inpatient and outpatient hospital reimbursements and benefits to 929 adults aged 19-64 by increasing the number of benefit days from 20 to 24 and decreasing the copay on the first day of hospitalization from 22% to 10%. This is a significant decrease of 688 in the number of adults served over the previous quarter. This decrease is due largely to suspended cost share requirements for day one hospitalizations. TS-MEP funds for the Hospital Benefit Coverage totaled \$6,488,135 in this quarter.*

# TS-MEP Performance Indicators and Progress




**INDICATOR:** The TS-MEP will increase the average number of persons enrolled in the ARSeniors program, which expands non-institutional coverage and benefits for seniors aged 65 and over.

- **ON TRACK, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** 
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is on track to meet the annual goal. The ARSeniors program expanded Medicaid coverage to 5,964 seniors during this quarter. This is an increase of 249 persons from the previous quarter. Qualified Medicare Beneficiary recipients below 80% FPL automatically qualify for ARSeniors coverage. Medicaid benefits that are not covered by Medicare are available to ARSeniors. Examples of these benefits are non-emergency medical transportation and personal care services. TS-MEP funds for the ARSeniors program totaled \$4,625,678 during this quarter.*



**INDICATOR:** The TS-MEP will increase the average number of persons enrolled in the Developmental Disabilities Services, Community and Employment Supports (CES) Waiver and note the number of adults and children receiving services each quarter by county.

- **IN NEED OF IMPROVEMENT, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** 
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is in need of improvement to meet the annual goal. During this quarter, 476 individuals were provided services through TS-MEP funds. This is a slight increase of three in the number of persons served from the previous quarter. In this quarter, a total of 103 children (18 and under) and 373 adults (19 and over) in 67 counties were provided services. TS-MEP funds for the CES waiver program totaled \$11,802,271 in this quarter.*

# UAMS-COA Program Description and Goals

## *Program Description*

The purpose of the UAMS Centers on Aging is to address one of the most pressing policy issues facing this country: how to care for the burgeoning number of older adults in rural community settings. The overall goal is to improve the quality of life for older adults and their families through two primary missions: an infrastructure that provides quality interdisciplinary clinical care and innovative education programs.

## *Overall Program Goal*

The goal of the UAMS-COA is to improve the health of older Arkansans through interdisciplinary geriatric care and innovative education programs and to influence health policy affecting older adults.

# UAMS-COA Evaluator Comments and Summary

## *Opportunities*

The UAMS-COA continues to seek and find ways to cope with changes in healthcare systems and changes in the needs of the population served. Some of the most encouraging opportunities are described below.

- *Distribution of services:* The UAMS-COA ordinarily offers at least minimal services to residents in a majority of Arkansas counties (this quarter 47 out of 75 counties were served). However, the COVID-19 pandemic has limited many traditional client-based services. The existing limitations have compelled COA directors and clients to embrace new digital tools and online forms of communication. Some of these new tools and techniques may eventually help the COAs provide a richer assortment of services to a broader base of clients.
- *Technology:* The agency continues to advance its approach to technology to expand public access to information and educational programming throughout the state. This includes the expansion of online support groups for caregiving and disease management. This also includes new investments in virtual reality equipment that augments education related to dementia, sensory deficits, and end-of-life care. If not for earlier investments in online technology, the COVID-19 pandemic would have more severely truncated services during the past few quarters. The pandemic forced both the staff and clients of COAs to develop new skills that enabled them to stay connected. These new technologies are likely to continue being employed after the pandemic and will enable a broader audience than was possible before.
- *Raising awareness:* The UAMS-COA continues raising awareness about the challenges of aging in Arkansas. Representatives from the agency continually pursue public relations opportunities to combat ageism, encourage successful aging practices, and generally celebrate the contributions of older adults in the state. In particular, the UAMS-COA worked this quarter to raise awareness about elder abuse, Medicare fraud, and senior hunger. The UAMS-COA also contributes to these efforts by hosting a monthly aging series on KUAF radio.
- *Partnerships:* The UAMS-COA continues to foster partnerships with other agencies to lead the state with respect to mitigating opiate abuse, monitoring falls, expanding geriatric caregiver training, reducing hunger among seniors, and increasing awareness of chronic disease. This quarter, the UAMS-COA has partnered with a number of other entities to build resources for seniors in Arkansas. These partnerships include UAMS East Regional Campus, Harvest Regional Food Bank, Alzheimer's Arkansas, SHIPP (Senior Health Insurance Information Program), Workforce Development, AR Rehab, University of Arkansas County Extension Services, University of Arkansas, Veterans Administration, CASA (Committee Against Spousal Abuse) Women's Shelter, Alzheimer's Association, Senior Olympics, Crystal Bridges, Whole Nedz, Arkansas Diabetes Advisory Council, Department on Aging Services, first responders (local fire departments, law enforcement officers, and emergency medical services), community libraries, rural health clinics, elder law resources, senior housing facilities, assisted living and long-term care facilities, senior home caregiver agencies, local businesses, parks and recreation departments, and community clinics.
- *Enhancing the geriatric medicine workforce:* The UAMS-COA works with multiple colleges and universities across the state to recruit and train new geriatric specialists in different allied health fields. This includes sponsoring fellowships for medical students and social workers.

