



ARKANSAS TOBACCO SETTLEMENT COMMISSION

2022 July-September Quarterly Evaluation Report



Report presented to

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



Report presented by

Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Evaluation Team
University of Central Arkansas
201 Donaghey Avenue, Conway, AR 72035
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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

Amy Leigh 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



Jennifer Fowler, Commissioner

Director, Arkansas NSF EPSCoR at 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

Martha Hill, Commissioner

Counsel
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



Building a Culture of Health

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)

EDUCATION



25,907

ARKANSANS EDUCATED THROUGH COMMUNITY OUTREACH EFFORTS
(MHI, TPCP, UAMS-COA, UAMS EAST)



562

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

UAMS

Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health



UAMS COPH offers a Stead Scholars program each year that allows a select group of college undergraduate students to get hands-on experience in the field of public health. Pictured above are four of five Stead Scholars for 2022 with faculty mentors.



The Arkansas Minority Health Initiative offers community education through various multimedia outlets, including the "Ask the Doctor" radio show that allows Arkansans to interact with physicians and health professionals about important health topics.

SERVICE



8,399

ARKANSANS SERVED THROUGH TS-MEP



1,086

NEW ENROLLEES IN TOBACCO CESSATION VIA BE WELL ARKANSAS
(TPCP)



2,504

PATIENT ENCOUNTERS
(UAMS-COA, UAMS EAST)

UAMS
East Regional Campus



Staff at UAMS East Family Medical Center received several accolades this quarter. Most notably, Kayla Mallard was selected to the UAMS 40 Nurse Leaders Under 40 program and Angela Ward was recognized as one of the 100 Best Nurses in Arkansas.



4,100

HEALTH SCREENINGS
(MHI, UAMS EAST)



10,418

EXERCISE ENCOUNTERS
(UAMS-COA, UAMS EAST)





Building a Culture of Health

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



233

81%
OF RESEARCH IS
COLLABORATIVE
BETWEEN ABI
INSTITUTIONS

**ABI RESEARCH PROJECTS
IN FY22**



ABI-supported research this fiscal year included investigations related to asthma control, developmental diseases, Alzheimer's, pesticides, norovirus control, vaccine development, pediatric cancer, and soybean enhancement, among other topics.

426

**PUBLICATIONS
IN FY22**



344

**PRESENTATIONS
IN FY22**



UAMS

Fay W. Boozman
College of Public Health

Research at the UAMS COPH this quarter focused on a myriad of topics including lung cancer, menthol cigarette smoking and prostate cancer, birth defects, COVID-19, opioid use, building capacity for community health workers, and food insecurity, among other topics.



Dina M. Jones, assistant professor for the UAMS Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health's Center for the Study of Tobacco, received a \$733,000 Ko1 grant to conduct a study that seeks to understand disparities in smoking cessation among African-American menthol cigarette smokers. Funded in August 2022, the UQuit Study will be ongoing until 2027. The project delves into why African-American cigarette smokers, more than 85% of whom use menthol cigarettes, are less likely to quit smoking than white smokers and those who use non-menthol cigarettes.



ECONOMIC IMPACT

\$33.7 Million

**TOTAL CLAIMS
PAID BY TS-MEP**



\$785,378

Leveraged by UAMS-COA



Of these leveraged funds during the quarter, the UAMS-COA won a competitive \$100,000 Mission Daybreak Promise Award from the Veterans Administration to help create a national model for suicide reduction among older veterans.



\$26.2 Million

**LEVERAGED IN
FEDERAL
MATCHING FUNDS**



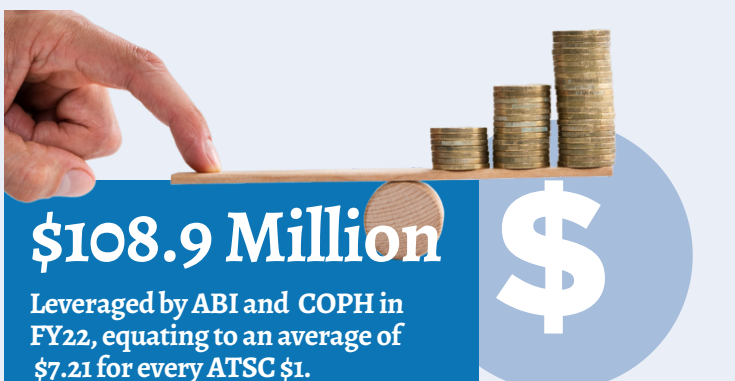
WELL-BEING RETURNS ON TOBACCO SETTLEMENT INVESTMENTS



ATSC funding during the quarter supported highly skilled jobs, unique research projects, educational programs, health screenings and immunizations, clinical services, community partnerships, and vital healthcare for vulnerable Arkansans. Despite limitations imposed on programs by the pandemic, 92% of program indicators were on track to meet annual goals or have already met goals for the fiscal year. All things considered, the investment of ATSC dollars in the state has enhanced Arkansans' health and well-being and supported a culture of health.

\$108.9 Million

Leveraged by ABI and COPH in
FY22, equating to an average of
\$7.21 for every ATSC \$1.





Building a Culture of Health

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)

TESTIMONIALS ←



Arkansas Biosciences Institute - Research to Reduce Risk of Tick-Borne Pathogens in Agriculture Workers

Emily McDermott, Ph.D., assistant professor at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville discussed some of her recent ABI-funded research, *“A lot of our outreach for tick-bite prevention tends to focus on outdoor recreation, but if these ticks associated with cattle are infected with human pathogens, livestock workers could also be at high risk. Depending on the final results of our study, we will be able to use these data materials targeted specifically at an agricultural audience, which can help reduce their risk of becoming infected with tick-borne pathogens while working.”*



Fay W. Boozman
College of Public Health

UAMS Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health - Barbershop Talk: Addressing Alcohol Use among Black Men

The Center for Research, Health, and Social Justice at the COPH is launching Barbershop Talk, an initiative to help black men avoid using alcohol as a means to cope with stress. *“Research shows that living through stressful situations as well as racism typically prompt black men to drink in order to deal with the stress,”* said Tiffany Haynes, Ph.D., associate professor and assistant dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. The candid nature of a typical barbershop dialogue is key, according to Haynes. *“This is a chance for black men to discuss their health in a way that is judgment-free and beneficial. This can lead to men getting the kind of care they need.”*



Arkansas Minority Health Initiative - Celebrating and Supporting Sobriety

The MHI partnered with Better Community Development, Inc. for “Recovery Jam.” The event helps unite those already in recovery and those receiving treatment services, and broadly spreads the message that prevention works, treatment is effective, and people recover, often against all odds. One participant reflected on the odds he and others have to overcome to be in recovery, *“We grew up in homes where love was conditional and often was not there. . . . Many of us were so fearful of being punished or ostracized that we learned to manipulate those around us. Some of us became very good at passive-aggressive behavior as well as other inappropriate behaviors; we learned to get what we thought we wanted or needed without directly asking for it by putting on a false mask or just by acting out to get our way.”*



Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program - Engaging Youth in Vaping Prevention: Coral's Reef Animated Program

Coral's Reef is a newly developed vape prevention program for grades K-2. Arkansas is the only state that has created a tobacco/nicotine prevention program designed for grades K-2. Early feedback on the first Coral's Reef episode has been very positive. A teacher at Cedarville Schools reported, *“My little ones love the Coral's Reef cartoon, but they are begging for the next episode. Can you send me all the episodes, pretty please?”* Also, TCP sub-grantees who have been sharing Coral's Reef with schools in their coverage areas have relayed some feedback: *“The 2nd graders asked lots of questions about flavors and health risks. They asked me to come back to show the second episode.”*



Donald W. Reynolds
Institute on Aging

UAMS Centers on Aging - Praise for Dementia Support Group

A participant of a Dementia Support Group at Schmieding Center for Senior Health Education offered, *“My husband and I attended together. We are just starting to care for his sister with dementia. This class helped us know what discussions we needed to have and what road we are headed down. Thank you for your offerings. We are using several of the Schmieding resources. This would be especially difficult without this place.”*



East Regional
Campus

UAMS East Regional Campus - Praise for Diabetes Education

A participants in DEEP (Diabetes Education Empowerment Program) shared, *“I really enjoyed DEEP. It has taught me so much about diabetes . . . like the medications and how to take them, and what kind of diet is good for a diabetic. Also, it was very interesting to learn about the organs and what they do, and how they also play an important role in diabetes.”*

Program Progress and Evaluation



Arkansas
Biosciences
INSTITUTE



ARKANSAS
DEPARTMENT OF
**HUMAN
SERVICES**
Tobacco Settlement
Medicaid Expansion

UAMS

Fay W. Boozman
College of Public Health

UAMS

Donald W. Reynolds
Institute on Aging

UAMS

East Regional
Campus

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

Due to the lessening of COVID-19 restrictions, the ABI Research Symposium will be held in person on October 4th at the Don Tyson Center for Agricultural Sciences in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Five researchers, one from each of the ABI-supported institutions, will present new and innovative research, and 30 research posters will be presented. It is expected that the symposium will result in many successful research collaborations between research investigators at the five ABI institutions.

