



ARKANSAS TOBACCO SETTLEMENT COMMISSION

# JANUARY-MARCH 2020 QUARTERLY EVALUATION REPORT



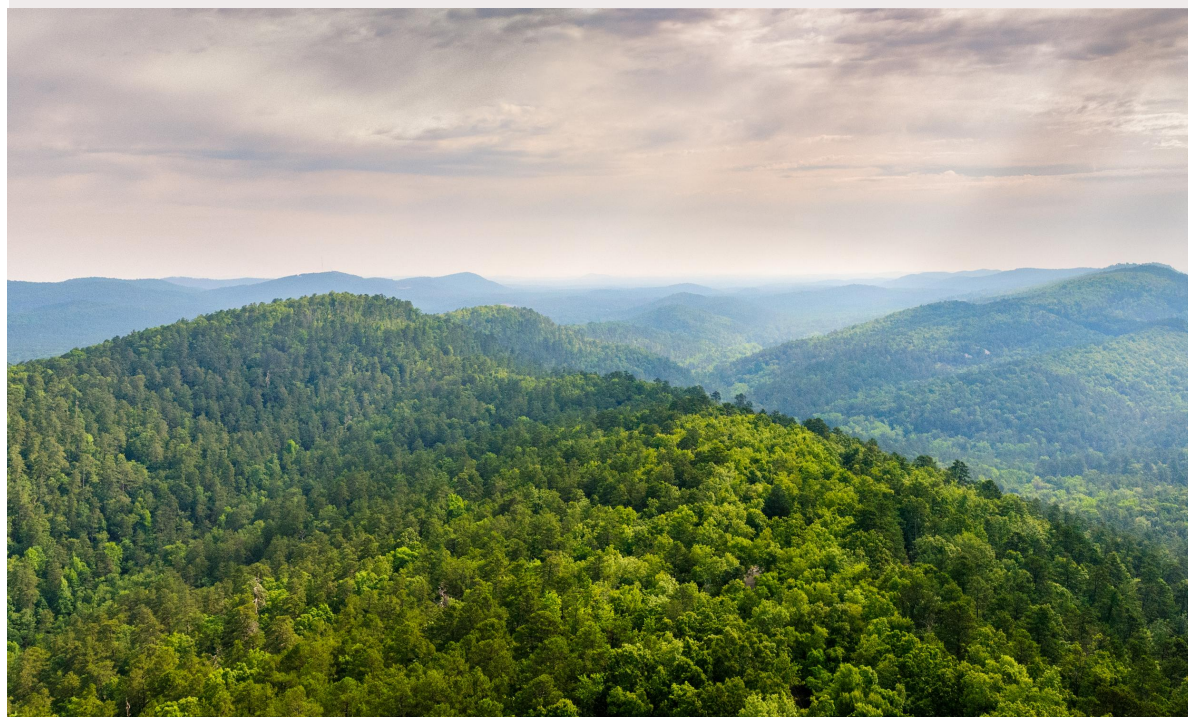
UNIVERSITY OF  
CENTRAL  
ARKANSAS™

**REPORT PREPARED AUGUST 2020 BY**

ARKANSAS TOBACCO SETTLEMENT EVALUATION TEAM  
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**REPORT PREPARED FOR**

ARKANSAS TOBACCO SETTLEMENT COMMISSION  
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# 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

## EDUCATION

897

**HEALTH PROFESSIONALS & STUDENTS EDUCATED**  
(COPH, TPCP, UAMS-COA)



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

This quarter, the **COPH** offered 50 distance-accessible courses on topics such as data mining in healthcare, racial and ethnic disparities, and health law. Ten presentations were also offered remotely on topics like mindfulness, the art of positive communication, the 2020 Census, and coronavirus.

## COMMUNITY EDUCATION

(MHI, TPCP, UAMS-COA, UAMS EAST REGIONAL CAMPUS)

36,665  
TOTAL EDUCATION ENCOUNTERS



29,007  
YOUTH EDUCATION ENCOUNTERS



57,000

**EDUCATIONAL ADS IN EL LATINO AND VIVA ARKANSAS**  
(MHI)

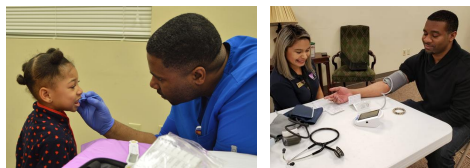


As the COVID-19 pandemic hit Arkansas in mid-March, educational programming shifted to virtual formats and adjusted to meet social distancing needs. One notable activity was implemented by **TPCP** and partners which promoted "The Real Cost of Vaping" for virtual learning at home. Materials were provided by the FDA and Scholastic and included lesson plans about the harms of vaping as well as ways to keep youth engaged in reading comprehension, writing, math, science, social studies, and more.



## SERVICE

2,820  
HEALTH SCREENINGS  
(MHI, UAMS EAST REGIONAL CAMPUS)



13,984

**VULNERABLE ARKANSANS SERVED THROUGH THE TS-MEP**



696

**CALLERS ENROLLED IN TOBACCO CESSATION COUNSELING**  
(TPCP)



6,330  
CLINIC & PATIENT ENCOUNTERS  
(UAMS-COA, UAMS EAST REGIONAL CAMPUS)



PHOTO CREDIT: BRYAN CLIFTON

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

The **COPH** established a contact tracing call center within two weeks of the first COVID-19 diagnosis. Faculty, staff, and students volunteered at the call center. Students also volunteered for other COVID-19 activities in addition to their coursework and academic activities

21,198  
EXERCISE ENCOUNTERS  
(UAMS-COA, UAMS EAST REGIONAL CAMPUS)



**UAMS** Donald W. Reynolds Institute on Aging

**UAMS-COA EXPANDED ONLINE SUPPORT GROUPS FOR CAREGIVING AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT**



# 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

## RESEARCH

\$10  
MILLION

**RESEARCH GRANT  
AWARDED TO ABI  
RESEARCHER**



The grant will support a study of water efficiency and use, poultry nutritional needs, and agricultural training. Partner institutions include Cornell University, University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, UAPB, Mississippi State University, and Iowa State University.

**5,340**  
SURVEYS COLLECTED  
TO STUDY YOUTH  
TOBACCO USE  
(TPCP)



**UAMS**  
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences  
East Regional Campus



The **UAMS East Regional Campus** Family Medical Center in Helena has secured a three-year grant comparing the effectiveness of Family Diabetes Self-Management Education and Support (DSMES) and Standard DSMES among diverse populations.

57

**COPH FACULTY &  
STUDENT RESEARCH  
PROJECTS**



96%

**COPH RESEARCH  
FOCUSED  
ON ARKANSAS**



Research projects at **COPH** focused on topics like fetal exposure to cannabinoids, outcomes of government regulations on tobacco products, effectiveness of diabetes prevention programs, and food insecurity in rural America.



**ABI** funds have been quickly utilized to support research studies related to COVID-19. These studies focus on topics that include screening, public health preparedness, transmission, and treatment. ABI-supported scientists are designing and implementing research to mitigate and better understand the biology and spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

## ECONOMIC IMPACT

**TOTAL LEVERAGED FUNDS,  
EQUATING TO \$2.14 PER ATSC \$1**  
(TS-MEP, UAMS-COA, UAMS EAST REGIONAL CAMPUS)



\$13  
MILLION



**WELL-BEING RETURNS ON  
TOBACCO SETTLEMENT  
INVESTMENTS**

ATSC funding during the quarter supported hundreds of highly skilled jobs, dozens of research projects, robust health education programs, several cross-sector partnerships with organizations and communities, thousands of health screenings, and vital healthcare for thousands of vulnerable Arkansans.

**This quarter also presented a unique challenge to ATSC-funded programs as COVID-19 forced a shift in activities. Programs did well to adjust and embrace new opportunities including novel research projects, innovative service delivery, and new collaborations.**

All things considered, the investment of ATSC dollars in the state has enhanced Arkansans' health and well-being and supported a culture of health.

ARKANSAS  
DEPARTMENT OF  
**HUMAN  
SERVICES**

Tobacco Settlement  
Medicaid Expansion

\$17.5  
MILLION



**UAMS**  
Donald W. Reynolds  
Institute on Aging

**\$2,270**  
VALUE OF DONATIONS  
AND VOLUNTEER HOURS  
TO UAMS-COA



# 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

## TESTIMONIALS

**ABI:** Dr. Walter Bottje and collaborators from Cornell University received a \$10 million research grant to study water efficiency and use, poultry nutritional needs, and agricultural training. “ABI research support has been a lifesaver. I think the track record of publications helped with our ability to land our latest, and one of our largest, awards from USDA,” says Bottje. “Whether it’s poultry research, plant research, or research in the areas of food sciences and nutrition, ABI has been a strong supporter of the agricultural research going on across Arkansas.”

**COPH:** The question of what “public health” does is a bit easier to answer now during this public health emergency. The college responded to the pandemic in multiple ways. For one, despite all of the additional work and stressors, COPH faculty and staff began volunteering four to eight hours a week at UAMS, in addition to their normal workload, to assist with patient and staff screening, the contact tracing call center, and other COVID-19 research activities. Students began volunteering in the contact tracing call center and other COVID-19 activities unrelated to patient care in addition to their coursework and college-related activities.

**MHI:** The MHI coordinator reported a testimonial from a follow-up call to an individual who attended the Star City Senior Center, “We referred a male to his primary care physician after receiving an abnormal A1C screening. Three months later we followed-up with him and he stated he was very grateful he was able to get checked on our Mobile Health Unit because he wouldn’t have known he needed to be checked for diabetes. He was diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes by his physician and has begun a medication regimen to control his blood sugar.”

**TPCP:** Student at Lisa Academy West: “Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be a part of something so special. My dad began smoking cigarettes when he was 16. He died of lung cancer in 2006 at the age of 51. For years, I have tried to think of ways I could educate others about the dangers of smoking. Project Prevent gave me that opportunity.”

**UAMS-COA:** Texarkana COA, Parkinson's Caregiver Support Group: “With the help of Kasandra and Nancy I was introduced to Dr. Wilder in Shreveport. I have received the best care from Dr. Wilder and my deep brain surgery has improved my activities because I no longer have tremors and my voice is higher, so I am no longer whispering when I talk. I am so thankful for the support group.”

**UAMS East Regional Campus:** Barton-Lexa School District Superintendent, David Tollett: “We would like to thank you for taking the time to participate in our annual STEM and Family Night on February 13th. The information you presented added to the success of our event. We look forward to working with you in the future.”