# UAMS-COA Evaluator Comments and Summary

## *Opportunities - Continued*

- *Enhanced attention to the outlying regions:* The UAMS-COA continues expanding relationships with UAMS East Regional Campus combining resources to better serve Crittenden, Monroe, Lee, St. Francis, and Phillips counties by implementing Walk with Ease, the Diabetes Empowerment Education Program, Cooking Matters, and opioid-risk education events. Expansion of UAMS facilities in El Dorado should help broaden impact in the southern portion of the state.
- *Specific COVID-19 efforts:* The UAMS-COA has taken an active role in reducing the rates of infection in long-term care facilities, helping provide training in socially-distant CPR techniques, and helping identify trained caregivers who have been COVID-19 positive to care for COVID-19 positive patients.

## *Challenges*

The aging of the state's population coupled with an unstable national healthcare model continues to be the primary challenge to the clinical aspects of this agency's mission. The UAMS-COA remains committed to ensuring that seniors in Arkansas have the best possible access to healthcare services in places where Senior Health Clinic access is unavailable. However, the elevated vulnerability of seniors with regard to the COVID-19 pandemic has imposed a number of barriers to clinic access. Additional challenges this quarter are described below.

- Despite the availability of vaccines, UAMS-COA client populations remain some of the most vulnerable due to age and underlying chronic health conditions. The challenge of adhering to UAMS and CDC virus control guidelines requires the use of innovative service design and delivery. While online alternatives have been refined over the course of the pandemic, these alternatives cannot fully replace traditional programming (for example, exercise activities are limited by safety concerns for remote participants). For many people in the age cohorts served by the COAs, these alternative digital activities are also not as desirable as in-person contacts.
- Staffing issues continue to threaten the flow of services throughout the state. This impacts both COA staffing and clinic access. During this quarter, two central leadership positions were vacated due to better job offers elsewhere. The increased demand for healthcare professionals persistently poses problems for hiring and retention, especially for hiring qualified professionals in less-developed portions of the state.
- Adequate supervision of COAs in more remote regions of Arkansas has always been a concern of this agency. Efforts have been made to address some of the issues. However, keeping staff trained and monitoring activity across the COAs remains challenging.
- Changes in healthcare delivery models continue to negatively impact the capacity of Senior Health Clinics across the state. The UAMS-COA must continue to adjust the referral process to ensure that seniors receive the specialized geriatric care they need.
- Due to underdeveloped infrastructure, poverty, and small and decentralized populations, the basic UAMS-COA model is more difficult to deploy in some areas of the state. More effort is needed to find effective modes of delivery for serving seniors in impoverished, hard-to-reach communities. These concerns have escalated during the pandemic as an increasing volume of COA client services have, out of necessity, shifted to an internet-based model. Client services are unavailable to many as substantial portions of the state lack reliable broadband internet access.



# UAMS-COA Evaluator Comments and Summary

## *Challenges - Continued*

- Changing racial and ethnic demographics of seniors in some areas of the state necessitate planning for more inclusive communication and the development of bilingual or multilingual materials and programs.
- Many of the best evidence-based programs require smaller groups and one-on-one caregiver coaching. Shifting to these types of programs threatens to decrease the quantity of encounters.
- The agency continues developing the data collection and data processing capacity needed to fully assess program outcomes. Much progress has been made on developing a new monitoring system, but some challenges have been exacerbated by the shift to digital training modes. New efforts are underway to develop a more standardized measure of health improvement that can be associated with program participation. However, many of these initiatives have been delayed due to the pandemic.
- It may be time to explore and introduce new evidence-based exercise options offered to seniors in the state. Participants have been demanding more variety for several months but developing/implementing new programs has been made more difficult by the pandemic. Some of the current options are hard to monitor for quality and safety using online interaction formats. More efforts are needed to compare the effectiveness of traditional modes of service delivery to newer modes of delivery.
- Many of the programs and services offered through the UAMS-COA have an indirect effect on senior health in Arkansas. The UAMS-COA continues efforts aimed at demonstrating the net positive impact (including the economic impact) of services provided by the agency. However, the return-on-investment models have not yet been sufficiently developed. Disruptions created by COVID-19 have altered key variables and have stalled development of these return-on-investment models.
- As state and federal funding continues to evaporate, and as older funding commitments end (e.g., Schmieding), maintaining external funding streams is more important than ever. The UAMS-COA is currently finding funds through grants, service contracts, donations, and volunteer support. However, these tend to be short-term solutions. Ensuring necessary levels of support over the long-term remains a challenge.
- Finding the time and other resources necessary to keep current with best practices in geriatric care is an enduring challenge. The UAMS-COA must continue to secure professional development opportunities for staff to ensure high quality programming.