The All Payer Claims Database (APCD) in collaboration with the Arkansas Center for Health Improvement (ACHI) has become an extremely valuable source of information to ABI research investigators over the last several years. This partnership continues to enable the establishment of a parallel server based in the UAMS Biomedical Informatics Department which allows all ABI investigators access at no cost. At the six-year mark, impressive grant activity continues to move forward due to the utilization of this database. With the decline of COVID-19, Kenley Money, the manager of this database at ACHI is coordinating visits to the five ABI institutions to facilitate hands-on workshops for investigators to encourage the use of this most valuable resource.

Challenges

COVID-19 restrictions are gradually being lifted, however the restrictions continue to affect the number of in-person meetings and the number of students who feel comfortable working in close proximity in ABI-supported labs. The restrictions have also limited the number of new hires at the ABI institutions. When reviewing historical information on both FTEs and new research scientists to Arkansas, it can be noted that both categories have declined for FY21 and FY22. For the number of FTEs supported with ABI and extramural funding, FY21 saw a decrease 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. However, there were 10 new hires in FY22.

Evaluator Comments

It is encouraging to contemplate the ability of all ABI activities to resume after dealing with the limitations of the pandemic for many months. ABI investigators were able to meet the majority of the indicators for FY 2022 despite the challenges that continue due to COVID-19 infections. The scheduled resumption of the research symposium in October is a much anticipated step toward normalcy. Although researchers have continued to add to the body of research, generate external funding, file for patents, and disseminate their research findings, the ability to engage in more in-person interactions and networking will inject new energy and opportunities for ABI member institutions in the coming months.

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.

- **MET**
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator was met for the fiscal year. During FY 2022, ABI-supported research investigators reported \$8.20 in extramural funding for every \$1.00 provided by the Arkansas Tobacco Settlement. It should be noted that ABI leveraged funds increased significantly from FY21 to FY22, from \$6.19 to \$8.20. This extramural funding was received from a variety of government agencies such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Funding was also received from voluntary health agencies such as the American Cancer Society as well as public companies like Pepsico, Allergan, and Novartis.*



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

- **MET**
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator was met during FY 2022. ABI-supported research investigators filed 10 patents and received seven. Patent activity included diverse subjects such as the diagnosis of depression, acetaminophen protein adducts, and scaffolds for spinal cord injury repair.*



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

- **MET**
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator was met for the fiscal year. During FY 2022, ABI investigators reported 56 media contacts via a variety of outlets. Fifteen newspaper articles, two news conferences, 32 press releases, and seven television/radio interviews were conducted to provide information to the public and to promote ABI activities.*

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.

- **MET**
- **ACTIVITY:** This indicator was met for FY 2022. Research investigators reported 233 new and ongoing research projects covering all five research areas. Funding was also allocated to initiate research start-ups and to maintain ongoing projects by purchasing equipment, updating infrastructure, and providing animal care.




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.

- **UNMET, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** 
- **ACTIVITY:** This indicator was not met for FY22. Although ABI reported 426 publications, well above the goal of 290, research investigators fell slightly short of the expected number of presentations with 344 (the FY goal was 370 presentations). Publications by ABI investigators included 287 independent research articles and 134 articles in collaboration with other researchers. ABI reported five new or improved methodologies and research tools developed to advance future scientific endeavors.



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.

- **UNMET, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** 
- **ACTIVITY:** This indicator was not met for FY22. Data reported by ABI research investigators indicated 280 FTE jobs were supported by ABI and extramural funding during FY 2022. This number falls slightly below the expectation of 300 FTEs. However, of these 280 jobs, 73% were supported by extramural funding, which exceeded the goal of 65%.



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

- **MET**
- **ACTIVITY:** This indicator was met for FY 2022. During the fiscal year, there were 233 new and ongoing research projects reported by ABI investigators. Of these projects, 81% were collaborations between scientists at ABI institutions. Research activities included a wide range of health-related topics such as metabolic processes, crop performance, childhood obesity, sleep, and cancer prevention.

ABI Testimonial

Research to Reduce Risk of Tick-Borne Pathogens in Agriculture Workers

In 2020, Emily McDermott, Ph.D., joined the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture and the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville as an assistant professor in the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology. In this capacity, McDermott recently developed an academic course in medical and veterinary entomology for graduate and upper-level undergraduate students at the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food, and Life Sciences.

McDermott's research with the Division of Agriculture's Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station focuses on medical and veterinary entomology. In addition to research for the U.S. Army's Deployed Warfighter Protection Program to "develop novel larvicides for controlling biting and filth flies on military installations," McDermott's team also conducts tick surveillance for the bacteria that cause bovine anaplasmosis (a cattle parasite). As stated by McDermott, "A lot of our outreach for tick-bite prevention tends to focus on outdoor recreation, but if these ticks associated with cattle are infected with human pathogens, livestock workers could also be at high risk. Depending on the final results of our study, we will be able to use these data materials targeted specifically at an agricultural audience, which can help reduce their risk of becoming infected with tick-borne pathogens while working."

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

Dina M. Jones, Ph.D., MPH, assistant professor for the UAMS Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health's Center for the Study of Tobacco, received a \$733,000 KO1 grant to conduct a study that seeks to understand disparities in smoking cessation among African-American menthol cigarette smokers. The KO1, an esteemed career development award, is funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse of the National Institutes of Health. "It's an honor to get this grant," Jones said. "This is a huge opportunity. When you receive a KO1, it means reviewers deem the proposed training plan and research project as being top notch and you receive intensive support to develop your career. Also, I'm the first person in the history of this college to get the award. I'm eager to research factors that predict smoking lapses in real-time among African-American smokers."

Funded in August 2022, the UQuit Study will be ongoing until 2027. The project delves into why African-American cigarette smokers, more than 85% of whom use menthol cigarettes, are less likely to quit smoking than white smokers and those who use non-menthol cigarettes.

Individuals in the study will reside in either Little Rock or North Little Rock and be 21 to 75 years old. Participants must be planning or willing to quit smoking within the next 30 days on a planned quit date and have regular access to a smartphone. Jones is using word-of-mouth, social media, community events, the college's website, and the tobacco center's community partners to recruit African-American menthol cigarette smokers for the study.

"African Americans who smoke cigarettes typically prefer menthol cigarettes. But that's not by accident," she said. "Research has shown that tobacco companies have used various forms of advertising, marketing, and partnerships with leaders in the Black community to intentionally push the use of menthol cigarettes into the Black community." Jones said the soothing, cooling taste, along with smoking being a means to cope with stress, are among the main reasons why many African-American smokers continue to smoke menthol cigarettes. Additionally, in comparison to non-menthol smokers, who are more likely to be white, African-American menthol cigarette smokers have greater nicotine dependence despite typically smoking fewer cigarettes per day, which makes their lower quit rates even more puzzling.

The UQuit Study will follow participants before and after they try to quit smoking. Jones aims to assess how changes in a participant's mood, nicotine cravings, stress levels, as well as exposure to stressors like discrimination and tobacco advertising influence the likelihood of relapsing. Jones's goal is to use data from the UQuit Study to create interventions that increase successful smoking cessation among African-American menthol cigarette smokers. A larger goal of Jones's work is to eliminate tobacco-related health disparities given that African Americans have disproportionately high rates of tobacco-caused morbidity and death, including cancer, compared to white smokers.

A key element to that goal is surveying people who can successfully stop smoking menthol cigarettes. "Most African Americans are unaware that menthol cigarettes are harder to quit than non-menthol cigarettes and many prefer to quit on their own without any assistance or quit aids," Jones said. "If we get people in the study who can successfully quit and compare their traits, their daily circumstances, and how they manage life once they quit, to those who relapse, it may help our research immensely."

COPH Evaluator Summary and Comments

Challenges

The Master in Health Administration (MHA) program is included in the college's accreditation however it is also separately accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education (CAHME). The accreditation ensures the MHA program provides students with education that meets or exceeds the rigorous criteria set by CAHME.