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Project Director

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Co-PI & Administrator

Evaluator: UAMS East Regional Campus

**Rhonda McClellan, EdD**

Co-PI

Qualitative Report



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# ARKANSAS TOBACCO SETTLEMENT COMMISSION & STAFF

## **John Henderson, MD, Commission Chair**

Physician, Unity Health

*Speaker of the House Appointee*



## **Tom Chilton, Commission Vice Chair**

Director of Science and Technology, Arkansas Economic  
Development Commission

*AEDC Permanent Designee*

## **Andrea Allen, Commission Executive Committee Member**

Deputy Director, ASU Delta Center for Economic Development

*Governor Appointee*

## **Jerri Clark, Commissioner**

Director of School Health Services, Arkansas Dept. of Education

*ADE Permanent Designee*

## **Mary Franklin, Commissioner**

Director of Divisions of County Operations, Arkansas Dept. of Human  
Services

*DHS Permanent Designee*

## **Nick Fuller, Commissioner**

Deputy Director, Arkansas Dept. of Higher Education

*ADHE Permanent Designee*

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

Physician, Arkansas Children's Hospital

*Senate President Pro Tempore Appointee*

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

Physician, Family Practice Clinic

*Attorney General Appointee*

## **Nathaniel Smith, MD, MPH, Commissioner**

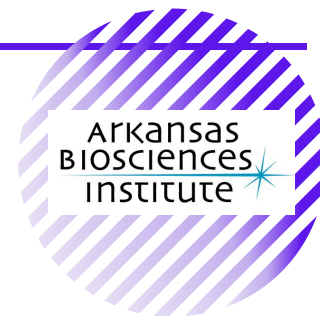
Director and State Health Officer, Arkansas Dept. of Health

## **April Robinson**

Administrative Specialist

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# ARKANSAS BIOSCIENCES INSTITUTE (ABI)



## 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.



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# ABI EVALUATOR SUMMARY AND COMMENTS

## CHALLENGES

As expected, ABI-supported researchers were faced with a dramatic slowdown in their research activities beginning in mid-March. Additionally, mentored student research was put on hold and summer programs curtailed or eliminated. In this regard, ABI-related research spending slowed for this quarter and will be redirected toward COVID-19 research and additional projects in FY21.

## OPPORTUNITIES

ABI funds have been quickly utilized to support research studies related to COVID-19. These studies focus on a wide range of topics that include screening, public health preparedness, transmission, and treatment. ABI-supported scientists are designing and implementing research to mitigate and better understand the biology and spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. It is expected that increased funding opportunities and collaborations related to the pandemic will continue to develop.

## EVALUATOR COMMENTS

The rapid responses to the research challenges presented by COVID-19 illustrate the commitment ABI researchers are willing and able to make to preserve the health of Arkansans. The diverse nature of the projects generated in the first weeks of the pandemic provides insights into the ability and capacity of investigators to channel their expertise into mitigation, treatment, and prevention of morbidity and mortality caused by the virus. Currently, 13 projects are underway at three of the ABI-member institutions: University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Arkansas State University, and Arkansas Children's Research Institute. The nature of this research appears promising and timely.

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# 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.

**ACTIVITY: On Track**

This indicator is on track to meet the fiscal year goal. Research investigators at the five institutions leverage their ABI funding to generate additional monetary support from extramural sources such as the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the American Heart Association. These leveraged funds have trended upward since 2015, providing essential funding for the research at ABI institutions. Data will be provided by each member institution at the end of the fiscal year.

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

**ACTIVITY: On Track**

This indicator is on track to meet the fiscal year goal. ABI-supported researchers continue to develop innovative ideas and devices that are protected as intellectual property. Patent filings and awards serve as key indicators of research and move research discoveries from laboratories to possible commercial opportunities. Results of patent filings and awards will be reported at the end of the fiscal year.

**INDICATOR:** ABI-funded research will result in new technologies that generate business opportunities, as measured by the number of start-up enterprises and public-private partnerships with ABI and member institutions to conduct research.

**ACTIVITY: On Track**

This indicator is on track to meet the fiscal year goal. Research investigators at the five member institutions participate in research that has the potential to produce opportunities for businesses within the state. Data for this indicator will be reported at the end of the fiscal year.

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# ABI PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND PROGRESS

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

**ACTIVITY: On Track**

This indicator is on track to meet the fiscal year goal. Efforts to promote investigative successes in the scientific community through newspaper articles, press releases, news conferences, and radio/television contacts are in progress. Importantly, investigators publish their results in peer-reviewed journals and textbooks, the primary mechanism through which research is disseminated to the scientific community. Data regarding the distribution of information about ABI research activities will be reported at the end of the fiscal year.

## 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.

**ACTIVITY: On Track; Influenced by COVID-19**

This indicator is on track to meet the fiscal year goal. The ABI continues to allocate available monetary resources to support research projects in diverse areas such as cancer detection and treatment, heart health, animal research, artificial intelligence, and childhood diseases. Investigators are making inroads into complex health issues such as nicotine and opioid addiction, nutrition, and maternal obesity. The research is monitored to ensure that activities are timely, cost-effective, and within the scope of the researchers defined agenda. Data regarding specific activities of each institution will be provided at the end of the fiscal year.

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# ABI PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND PROGRESS

**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.

**ACTIVITY: On Track**

This indicator is on track to meet the fiscal year goal. ABI researchers publish their findings in scientific and medical journals and as book chapters. These national and international publications serve as the primary mechanism for the dissemination of research within the scientific community. Presentations and symposia provide additional venues for sharing novel, current research findings as well as additional opportunities for interactions between members of the scientific community. ABI researchers continue their efforts toward the development of new or improved research methods and tools with the potential to further future scientific inquiry. Data regarding the dissemination of research results will be reported at the end of the fiscal year.

**INDICATOR:** Employment supported by the ABI and extramural funding will increase from a baseline of 300 full-time equivalent (FTE).

**ACTIVITY: On Track**

This indicator is on track to meet the fiscal year goal. Knowledge-based positions supported by the ABI and extramural funds include laboratory and technical support personnel, animal care technicians, and post-doctoral research fellows. During the past decade, these funds supported an average of 337 full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs annually. The majority of the funding for these positions continues to be derived from extramural dollars awarded to ABI investigators. Full-time equivalent jobs directly supported with ABI and extramural research funding will be reported at the end of the fiscal year.

**INDICATOR:** The ABI will facilitate and increase research collaboration among member institutions, as measured by both ABI and extramural funding of research projects that involve researchers at more than one member institution.

**ACTIVITY: On Track; Influenced by COVID-19**

This indicator is on track to meet the fiscal year goal. ABI investigators increasingly discover research partners within and among the five member institutions. For example, during the 2019 fiscal year, 25% of all projects were collaborative between institutions. Specific data regarding the building and success of these interdisciplinary collaborations will be reported at the end of the current fiscal year.

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# ABI TESTIMONIAL

## AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH IN ARKANSAS

### **USDA Grant Focuses on Water Use and Sustainability in Poultry Production**

At the University of Arkansas System's Division of Agriculture, the primary goal is strengthening agriculture through comprehensive research. And one of their newest, large-scale research projects tackles sustainability and nutrition in poultry production through a multi-university grant from the US Department of Agriculture.

Dr. Walter Bottje, professor of poultry science at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, is the Project Director along with Dr. Sami Dridi (Co-PD) and Dr. Xingen Lei (Co-PD) from Cornell University on a \$10 million research grant to study water efficiency and use, poultry nutritional needs, and agricultural training. Partner institutions, in addition to Cornell and the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, include the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, Mississippi State University, and Iowa State University. "With this stellar level of collaboration, we hope that some of what we do will impact not just here, but in poultry production around the world," notes Bottje. "And we are especially interested in the training and career opportunities for students, interns, and the next generation of farmers."

Dr. Bottje, who has close to four decades in agricultural research in Arkansas, has had continual funding over the years from USDA, NIH, NSF, and foundations and industry partners. His work in the area of feed efficiency and oxidative stress has resulted in numerous patents and publications, and his lab has routinely hosted post-doctoral fellows and visiting scholars.

In addition to foundation, agency, and industry support, Dr. Bottje has received ABI funding support for his research since 2009. "ABI research support has been a lifesaver. I think the track record of publications helped with our ability to land our latest, and one of our largest, awards from USDA," says Bottje. "Whether it's poultry research, plant research, or research in the areas of food sciences and nutrition, ABI has been a strong supporter of the agricultural research going on across Arkansas."

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# UAMS FAY W. BOOZMAN COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH (COPH)



## 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

## CHALLENGES

All in-person classes were cancelled mid-March when the first case of COVID-19 was diagnosed in Arkansas. These cancellations resulted in the immediate shift to an online format for every class, which required significant time and energy from faculty and staff to transition as seamlessly as possible for students. Changes to student practicums were also necessary since students could no longer be onsite but still needed to satisfy requirements to complete the course and graduate on time.

Many faculty and staff began working remotely, challenging IT resources and causing significant shifts in work styles, to ensure all aspects of the college were considered and handled with as few problems as possible.

## OPPORTUNITIES

The Arkansas Department of Health and UAMS requested that the COPH establish a contact tracing call center, which was operational within two weeks of the first COVID-19 diagnosis. The initial contact tracing focus included all UAMS employees sent home because they failed daily screening tests as well as follow-up for individuals tested through the UAMS Mobile Triage Unit. The work quickly expanded to cases originating in nursing homes, other Arkansas hospitals, and correctional facilities.

The college formed an all-university committee to act as a review and coordinating committee for all UAMS COVID-19 research. The purpose of the committee was to streamline processes and recommend collaborations across UAMS whenever possible. The committee worked closely with UAMS data managers to develop procedures to merge all UAMS data across multiple platforms.

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# COPH EVALUATOR SUMMARY AND COMMENTS

## EVALUATOR COMMENTS

The COPH is on track to meet all of their annual goals. It should be noted that in the midst of this quarter, one of the most challenging pandemics in the past century (COVID-19) surfaced and has created a well-documented public health emergency. The COPH responded in a number of ways, as cited in the above testimonials, and has provided a valuable service to Arkansans. The faculty and staff should be commended on their efforts during this challenging time.



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# 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.

**ACTIVITY: On Track**

This indicator is on track to meet the annual goal. Faculty reported being engaged in 52 public health activities (six in central Arkansas, nine nationally, and 37 statewide). These activities included presentations to professional or lay audiences; serving as a consultant, or on an expert panel, task force, committee, or board of directors; or partnering with public health practitioners or a community organization that has a health-related mission.

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

**ACTIVITY: On Track**

This indicator is on track to meet the annual goal. Data for this indicator is reported in the October-December quarter and will be presented in the 2020 annual report.

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

**ACTIVITY: On Track**

This indicator is on track to meet the annual goal. Currently, faculty are engaged in 25 research studies, 24 of which are based in Arkansas. In addition, 32 students are engaged in research projects, with 31 based in Arkansas. A wide range of health topics are being investigated including, but not limited to, several cancer studies (e.g., breast and prostate), telehealth, diabetes prevention, HIV in minority populations, underserved populations, cardiovascular disease, mammography screening, and hypertension.