Overall, the UAMS-COA recognizes its key challenges and is in the process of formulating strategies to address them. However, the uncertainty surrounding the pandemic has stalled some of the progress related to these challenges.

## *Evaluator Comments*

Services have been modified to keep clients healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic and prevailing evidence suggests that the UAMS-COA continues fulfilling its mission to advance the state's agenda for successful senior health services, knowledge, and programming in Arkansas. Despite declines in external funding and numerous strains on conventional service modalities, the UAMS-COA has enhanced senior health this quarter through the following activities:

# UAMS-COA Evaluator Comments and Summary

## *Evaluator Comments - Continued*

- Maintaining alliances between nonprofit, for-profit, and state-funded agencies to better address the needs of older adults in Arkansas;
- Developing digital resources on aging-related issues that help reach broader audiences;
- Educating the community about the special needs of older adults;
- Keeping seniors active by providing exercise opportunities across the state (through digital platforms);
- Recognizing the necessity of fall prevention education for seniors and mobilizing resources to meet the need;
- Leading efforts to develop alternative therapies for pain management;
- Enhancing the healthcare workforce with geriatric training for medical professionals.
- Working to develop better models of long-term care in Arkansas;
- Working to educate caregivers and increase the capacity for quality in-home senior healthcare;
- Focusing on dementia care and building dementia-friendly communities; and
- Addressing needs exacerbated by the pandemic such as social isolation and hunger among older adults.

Throughout the quarter, the Omicron variant of COVID-19 continued to disrupt daily operations of the UAMS-COA. Nonetheless, the agency stayed on a reasonable trajectory to meet most of its annual goals.


# UAMS-COA Performance Indicators and Progress

## Long-Term Objective

Improve the health status and decrease death rates of elderly Arkansans as well as obtain federal and philanthropic grant funding.




**INDICATOR:** The UAMS Centers on Aging will provide multiple exercise activities to maximize the number of exercise encounters for older adults throughout the state.

- **ON TRACK, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** 
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is on track, although the effort has been substantially altered due to concerns surrounding COVID-19. A total of 1,008 exercise encounters with senior Arkansans were counted during this reporting period with most encounters concentrated in the Schmieding and Texarkana COAs. The exercise options have been curated by the UAMS-COA to include evidence-based programs that address the core concerns of the client population (e.g., balance/fall prevention, dietary improvement, and pain management). While the 1,008 encounters count over 148 in-person exercise encounters, the bulk of exercise encounters this quarter were established via Facebook or videoconference methods. These alternative modes of exercise were facilitated (and proper technique was demonstrated) using online tools because of continuing fears of COVID-19 spread. Overall, the UAMS-COA provided approximately 142 hours of exercise programming to seniors this quarter and preliminary self-report data suggest that these exercise options are meeting the goals of the participants.*




**INDICATOR:** The UAMS Centers on Aging will implement at least two educational offerings (annually) for evidence-based disease management programs.

- **EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** 
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is exceeding expectations to meet the annual goal. Note that these are not the same types of in-person educational encounters as counted in quarters prior to the COVID-19 outbreak. A majority of educational sessions (81%) were conducted using online tools such as Facebook Live and Zoom because COVID-19 continued to alter routines. Despite limitations associated with virtual communication, the UAMS-COA offered evidence-based educational programs that address a range of health priorities related to aging. This quarter, UAMS-COA staff provided 1,860 hours of educational offerings in four focal areas: caregiving/dementia training, fall prevention, food insecurity, and opioid addiction/pain management. The bulk of these hours (1,708 or 92%) were delivered through the Schmieding Center.*



**INDICATOR:** On an annual basis, the UAMS Centers on Aging will obtain external funding to support programs in amounts equivalent to ATSC funding for that year.

- **IN NEED OF IMPROVEMENT, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** 
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is in need of improvement. In this quarter, the UAMS-COA developed external support from various sources valued at approximately \$278,604. This falls below the quarterly goal of \$437,759, but represents a slight increase in external support from the prior quarter. The UAMS-COA and its affiliates continued to be productive in securing external funding but failed to meet its quarterly goal due, in part, to disruptions associated with the pandemic. This quarter, \$7,198 was raised from two different grants to support programming. The agency also received \$20,388 through contractual service agreements. Another large stream of external funding was derived from the Schmieding foundation that provided \$127,268 to support Schmieding Center operations. Additional extramural funding included community partner donations (\$9,609), UAMS core support (\$114,000), and the value of volunteer hours supplied to the COAs (\$140). The numbers indicate clear efforts to remain active in external fundraising even though most of these amounts are lower than the previous quarter. Overall, the UAMS-COA leveraged \$278,604 above the \$437,759 in quarterly funding provided through the ATSC.*


# UAMS-COA Performance Indicators and Progress

## Short-Term Objective

Prioritize the list of health problems and planned interventions for elderly Arkansans and increase the number of Arkansans participating in health improvement programs.