To maintain accreditation, the program must complete the re-accreditation process every seven years. This process involves preparation of a thorough self-study report based on CAHME criteria for accreditation and self-assessment; a site visit by a team of qualified peer reviewers; and review of the self-study and the site visitor report by CAHME's Board of Directors for a final determination of compliance with accreditation criteria and re-accreditation.

The program began its most recent re-accreditation process in 2020. The self-study document includes a review of every aspect of the MHA program, faculty qualifications and sufficiency, student life cycle and experience as alumni, workforce needs assessment and delivery, and overall administration. The self-study was submitted to CAHME in September 2022 and will host the peer site visit in November 2022. The site visit consists of three days of meetings and interviews by the site visitors of faculty, students, alumni, and college and university administration. The site visit concludes with initial findings by the site visitors. The site visitor report will be presented to the CAHME Board of Directors in spring 2023. A decision on re-accreditation is expected by summer 2023.

Evaluator Comments

The UAMS COPH has met or is on track to meet all of its indicators for the year. Several of the indicators are not reported in the July-September report but will be included in the annual report. In general, faculty and students continue to be involved in research and grant opportunities focusing on the health needs of Arkansans. Specific grants such as the one for understanding the smoking habits of African Americans and other groups that are at-risk for health complications are an important focus of COPH. Most of their graduates remain in Arkansas and represent the racial/ethnic composition of the state. They are leveraging their ATSC monies into additional funds (\$7,322,264) to the rate of 2.84:1 which is an impressive feat. Finally, faculty are providing broad services to Arkansans in terms of their community involvement in many health-related organizations and providing accessible presentations on important health topics.

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 conducted by COPH faculty who served as members, partners, representatives, volunteers, co-chairs, and consultants for groups and institutions with a focus on public health. All 52 of these activities were ongoing. Thirty-seven of these were statewide in scope; six had a central Arkansas emphasis, and nine had a national focus.*



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. Information for this indicator is reported annually in the October-December quarter.*



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. Information for this indicator is reported in the January-March, April-June, and October-December quarters.*



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. Information for this indicator is reported in the January-March, April-June, and October-December quarters.*



INDICATOR: The COPH makes courses and presentations available statewide.

- **ON TRACK**
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is on track to meet the annual goal. Three presentations were made available remotely between July and September. Examples of topics included chronic wasting disease, building a task force for the opioid epidemic, and Hepatitis-A outbreak in Arkansas.*



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. Information for this indicator is reported in the January-March, April-June, and October-December quarters.*

COPH Performance Indicators and Progress



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 to meet the annual goal. The COPH reported three students who graduated in the summer of 2022. One graduate was Asian, one Hispanic, and one graduate did not report race.*



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

- **ON TRACK**
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is on track to meet the annual goal. Two of the three summer graduates are pursuing degrees in Arkansas and the other one is pursuing a residency in Arkansas.*

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.

- **MET**
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator has been met for the fiscal year. The fiscal data for July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 showed that \$2,577,136 was awarded to the COPH from the ATSC. Grants and contracts to the COPH totaled \$7,322,264. The financial information that was provided by COPH indicated a 2.84:1 ratio of external funds to tobacco funds.*

COPH Testimonial

Barbershop Talk: Addressing Alcohol Use among Black Men

The Center for Research, Health, and Social Justice at the University of Arkansas UAMS Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health is launching Barbershop Talk, an initiative to help black men avoid using alcohol as a means to cope with stress.

Spearheaded by the College's Department of Health Behavior and Health Education, the project will use data and in-depth conversations to inform black men of the dangers of using alcohol to deal with stress or anger. Barbershop Talk, funded through a grant, starts later this year in Central Arkansas before expanding to a total of 60 barbershops throughout the state over a four-year span.

The Arkansas Department of Health and organizations that focus on addressing health determinants of black men will receive the information collected during the screenings. "It's well-documented that black men often deal with situations that create a lot of stress in their life," said Tiffany Haynes, Ph.D., associate professor in the college's Department of Health Behavior and Health Education and assistant dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. "Research shows that living through stressful situations as well as racism typically prompt black men to drink in order to deal with the stress."

Barbershop Talk participants will answer questions about their drinking habits and overall health. At barbershops that implement the program, the barber will receive a haircut payment for each of his clients who are screened. Thus, the client will get their haircut for free through the project. "We want the men to think about what the alcohol is doing to their body," Haynes said. "We want them to understand exactly what they're doing to themselves, especially when it involves dealing with stress." Ailments like cardiovascular disease and cancer can be a byproduct of alcohol abuse.

"That's why we're aiming to have barbershops throughout Arkansas host the program," said Camille Hart, research program director for the Department of Health Behavior and Health Education. "Going to where these men are is important. People are more apt to listen if you go to where they're comfortable and willing to let their guard down." To help Barbershop Talk reach maximum success, organizers have used the assistance of specially selected groups of black men to test the initiative.

Barbershop Talk has a steering committee comprised of black male barbers. Haynes and Hart have also formed a community review board, and most of its members are black men. "We want to make sure we're using Barbershop Talk in a way that keeps clients engaged," Hart said. "The best way to do that is to get honest feedback from the demographic this program is for."

The candid nature of a typical barbershop dialogue is key. The honest discussions and answering of questions could result in breakthrough discoveries, according to Haynes. "This is a chance for black men to discuss their health in a way that is judgment-free and beneficial," she said. "This can lead to men getting the kind of care they need. Barbershop Talk is a step toward increasing access to services so that no one is left behind."

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

This quarter, the MHI has worked on strong partnerships with counties, communities, and organizations throughout the state. The agency has secured a close partnership with the Hunger Relief Alliance merging their programs such as Cooking Matters with Camp iCan and Southern Ain't Fried Sundays (SAFS). The MHI is also expanding its partnership with Tri-County Rural Health to expand reach for their SAFS program. This expansion was needed as SAFS has begun to offer cooking demonstrations at the UAMS Culinary Kitchen and with the Central Arkansas Library System.

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. The agency is experiencing personnel shortages; currently the MHI is short a media specialist. Despite personnel shortages the Mobile Health Unit continued to provide health screenings at multiple events this quarter.

Evaluator Comments

The MHI remains steadfast in offering screenings to minority Arkansas residents, and finding new and better ways to do so. Whether it be in a new community or neighborhood, or with a new partner, the MHI continues to look for ways to increase awareness of healthy behaviors throughout the state. MHI's programs continue to grow as the agency persists in its fiscal year goals. As an evaluator, it is refreshing to see all the work the MHI has put into this focus on providing screenings and education related to the debilitating diseases commensurate with tobacco use and unhealthy lifestyles. The MHI shows great agility and adeptness in the face of change while continuing to be good stewards of the financial resources allotted to them. All in all, the MHI provides 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.

- **ON TRACK, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** **ACTIVITY:** This indicator is on track towards the fiscal year goal. The MHI continues its robust campaign to raise awareness and provide access to screenings throughout Arkansas. Compared to this time last year, screening numbers are up and the agency continues to work with partners throughout the state to raise awareness regarding disorders disproportionately critical to minority Arkansans. One of the 11 partnerships MHI worked with was the Dunbar Historic Association, a new partnership the agency added this quarter. Some of the other partnerships included the Tri-County Rural Health Network, Arkansas Human Development Corporation, Community First Alliance, AR Food Banks, and Team Summit. At the Team Summit event alone (the largest event this quarter), more than 2,300 people were served with multiple educational materials given out at over 100 health booths including: health screenings, school health checks, mental health information, COVID-19 screenings and vaccines, and much more. Throughout these events and others, the MHI reported 7,000 educational encounters across 35 counties. The agency also provided 3,887 screenings.
- Additionally, through the MHI's media outlets, the agency offered over 3,000 paid commercials directly related to tobacco on six different television stations in central and northwest Arkansas, and garnered nearly 180,000 social media impressions (11,155 on Twitter and 168,279 on Facebook). These media campaigns increased awareness related to COVID-19, breastfeeding, breast cancer, physical fitness, quitting tobacco, and mental health, among other topics. Furthermore, the "Ask the Doctor" segment runs monthly on Power 92 Jams radio station where health professionals discuss topics such as chiropractic care, immunizations, and heart health.

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.

- **ON TRACK, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** **ACTIVITY:** Though down from the same quarter last year, the MHI is on track to meet its goal in this indicator. Last year (FY22), the MHI provided a total of 3,277 blood pressure screenings. During this quarter, the MHI has already provided 598 blood pressure screenings. Likewise, cholesterol screenings are on track as the MHI has tallied 364 total cholesterol screenings this quarter. Along with these screenings, nearly 7,000 Arkansans were directly educated by the MHI and over 3,000 commercials ran throughout central and northwest Arkansas that focused on topics of tobacco and physical activity.