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

**ACTIVITY: On Track**

This indicator is on track to meet the annual goal. Currently, a majority of research projects, 55 of 57 (96%), are based in Arkansas.

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# COPH PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND PROGRESS

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

**ACTIVITY: On Track; Influenced by COVID-19**

This indicator is on track to meet the annual goal. Fifty distance-accessible courses were made available statewide during this quarter. In addition, 10 presentations were made available remotely and included timely topics such as opioid prescriptions and coronavirus.

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

**ACTIVITY: On Track**

This indicator is on track to meet the annual goal. In total, 71 of 354 (or 20%) students enrolled in the COPH were from rural areas.

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

**ACTIVITY: On Track**

This indicator is on track to meet the annual goal. These data are reported in the April-June, July-September, and October-December quarters.

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

**ACTIVITY: On Track**

This indicator is on track to meet the annual goal. These data are reported in the April-June, July-September, and October-December quarters.

## SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVE

Obtain federal and philanthropic grant funding.

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

**ACTIVITY: On Track**

This indicator is on track to meet the fiscal year goal. Data and evaluation of this indicator are reported in the July-September quarterly report.

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# COPH TESTIMONIAL

## RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The question of what “public health” does is a bit easier to answer now during this public health emergency. The college responded to the pandemic in multiple ways:

- Faculty in the college conducted several evaluations to provide information for UAMS and state leadership to use to develop policies.
- Faculty began an observational organization study of the UAMS emergency operations center to provide information on its efficiency and effectiveness.
- Faculty began a study to estimate the total costs to UAMS of items less than \$25 associated with COVID-19 patient care. These items are not recorded in a database and, consequently, estimating the long-term cost of these items for patient care is impossible without the information this study will supply.
- Faculty in the college began developing models to project the number and timing of COVID-19 cases in Arkansas and the impact they will have on the state’s healthcare system.
- Despite all of the additional work and stressors, COPH faculty and staff began volunteering four to eight hours a week at UAMS, in addition to their normal workload, to assist with patient and staff screening, the contact tracing call center, and other COVID-19 research activities. Students began volunteering in the contact tracing call center and other COVID-19 activities unrelated to patient care in addition to their coursework and college-related activities.
- Faculty established a COVID-19 risk communication group with other UAMS faculty, the Arkansas Minority Health Commission, and community organizations in the Delta. The purpose of the group is to share information and collaborate on COVID-19 related education, outreach, research, and grant submissions that address the disproportionate risk of COVID-19 in the African-American community and increase the reach of COPH’s messages to rural, medically-underserved communities.

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# ARKANSAS MINORITY HEALTH INITIATIVE (MHI)



## 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.

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# MHI EVALUATOR SUMMARY AND COMMENTS

## CHALLENGES

As expected, COVID-19 has proved a huge challenge for the MHI and their scheduled events. This pandemic has caused all MHI sponsored and partnered activities to be cancelled during the quarter to adhere to social distancing recommendations. Another challenge the MHI faced was related to a vehicular accident involving the Mobile Health Unit (MHU) in January, no fault of the MHU. While being repaired, MHU events and activities were rescheduled for a later date. When the pandemic hit in March, MHU activities were temporarily cancelled.

## OPPORTUNITIES

Two significant opportunities arose this quarter. First, the MHU coordinator worked with a representative from the Arkansas Department of Information Systems to finalize and field test the SharePoint database in February. The MHI is now able to complete electronic registration and data entry for the MHU. Second, in March the MHI launched the new Southern Ain't Fried Sundays (SAFS) web app. This app provides online access to registration, recipes, and meal and exercise tracking. It also allows for both individual and group registration and participation. The app provides substantial cost savings to the MHI as they no longer must mail out toolkits to participants. The app also aligns the program with other national and evidenced-based programs such as MyFitnessPal. These opportunities show that the MHI is consistently working to use their funding to promote good health and well-being of minority Arkansans.

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# MHI EVALUATOR SUMMARY AND COMMENTS

## EVALUATOR COMMENTS

The MHI has adequately positioned themselves to meet and exceed all objectives, both short- and long-term by the end of the year. This quarter they remained committed to wise stewardship of ATSC monies. They added new partners and reached new individuals across Arkansas. The MHI also continued to reach as many counties as possible, given constraints from the pandemic. This quarter they reached a total of 24 counties with the multiple events, including Community Screening Day, the Equipment Loan Program, and Southern Ain't Fried Sundays. They also employed their Mobile Health Unit and implemented a Community Health Forum in Hot Springs County. The MHI also did well in their media outreach this quarter, picking up these efforts during the pandemic to address barriers related to cancellations of in-person outreach.

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# 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 work to increase stroke awareness by 1% annually among minority Arkansans through screenings and educational events as measured by previous comparison beginning in FY 2015.

**ACTIVITY: On Track; Influenced by COVID-19**

This indicator is on track to meet the fiscal year goal. Although COVID-19 proved to halt many of MHI's scheduled events, they still continued to spread awareness of stroke among minority Arkansans. During this quarter, the MHI provided 252 blood pressure screenings, which directly relates to stroke risk. The MHI also recorded 192 cholesterol screenings and 213 glucose screenings, which related to stroke risk as well. Additionally, with COVID-19 in full swing, many face-to-face activities were cancelled; however, the MHI's media presence remained strong as the program tallied 370 paid commercials relating to tobacco and stroke. These commercials aired in north and central Arkansas on six television and radio stations. Lastly, social media posts were robust with approximately 3,000 impressions on Facebook and 1,500 on Twitter.

**INDICATOR:** The MHI will work to increase hypertension awareness by 1% annually among minority Arkansans through screenings and educational events as measured by previous comparison beginning in FY 2015.

**ACTIVITY: On Track; Influenced by COVID-19**

This indicator is on track to meet the fiscal year goal. Having an increased blood pressure denotes hypertension. Again, although COVID-19 caused the cancellation of many face-to-face events, the MHI documented 252 blood pressure screenings, which helped to promote awareness of hypertension in minority Arkansans. The media presence of the MHI continues to grow. This quarter they ran over 500 television and bonus spots focusing on hypertension, including "What's Your Number" and "30 minutes a day." The MHI's social media presence also remained strong as they ran posts on both Facebook and Twitter, garnering approximately 6,000 and 850 impressions, respectively.

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# MHI PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND PROGRESS

**INDICATOR:** The MHI will work to increase heart disease awareness by 1% annually among minority Arkansans through screenings and educational events as measured by previous comparison beginning in FY 2015.

**ACTIVITY: On Track; Influenced by COVID-19**

This indicator is on track to meet the fiscal year goal. Despite COVID-19, the MHI provided 192 cholesterol screenings, 213 glucose screenings, and 252 blood pressure screenings. Additionally in February, which is Heart Health Month, the tallied over 200 radio and television spots. Printed media spots in El Latino (7,000) and Viva Arkansas (50,000) also generated increased awareness of heart disease. Social media posts also continued to focus on heart disease awareness to minority Arkansans with nearly 8,000 and 1,500 impressions on Facebook and Twitter, respectively.

**INDICATOR:** The MHI will work to increase diabetes awareness by 1% annually among minority Arkansans through screenings and educational events as measured by previous comparison beginning in FY 2015.

**ACTIVITY: On Track; Influenced by COVID-19**

This indicator is on track to meet the fiscal year goal. With the current COVID-19 risks, the MHI cancelled all face-to-face sponsored events. The MHI's Mobile Health Unit (MHU) helped to fill the gap in screenings and provided 213 glucose and five A1C screenings. The MHI also relied heavily on their media presence to increase awareness of diabetes. The MHI partnered with six radio and six television stations that aired nearly 630 commercials relating to diabetes and eating healthy. They also used social media (Facebook and Twitter) to encourage healthy eating and educate Arkansans on the health effects related to diabetes. These posts received 1,881 and 557 impressions, respectively.

## 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 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.

**ACTIVITY: On Track**

This indicator is on track to meet the five-year year goal. The MHI disseminated their last report in 2019. The MHI is planning for the next scheduled assessment in FY 2024.



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# MHI PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND PROGRESS

**INDICATOR:** The MHI will increase 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.

**ACTIVITY: On Track; Influenced by COVID-19**

This indicator is on track to meet the fiscal year goal. Partnering with grassroots, nonprofit, government, and faith-based organizations continues to be a strong point in the MHI's mission to increase awareness and screenings for minority Arkansans. This quarter, the MHI partnered with 20 organizations, 17 of which were new partnerships. During partner and sponsored events, a total of 1,824 screenings were provided and 902 Arkansans were offered health education information. Portions of these screenings came from MHI's Equipment Loan Program (567), Community Health Screening Day (117), and the Mobile Health Unit (servicing 14 counties, 170 individuals, and receiving 61 referrals). Additionally, offering awareness in the form of media campaigns has also been robust during this quarter for the MHI. Despite the setbacks from COVID-19, four organizations were provided collateral/health education materials. Furthermore, the MHI ran approximately 1,364 paid and bonus television commercials. These commercials advertised free preventative screenings at the MHI office during Community Health Screening Day each Wednesday of every month.

**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.

**ACTIVITY: On Track**

This indicator is on track to meet the five-year goal. There is no update for this indicator at this time. The MHI is planning for Camp iCAN in quarter four of FY20.

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# MHI TESTIMONIAL

## PROGRAM PRAISE AND SUCCESS

An MHI-sponsored event, "Helping Hands--Reaching What We're Teaching" Health and Empowerment Fair, was hosted by Mt. Pleasant AME Church in Pine Bluff. An attendee of the event, Dr. Tommie McCall of the Division of Developmental Disabilities Services, stated, "The health fair put on by the Mt. Pleasant AME Church and [MHI] was very informative! This was a much needed program in this community, especially with it being in close proximity to the UAPB. The health fair is a great example for other organizations in the Pine Bluff/Jefferson County area to follow. I thoroughly enjoyed it."

The MHI coordinator reported a testimonial from a follow-up call to an individual that attended the Star City Senior Center, "We referred a male to his primary care physician after receiving an abnormal A1C screening. Three months later we followed-up with him and he stated he was very grateful he was able to get checked on our Mobile Health Unit because he wouldn't have known he needed to be checked for diabetes. He was diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes by his physician and has begun a medication regimen to control his blood sugar."

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# TOBACCO PREVENTION AND CESSATION PROGRAM (TPCP)



## 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 the TPCP is to reduce the initiation of tobacco use and its resulting negative health and economic impact.