**INDICATOR:** The UAMS Centers on Aging will assist local healthcare providers in maintaining the maximum number of Senior Health Clinic encounters through a continued positive relationship.

- **ON TRACK, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** 
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is on track to meet the annual goal. The UAMS-COA recorded 2,060 Senior Health Clinic encounters during this reporting period. The UAMS-COA also added 390 nursing home encounters and 315 inpatient encounters during the quarter. Given the diminished capacity of general health clinics and the paucity of specialized geriatric care in the state, UAMS-COA is doing the best it can to broker clinical services. Clinic encounters are expected to increase again when the dangers of COVID-19 become more manageable.*




**INDICATOR:** The UAMS Centers on Aging will provide education programming to healthcare practitioners and students of the healthcare disciplines to provide specialized training in geriatrics.

- **ON TRACK, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** 
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is on track to meet the annual goal, although opportunities to train healthcare workers and students were severely restricted due to COVID-19 safety protocols and pandemic-related time constraints on health professionals. The UAMS-COA produced 1,103 hours of educational presentations and in-service training opportunities attended by 512 healthcare practitioners and students during this reporting period (some encounters were conducted via video conference).*



**INDICATOR:** The UAMS Centers on Aging will provide educational opportunities for the community annually.

- **ON TRACK, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** 
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is on track to meet the annual goal. Many conventional in-person educational opportunities during this quarter were blocked by COVID-19 restrictions. However, using social media and other digital means of communication, the UAMS-COA generated 5,080 community education encounters during this reporting period. While 253 of these encounters occurred in person, other encounters occurred via telephone or online platforms (e.g. 3,642 encounters were recorded from Facebook).*



**INDICATOR:** On an annual basis, the UAMS Centers on Aging will develop a list of health problems that should be prioritized and education-related interventions that will be implemented for older Arkansans.

- **MET**
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator has been met for the calendar year and no further progress is needed. Planning for FY22 was completed during the prior quarter with a meeting of COA directors who were asked to consider the specific health problems of the region served by their agencies. A list of prioritized problems and interventions was generated. The list is similar to the FY21 priorities and includes a continued emphasis on fall prevention, a revised emphasis on non-pharmaceutical pain management, an emphasis on caregiving/dementia training, and a new emphasis on food insecurity. Efforts will also be made to better integrate exercise programming with the priorities this year (for example, the Tai Chi exercise program is focused on fall prevention and non-pharmaceutical pain management). The COA directors will continue to monitor the current and emerging needs of older Arkansans and make adjustments if necessary. The COA directors will meet again in the fourth quarter of FY22 to share experiences, review health indicators, and develop a list of priorities for FY23.*

# UAMS-COA Testimonial

## *Prioritizing Dementia*

The UAMS-COA puts forward rigorous efforts in dementia training and education for health professionals and caretakers/family members of loved ones with dementia. This also includes new investments in virtual reality equipment that augments education related to dementia, sensory deficits, and end-of-life care. This quarter, three testimonials highlight this work.

- A participant in a Schmieding Center program said this about the center, "You are a very popular resource for our Social Work department as you are a wealth of information regarding caregiving, dementia, and local/state resources. . . . Thank you for sharing your expertise and information during these sessions. It can seem very lonely caring for someone with dementia, and you have widened our world a bit."
- A member of a dementia support group at the Northeast COA stated, "I have been able to attend three support groups for dementia sessions so far and I have already gained a lot of useful information, tips, and strategies to help my mom who is the caregiver for my father."
- Teresa, a resident in Texarkana attended an Embodied Labs program, which is an immersive experience reflecting virtual interactions and offering a deeper understanding of the aging experience, including dementia and Alzheimer's disease. Teresa had this to say about the experience, "[Embodied Labs] was great. I have had a little experience being around an Alzheimer's patient. Now I see what an AD [Alzheimer's disease] patient goes through. Anyone that is going through this with a loved one can see how the loved one perceives things with AD."

# UAMS East Program Description and Goals



## *Program Description*

The University of Arkansas Medical Sciences East Regional Campus provides healthcare outreach services to seven counties including St. Francis, Lee, Phillips, Chicot, Desha, Monroe, and Crittenden counties. The UAMS East Regional Campus, formerly known as the Delta Area Health Education Center and UAMS East, was established in 1990 with the purpose of providing health education to underserved populations in the Arkansas Delta region. The counties and populations served by the UAMS East Regional Campus are some of the unhealthiest in the state with limited access to healthcare services being one of the challenges. As a result of limited access and health challenges, the UAMS East Regional Campus has become a full-service health education center with a focus on wellness and prevention for this region. The program has shown a steady increase in encounters with the resident population and produced a positive impact on the health and wellness of the region. Programs to address local health needs of residents are being implemented in partnership with more than 100 different agencies. The overall mission of the UAMS East Regional Campus is to improve the health of the Delta's population. Goals include increasing the number of communities and clients served and increasing access to primary care providers in underserved counties.