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.

- **ON TRACK, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** 
- **ACTIVITY:** This indicator is on track. The MHI tallied 664 blood pressure screenings this quarter. Also, 1,265 paid commercials were focused on eating healthy, exercising, and having one's health numbers checked regularly via MHI's Mobile Health Unit (MHU). The MHU, this quarter, supplied more than half of the agency's health screenings.




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.

- **ON TRACK, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** 
- **ACTIVITY:** This indicator is on track. MHI provided 364 cholesterol screenings and nearly 7,000 educational encounters this quarter. The MHI also tallied 572 television commercials that focused on exercising 30 minutes a day and quitting smoking. Furthermore, the MHI continues to provide awareness for heart disease through social media outlets and radio programs including "Ask the Doctor" and "Let's Chat." The Southern Ain't Fried Sundays (SAFS) program is a longstanding program encouraging healthy eating with a 21-day Meal Plan offered. The SAFS Facebook page now has over 300 followers.




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.

- **ON TRACK, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** 
- **ACTIVITY:** This indicator is on track to meet the fiscal year goal. One of MHI's focuses this quarter was to lower rates of diabetes. Part of the agency's campaign was to run television commercials encouraging individuals to increase their physical activity and to get health screenings. These commercials focused on lowering rates of diabetes, high blood pressure, and high cholesterol (all risk factors for diabetes) through exercise and biometric screenings. Furthermore, the MHI provided 664 glucose screenings and educated nearly 7,000 Arkansans.



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, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** 
- **ACTIVITY:** This indicator is on track. A formal survey of racial and ethnic minority disparities is conducted every five years. The next survey is scheduled to be completed in FY24. However, as with other quarters, the MHI continues to put efforts forward to provide education to minority Arkansans through various media outlets. This quarter the MHI focused its messaging on COVID-19 and the vaccine, mental health, back-to-school events, breastfeeding, childhood obesity, and breast cancer. Combined, these subjects garnered more than 11,000 Twitter impressions and over 100,000 Facebook 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. Camp iCan continues to be an effective project to reduce health disparities, particularly among youth. This year's camp was implemented during summer of 2022 as a three-day program with activities, workshops, and exercises that promote healthy eating, physical activity, and self-confidence development. The MHI has begun reaching out to youth organizations to host a camp for the summer of 2023. So far, communities in Jefferson, Union, Phillips, and Pulaski counties have been contacted.

MHI Testimonial



Celebrating and Supporting Sobriety

In September, the MHI partnered with Better Community Development, Inc. for an event called “Recovery Jam.” This event highlights individuals who have reclaimed their lives in long-term recovery and also honors the prevention, treatment, and recovery service providers who make recovery possible. The event helps unite those already in recovery and those receiving treatment services, and broadly spreads the message that prevention works, treatment is effective, and people recover, often against all odds.

One participant reflected on the odds he and others have to overcome to be in recovery, “We grew up in homes where love was conditional and often was not there. How we were treated depended on how we acted. Many of us were so fearful of being punished or ostracized that we learned to manipulate those around us. Some of us became very good at passive-aggressive behavior as well as other inappropriate behaviors; we learned to get what we thought we wanted or needed without directly asking for it by putting on a false mask or just by acting out to get our way.”

The larger aim of the celebration is building greater social connectedness and stronger community cohesion, strengthening family environments so future generations will live and develop a healthier and more effective workforce for the future. At the event, service providers offered education and awareness activities. Partners were available to share smoking cessation information, offer health screenings, HIV/HepC testing, education, insurance awareness, and job opportunities.

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

The TPCP hosted the annual sub-grantee kick-off on August 17. There were approximately 28 attendees. TPCP provided direction on processes for invoicing monthly expenses, standard operating procedures for approval of certain purchases, and how to present/relay the message when presenting tobacco control topics such as vaping among youth. Additionally, the annual meeting served as an official kick-off for the new youth prevention program, Coral's Reef. Coral's Reef is a newly developed vape prevention program developed for grades K-2 (see the Testimonials section for additional information). Finally, TPCP is planning to hold a virtual Tobacco Treatment Specialist (TTS) training session on October 24-28. More information on this event will be provided in the second quarter.

TPCP sub-grantee, Project Prevent, reported on a number of chapter meetings held this quarter. Three chapter meetings of Project Prevent Next Generation (which is made up of youth in grades 4-6 who support living tobacco and nicotine free) involved 55 attendees. The youth participated in planning activities for recruitment as well as for the annual Next Generation Summit and "My Reason to Write" contest. Thirteen Project Prevent chapter meetings were held with 294 attendees. These meetings focused on planning for upcoming programming and activities that will include community events like, for example, peer-to-peer education opportunities and the Youth Led Fact Fed Annual Conference. During this quarter, five peer-to-peer/community education events were held reaching 2,853 Arkansans and leading to the recruitment of 62 youth for Project Prevent membership.

During this quarter, the Arkansas Cancer Coalition (ACC) participated in planning activities for two virtual events to be held in the second quarter. On October 28, ACC will provide training for the Tobacco and Disease Symposium. Training will also be provided for the Breaking the Addiction: Tobacco Cessation Training for Healthcare Providers Conference to be held November 7-9. More information on both trainings will be provided in the second quarter.

Challenges

During FY22, fourth quarter reporting for the long-term indicator relating to Electronic Nicotine Delivery System (ENDS) use rates among youth indicated that the ENDS use rate among youth in Arkansas was at 24.3%. Additionally, in the narrative for the ENDS indicator, it was noted that "preliminary data reveals that ENDS/vaping product use among youth has not dropped during the COVID-19 pandemic." It is important to note that these higher rates of use by youth are being observed nationwide. Recently in the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, it was indicated that "in 2022, 2.55 million U.S. middle and high school students currently used e-cigarettes" (or ENDS). This number indicates a rise in use since the last survey. See the following link for access to the full article "E-Cigarette Use Among Middle and High School Students – United States 2022" (https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm710a3.htm?s_cid=mm710a3_e&ACSTrackingID=USCDC_921-DM91474&ACSTrackingLabel=This%20Week%20in%20MMWR%20-%20Vol.%2071%2C%20October%207%2C%202022&deliveryName=USCDC_921-DM91474).



TPCP Evaluator Summary and Comments

Challenges CONT'D

The CDC article also notes "sustained implementation of comprehensive tobacco prevention and control strategies at the national, state, and local levels, coupled with FDA regulation and enforcement, is critical to addressing e-cigarette use among middle and high school students." To this end, TPCP and their funded/non-funded partners in Arkansas continue to educate youth and adults about the current epidemic of ENDS (inclusive of vape products) and develop strategies that can be implemented to help combat this issue. Although presentations were few during the current quarter, TPCP sub-grantees indicated there will be an increase in presentation opportunities in the second quarter.

Evaluator Comments

Coral's Reef is a valuable vape prevention program for youth. The bright colors and diverse personalities of the sea creatures are quite engaging and enjoyable to watch. It should not be overlooked that Arkansas was the first state to develop such vape prevention programming for K-2 youth, especially at a time when Arkansas and the nation as a whole are reporting such high rates of Electronic Nicotine Delivery System (ENDS)/e-cigarette products usage (see the Challenges section for additional information). I look forward to watching future episodes and reviewing the additional educational materials that support this programming.

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 TOWARDS LONG-TERM GOAL, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** 
- **ACTIVITY:** This indicator is on track towards the long-term goal. Although COVID-19 restrictions are expected to impact the ability of TPCP and its partners to have direct contact with youth in grades 9-12, Project Prevent has been able to support a number of 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 FY23.




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 TOWARDS LONG-TERM GOAL, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** 
- **ACTIVITY:** This indicator is on track towards the long-term goal. Although COVID-19 restrictions are expected to impact the ability of TPCP and its partners to have direct contact with adults and pregnant women, TPCP has enrolled over 1,000 people in tobacco cessation counseling from the Be Well Call Center and recruited 16 pregnant women to the Be Well Baby program this quarter (see the TPCP short-term indicators section for additional information). An annual summary of progress towards this goal will be provided in the fourth quarter of FY23.



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

- **ON TRACK TOWARDS LONG-TERM GOAL, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** 
- **ACTIVITY:** This indicator is on track towards the long-term goal. Although COVID-19 restrictions are expected to impact the ability of TPCP and its partners to have direct contact with community members and policymakers, TPCP was able to support 45 educational presentations this quarter (see the TPCP short-term indicators section for additional information). An annual summary of progress towards this goal will be provided in the fourth quarter of FY23.