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# TPCP EVALUATOR SUMMARY AND COMMENTS

## CHALLENGES

During the latter part of this reporting period, community tobacco control educational efforts were impaired by the COVID-19 crisis. However, the TPCP took the opportunity to fine-tune the current reporting tool used by both sub-grantees and TPCP staff to document work plan activities, retool both the program and sub-grantee reporting indicators based on the current environment on “what can be accomplished” during the COVID-19 crisis, and adjust the planning and implementation of statewide and regional projects. Additionally, both TPCP staff and sub-grantees continue to work on an action plan to carry out activities once the crisis has ended and community work can resume. Ongoing efforts include the following:

- TPCP sub-grantees are working with school districts in their service area(s) to provide vape-free educational coloring books for elementary students. Once the details are worked out, the booklets will be distributed with the lunches that schools are providing during this crisis.
- The TPCP and partners assisted in promoting “The Real Cost of Vaping” for virtual learning at home while schools are closed due to COVID-19. The virtual learning provides a core component for educating about the harms of vaping focusing on grades 6-12. The materials provided by the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) and Scholastic\* include lesson plans not only about the harms of vaping, but they additionally include ways to keep youth engaged in reading comprehension, writing, and presenting skills for basic subjects such as math, science, social studies, and etc.
  - \*About Scholastic: The organization began in 1920 as a magazine to cover sports and activities but has grown into an organization dedicated to providing teachers, families, and communities with tools to support every child with print and digital learning programs. To learn more about Scholastic and their lesson plans concerning the harms of vaping, visit [http://www.scholastic.com/youthvapingrisks/?utm\\_campaign=CTP%20News%3A%20News%20Scholastic%20Materials%204620%utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=Eloqua](http://www.scholastic.com/youthvapingrisks/?utm_campaign=CTP%20News%3A%20News%20Scholastic%20Materials%204620%utm_medium=email&utm_source=Eloqua)

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# TPCP EVALUATOR SUMMARY AND COMMENTS

- The TPCP continues to update both youth and community educational presentations to ensure the most up-to-date information is reflected in the messaging and data.

The TPCP staff are being proactive in addressing statewide/community interventions that have been halted or greatly impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. When possible, the TPCP will utilize alternate strategies/activities to carry out tobacco control programs and interventions to continue tobacco control work through the remainder of FY20 and into FY21. The TPCP leadership and section chiefs continue to brainstorm on how to keep sub-grantees and communities engaged in tobacco control initiatives. Some possible strategies/activities that have been identified include the following:

- Promote the use of web-based meetings to keep coalitions active,
- Continue to hold meetings/trainings (such as webinars and teleconferencing) for sub-grantees and partners to provide updates on the current status of tobacco control issues, and
- Provide ongoing opportunities to brainstorm with sub-grantees and partners on how to keep engaged with communities when social distancing may be the new normal.

The TPCP Community Outreach and Prevention Section Chief is providing ongoing direction to sub-grantees during the period of stay-at-home and social distancing. Sub-grantee key activities include the following:

- Participation in online training opportunities for tobacco education/control,
- Promoting digital/virtual learning opportunities for youth (due to school closures),
- Participation in virtual meetings facilitated by the TPCP or national tobacco control partners,
- Development of an action plan by the sub-grantees on how they will “restart” once community work can continue, and
- Participation in scheduled check-in calls to report progress on activities.

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# TPCP EVALUATOR SUMMARY AND COMMENTS

The PPYC coordinator continues to problem-solve on how best to keep school chapters engaged during the COVID-19 crisis. The coordinator for PPYC is engaging youth through social media opportunities and during the monthly statewide conference call meetings. The planning activities continue in order to be ready when community work is able to proceed.

Sub-grantees and partners reported that multiple events were cancelled due to the COVID-19 crisis. In addition, the PPYC coordinator anticipates the entries for the annual "My Reason to Write" project will be negatively impacted due to schools closing early in response to the crisis; April 10 is the scheduled date for entry submission.

The MISRGO reported that the COVID-19 pandemic has put a halt on typical business practices, and thus their activities. However, they are working on solutions that may include utilizing digital and virtual opportunities to continue work plan activities.

## OPPORTUNITIES

The Be Well Arkansas (BWA) Call Center continues to provide critical service to callers. A total of 696 individuals enrolled in tobacco cessation through BWA and 45 individuals enrolled in tobacco cessation counseling at a local health unit. This quarter, 479 nicotine replacement therapy packets were mailed to individuals enrolled in the tobacco cessation program. Additionally, 120 individuals requested information on diabetes and 298 requested information on hypertension. Intakes completed by phone totaled 946.

The PPYC held their annual Film Festival at the Ron Robinson Theater on February 19. The Film Festival featured case entries for *Ready. Set. Record.* (RSR). The RSR is an annual youth tobacco prevention activity to engage youth in educating their peers about the harmful effects of tobacco and nicotine. For this year's RSR initiative, over 400 students participated in creating videos. The festival brought together youth from around the state to

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# TPCP EVALUATOR SUMMARY AND COMMENTS

showcase the videos and receive recognition for a job well done. The RSR Film Festival had its highest attendance to date with all of the winning groups attending for a total of 193 participants (164 youth, 29 adults). Two PPYC students hosted the events as part of the *Youth Led. Fact Fed* model. To learn more about RSR, visit <https://projectpreventar.org/what-we-do/ready-set-record>.

March 18, 2020 was the national tobacco control observance day for Take Down Tobacco (formerly Kick Butts Day). For this year's day of observance, tobacco control advocates (youth and adults) came together to raise awareness of tobacco use in their community, educate youth to understand the marketing tactics of the tobacco industry to addict them to "tobacco products" (inclusive of vaping and JUULing), and educate local leaders on strategies to protect youth from marketing/initiation of tobacco products. One example of the effort in Arkansas was demonstrated by the BearKats PPYC chapter of Melbourne High School. The chapter recorded a radio Public Service Announcement, "Kick Butts and Take a Stand against Tobacco Use," with WRD Radio Station.

The PPYC launched a new website in January. The website is now able to provide information on membership, chapters, events, and resources. In addition, the new website provides a tool for chapters to enter their reporting for activities and events. The program coordinator reports that the updates to the website have made a big difference in communication to and from the PPYC.

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# TPCP EVALUATOR SUMMARY AND COMMENTS

## EVALUATOR COMMENTS

The COVID-19 crisis near the end of this quarter clearly had an impact on programming. However, the TPCP and the sub-grantees have been proactive in identifying ways in which they can continue with services, outreach, and education while telecommuting and social distancing.

Although the TPCP had received approval for a number of indicator changes in November 2019, for their short term indicators, the indicators for University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB) minority initiatives funded by TPCP needed updating. On February 13, 2020, the evaluator met with TPCP and Dr. Mortazavi to discuss changes for the FY21 short term indicators. Dr. Mortazavi is the Vice Chancellor for Research, Innovation, and Economic Development at UAPB and oversees/directs the activities of the minority initiatives. He has been working with the Graduate Addiction Studies Program (GASP), Minority Initiative Sub-Recipient Grant Office (MISRGO), and Minority Research Center (MRC) at UAPB on various indicator, program, and facility updates.

For GASP, the proposed indicators will streamline the reporting of student participation in the program, examine internship and service partnerships for the students, and add a new self-evaluation through an alumni survey. For MISRGO, the proposed indicators will streamline three similar indicators, broaden the recognized activities of the agency, and increase the goal for No Menthol Sunday programming. For MRC, the proposed indicators will streamline and clarify the research activities around tobacco cessation among African-American women, Hispanic women, minority youth and young adults, African-American male college students, and minority middle school students.



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# 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, the 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.

**ACTIVITY: On Track**

This indicator is on track to meet the fiscal year goal. It is a new indicator that was approved by the Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission at its November 2019 meeting. Data will be available in upcoming quarterly reports.

**INDICATOR:** By June 2025, 1) the 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%.

**ACTIVITY: On Track**

This indicator is on track to meet the fiscal year goal. It is a new indicator that was approved by the Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission at its November 2019 meeting. Data will be available in upcoming quarterly reports.

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

**ACTIVITY: On Track**

This indicator is on track to meet the fiscal year goal. It is a new indicator that was approved by the Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission at its November 2019 meeting. Data will be available in upcoming quarterly reports.

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# TPCP PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND PROGRESS

## SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVE

Communities shall establish local tobacco prevention initiatives.

**INDICATOR:** By June 2020, 43 new smoke-free/tobacco-free policies will be implemented across Arkansas.

**ACTIVITY: On Track**

This indicator is on track to meet the fiscal year goal. During this quarter, four smoke-free/tobacco-free policies were implemented (two at worksites, one at a faith-based organization, and one comprehensive city property). In addition, TPCP staff and sub-grantees conducted 223 presentations to educate youth and adults about the harms of JUULing and tobacco use. During this fiscal year, 20 smoke-free/tobacco-free policies have been implemented (four at worksites, eight at a faith-based organization, three at parks/festivals, four at multi-unit housing locations, and one comprehensive city policy). Also, the TPCP has been collecting surveys to gain data on youth "tobacco use" inclusive of JUULing. During FY20 approximately 23,600 surveys have been collected, including the approximately 5,340 surveys that have been collected during this quarter. This indicator is currently under review and any proposed changes will be brought to the Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission in April.

**INDICATOR:** By June 2020, the TPCP will maintain the sales-to-minor violations to 7% or below (Baseline in FY19 = 6.3%).

**ACTIVITY: Exceeding Expectations; Influenced by COVID-19**

This indicator is exceeding expectations to meet the fiscal year goal. Although the COVID-19 crisis impacted the number of compliance checks and retailer trainings this quarter, there were still 695 sales-to-minor compliance checks conducted with 18 sales-to-minor violations for a non-compliance rate of 2.59%. The ATC (Arkansas Tobacco Control) conducted 79 additional compliance checks from the randomly generated list provided by the TPCP with no violations reported. Five educational sessions for tobacco retail owners and/or clerks were offered this quarter for 131 attendees who represented 43 different retailers. During this fiscal year, there have been a total of 3,250 sales-to-minor compliance checks with 159 sales-to-minor violations for a non-compliance rate of 4.89%. Additionally, a total of 47 educational sessions for tobacco retail owners and/or clerks have been offered for 2,306 attendees. This indicator is currently under review and any proposed changes will be brought to the Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission in April.

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# TPCP PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND PROGRESS

**INDICATOR:** By June 2020, the TPCP will increase by 25% the proportion of youth and young adults up to age 24 who engage in tobacco control activities to include point of sale, counter marketing efforts, and other advocacy activities to increase tobacco-free social norms. (Baseline FY19: 1,639 youth participated in Project Prevent Youth Coalition [PPYC] annual interventions: *Ready. Set. Record.* and *My Reason to Write*. Target is to increase by 410 the number of youth who participate in interventions.)