## *Overall Program Goal*

The goal of the UAMS East Regional Campus is to recruit and retain healthcare professionals and to provide community-based healthcare and education to improve the health of the people residing in the Delta region.

# UAMS East Evaluator Summary and Comments

## *Opportunities*

The UAMS East Regional Campus has been given the opportunity to work with Chip Pursell, MPH, RN, BSN, and director of Cardiology Research with the UAMS Lincoln Project. This multi-disciplinary research effort focused on reducing the impact of Out of Hospital Premature Natural Death (OHPND) in rural and disadvantaged communities in eastern Arkansas and North Carolina. One of the goals of the project is to contribute to a growing movement that targets community change and recognizes the need for local, regional, and national policy decisions. A mainstay of the intervention is layperson community health workers that engage the at-risk population to address individual needs and advocate for the community.

UAMS East Regional Campus in Lake Village, with an RN from Chicot Memorial Medical Center (CMMC), visited Chicot County pharmacists to provide them with a tool kit to educate their communities on signs and symptoms of stroke. Because of this educational awareness for the community, CMMC was awarded the Genentech Lecture and Luncheon for the month.

UAMS East hired a new health educator/health coach to add to the outreach team. Jordan Treat was hired January 1, 2022. He completed the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center Certified Tobacco Treatment Training Program. He can now provide coaching to clients that need help quitting smoking as a Certified Tobacco Treatment Specialist.

## *Challenges*

The UAMS Chancellor, Cam Patterson, asked all UAMS Regional Campuses to take some temporary steps to help stop the spread of the Omicron variant of COVID-19. Therefore, UAMS East Fitness Center and many programs were temporarily closed. This closure as well as a hold on programs made an impact on programming numbers. Also this quarter, UAMS East had three employees off at various times with COVID-19. UAMS East Regional Campus is slowly getting back to offering traditional health and wellness classes at various locations. UAMS East continues to host virtual options when applicable.

## *Evaluator Comments*

UAMS East continues to be impacted by COVID-19 as many of the programs were not offered during January and part of February. In spite of this setback, UAMS East Family Medical Center staff is utilizing primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention measures to improve the health of the rural delta population. Primary prevention was implemented through educational and activity programs at schools and worksites. The mobile food pantry is an environmental intervention that aims to reduce food insecurity and improve the nutritional status of the community members. Secondary prevention was implemented through screenings in the community. Tertiary prevention is addressed through the Family Medical Center and the emphasis on health coaching to promote health behaviors and reduce the severity and consequences of disease.

# UAMS East Performance Indicators and Progress

## Long-Term Objective

Increase the number of health professionals practicing in the UAMS East Regional Campus service areas.



**INDICATOR:** The UAMS East Regional Campus will maintain the number of students participating in pre-health professions recruitment activities.

- **ON TRACK**

- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is on track. The UAMS East Regional Campus recruiting specialist has spent the majority of this quarter focusing on sending programs of study to AHEC Scholars. These documents had to be completed, signed, and uploaded to IT Savvy to show their completion of the AHEC Scholars requirements. There are 18 scholars in Cohort 3 and 30 scholars in Cohort 4. This quarter, three more students were recruited for a total of 33 scholars in Cohort 4. Plans are underway for the recruitment of Cohort 5.*
- *Also, UAMS Regional recruiters continue to collaborate with UAMS DDEI (Division for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) Pathways Academy, which is a new UAMS program “to help economically and socially disadvantaged public school students across the state learn about and eventually pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and healthcare.” This partnership is incorporated into the health career pipeline throughout Arkansas. The recruiting specialist attended and helped sponsor the HOSA-Future Health Professionals 2022 convention where the recruiter judged competitions and sponsored each event with prizes given out during the award ceremony. The convention hosted 650 students in person.*
- *The UAMS East recruiting specialist has continued to work with students applying to UAMS College of Medicine. One student in particular, from Phillips County has attended Club Scrub, CHAMPS, Day in Life, M\*A\*S\*H, AIM and was an MD Mentor student. She completed the entire pipeline of recruitment.*
- *The UAMS East recruiting specialist was selected as the state M\*A\*S\*H coordinator for UAMS. There are approximately 20 camps planned for this summer around the state.*



**INDICATOR:** The UAMS East Regional Campus will continue to provide assistance to health professions students and residents, including RN to BSN and BSN to MSN students, medical students and other interns.

- **ON TRACK**

- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is on track. The UAMS East Regional Campus continues to provide support to local nursing students enrolled at Phillips Community College at University of Arkansas. This quarter, support was provided to 30 nursing students. UAMS East currently has two students in the RN to BSN program and one student enrolled in another nursing program. UAMS East is providing an MPH Applied Practice Experience for a student from the Fay. W. Boozman College of Public Health. This student has been working with the UAMS East Good Food Rx program.*




# UAMS East Performance Indicators and Progress

## Short-Term Objective

Increase the number of communities and clients served through UAMS East Regional Campus.