TPCP Performance Indicators and Progress



Short-Term Objective

Communities shall establish local tobacco prevention initiatives.



INDICATOR: By June 2023, 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.

- **ON TRACK, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** A small red and white icon of a coronavirus particle.
- **ACTIVITY:** This indicator is on track to meet the fiscal year goal. During this quarter a total of 45 presentations were made to a total of 636 attendees. Community sub-grantees conducted 37 presentations to approximately 546 attendees. Topics covered included the following: the economic burden of tobacco use, current and emerging tobacco/nicotine products, and dangers of exposure to secondhand smoke and strategies for decreasing exposure. Statewide sub-grantees conducted eight presentations with approximately 90 attendees. Additional details on trainings held/planned by TPCP and statewide sub-grantees are available in the Opportunities section.



INDICATOR: By June 2023, TPCP will maintain the sales to minor violations at 6.5% or below (Baseline in FY19 = 6.3%).

- **ON TRACK, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** A small red and white icon of a coronavirus particle.
- **ACTIVITY:** This indicator is on track to meet the fiscal year goal. While FY22 ended with a sales to minor non-compliance rate of 11.63%, for the first quarter of FY23, that rate has dropped to 8.27%. During the current quarter, the Arkansas Tobacco Control (ATC) conducted 2,079 unannounced compliance checks (and zero behind-the-counter compliance checks) with 172 sales-to-minor violations for the non-compliance rate of 8.27%. Additionally, ATC held 20 retailer trainings with 433 attendees and 177 retailers represented.



INDICATOR: By June 2023, 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** A small red and white icon of a coronavirus particle.
- **ACTIVITY:** While no Red County Chapters were added in this first quarter of FY23, Project Prevent facilitated 16 statewide meetings with 349 attendees. See the Opportunities section for additional school chapter activities.




INDICATOR: By June 2023, 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. The media plan is reported annually; therefore, an update will be provided in the fourth quarter report for FY23.

TPCP Performance Indicators and Progress




INDICATOR: By June 2023, 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. During the current quarter, Be Well Arkansas (BWA) received 1,985 calls inquiring about tobacco cessation, hypertension, and/or diabetes. A total of 1,086 individuals enrolled in the tobacco cessation program. Additionally, the BWA Call Center mailed out 139 diabetes and 397 hypertension pamphlets as requested by callers. The quit rate will be reported annually in the fourth quarter of the fiscal year.*




INDICATOR: By June 2023, 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. For the current quarter, 16 women enrolled in the Be Well Baby program. A total of 73 counseling sessions were conducted (including both prenatal sessions and postpartum sessions for previous enrollees). Be Well Baby provides enrolled participants a total of four prenatal and six postpartum counseling sessions.*



INDICATOR: By June 2023, 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. The No Menthol Sunday event is held in May; therefore, MISRGO is currently in the planning stages for this activity. Additional information will be provided in future reports.*



INDICATOR: By June 2023, the MISRGO will execute an annual event that supports the mission of the program and report on funded and non-funded attendees.

- **ON TRACK, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** 
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is on track to meet the fiscal year goal. The 20th Clearing the Air in Communities of Color Conference is held in March; therefore, MISRGO is currently in the planning stages for this activity. Additional information will be provided in future reports.*



INDICATOR: By June 2023, 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 meet with stakeholders and property owners. However, during this quarter, they were able to provide information regarding reducing tobacco related disparities to two stakeholders: Arkansas Lupus Foundation and the National High School Basketball Association.*

TPCP Performance Indicators and Progress




INDICATOR: By June 2023, 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.

- **MET AHEAD OF SCHEDULE, ONGOING**
- **ACTIVITY:** This indicator was met ahead of schedule, but will be ongoing during FY23. During the third quarter of FY22, two requests for proposals (RFP) for FY22-FY23 were funded. The MRC is 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. Any updates on the progress of these research projects or additionally funded projects will be provided in future reports.



INDICATOR: By June 2023, 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 the MRC to conduct face-to-face meetings. However, the MRC is currently in the planning stages with MISRGO for a vaping prevention event that will target youth. This virtual event will take place in Arkansas schools in the spring. It will feature Daniel Ament who received a double-lung transplant due to the damage done as a result of his vaping.




INDICATOR: By June 2023, 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. Initial contact has been made with the Design Group (MRC's media partner) regarding open editorials to be submitted after the first of the year. Minority Health Month is in April; therefore, a goal is to submit editorials to support this event.




INDICATOR: By June 2023, 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 continue to impact the ability of GASP to recruit students to the program. During this quarter, 17 students were enrolled, four of which were new students. No stipends were awarded during this quarter. Stipend awards will be noted in the report for the next quarter. One student graduated from GASP during this quarter.



INDICATOR: By June 2023, 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 continue to impact the ability of GASP to interact with juvenile justice programs. However, during this quarter, the GASP faculty began planning faculty leadership and student involvement in the development of a tobacco prevention curriculum to be used with juvenile justice programs in Jefferson County. Additional updates will be provided in future reports.



TPCP Performance Indicators and Progress



INDICATOR: By June 2023, GASP faculty will explore the possibility of a learning partnership between Be Well Arkansas Quit Tobacco Program and the GASP students.

- **MET, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** A small red and white icon representing COVID-19.
- **ACTIVITY:** This goal was met during FY22 when two meetings were held to discuss GASP student observation of the Be Well Arkansas Quit Tobacco Program workings. Additionally, the GASP faculty met in August (during the current quarter) to set programmatic goals for the 2022-2023 academic year (as do many academic departments). In response to requests from the UAPB community, GASP faculty have prioritized focus on the development of three virtual presentations to share with the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff community. Two presentations will focus on tobacco and nicotine health hazards and cessation resources, while the other will focus on health hazards and addiction symptoms of marijuana use. Since the original FY22 goal has been met, and the programmatic focus of GASP has shifted for the current academic year, we will request an update of this indicator at a future ATSC meeting. Until this request is made, we will provide updates on the progress of the development of the three virtual presentations.



INDICATOR: By June 2023, 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.

- **MET**
- **ACTIVITY:** During FY22, GASP developed and administered an alumni survey (see previous report for additional information). Returned surveys indicate the GASP program is closely aligned with current jobs in the field and helped the former students become competitive in their career. Any additional information from other completed surveys that are submitted will be provided here. However, since the original F22 goal has been met, we will request the deletion of this indicator at a future ATSC meeting.

TPCP Testimonial



Engaging Youth in Vaping Prevention: Coral's Reef Animated Program

Coral's Reef is a newly developed vape prevention program developed for grades K-2. Arkansas is the only state that has created a youth tobacco/nicotine prevention program designed for grades K-2. In addition, the Arkansas Department of Health issued a press release on September 13 to provide information on this youth tobacco prevention initiative. See the following link to watch the YouTube video of the first episode of Coral's Reef (<https://www.bewellarkansas.org/youth-education/>). This website also offers other free Coral's Reef educational materials for this target audience including coloring book pages and holiday activity ideas. Early feedback on the first Coral's Reef episode has been very positive. A teacher at Cedarville Schools reported, "My little ones love the Coral's Reef cartoon, but they are begging for the next episode. Can you send me all the episodes, pretty please?" Also, TPCP sub-grantees who have been sharing Coral's Reef with schools in their coverage areas have relayed some feedback:

- "The 2nd graders asked lots of questions about flavors and health risks. They asked me to come back to show the second episode."
- "The 3rd graders loved Coral's Reef and wanted to watch it again."
- "Animation and color held students' attention. They are ready for episode 2!"
- "I have received an email from Green Forest that there are 450 students in K-3rd grades. They wish to participate in the Coral's Reef for Red Ribbon Week."

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 Department of Human Services (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 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. There was also an increase in the number of persons with developmental disabilities being served this quarter. 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 during the first three quarters. 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. The Hospital Benefit Coverage population has had a significant overall decrease though the first three quarters of 2022. 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 8,399 eligible pregnant women, seniors, qualified adults, and persons with developmental disabilities. This is a decrease of 574 persons served over the previous quarter. Total claims paid for the TS-MEP populations this reporting period were \$33.7 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 \$26.2 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 830 participants in the TS-MEP initiative Pregnant Women Expansion program. This is a decrease of 119 women being served from the previous quarter. This program provides prenatal health services for pregnant women with incomes ranging from 138-214% of the federal poverty level (FPL). Before the TS-MEP funding, the income limit for pregnant women was at or below 100% FPL. In this quarter, the TS-MEP funds for the Pregnant Women Expansion program totaled \$890,998.