**ACTIVITY: On Track; Influenced by COVID-19**

This indicator is on track to meet the fiscal year goal. During this quarter, nine additional chapters were recruited to the Project Prevent Youth Coalition (PPYC), which added an additional 166 youth. The number of youth participating in chapter activities this fiscal year is 1,245. In addition, prior to the school closures due to COVID-19, all 77 chapters were participating in tobacco control activities. This indicator is currently under review and any proposed changes will be brought to the Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission in April.

**INDICATOR:** By June 2020, the TPCP will increase the number of healthcare providers by 450 who have been reached by TPCP trainings.

**ACTIVITY: On Track**

This indicator is on track to meet the fiscal year goal. During this quarter, two tobacco treatment specialist (TTS) trainings were held for 34 attendees. During this fiscal year, six trainings have been held for 251 attendees. This indicator is currently under review and any proposed changes will be brought to the Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission in April.

**INDICATOR:** By June 2020, the ADH Health Communication will maintain a comprehensive, multiplatform media plan to prevent youth initiation, eliminate exposure to secondhand smoke, and promote cessation (Report Annually).

**ACTIVITY: On Track**

This indicator is on track to meet the fiscal year goal. Information for this indicator will be provided during the fourth quarter. This indicator is currently under review and any proposed changes will be brought to the Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission in April.

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# TPCP PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND PROGRESS

**INDICATOR:** By June 2020, the TPCP will enroll 100% of eligible Arkansas residents who call the Be Well Call Center and request services (Report Quarterly: # of callers requesting services; # of callers enrolled in tobacco cessation counseling [Reset Annually]).

**ACTIVITY: On Track**

This indicator is on track to meet the fiscal year goal. During this quarter, 775 callers requested services for tobacco cessation, while 696 were enrolled in tobacco cessation counseling. During the fiscal year, 2,381 individuals were enrolled in tobacco cessation counseling through Be Well Arkansas. This indicator is currently under review and any proposed changes will be brought to the Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission in April.

**INDICATOR:** By June 2020, successfully implement 12 new mini-grants for Project Prevent Youth Coalition (PPYC) Clubs within school systems for tobacco prevention and advocacy.

**ACTIVITY: Met Ahead of Schedule; Ongoing**

This indicator has been met ahead of schedule but is ongoing as more data are collected and reported up to June 2020. During the quarter, approximately 158 youth, representing 12 SWAG (Student Wellness Advocacy Group) Teams, participated in youth activities approved through the PPYC. Year-to-date activities include the following: twelve SWAG Teams were funded; SWAG Teams/Advisors provided 315 technical assistance opportunities for wellness initiatives; on average, 146 students participated in PPYC activities quarterly; and SWAG TEAMS participated in the SWAG main training (Master Wellness Ambassador training). This indicator is currently under review and any proposed changes will be brought to the Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission in April.

**INDICATOR:** By June 2020, select a vendor to implement the Be Well Baby program.

**ACTIVITY: Met Ahead of Schedule; Ongoing; Influenced by COVID-19**

This indicator has been met ahead of schedule but is ongoing as more data are collected and reported up to June 2020. During this quarter, a vendor was selected and a contract was awarded to begin on March 1. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the TPCP project coordinator and vendor continue to address challenges during the initial start-up phase of the project. This indicator is currently under review and any proposed changes will be brought to the Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission in April.

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# TPCP PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND PROGRESS

**INDICATOR:** By June 2019, the MISRGO will work with four new faith-based churches/organizations to implement No Menthol Sunday (NMS) activities (Data Source: Minority Initiative Sub-Recipient Grant Office [MISRGO] report).

**ACTIVITY: On Track**

This indicator was met during FY19; it is considered on track to meet the current fiscal year goal (FY20). This quarter, 10 churches signed up to implement No Menthol Sunday activities. This indicator is currently under review and any proposed changes will be brought to the Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission in April.

**INDICATOR:** By June 2019, the MISRGO will provide the Annual Clearing the Air in Communities of Color Conference and report the number of funded and non-funded attendees (Data Source: Minority Initiative Sub-Recipient Grant Office [MISRGO] report).

**ACTIVITY: On Track; Influenced by COVID-19**

This indicator was met during FY19; it is considered on track to meet the current fiscal year goal (FY20). Typically, this conference is held during the fourth quarter. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, plans are in the works for a virtual conference. This indicator is currently under review and any proposed changes will be brought to the Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission in April.

**INDICATOR:** By June 2019, the MISRGO will report technical assistance provided through direct efforts to Public Housing Authorities and other multi-unit housing establishments to implement smoke-free policies (Data Source: Minority Initiative Sub-Recipient Grant Office [MISRGO] report).

**ACTIVITY: On Track**

This indicator was met during FY19; it is considered on track to meet the current fiscal year goal (FY20). This quarter, the MISRGO conducted a webinar on tobacco-free multi-unit housing for the Minority Research Center. This indicator is currently under review and any proposed changes will be brought to the Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission in April.

**INDICATOR:** By December 2018, the MISRGO will continue to work with stakeholders to solidify a statewide plan for reducing tobacco-related disparities in Arkansas (Data Source: Minority Initiative Sub-Recipient Grant Office [MISRGO] report).

**ACTIVITY: On Track**

This indicator was met when a statewide plan was approved April 2019; it is considered on track to meet the current fiscal year goal (FY20). This quarter, an additional meeting was held with five attendees to discuss the inclusion of a youth-focused program. This indicator is currently under review and any proposed changes will be brought to the Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission in April.

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# TPCP PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND PROGRESS

**INDICATOR:** By June 2019, the MISRGO will present plans and suggestions for statewide implementation of programs to reduce tobacco-related disparities (Data Source: Minority Initiative Sub-Recipient Grant Office [MISRGO] report).

**ACTIVITY: On Track; Influenced by COVID-19**

This indicator was met during FY19; it is considered on track to meet the current fiscal year goal (FY20). During this quarter, an additional presentation was planned but had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This indicator is currently under review and any proposed changes will be brought to the Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission in April.

**INDICATOR:** By June 2019, the MRC will conduct six town hall meetings focused on tobacco industry advertising in minority communities (Data Source: Minority Research Center [MRC] report).

**ACTIVITY: In Need of Improvement**

This indicator was not met during FY19; it is considered in need of improvement to meet the current fiscal year goal (FY20). No data have been provided this quarter, in part because this indicator is currently under review and any proposed changes will be brought to the Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission in April.

**INDICATOR:** By June 2019, the MRC will submit six open editorials to small town newspapers focusing on tobacco-related issues in rural communities in Arkansas (Data Source: Minority Research Center [MRC] report).

**ACTIVITY: In Need of Improvement**

This indicator was not met during FY19; it is considered in need of improvement to meet the current fiscal year goal (FY20). No data have been provided this quarter, in part because this indicator is currently under review and any proposed changes will be brought to the Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission in April.

**INDICATOR:** By June 2019, the MRC will apply for one external grant opportunity focusing on tobacco-related issues in minority and disparate populations (Data Source: Minority Research Center [MRC] report).

**ACTIVITY: In Need of Improvement**

This indicator was not met during FY19; it is considered in need of improvement to meet the current fiscal year goal (FY20). No data have been provided this quarter, in part because this indicator is currently under review and any proposed changes will be brought to the Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission in April.

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# TPCP PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND PROGRESS

**INDICATOR:** By June 2019, the MRC will prepare one white or research paper submitted for conference abstracts or publication (Data Source: Minority Research Center [MRC] report).

**ACTIVITY: In Need of Improvement**

This indicator was not met during FY19; it is considered in need of improvement to meet the current fiscal year goal (FY20). No data have been provided this quarter, in part because this indicator is currently under review and any proposed changes will be brought to the Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission in April.

**INDICATOR:** By June 2019, the MRC will participate in meetings with Advisory Boards for the purpose of collaboration and enhancement of MRC efforts (Data Source: Minority Research Center [MRC] report).

**ACTIVITY: In Need of Improvement**

This indicator was not met during FY19; it is considered in need of improvement to meet the current fiscal year goal (FY20). No data have been provided this quarter, in part because this indicator is currently under review and any proposed changes will be brought to the Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission in April.

**INDICATOR:** By June 2019, the MRC will distribute requests for proposal (RFPs) to fund research studies focused on: 1) alternative smoking device prevalence among minority youth and young adults; 2) tobacco cessation among minority pregnant women and/or minority women preparing for pregnancy, decreasing tobacco use among minority adults; and 3) decreasing minorities' exposure to secondhand smoke (Data Source: Minority Research Center [MRC] report).

**ACTIVITY: In Need of Improvement**

This indicator was not met during FY19; it is considered in need of improvement to meet the current fiscal year goal (FY20). No data have been provided this quarter, in part because this indicator is currently under review and any proposed changes will be brought to the Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission in April.

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# TPCP PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND PROGRESS

**INDICATOR:** By June 2019, the MRC will conduct four focus groups with African American male college students to understand and compare knowledge, attitudes, behaviors and risk perceptions associated with cigarettes, large cigars, small cigars, and dual use of cigarette and cigars of any kind (n=24). The MRC will collect biological samples (e.g., saliva) to examine levels of tobacco-specific nitrosamines (e.g., NNK, NNAL, NNN, NAT, NAB) and nicotine metabolites among these different groups of smokers. We expect that dual users will have higher levels of tobacco-specific nitrosamines than single cigarette, little cigars, and large cigar users. The MRC will conduct a regional survey of male college students enrolled in four-year colleges to understand the prevalence of cigar use, patterns of use, nicotine dependence, and risk perceptions. We will calculate the power calculations for this study. The MRC will correlate levels of nicotine dependence and the nicotine metabolite ratio among tobacco users (Data Source: Minority Research Center [MRC] report).

**ACTIVITY: In Need of Improvement**

This indicator was not met during FY19; it is considered in need of improvement to meet the current fiscal year goal (FY20). No data have been provided this quarter, in part because this indicator is currently under review and any proposed changes will be brought to the Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission in April.

**INDICATOR:** By June 30, 2019, the GASP will recruit a minimum of six new students into their program (Data Source: Graduate Addiction Studies Program [GASP] report).

**ACTIVITY: On Track**

This indicator was met during FY19; it is considered on track to meet the current fiscal year goal (FY20). No data have been provided this quarter, in part because this indicator is currently under review and any proposed changes will be brought to the Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission in April.

**INDICATOR:** By June 30, 2019, the GASP will graduate a minimum of three students from the program (Data Source: Graduate Addiction Studies Program [GASP] report).

**ACTIVITY: On Track**

This indicator was met during FY19; it is considered on track to meet the current fiscal year goal (FY20). No data have been provided this quarter, in part because this indicator is currently under review and any proposed changes will be brought to the Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission in April.