**INDICATOR:** The UAMS East Regional Campus will maintain the number of clients receiving health screenings, referrals to primary care physicians, and education on chronic disease prevention and management within 10% of the previous year.

- **ON TRACK, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** 
- **ACTIVITY:** This indicator is on track. UAMS East Regional Campus at Lake Village and Chicot Memorial Medical Center implemented the Worksite Wellness Initiative in Chicot County. Employers participating this year are Chicot Memorial Medical Center and Superior Uniform Group. This initiative provides health screenings and educational outreach to employees of participating worksites. The first event of the two was held this quarter for 60 employees at Chicot Memorial Medical Center. Participants took part in the screenings and were provided opportunities and resources to engage in wellness behaviors and health risk reduction. Blood pressure screenings were also offered at the Chicot Community Center for 77 community members. Abnormal results were seen in 54 blood pressure screenings, 20 cholesterol screenings, and two glucose screenings.



**INDICATOR:** The UAMS East Regional Campus will maintain a robust health education promotion and prevention program for area youth and adults.

- **ON TRACK, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** 
- **ACTIVITY:** This indicator is on track. Due to the number of cases of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in January, all UAMS centers took some precautionary and temporary steps to minimize gatherings to help stop the spread of the virus. One of those steps included pausing all programs on campuses and in the community. Therefore, UAMS East staff paused programs during the month of January. UAMS East Regional Campus activities were allowed to return during the months of February and March. This quarter, UAMS East provided health education promotion and prevention programs for a total of 5,537 youth and adults. There were 4,643 youth and 894 adults that participated in or received health education services this quarter.
- UAMS East Regional Campus in West Memphis provided six sessions of parenting classes for 90 participants and conducted Child Safety classes at East Central Arkansas Community Correction Center for 39 women. Topics focused on infants and toddlers, and included: unintentional injuries, sudden unexpected infant death (SUID), safe sleep, drowning, and water safety. This program was impacted by COVID-19 as classes were paused until March 1, 2022.
- UAMS East West Memphis also completed six sessions of DEEP (Diabetes Education Empowerment Program) with 30 women enrolled. The program teaches diabetes diagnosis, how diabetes affects the body, risks, complications, medications, meal planning, and nutrition. Many of the women in the class have diabetes or family members with diabetes.
- UAMS East West Memphis also began offering Wellness Wednesday at Anytime Fitness, where educational sessions on health topics are provided for gym members. There were four sessions this quarter for a total of 43 participants. From these sessions, three individuals have asked for further advice and information on nutrition, which led to meetings to discuss their individualized nutritional needs.
- UAMS East West Memphis provided parenting classes via Zoom to DHS parents who are court-mandated to attend parenting classes. UAMS East in Helena and West Memphis are providing the school-based health education curriculum “Kids for Health.” This quarter, 3,988 Kindergarten through 3rd grade students in five schools received the program.


# UAMS East Performance Indicators and Progress

- **ACTIVITY - CONTINUED**

- UAMS East Regional Campus in Lake Village held three virtual Baby Safety Showers for 31 expectant mothers and their support systems. This quarter, 45 parents were trained.
- UAMS East Lake Village partnered with Desha County Cooperative Extension Service to provide healthy snacks and education to students at CB King in Arkansas City. Ninety people participated in the program.
- UAMS East Regional Campus in Helena provided American Heart Association HeartSaver<sup>®</sup> First Aid CPR AED for 25 consumers including four participants at a local agriculture business. UAMS East also provided HeartSaver<sup>®</sup> First Aid CPR AED to 45 graduating high school seniors and 30 middle school students. Basic Life Support was held for 12 practicing healthcare providers.
- UAMS East, in collaboration with ArDROP (Arkansas Delta Region Obesity Project) an initiative through the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, and Phillips County continued its mobile food pantry service to address food insecurities. Through this partnership, two mobile food pantries were conducted in small underserved communities in Phillips County, and 130 community members received dental/personal hygiene kits during those distributions.




**INDICATOR:** The UAMS East Regional Campus will maintain the number of clients participating in exercise programs offered by UAMS East Regional Campus within 10% of the previous year.

- **CANNOT DETERMINE PROGRESS DUE TO COVID-19 INFLUENCE ON PROGRAM ACTIVITY** 
- **ACTIVITY:** Progress for this indicator cannot be determined at this time due to COVID-19's influence on program activities. Progress will be reported in future evaluation reports. With the significant rise in the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in January, UAMS prompted temporary steps to minimize gatherings to help stop the spread of the virus. One of those temporary steps was to close the UAMS East Fitness Center during the months of January and part of February. This quarter, UAMS East Regional Campus Fitness Center and walking track encounters totaled 3,315 (January - closed, February - 851, and March - 2,464). UAMS East has begun teaching two group exercise classes at UAMS East in Helena. Yoga has been conducted for 208 participants this quarter while Silver Sneakers classes have been conducted for 151 participants. UAMS East Regional Campus in Lake Village helped provide support and education to members of the Community Outreach Center. Members are provided with free blood pressure checks and various health education information throughout the year. This quarter, there were 350 exercise encounters at the center.