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 (HBC) provided inpatient and outpatient hospital reimbursements and benefits to 677 adults aged 19-64. This is a decrease of 368 in the number of adults served over the previous quarter and the overall number of adults served in the first three quarters has significantly decreased. This decrease is due largely to suspended cost share requirements for day one hospitalizations due to the public health emergency. Traditional Medicaid covered 20 hospital days per year for qualified adults. The HBC program has increased the number of hospital days from 20 to 24 and reduced the copay on the first day of hospitalization from 22% to 10%, though this has been suspended as noted above. TS-MEP funds for the Hospital Benefit Coverage totaled \$3,843,866 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 6,384 seniors during this quarter. This is a decrease of 105 persons from the previous quarter but the number of seniors served this year is up over the first three quarters. The ARSeniors program serves Arkansans 65 years or older that have incomes at or below 80% of the federal poverty level. Arkansas Medicaid benefits that are not covered by Medicare are available to ARSeniors participants. Some examples of these benefits are coverage for physician, lab, pharmacy, and inpatient services. Additionally, the ARSeniors program pays the Medicare premium to the Social Security Administration (SSA) for qualified seniors. As a result, the SSA does not withhold this premium from these seniors in their SSA benefits. TS-MEP funds for the ARSeniors program totaled \$4,781,213 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.

- **ON TRACK, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** 
- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is on track to meet the annual goal. During this quarter, 508 individuals were provided services through TS-MEP funds. This is an increase of 18 in the number of persons served from the previous quarter. While there are only 500 TS-MEP funded slots, there were 508 unique individuals served this quarter because of program participant turnover. In this quarter, a total of 95 children (18 and under) and 413 adults (19 and over) in 69 counties were provided services. Community and Employment Supports (CES) provide assistance for major life activities to individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities. This includes activities such as living independently and working in a job in the community rather than an institutional setting. TS-MEP funding helps to reduce the waitlist for this population of Arkansans. TS-MEP funds for the CES waiver program totaled \$24,231,476 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 44 out of 75 counties were served). As the COVID-19 pandemic limited many traditional client-based services, the COA directors and clients began 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. Of particular significance in this regard, Dr. Overton-McCoy, director of the UAMS-COA, is a sitting member on the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. This appointment helps extend the agency's ability to raise awareness at the highest levels of state government.
- *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, 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 Coalition for Obesity Prevention, 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.
- *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 other education events. Expansion of UAMS facilities in El Dorado should help broaden impact in the southern portion of the state.

UAMS-COA Evaluator Comments and Summary

Opportunities CONT'D

- *Specific COVID-19 efforts:* The UAMS-COA has taken an active role in reducing the rates of infection in long-term care facilities and providing training in socially-distant CPR techniques.

Overall, despite challenges extended by the pandemic, the UAMS-COA is open to innovation and actively seeking opportunities that contribute positively to the health of older Arkansans.

Challenges

- The aging of the state's population coupled with a constantly changing market-based national healthcare model continues to be a primary challenge to the clinical aspects of this agency's mission. Pandemic pressures on the healthcare system have added further strain to an already tenuous network of specialized care. Outside of UAMS in Little Rock there are only two specialized geriatric clinics remaining in the state. Nonetheless, the UAMS-COA remains committed to adjusting the referral process ensuring that seniors in Arkansas have the best possible access to healthcare services in places where Senior Health Clinic access is unavailable.
- Despite the availability of vaccines and treatments, UAMS-COA client populations remain some of the most vulnerable to infectious diseases 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. As health risks related to the pandemic become more manageable, we are seeing a return to more in-person opportunities. However, a pause in progress is expected as a new flu season approaches and as new COVID variants continue to extend the pandemic.
- Staffing issues continue to threaten the flow of services throughout the state. This impacts both COA staffing and clinic access. Despite progress made by recently filling two central leadership positions, two site leader positions remain open during this quarter and another position is vacant due to a serious workplace injury. 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 (e.g., specialists in dementia assessment and management).
- Adequate supervision of COAs in more remote regions of Arkansas has always been a concern of this agency. Efforts have been made to address many of the issues but keeping staff trained and monitoring activity across the COAs remains challenging.
- 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.
- 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. For example, it is estimated that in this quarter residents of 31 out of 75 counties in Arkansas received no direct services from the UAMS-COA. More effort is needed to find effective modes of delivery for serving seniors in impoverished, hard-to-reach communities. These concerns 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 and the effectiveness of online delivery models is questionable due to lack of resources to fully evaluate these newer service modalities.

UAMS-COA Evaluator Comments and Summary

Challenges CONT'D

- 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 quarters 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. It is important to continue efforts aimed at comparing 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, as older funding commitments end (e.g., Schmieding), and as inflationary pressures rise, maintaining external funding streams is more important than ever. At stake is the continuation of critical programs such as CNA and home caregiver training that are expensive and particularly vulnerable to funding cuts. The UAMS-COA is currently finding funds through grants, awards, 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 especially in an economy with climbing inflation and falling investment returns.
- 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 has become adept at formulating short-term strategies to address them. However, continuing economic uncertainty and periodic surges in the pandemic have 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 numerous strains on conventional service modalities, the UAMS-COA has enhanced senior health this quarter through the following activities:

- 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);

UAMS-COA Evaluator Comments and Summary

Evaluator Comments CONT'D

- Recognizing the necessity of fall prevention and healthy exercise education for seniors and mobilizing resources to meet the need;
- Leading efforts to develop alternative therapies for pain management;
- Leading efforts in mental health and suicide prevention in the state;
- 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, COVID-19 precautions and rising economic uncertainty continued to disrupt daily operations of the UAMS-COA. Nonetheless, the agency has made progress in program development and stayed on a reasonable trajectory to meet 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 to meet the annual goal, although the effort has been substantially altered due to concerns surrounding COVID-19. A total of 1,246 exercise encounters with senior Arkansans were counted during this reporting period with encounters distributed across five of the state's seven 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 and pain management). A majority of the 1,246 encounters were live, in-person experiences as opposed to Facebook or videoconference methods. Overall, the UAMS-COA provided approximately 212 hours of exercise programming to seniors this quarter and preliminary self-reported data suggest that these exercise options are meeting the perceived needs of participants.




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

- **EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS**
- **ACTIVITY:** This indicator is exceeding expectations to meet the annual goal. During this quarter, the UAMS-COA offered evidence-based educational programs that addressed a range of health priorities related to aging. This quarter, UAMS-COA staff provided 799 hours of educational offerings in several focal areas: caregiving/dementia training, healthy eating/food insecurity, and mental health/well-being.



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.

- **ON TRACK, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** 
- **ACTIVITY:** This indicator is on track to meet the annual goal. In this quarter, the UAMS-COA developed external support from various sources valued at approximately \$785,378. This amount exceeds the quarterly goal of \$485,949 and represents a significant increase in external support from the prior quarter. The UAMS-COA and its affiliates have elevated their productivity in securing external funding despite continuing disruptions associated with the pandemic. During this quarter, \$409,694 was raised from seven different grants to support programming (compared to three grants totaling \$39,664 last quarter). The UAMS-COA also won a competitive \$100,000 Mission Daybreak Promise Award from the Veterans Administration to help create a national model for suicide reduction among older veterans. Another large stream of external funding was derived from the Schmieding foundation that provided \$133,214 to support Schmieding Center operations. Additional extramural funding included community partner donations (\$27,816), UAMS core support (\$114,000), and the value of volunteer hours supplied to the COAs (\$154). The agency also received additional money through contractual service agreements (but these amounts were unavailable at the time of the report). The numbers indicate clear efforts to remain active in external fundraising and these amounts represent a significant increase over the previous quarter. Overall, the UAMS-COA had a successful quarter of external funding by leveraging \$785,378 above the \$485,949 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 1,892 Senior Health Clinic encounters during this reporting period. There were no recorded nursing home, inpatient, or home visits during this period. 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. Demand for clinical encounters is 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 429 hours of educational presentations and in-service training opportunities attended by 112 healthcare practitioners and students during this reporting period (most of these were in-person encounters).*



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 7,461 community education encounters during this reporting period. While approximately 34% of these encounters occurred in person (2,569), other encounters occurred via telephone or online platforms (e.g., 3,948 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 FY23 was completed during the prior quarter. A list of prioritized problems and interventions was generated. The list is similar to the FY22 priorities and includes a continued emphasis on fall reduction and healthy activity, a revised emphasis on healthy eating and food insecurity, an emphasis on caregiving/dementia training, and a new emphasis on mental health/well-being. The COA directors will continue to monitor the current and emerging needs of older Arkansans and make adjustments if necessary.*

UAMS-COA Testimonial

Praise from Seniors, Families, and Caregivers

Participants of Drums Alive at COA Northeast in Jonesboro shared the following:

- "I love this. I didn't think my hip would let me keep up, but I've gotten so much stronger and faster since I started. Please don't stop coming here and drumming with us."
- "I really enjoy it. I've made new friends and I know it's because this makes me in a better mood."
- "Makes me feel good, smile, laugh, have more confidence in myself."
- "I think it's good. It's really helped my left arm so much."
- "This is the most fun I've had since moving here. I used to be sad and lonely, but knowing you're coming and our group will be here makes me want to get out of bed in the morning."
- "This is the best exercise! I can't tell you how much we all look forward to you coming here. The music is great and these people have never participated in anything like they do drums."