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# TPCP PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND PROGRESS

**INDICATOR:** By June 30, 2019, GASP faculty will submit a minimum of two grant applications that focus on tobacco prevention and cessation (Data Source: Graduate Addiction Studies Program [GASP] report).

**ACTIVITY: In Need of Improvement**

This indicator was not met during FY19; it is considered in need of improvement to meet the current fiscal year goal (FY20). No data have been provided this quarter, in part because this indicator is currently under review and any proposed changes will be brought to the Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission in April.

**INDICATOR:** By June 30, 2019, the GASP will provide up to fifteen stipends to students enrolled in the GASP (Data Source: Graduate Addiction Studies Program [GASP] report).

**ACTIVITY: On Track**

This indicator was met during FY19; it is considered on track to meet the current fiscal year goal (FY20). No data have been provided this quarter, in part because this indicator is currently under review and any proposed changes will be brought to the Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission in April.

**INDICATOR:** By June 30, 2019, GASP faculty will identify and propose at least three new student internship agreements with substance use treatment facilities in Arkansas that are currently utilizing medication assisted therapy for tobacco products and other drugs (Data Source: Graduate Addiction Studies Program [GASP] report).

**ACTIVITY: In Need of Improvement**

This indicator was not met during FY19; it is considered in need of improvement to meet the current fiscal year goal (FY20). No data have been provided this quarter, in part because this indicator is currently under review and any proposed changes will be brought to the Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission in April.

**INDICATOR:** By June 30, 2019, GASP students will visit a minimum of ten minority and high-risk communities to present current information on the health risks of tobacco and nicotine use (Data Source: Graduate Addiction Studies Program [GASP] report).

**ACTIVITY: In Need of Improvement**

This indicator was not met during FY19; it is considered in need of improvement to meet the current fiscal year goal (FY20). No data have been provided this quarter, in part because this indicator is currently under review and any proposed changes will be brought to the Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission in April.

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# TPCP TESTIMONIAL

## PRAISE FOR PPYC

- Student at Lisa Academy West: “Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be a part of something so special. My dad began smoking cigarettes when he was 16. He died of lung cancer in 2006 at the age of 51. For years, I have tried to think of ways I could educate others about the dangers of smoking. Project Prevent gave me that opportunity.”
- Adult attendee at *Ready. Set. Record*: “I am always very impressed with the organization of this event. The thing I appreciate the most is how the [kids’] work is celebrated. A lot of these kids put in a lot of serious work and I appreciate the way you recognize it. You guys do a first class job!”
- Youth attendee at *Ready. Set. Record*: “I had no idea about the fun of Project Prevent before this, and I had so much fun that I am now joining my school’s chapter.”
- Laura Taylor, PPYC Coordinator: “Project Prevent has been around for a long time, but it was just three years ago that this concept of starting chapters started--and we started with twenty. So the next school year, the goal was to go up to thirty-five, which was last school year, and by the end of the school year we had fifty-four, and we were just like, ‘Wow, okay, this is really catching on.’ And now here we are, just now into the spring semester of the third year, and we’re approaching eighty chapters, so it has grown exponentially. The number of videos we have submitted for *Ready. Set. Record*, and the number of entries we have for our other project *My Reason to Write*, as well as the number of students that sign up for our conference just seems to grow and grow each year. We are really hoping to continue the growth, but also make all of our projects and everything that we do still be meaningful. We want the students to be in control of their own activities and their own ideas and things that they can do in their school and in their community to address tobacco control issues. Prevention, education, and leadership are our pillars, and we keep going back to that. It really is youth-focused, but it’s not for adults to tell them what they should be doing. It’s for them to come up with their own ideas--and then get that support from that adult advisor or from our statewide coalition when they need it. But we really want it to be, to come truly from the minds of teenagers and adolescents.”

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# TOBACCO SETTLEMENT MEDICAID EXPANSION PROGRAM (TS-MEP)



## 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.

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# TS-MEP EVALUATOR SUMMARY AND COMMENTS

## CHALLENGES

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

## OPPORTUNITIES

With the TS-MEP program, the 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 ten 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.

## EVALUATOR COMMENTS

The TS-MEP has been impacted by the significant changes in the healthcare system. During this quarter, all four TS-MEP populations have increased in the number of individuals served. The Hospital Benefit Coverage population has seen a significant increase in this quarter. The new Medicaid Management Information System that processes Medicaid claims had not correctly identified co-pay reductions on the first day of hospitalization as TS-MEP individuals. This issue has been corrected and the new numbers provide a better reflection of services provided to this population.

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# 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.

**ACTIVITY: On Track**

This indicator is on track 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 13,984 eligible pregnant women, seniors, qualified adults, and persons with developmental disabilities. This is a significant increase of 6,068 persons served over the previous quarter. Total claims paid for the TS-MEP populations this reporting period were \$17.5 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 \$12.3 million in federal matching Medicaid funds during this quarter, which has a significant impact on health costs and health outcomes for the state of Arkansas.

## SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVE

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.

**ACTIVITY: On Track**

This indicator is on track to meet the annual goal. During this quarter, there were 1,437 participants in the TS-MEP initiative Pregnant Women Expansion program. This is an increase of 17 more women being served from the previous quarter. This program provides prenatal health services for pregnant women with incomes ranging from 138-200% FPL. In this quarter, the TS-MEP funds for the Pregnant Women Expansion program totaled \$1,740,616.

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# TS-MEP PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND PROGRESS

**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.

**ACTIVITY: Exceeding Expectations**

This indicator is exceeding expectations towards meeting the annual goal. During this quarter, the TS-MEP initiative Hospital Benefit Coverage provided inpatient and outpatient hospital reimbursements and benefits to 6,439 adults age 19-64 by increasing the number of benefit days from 20 to 24 and decreasing the co-pay on the first day of hospitalization from 22% to 10%. This is a significant increase in the number of adults served over the previous quarter. This increase can be explained by changes in the reporting of data with the new Medicaid Management Information System. Funds for the Hospital Benefit Coverage totaled \$4,621,627.

**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.

**ACTIVITY: On Track**

This indicator is on track to meet the annual goal. The ARSeniors program expanded Medicaid coverage to 5,667 seniors during this quarter. This is an increase of 103 persons from the previous quarter. Qualified Medicare Beneficiary recipients below 80% FPL automatically qualify for ARSeniors coverage. Medicaid benefits that are not covered by Medicare are available to ARSeniors. Examples of these benefits are non-emergency medical transportation and personal care services. Funds for the ARSeniors program totaled \$3,855,445 during this quarter.

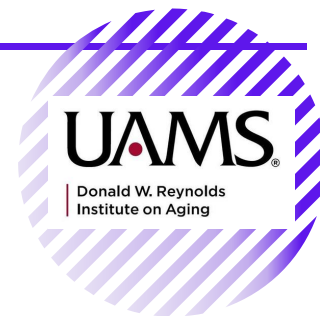
**INDICATOR:** The TS-MEP will increase the average number of persons enrolled in the Developmental Disabilities Services, Community and Employment Supports (CES) Waiver and note the number of adults and children receiving services each quarter by county.

**ACTIVITY: On Track**

This indicator is on track to meet the annual goal. During this quarter, 441 individuals were provided services through TS-MEP funds. This is a slight increase in the number of persons served from the previous quarter. In this quarter, there were a total of 202 children (18 and under) and 239 adults (19 and over) in 68 counties that were provided services. Funds for the CES waiver program totaled \$7,260,558 in this quarter.

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# UAMS-CENTERS ON AGING (UAMS-COA)



## 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.

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# UAMS-COA EVALUATOR SUMMARY AND COMMENTS

## CHALLENGES

The overall aging of the state's population coupled with an unstable national healthcare model continues to be the primary challenge to the clinical aspects of this agency's mission. The UAMS-COA remains committed to ensuring that seniors in Arkansas have the best possible access to healthcare services in places where Senior Health Clinic access is unavailable. Additional challenges this quarter are described below:

- The COVID-19 pandemic began to impact the standard modes of service delivery during March of this quarter. Innovating service design and delivery will become a more pressing challenge as the pandemic spikes due to the vulnerabilities present in UAMS-COA client populations.
- Staffing issues continue to threaten the flow of services throughout the state. Staffing concerns this quarter are particularly acute due to resignations of key staff in the northeastern portion of the state. Adequate staffing and supervision of COAs in more remote regions of Arkansas has always been a concern of this agency. Efforts have been made to address some of the most persistent problems. However, finding qualified staff, keeping them trained, and monitoring activity in the distributed COAs continues to be challenging.
- Changes in healthcare delivery models continue to negatively impact the capacity of Senior Health Clinics across the state. The UAMS-COA must continue to adjust the referral process to ensure that seniors receive the specialized geriatric care they need.
- Due to underdeveloped infrastructure, poverty, and small, decentralized populations, the basic UAMS-COA model is more difficult to employ in some areas of the state. More effort is needed to find effective modes of delivery for serving seniors in impoverished, hard-to-reach communities.
- 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.



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# UAMS-COA EVALUATOR SUMMARY AND COMMENTS

- The agency continues developing the data collection and data processing capacity needed to fully assess program outcomes. Updating the agency's existing database was a necessary first step for monitoring routine COA activities. Training COA directors to use the new database and maintaining the system's functioning will be a challenge. The UAMS-COA is making progress toward more consistent data collection and began implementing new data collection procedures for FY 2020. Maintaining consistency in the data collection will be an ongoing challenge.
- Many of the programs and services offered through the UAMS-COA have an indirect effect on senior health in Arkansas. The UAMS-COA has begun to increase 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.
- As state and federal funding continues to evaporate, and as older funding commitments end (e.g., Schmieding), maintaining external funding streams is more important than ever. The UAMS-COA is currently finding funds through grants, service contracts, donations, and volunteer support. However, these tend to be short-term solutions. Ensuring necessary levels of support over the long-term remains a challenge.
- Finding the time and other resources necessary to keep current with best practices in geriatric care is another enduring challenge.

Overall, the UAMS-COA recognizes its key challenges and is in the process of formulating strategies to address them.

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# UAMS-COA EVALUATOR SUMMARY AND COMMENTS

## OPPORTUNITIES

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

- *Distribution of services:* During this reporting period, the UAMS-COA was able to offer at least minimal services to residents in 55 of the 75 counties in Arkansas. Staff transitions and the COVID-19 pandemic limited the normal reach of the agency during this quarter. The breadth of services is also increasing to include more elder empowerment (defending against ageism, elder abuse, and elder-targeted fraud) and art/music therapy.
- *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. If not for earlier investments in online technology, the COVID-19 pandemic would have more severely truncated services this quarter. Also related to advancing the use of technology, the UAMS-COA is now using a new database that will make it easier to track activities and services provided to support seniors across the state. This is an ongoing endeavor that is expected to continue for several quarters.
- *Enhanced healthcare system outreach:* The UAMS-COA has expanded relationships with pharmacists and other entities to help them better intervene when they recognize fall risks among their clients (in relation to STEADI [Stopping Elderly Accidents, Deaths, and Injuries] training). The agency has also taken the lead in the state with respect to mitigating opiate abuse, expanding geriatric training, and increasing awareness of chronic disease.