**INDICATOR:** The UAMS East Regional Campus will provide medical library services to consumers, students, and health professionals.

- **ON TRACK, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** 
- **ACTIVITY:** This indicator is on track. The UAMS East Regional Campus Medical Resource Library provided support to healthcare professionals and students through literature searches and teaching materials. This quarter, 26 nursing students and 14 other healthcare professionals utilized the library. The UAMS East Library also provided support to 1,247 consumers, circulated 145 books and 49 audiovisuals, and consumers conducted 33 electronic searches. The library provides various health models to Lee County Cooperative Clinic to be utilized in patient education. As of January 1, 2022 the librarian position has transitioned to a part-time position working three days a week.

# UAMS East Performance Indicators and Progress




**INDICATOR:** The UAMS East Regional Campus will plan and implement a Rural Residency Training Track for Family Medicine in Helena, in partnership with the UAMS South Central residency program.

- **IN NEED OF IMPROVEMENT, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** 
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is in need of improvement. The UAMS East Family Medical Center is slowly trying to build the foundation for the Rural Residency Training Track. The clinic still has three family physicians who are working one day a week to provide coverage to patients. Also, an APRN and two RNs provide medical care and follow-up with clinic patients. The clinic must increase patient volume before applying for the Rural Residency Training Track for Family Medicine.*



**INDICATOR:** The UAMS East Regional Campus will increase the number of patient encounters by 5% annually at the UAMS Family Medical Center in Helena.

- **ON TRACK, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** 
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is on track. The UAMS East Family Medical Center continues to serve the area as a patient-centered medical home clinic, where patients can be referred to two health coaches for smoking cessation, weight loss, and chronic disease management. The clinic had a total of 659 patient visits in 62 days this quarter. There were 202 new patients this quarter.*
- *The clinic hired an additional health coach and educator to help with patient referrals. Follow-up has been provided with all patients referred; six patients have been seen for health coaching. This quarter, health coaching was highly promoted with clinic patients. This free service has been offered to patients and all received a follow-up call to schedule an appointment. The health coaches have provided coaching to four patients outside the UAMS East Family Medical Center for follow-up on diagnosed health conditions. Health coaches are offering an 8-week smoking cessation coaching program. Patients receive free and helpful tips, motivation to quit tobacco, and nicotine patches and/or nicotine gum at no cost. This quarter, four patients participated in the program, two patients completed the program and quit smoking, one patient dropped out of the program, and one is still receiving coaching and nicotine patches.*
- *UAMS East Family Medical Center offered the first Teddy Bear Clinic. The clinic is offered for children, preschool through 1st grade. The clinic is a fun way to ease the fear that kids have about going to the doctor. It also teaches them the importance of a wellness check-up every year. The clinic is offering this as a community service project. This quarter, 20 preschool children participated.*



**INDICATOR:** The UAMS East Regional Campus will provide diabetes education to at least 100 community members annually.

- **IN NEED OF IMPROVEMENT**
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is in need of improvement. The UAMS East Regional Campus does not have a formal diabetes education clinic. Diabetes education is currently being provided to the Family Medical Center patients via telemedicine visits. UAMS East health coaching staff are providing diabetes education to community members as needed. This quarter, 18 community members were provided assistance.*

# UAMS East Testimonial



East Regional  
Campus

## *Program Praise*

- “This was the best experience I have ever had at a doctor’s office. They were very helpful. The front desk staff were both very pleasant. The nurse Kayla was nice. Dr. Lauren listened to me and explained everything so I could understand. Thank you so much for this staff. They are amazing.” - Family Medical Center patient
- “I love the way we work every muscle in the body in this class. I used to pay a trainer, but this class has helped me more than anything. I definitely feel so much stronger.” - Cynthia Patton, Silver and Fit member
- “I had no idea my cholesterol was high. I will go make a doctor’s appointment this afternoon.” UAMS East Lake Village health screening participant at Chicot Memorial Medical Center screening event
- “We give all thanks and glory to God for his healing and getting Sonny’s diabetes back to where we are now . . . and [thanks] also to Jordan Treat of UAMS East, the health coach who tweaked his meal plan and provided great information! Praise the Lord, and Sonny has been fully compliant with all Jordan’s suggestions!” - Mary Ned Foster, spouse of health coaching participant Sonny Foster
- “Thank you Stephanie for teaching the Kids for Health program to our students. My 2nd graders love this program and can’t wait to sing the health rap and learn something new each week.” - Elementary school teacher at DeSoto School

# Summary of Indicator Progress across Programs



For all ATSC-funded programs during this evaluation period, 87% of indicators were on track or exceeding expectations towards annual goals or were met ahead of schedule; 11% of indicators were in need of improvement to meet annual goals, while one indicator's progress could not be determined due to COVID-19's influence on program activity. In all, 63% of indicators were influenced by COVID-19 (see Table 1 on the next page).