Participants of a Dementia Support Group at Schmieding Center for Senior Health Education offered the following:

- "I was scared when I first came to the group. I was still in denial that this was happening to me. But when I found I was learning so much, and you were so open and caring, I found myself wanting more. I was sad when our time came to an end. You were wonderful, caring, giving just the right amount of explanation without getting too deep into what might be down the road. I wholeheartedly support any efforts that are made to offer these resources, and more, for early stage Alzheimer's patients."
- "My husband and I attended together. We are just starting to care for his sister with dementia. This class helped us know what discussions we needed to have and what road we are headed down. Thank you for your offerings. We are using several of the Schmieding resources. This would be especially difficult without this place."
- "[It] was comforting to learn that so many other people are dealing with the same issues. Glad to learn that there's been so much research and commitment to dementia and related problems. Also, glad to learn that there are resources out there that caregivers can avail themselves of."

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

Several opportunities for this quarter are noted below:

- UAMS Family Medical Center (FMC) staff were recognized for their outstanding work in nurse's delivery of socially/culturally-sensitive care. The Teddy Bear Project aims to help children become comfortable with medical exams and equipment. The UAMS FMC provided this project at a local daycare and children could bring their favorite stuffed animal in for a wellness exam.
- UAMS East Regional Campus was recognized as a community partner and advocate at the Michelle D. Hunter Food Pantry Dedication and Grand Opening.
- The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Arkansas AHEC (Area Health Education Center) Point of Service and Maintenance/Enhancement Program was funded for an additional five years. This will allow the pre-professions recruiters to continue their work to prepare a diverse, culturally competent primary care workforce, prepared to deliver high-quality care to disparate populations within rural and underserved areas.
- UAMS East FMC staff, Kayla Mallard, RN, CS was selected to the UAMS 40 Nurse Leaders Under 40 program. This is a highly competitive nomination process which focuses on a commitment to excellence, service and outreach within the community, leadership qualities, and contributions to the advancement of the nursing profession.
- UAMS East FMC staff member, Angela Ward, BSN, RN, AMB-BC was recognized as one of the 100 Best Nurses in Arkansas. She was nominated by a nurse that saw her as a mentor and a nurse she aspires to be.
- The UAMS East Regional Recruiter will continue to collaborate with the Arkansas Rural Health Partnership while traveling to their mobile unit events with schools in the Delta region. Also, this recruiter is serving on a planning committee for a UAMS Family Medicine Interest Group (FMIG) College of Medicine, Fall Festival.

Challenges

UAMS East is still working on getting all programs to full capacity. Staffing issues and the COVID-19 pandemic continue to be challenges to offering all programs.

Evaluator Comments

UAMS East is still working on getting all of their programs completely enrolled. However, there has been an increase in encounters in the fitness center as well as the community-based programs. The Family Medical Center is on track to exceed the number of patient visits over last year. This is critical in making progress on the goal of establishing a Rural Residency Training Program. The health coaches are offering a free, motivation-based smoking cessation program. In line with best practices, participants are provided nicotine patches and/or nicotine gum at no cost. This additional service is an example of UAMS East's efforts to meet the needs of the community it serves.

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 to meet the annual goal. The UAMS East Regional Campus Recruiting Specialist and other UAMS recruiters conducted the all-virtual camp “Find Your Future in Health Care.” The program was for high school students from across the state with speakers from each region sharing about their career. Forty-three students attended the camp. The UAMS East recruiter began recruitment for the fifth cohort of the AHEC Scholars with the Physician Assistant (PA) program at UAMS. Currently, there are 39 students that will be working with staff over the next two years. The UAMS East recruiter is providing pre-professional student advising for medical, dental, pharmacy, nursing, and PA school. Mock interviews and personal statement reviews have been conducted by the pre-professions recruiter. The UAMS East recruiting specialist has nine students that she has worked closely with over the years and will be following them through their acceptance into a professional college. Recruitment continued through the partnership with ArkACRAO (Arkansas Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers) college fairs. Through these in-person fairs, 1,622 students have been informed about health careers and the opportunities available in Arkansas. These fairs will be continuing throughout the month of October. The UAMS recruiter spoke to a group of 19 new HOSA leaders about a collaboration with their school clubs through speaking and hands-on events. HOSA – Future Health Professionals, formerly known as Health Occupations Students of America, is an international career and technical student organization endorsed by the U.S. Department of Education and the Health Science Technology Education Division of ACTE (Association of Career and Technical Education).*



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 to meet the annual goal. The UAMS East Regional Campus currently has two students in the RN to BSN program and one student enrolled in another nursing program. UAMS East is providing an internship opportunity for an LPN to BSN student who is attending the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville.*


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 to meet the annual goal. As part of National Prostate Health Month, UAMS East Regional Campus at Lake Village, Chicot Memorial Medical Center, and the Arkansas Prostate Cancer Foundation collaborated to offer free PSA (prostate-specific antigen) blood tests to employees of Superior Uniform Group in Eudora as well as some local residents. Twenty-eight men took part in the event where they were screened and given information on prostate cancer and on the importance of early detection. Resources on stroke awareness and prevention were given to all attendees. Also, UAMS East provided blood pressure education information and free screenings to 40 participants at the local community resource fair. UAMS East at Lake Village provided blood pressure screening to 145 members of the community center. Abnormal screenings this quarter included the following: blood pressure, 80; cholesterol, 11; blood sugar, 5; BMI, 10; and waist circumference, 18.



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 to meet the annual goal. This quarter, UAMS East Regional Campus provided health education promotion and prevention programs for a total of 4,865 youth and adults (1,885 youth and 2,980 adults). Specific community education highlights are described below.
- UAMS East partnered with ArDrop in giving out 150 food boxes provided through the mobile food partnership “The Drop Off.” This project increases healthy food accessibility in the most rural parts of Phillips County. Also, UAMS East provided 150 personal hygiene kits to those attending mobile food pantries.
- UAMS East provided the Community Development Center with 300 youth dental hygiene kits for a back-to-school rally.
- UAMS East provided program and service information to 60 students attending the PCC/UA (Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas) Student Information Fair and held an open house for its community telehealth resource center. Twenty community members were trained on the use of telehealth during this event. Additionally, a civic group was instructed on the use of telehealth services. Fifteen community members were provided demonstrations.
- UAMS East Regional Campus began teaching “Kids for Health” in two schools, and will expand to others in the spring. A total of 300 youth have participated in “Kids for Health.”
- UAMS East provided American Heart Association HeartSaver[®] First Aid CPR AED (automated external defibrillator) training for 31 consumers. Basic Life Support was held for 14 practicing healthcare providers.
- UAMS East Regional Campus at Lake Village held one virtual Baby Safety Shower for five expectant mothers and their support individuals. Lake Village held the 12th Annual Firecracker 5K. Fifty-one participants walked or ran the 5K course.
- UAMS East at Lake Village provided AR Saves stroke information to 51 people.

UAMS East Performance Indicators and Progress

- **ACTIVITY CONT'D:** UAMS East Regional Campus at West Memphis completed one round of the four-session child safety classes at East Central Arkansas Community Correction Center. In total, 15 women were enrolled in each round for a total of 105 encounters. Additionally, they held an eight session parenting class at the Arkansas Community Corrections for a total of 31 inmates resulting in 248 encounters.
- UAMS East at West Memphis installed seven car seats and demonstrated proper use for 11 parents. The car seats are provided through Arkansas Children's Hospital Child Passenger Safety Education Program.
- UAMS East at West Memphis attended two back-to-school community health fairs hosted by the West Memphis Community Outreach office and the Boys and Girls Club. Staff handed out dental hygiene kits, nutrition education, and car seat safety education to 375 adults and children.
- UAMS East Regional Campus at West Memphis completed eight sessions of DEEP (Diabetes Education Empowerment Program) with 15 women enrolled in each round for a total of 135 encounters. 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 have family members with diabetes.