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# UAMS-COA EVALUATOR SUMMARY AND COMMENTS

- *Partnerships:* The UAMS-COA continues to be effective at establishing partnerships with other agencies to help serve the needs of Arkansas seniors. This quarter, the UAMS-COA has partnered with a number of other entities to build resources for seniors in Arkansas. These partnerships include interfaith organizations, Alzheimer's Arkansas, Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIP), rural health clinics, elder law resources, senior housing, workforce development, AR Rehab, long-term care facilities, Veteran's Administration, CASA Women's Shelter, Butterfield Place, Assisted Living, Senior Home Caregiver Agencies, Alzheimer's Association, local businesses, Senior Olympics, parks and recreation departments, and Department on Aging Services.
- *Achievements:* The director of UAMS-COA, Dr. Amyleigh Overton-McCoy, received the endowment for the Murphy Chair in Rural Aging Leadership and Policy. This endowed position will provide resources that help extend the development of the agency.

Overall, the UAMS-COA seems to be open to innovation and actively seeking opportunities that contribute positively to the health of older Arkansans.

## EVALUATOR COMMENTS

The available evidence suggests that the UAMS-COA is fulfilling its mission to advance the state's agenda for successful senior health services, knowledge, and programming. During this reporting period, the agency enhanced senior health improvement efforts by:

- Maintaining alliances between nonprofit, for-profit, and state-funded agencies to better address the needs of older adults in Arkansas;
- Helping to educate future healthcare workers about the special needs of older adults;
- Providing a broad range of educational and exercise opportunities to seniors in the state (especially underserved portions of the state);

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# UAMS-COA EVALUATOR SUMMARY AND COMMENTS

- Recognizing the necessity of fall prevention education for seniors and mobilizing resources to meet the need;
- Leading efforts to address the opiate crisis among seniors and develop alternative therapies for pain management;
- Working to develop better models of long-term care in Arkansas;
- Working to increase the capacity for quality in-home senior healthcare;
- Raising awareness of specialized senior health concerns among Arkansas healthcare providers;
- Defending the interests of Arkansas seniors through community programs on age discrimination and elder fraud;
- Focusing on dementia care and building dementia-friendly communities.

Overall, the UAMS-COA is on track to meet all annual goals.

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# 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.

**ACTIVITY: On Track; Influenced by COVID-19**

This indicator is on track to meet the annual goal, although reach was limited in March due to COVID-19. A total of 1,304 exercise encounters with aging Arkansans were facilitated during this reporting period. Multiple exercise opportunities (including evidence-based programs designed to mitigate fall prevention such as Tai Chi and Walk With Ease) have been offered at a broad range of times and across many counties.

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

**ACTIVITY: On Track; Influenced by COVID-19**

This indicator is on track to meet the annual goal, although reach was limited in March due to COVID-19. The UAMS-COA continues to offer evidence-based educational programs that address a range of health issues related to aging. This quarter, a total of 6,252 education encounters were counted across various events and communities. Education this quarter addressed issues critical to increasing the quality of life for seniors in the state. Examples of educational offerings include STEADI (to prevent falls), Cooking Matters (to encourage healthy diets), and REST (to support better in-home caregiving).

**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.

**ACTIVITY: On Track**

This indicator is on track to meet the annual goal. The UAMS-COA and its affiliates continue to be productive in securing external funding. During this quarter, \$253,130 was raised from nine grants to support programming. The Schmieding Home Caregiver Training grant valued at \$208,197 was the most substantial grant. The agency also received \$15,525 through contractual service agreements. Another large stream of external funding was derived from community foundations (Schmieding), which provided \$136,649 to support Schmieding Center operations. Additional extramural funding included community partner donations (\$36,976), UAMS core support (\$114,000), and the value of volunteer hours supplied to the COAs (\$2,270). Overall, the UAMS-COA leveraged \$580,330 above the \$437,759 in quarterly funding provided through the ATSC.

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# 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.

**ACTIVITY: On Track**

This indicator is on track to meet the annual goal. The UAMS-COA recorded 4,625 Senior Health Clinic encounters during this reporting period. The UAMS-COA also added 390 nursing home encounters and 315 inpatient encounters during the quarter.

**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.

**ACTIVITY: On Track; Influenced by COVID-19**

This indicator is on track to meet the annual goal, although reach was limited in March due to COVID-19. The UAMS-COA produced educational presentations and in-service training opportunities attended by 402 medical professionals during this reporting period. The UAMS-COA also generated educational encounters with 107 healthcare students in the state.

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

**ACTIVITY: On Track; Influenced by COVID-19**

This indicator is on track to meet the annual goal, although reach was limited in March due to COVID-19. The UAMS-COA generated 5,743 community education encounters across Arkansas during this reporting period.

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# UAMS-COA PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND PROGRESS

**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.

**ACTIVITY: *Met Ahead of Schedule; Complete***

This indicator has been met for the calendar year and no further progress will be made. Planning for the 2020 fiscal year began in March 2019 with a meeting of COA directors who were asked to consider the specific health problems of the region served by their agencies. The planning process was completed in June 2019 and a list of prioritized problems and interventions was generated. The list includes a continued emphasis on fall prevention, a new emphasis on pain management, and a renewed emphasis on caregiving training. The UAMS-COA also plans to continue pursuing objectives from prior years related to dementia education and food insecurity. The UAMS-COA directors will meet again in the fourth quarter of FY 2020 to review health indicators and develop a list of priorities for FY 2021.

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# UAMS-COA TESTIMONIAL

## PRAISE FROM PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

- Parkinson's Caregiver Support Group, Texarkana COA: "With the help of Kasandra and Nancy I was introduced to Dr. Wilder in Shreveport. I have received the best care from Dr. Wilder and my deep brain surgery has improved my activities because I no longer have tremors, and my voice is higher, so I am no longer whispering when I talk. I am so thankful for the support group."
- Alzheimer's Association Event with Schmieding Center: "Wow! We are so excited with the turnout for the 'Living with Alzheimer's' program and cannot thank you enough for your partnership in ensuring it was a success. [We] enjoyed collaborating with you and have learned a great deal about the type of outreach we need to focus on to continue reaching more individuals in need. Hoping we can continue to build on these great programs. Thanks, again. We appreciate you more than you know."
- Attendee at Medicare presentation, South Central COA: "Ever since you helped me look into my Part D plan during Open Enrollment years ago, I have been able to go to Medicare.gov each year and look at it myself. It has saved me a lot of money over the years, and I usually switch plans every year or two."
- Daughter caring for mother with Alzheimer's, South Arkansas COA: "[Your presentation] really opened my eyes on ways to communicate with mother and I now see how communication is the key to everything. I'm thankful for the presentations offered today along with the resources that I didn't realize were available."



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# UAMS EAST REGIONAL CAMPUS



## 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.

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# UAMS EAST REGIONAL CAMPUS EVALUATOR SUMMARY AND COMMENTS

## CHALLENGES

The UAMS Family Medical Center continued to work toward increasing their patient population. The COVID-19 pandemic necessitated the closure of the Fitness Center and outreach programs. The UAMS East Regional Campus is working on alternative plans for outreach. Additionally, due to budget issues staff began working on reduced schedules of a four-day work week.

## OPPORTUNITIES

The UAMS East Regional Campus at West Memphis had one staff member attend a two-hour baby safety/safe sleep training provided by Arkansas Children's Injury Prevention Center, as well as a four-day National Child Passenger Safety Technician Certification Training Course.

A UAMS East Regional Campus West Memphis staff member was one of the two judges for the health education competition portion of the Health Occupations Students of America State Leadership Conference in Hot Springs.

The Helena-West Helena School District applied for a School Based Clinic Grant and UAMS Family Medical Center was identified as the provider.

## EVALUATOR COMMENTS

Progress was made on indicators this quarter. However, there was a significant impact to services in early March when all outreach and exercise programs were stopped due to COVID-19. Programs are working on alternative means for continuing outreach education. The Family Medical Center has secured a three-year grant comparing the effectiveness of Family Diabetes Self-Management Education and Support (DSMES) and Standard DSMES among diverse populations. This is a great opportunity to expand the diabetes services while contributing to diabetes management research.

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# UAMS EAST REGIONAL CAMPUS 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.

**ACTIVITY: On Track; Influenced by COVID-19**

This indicator is on track to meet the annual goal, although reach was limited in March due to COVID-19. The UAMS East Regional Campus Helena along with UAMS South Central worked together to host a “Day in the Life” training program in Stuttgart. The UAMS East Regional Campus also hosted “Day in the Life” in Helena in partnership with Phillips Community College at the University of Arkansas. The program worked in collaboration with Baptist Health Medical Center to host 28 students. This quarter, UAMS East Regional Campus worked with a UAMS student group and the National Medical Association to host REACH (Raising Exposure and Awareness of Careers in Health) Delta for KIPP (Knowledge is Power Program) students. The UAMS Regional Program Recruiter worked with the Department of Education to support the state Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA) Future Health Professionals Convention. The convention had 748 students and teachers from around the state competing in health-related competitions.

**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.

**ACTIVITY: On Track**

This indicator is on track to meet the annual goal. The UAMS East Regional Campus supported four students in the RN to BSN program and three additional nursing students not enrolled in the UAMS nursing program. The UAMS East Regional Campus provided an internship opportunity for one health education student from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. The student is a former KIPP Delta student and a local resident of Helena, Arkansas.

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# UAMS EAST REGIONAL CAMPUS 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.

**ACTIVITY: On Track; Influenced by COVID-19**

This indicator is on track to meet the annual goal, although reach was limited in March due to COVID-19. Eight health screenings events were held for 297 participants in three different cities and approximately 891 screenings were administered. The UAMS East Regional Campus provided approximately 105 biometric screenings for 35 employees of Barton High School as part of the “How Healthy is your Faculty” program. The UAMS East Regional Campus at Lake Village provided biometric screenings for the Community Outreach Center at Lake Village Nursing Home and provided worksite wellness at Dermott Schools. See table 1 for abnormal screening results.

**Table 1. Abnormal Screenings Results for selected tests**

Blood Pressure: 79	BMI: 15	Waist Circumference: 16
Cholesterol: 22	Glucose: 5	

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

**ACTIVITY: On Track; Influenced by COVID-19**

This indicator is on track to meet the annual goal, although reach was limited in March due to COVID-19. The UAMS East Regional Campus provided health education, promotion, and prevention programs for a total of 22,177 youth and adults. There were 27 events held in four cities for a total of 805 adults. For youth, there were 79 events held in eight cities for a total of 21,372 youth.