## ***Explanation of Indicators in Need of Improvement***

- **Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program**
  - One indicator for TPCP was reported as in need of improvement: TPCP's annual goal to offer 500 educational presentations to the public and decision-makers. TPCP reported that these efforts have been significantly impacted by COVID-19 restrictions, with only 42 presentations in the first half of the fiscal year. However, this quarter TPCP offered 41 presentations, roughly the same number it offered in the first two quarters. Despite an increase in presentations this quarter, TPCP will need to offer more than 400 presentations in the final quarter of the fiscal year to meet the annual goal.
- **Tobacco Settlement Medicaid Expansion Program**
  - Three of TS-MEP's indicators were reported as in need of improvement. Two of the population groups (pregnant women and adults receiving hospital benefit coverage) saw a decrease in the number of persons served, and the overall number of people served dropped by 487 as compared to the previous quarter. The TS-MEP reported that the reduction in the number of pregnant women served may be a result of extended coverage offered during the pandemic, while the significant decrease in the number of adults receiving hospital benefits was largely due to suspended cost share requirements for day on hospitalizations. Despite these decreases, the program served more than 8,200 Arkansans this quarter.
- **UAMS Centers on Aging**
  - UAMS-COA's indicator related to leveraged funds was reported as in need of improvement. While the agency generated \$278,604 in external support this quarter, this fell short of the goal of \$437,759. The ending of the Schmieding Home Caregiver grant, along with disruptions related to the pandemic, continue to greatly impact UAMS-COA's ability to leverage funds.
- **UAMS East Regional Campus**
  - Two of UAMS East's indicator were reported as in need of improvement. The UAMS East Family Medical Center is trying to build a foundation for the Rural Residency Training Track, but the clinic must increase patient volume before applying for the track. This indicator will continue to fall short until patient volume is increased. UAMS East's annual goal to provide at least 100 community members with diabetes education also lagged this quarter, as 18 community members were educated. For UAMS East to meet the annual goal, the program must educate an average of 25 community members per quarter. UAMS East will need to pick up the pace to meet this annual goal.

In addition to the indicators discussed above, progress for one UAMS East indicator could not be determined due to COVID-19's influence on program activities. The indicator is focused on the number of clients participating in exercise programs. UAMS East reported that exercise encounters were limited as UAMS tightened restrictions after the Omicron variant emerged. The fitness center and walking track in Helena had to close for January and part of February. Later in the quarter, the program opened the fitness center and also held more programs. UAMS East reported more than 3,300 exercise encounters at the fitness center and walking track as well as hundreds of encounters in group classes and other programs. However, because of the pandemic's heavy influence and the closing of facilities and limited outreach this quarter, it was difficult to determine how the program is progressing towards the annual goal. Future evaluation reports will provide progress updates.

# Summary of Indicator Progress across Programs



Despite some unmet indicators and other program challenges noted, ATSC-funded programs proved adaptable, creative, and resilient while working through impacts from the pandemic. Evaluators also reported that programs continued to engage in new partnerships to broaden reach, maintain a strong commitment to serve vulnerable populations, train public health practitioners that serve in the state, and promote strong scientific rigor in understanding health and well-being (including vital research related to COVID-19). ATSC-funded programs continued to tackle important health challenges and enhance quality of life for Arkansans.

**Table 1. Indicator Progress across Programs**

PROGRAM	TOTAL INDICATORS	MET AHEAD OF SCHEDULE	EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS	ON TRACK	IN NEED OF IMPROVEMENT	CANNOT DETERMINE PROGRESS DUE TO COVID-19	COVID-19 INFLUENCED	OVERALL PROGRESS
Arkansas Biosciences Institute	7	--	--	7	--	--	3	100% On Track
UAMS Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health	9	--	--	9	--	--	--	100% On Track
Arkansas Minority Health Initiative	7	--	5	2	--	--	5	100% On Track or Better
Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program	19	1	--	17	1	--	15	100% On Track or Better
Tobacco Settlement Medicaid Expansion Program	5	--	--	2	3	--	5	40% On Track
UAMS Centers on Aging	7	1	1	4	1	--	6	86% On Track or Better
UAMS East Regional Campus	9	--	--	6	2	1	6	67% On Track or Better
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>87% On Track or Better</b>
							<i>Total COVID-19 Influenced</i>	<i>63% COVID-19 Influenced</i>



Special thanks to all individuals who participated in this evaluation, including members of the Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission and program directors and staff at the Arkansas Biosciences Institute, UAMS Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health, Arkansas Minority Health Initiative, Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program, Tobacco Settlement Medicaid Expansion Program, UAMS Centers on Aging, and UAMS East Regional Campus.