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.

- **ON TRACK, INFLUENCED BY COVID-19** 
- **ACTIVITY:** This indicator is on track to meet the annual goal. This quarter, UAMS East Fitness Center and walking track encounters totaled 6,368. UAMS East Regional Campus has begun teaching two group exercise classes at UAMS East. Yoga has been conducted for 395 participants this quarter while Silver Sneakers classes have been conducted for 178 participants. UAMS East Regional Campus at Lake Village helps provide support and education to members of the Community Outreach Center. This quarter, there were 1,912 exercise participants at the center. Also, held this quarter were exercise classes offered at McGehee Methodist Church. There were 319 participants in attendance.



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

- **ON TRACK**
- **ACTIVITY:** This indicator is on track to meet the annual goal. The UAMS East Medical Resource Library provided support to healthcare professionals and students through literature searches and teaching materials. This quarter, 23 nursing students and 13 other healthcare professionals utilized the library. UAMS East Library also provided support to 1,343 consumers, circulated 61 books and 24 audio/visuals, and conducted 14 electronic searches. UAMS East Medical Resource Library provided assistance to a BSN student attending A-State University and obtained research articles for a student pursuing an MSN. Also, Omega Care was provided with various health brochures for an employee in-service program.



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.

- **ON TRACK**
- **ACTIVITY:** This indicator is on track to meet the annual goal. UAMS East Family Medical Center (UAMS FMC) is slowly trying to build the foundation for the Rural Residency Training Track. The UAMS FMC must increase patient volume before applying. This is still a work in progress.

UAMS East Performance Indicators and Progress



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

- **EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS**

- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is exceeding expectations to meet the annual goal. The UAMS FMC 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 UAMS FMC had a total of 702 patient visits in 62 days of clinic this quarter. There were 161 new patients this quarter.*
- UAMS FMC staff are utilizing primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention measures to improve the health of the rural delta population.
 - *The FMC is hosting a virtual endocrinology clinic and will begin a project on the use of continued glucose monitoring on high-risk clinical patients.*
 - *Clinic staff have been improving the target goals for patients with hypertension and diabetes. Clinic staff are keeping scorecards and metrics on provider services to ensure that improvements are being made with clinical patients. As of September 2022, 78% of the UAMS FMC hypertensive patients have a blood pressure of 140/90 or less as indicated on the scorecard. Also, the clinic compliance rate for diabetic patients having A1C checked every 12 months is above the norm of 73%; as of September 2022, the clinic compliance is 79%. The goal for patients with an A1C greater than nine is less than 27%. As of September 2022, the clinic is reporting a compliance rate of 12%.*
 - *Digital health has evolved into an everyday part of healthcare. The nurses at the UAMS FMC have been trained and are proficient in telehealth and the communication skills necessary to facilitate the digital health platform. Patients are referred to coaches for additional help and support in making behavior changes. UAMS East provided health coaching for 15 clinical patients this quarter. Health coaches are offering a free eight-week smoking cessation coaching program. Patients receive helpful tips and motivation to quit tobacco and are provided nicotine patches and/or nicotine gum at no cost. This quarter, four patients participated in the program, two of these patients completed the program and quit smoking.*



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

- **ON TRACK**

- **ACTIVITY:** *This indicator is on track to meet the annual goal. UAMS East does not have a formal diabetes education clinic at this time. However, diabetes education was provided to 15 FMC patients via telemedicine visits with an endocrinologist as well as through coaching sessions. This quarter, an additional 28 community members were provided information on pre-diabetes and diabetes.*

UAMS East Testimonial



Praise for Clinical Offerings and Diabetes Education

Cecilia Smith, an RN with the UAMS Delta Center on Aging, is housed at UAMS East in Helena, and is tasked with reaching the senior population in the area. Smith offered praise for UAMS East and the Family Medical Center, “Thank you all for the invitation to join you! I was very impressed with this new evolving technology and its ability for specialists to reach our rural community! I’ve used this [technology] in the ER with cardiac/stroke victims in the little town of Dewitt. I’ve seen it save lives there. [My husband] has utilized it for his Endocrinologist at UAMS and loves coming to UAMS East for appointments versus driving to Little Rock. You guys are awesome!”

Patients at the UAMS Family Medical Center reported the following:

- “The staff was very helpful and amazing. Everyone had a great smile and seemed excited about their job, and I absolutely love the clinic and all the staff from the front to the back. It was great.”
- “It was awesome. Ms. Reeves was very good with my mom and attentive to her needs. Communication was great. Her nurse was great and knowledgeable as well. They make house calls, and that was very good. Great team!”

Participants in DEEP (Diabetes Education Empowerment Program) shared the following:

- “I really enjoyed DEEP. It has taught me so much about diabetes that I didn’t know about, like the medications and how to take them, and what kind of diet is good for a diabetic. Also, it was very interesting to learn about the organs and what they do, and how they also play an important role in diabetes.”
- “I’ve learned a whole lot and enjoyed it. At first, all I knew about diabetes was it had to do with sugar. Now I know so much more and how to try [to avoid] it, and if I do [develop diabetes], how to control it.”

Summary of Indicator Progress across Programs



Across all programs in the July-September 2022 period, 92% of indicators were on track or better to meet their annual or multi-year goals; 57% of indicators were influenced by COVID-19 (see Table 3).

For programs with quarterly status updates (COPH, MHI, TPCP, TS-MEP, UAMS-COA, and UAMS East Regional Campus), 95% of indicators were on track or better to meet their annual goals and 5% of indicators were in need of improvement; and, 61% of indicators across these six programs were influenced by COVID-19 (see Table 1). The indicators in need of improvement fell under the TS-MEP.

- **TS-MEP:** Three indicators were evaluated as in need of improvement as the overall number of Arkansans served across the four population groups was down compared to the previous quarter. In particular, the number of women served by the Pregnant Women Expansion program was down, in part, because of extended health coverage during the pandemic. Also, as the TS-MEP evaluator reported, coverage is only being terminated due to death, moving out of the state, incarceration, or at the request of the client, so there has been less need to apply for coverage specifically for pregnancy. Finally, the number of adults served under the Hospital Benefit Coverage program was down as the DHS suspended cost share requirements for day one hospitalizations. Arkansas DHS is working to implement guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services with changes across the eligibility and claims management systems during the ongoing pandemic. This has resulted in a reduction in the number of persons needing to use the Hospital Benefit Coverage.

For programs with fiscal year evaluation (ABI), 71% of indicators were met and 29% of indicators were influenced by COVID-19. ABI's two unmet indicators are explained below.

- **ABI:** Two of ABI's seven indicators were unmet in FY22. One indicator is related to the number of academic publications and presentations offered by ABI-supported investigators. While the ABI exceeded the goal of 290 publications (with 426 publications in FY22), ABI fell short on the number of presentations with 344 presentations offered towards the goal of 370. The other unmet indicator is related to the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs supported by the ABI and extramural funding. In FY22, 280 FTE jobs were supported, short of the goal of 300 FTEs. However, of the 280 jobs, 73% were supported by extramural funds, which exceeds the goal of 65%.

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, cultivate 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.

Summary of Indicator Progress across Programs



Table 1. Indicator Progress across Programs with Quarterly Updates in July-September

PROGRAM	TOTAL INDICATORS	MET	EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS	ON TRACK	IN NEED OF IMPROVEMENT	COVID-19 INFLUENCED	OVERALL PROGRESS
UAMS Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health	9	1	--	8	--	--	100% On Track or Better
Arkansas Minority Health Initiative	7	--	--	7	--	6	100% On Track
Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program	19	3	--	16	--	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	5	--	5	100% On Track or Better
UAMS East Regional Campus	9	--	1	8	--	3	100% On Track or Better
TOTAL	56	5	2	46	3	34	95% On Track or Better
						Total COVID-19 Influenced	61% COVID-19 Influenced

Table 2. Indicator Progress across Programs with Fiscal Year Evaluation in July-September

PROGRAM	TOTAL INDICATORS	MET	UNMET		COVID-19 INFLUENCED	OVERALL PROGRESS	
Arkansas Biosciences Institute	7	5	2		2	71% Met	
TOTAL	7	5	2		2	71% Met	
						Total COVID-19 Influenced	29% COVID-19 Influenced

Table 3. Indicator Progress across All Programs

Average Progress across All Programs		92% On Track or Better
		Total COVID-19 Influenced
		57% COVID-19 Influenced



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.