- The UAMS East Regional Campus at West Memphis partnered with the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service to provide “Get Real, Here’s the Deal” at Marion High School, helping students realize the costs associated with food and nutrition. This event was offered at three schools in Crittenden County for 386 youth.

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# UAMS EAST REGIONAL CAMPUS PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND PROGRESS

## **ACTIVITY cont'd:**

- The UAMS East Regional Campus Walton Funded Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program offered “Choosing the Best Way.” This evidence-based curriculum for 6th grade students was taught to 50 students. The six session program uses student-centered, engaging videos, real life case studies, role-plays, interactive exercises, and small group discussions that create a learning environment. Also, provided was “Making Proud Choices,” “Draw the Line,” and “Teen Dating Violence.”
- The UAMS East Regional Campus offered American Heart Basic Life Support to 18 healthcare providers and conducted Heartsaver CPR for 12.
- The UAMS East Regional Campus at Lake Village provided Baby Safety Showers to 10 individuals. This campus also partnered with AR Children’s Injury Prevention Center to correctly install six car seats for safety shower participants.
- The UAMS East Regional Campus along with Phillips County Retired Teachers hosted an appreciation brunch for local veterans and first responders.
- The UAMS East Regional Campus partnered with the Delta Sorority to host Delta's Move for Heart Awareness event.
- The UAMS East Regional Campus at West Memphis provided 262 middle school students with the dangers of e-cigarette and vaping using the “CATCH My Breath” curriculum.
- The UAMS East Regional Campus provided free vaping information to over 300 parents during a STEM parent night.
- All three campuses provided the “Kids for Health” program. This K-3rd grade program provides youth with weekly health education lessons. The ten-week curriculum includes information on drugs, alcohol, smoking, nutrition, body systems, and exercise.
- This year we have expanded services in Crittenden County and this quarter there were 12,950 encounters.
- The UAMS East Regional Campus at West Memphis had the opportunity to partner with Delta Sigma Theta’s sorority to provide breast cancer information to chapter members.
- The West Memphis campus also began a weekly nutrition class at East Central Arkansas Community Corrections for 116 women. Over the series, the class covers “My Plate,” smart food choices, nutrition labels, portion sizes, grocery budgeting, and physical activity.

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# UAMS EAST REGIONAL CAMPUS PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND PROGRESS

## **ACTIVITY cont'd:**

- The UAMS East Regional Campus Helena provided the American Heart Association's "Life Simple Seven" to parents and grandparents at Barton High Schools Parents' Advisory Committee Meeting.
- The UAMS East Regional Campus also spoke at the F.R.E.S.H projects "Go Red: Coffee and Conversation" held at Phillips County Library. The F.R.E.S.H, Families Rising to Enforce Smoke-Free Homes, is a research project sponsored by the Center for the Study of Tobacco at the Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health.

**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.

### **ACTIVITY: On Track; Influenced by COVID-19**

This indicator is on track to meet the annual goal, although reach was limited in March due to COVID-19. The UAMS East Regional Campus Fitness Center encounters totaled 8,470. A total of 11,424 adults and youth participated in various exercise programs throughout the service area. The UAMS East Regional Campus at Helena and Lake Village promoted exercise and wellness through various outreach programs including "PEPPI," "Silver Sneakers," Zumba, "Easy Does It," and Yoga.

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

### **ACTIVITY: On Track; Influenced by COVID-19**

This indicator is on track to meet the annual goal, although reach was limited in March due to COVID-19. The UAMS East Regional Campus Medical Resource Library provided support to healthcare professionals and students through literature searches and teaching materials. This quarter, 42 nursing students and 20 other healthcare professionals utilized the library. The UAMS East Regional Campus Library also provided support to 1,580 consumers and circulated 224 books. In addition, 175 audiovisual and 60 electronic searches were conducted.

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# UAMS EAST REGIONAL CAMPUS PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND PROGRESS

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

**ACTIVITY: On Track**

This indicator is on track to meet the annual goal. The UAMS East Regional Campus staff continued working with the UAMS South Central Regional Campus to offer student rotations. The UAMS Family Medical Center has not met the patient load needed to complete the application process for a residency training track at this time.


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

**ACTIVITY: On Track; Influenced by COVID-19**

This indicator is on track to meet the annual goal, although reach was limited in March due to COVID-19. The UAMS Family Medical Center in Helena 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, a registered dietician for diabetes education and nutritional counseling, and a APRN-certified diabetes educator for diabetes counseling. The UAMS Family Medical Center had a total of 1,000 patient visits in 64 days of the clinic this quarter. Also, 216 patients were provided onsite lab work by the Phlebotomist. The clinical staff made 20 referrals for follow-up care. The UAMS Family Medical Center provided two telehealth clinics for newly diagnosed HIV patients. The telehealth provides them a safe and private visit without having to travel outside in the community, and it increases compliance. This quarter, the UAMS Family Medical Center had 53 new patients and 18 of the 53 identified the new signage as the reason for them seeking service. The UAMS Family Medical Center also provided aid to three patients in obtaining essential medications with support from the Helena Health Foundation. The UAMS Family Medical Center health coaches have provided one-on-one counseling to patients referred for health changes. Also, this quarter health coaching for weight loss was conducted for four clinic patients. The UAMS Family Medical Center is now sending out patient surveys via text messaging, and patients are responding. Those responses and suggestions will be utilized to make clinical changes.

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# UAMS EAST REGIONAL CAMPUS PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND PROGRESS



**INDICATOR:** The UAMS East Regional Campus will provide diabetes education to community members and increase the proportion of patients in the diabetes clinic who maintain an A1C below seven.

**ACTIVITY: On Track**

This indicator is on track to meet the annual goal. The UAMS East Regional Campus provided a total of 58 HbA1C tests to patients in the Family Medical Center. Of these 58 tests, 32 were above the goal of seven. Many of these patients are also former diabetes education participants. Six diabetes education classes were offered this quarter. The UAMS East Regional Campus received a grant to improve patient-centered care and outcomes among diverse populations affected by Type 2 diabetes (T2D). The three-year grant is looking at comparative effectiveness of Family DSMES (Diabetes Self-Management Education and Support) and Standard DSMES among diverse populations. The UAMS East Regional Campus hired the project coordinator in March and she is in the identification and screening phase of identifying clinic patients to include in the program. The grant identifies the target sample size to be 300 clinic patients and 300 family members. The specific aims of this grant include: 1) compare the effectiveness of family DSMES in achieving patient-centered outcomes among diverse populations with T2D, 2) compare the effects of Family DSMES and Standard DSMES on family members, and 3) document facilitators and barriers to implementation and dissemination of Family DSMES.



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# UAMS EAST REGIONAL CAMPUS TESTIMONIAL

## PRAISE FROM PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS AND PARTNERS

- UAMS Family Medical Center Patient: “Yesterday I had the pleasure to meet Dr. Ewing. I want to thank him and his staff for quickly responding and helping me with my sister.”
- Group Lifestyle Balance Participant: “I’ve lost 11 pounds so far. Thanks so much for motivating me. I am very determined.”
- Barton-Lexa School District Superintendent, David Tollett: “We would like to thank you for taking the time to participate in our annual STEM and Family Night on February 13th. The information you presented added to the success of our event. We look forward to working with you in the future.”

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# SUMMARY OF INDICATOR PROGRESS ACROSS PROGRAMS

For the January-March 2020 quarter, across all ATSC-funded programs, 80% of indicators were on track to meet their annual goals, 6% were exceeding expectations or met ahead of schedule, while 14% of indicators were in need of improvement (see Table 2). The indicators in need of improvement fall under two of the programs at University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB) which are funded through the Minority Communities Special Account within the Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program Account: the Minority Research Center (MRC) and the Graduate Addiction Studies Programs (GASP). No indicator data were reported this quarter by MRC and GASP, in part because the indicators were under review with proposed changes brought to the Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission in April 2020. Progress of the MRC and GASP for this quarter was determined based on the progress of these programs at the end of FY19, as reported in the previous evaluation reports (July-September 2019 Quarterly Report and 2018-2019 Biennial Report). It was assumed that indicators that had been met in FY19 were on track to be met for FY20, and indicators that had not been met in FY19 were in need of improvement to meet FY20 goals. Final evaluation of these indicators will be reported at the end of FY20 in the July-September 2020 Quarterly Report.

Beyond the challenges noted with the UAPB programs, evaluators reported steady progress towards annual goals in the form of (a) consistent participation by Arkansans, (b) continued focus on external partnerships and cross-sector collaborations, (c) an unwavering commitment to serve vulnerable populations and support the growing body of public health practitioners that serve these populations, (d) promotion of strong scientific rigor and innovation in understanding health and well-being in the state, and (e) the creation of opportunities to influence and implement new policies that uplift overall quality of life. ATSC-funded programs continued to tackle important health challenges and enhance quality of life for all Arkansans through education, service, research, and economic impact.

# SUMMARY OF INDICATOR PROGRESS ACROSS PROGRAMS

Towards the end of this quarter, the COVID-19 pandemic hit, influencing six of the seven ATSC-funded programs and several indicator activities. Programs with a primary focus on community outreach--MHI, TPCP, UAMS-COA, and UAMS East Regional Campus--were challenged as in-person activities and events were cancelled, rescheduled, or moved online. These challenges limited the reach of some programs in March, but, as reported by UCA evaluators, programs worked quickly to adjust sails in order to continue educating and engaging the community. Similarly, academic and research programs, ABI and CPH, adjusted to meet immediate research needs and transition in-person projects and curriculum to fall in line with social distancing recommendations. While COVID-19 has presented many challenges to ATSC-funded programs, it has also presented a number of opportunities in the form of novel research, innovative service delivery, and new collaborations. Ongoing activities by programs in response to COVID-19 will continue to be documented by ATSC-funded programs and presented in evaluation reports as long as is applicable.

**Table 2. Indicator progress across programs for January-March 2020**

Program	Total Indicators	Met Ahead of Schedule	Exceeding Expectations	On Track	In Need of Improvement	COVID-19 Influenced	Overall Progress
ABI	8	--	--	8	--	Yes	100% On Track
COPH	9	--	--	9	--	Yes	100% On Track
MHI	7	--	--	7	--	Yes	100% On Track
TPCP	29	2	1	16	10	Yes	66% On Track or Better
TS-MEP	5	--	1	4	--	No	100% On Track or Better
UAMS-COA	7	1	--	6	--	Yes	100% On Track or Better
UAMS East Regional Campus	9	--	--	9	--	Yes	100% On Track or Better
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>86% On Track or Better</b>



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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.

