

2019 ANNUAL STATUS REPORT FOR THE PREVENTION OF UNPLANNED PREGNANCY ON CAMPUS (ACT 943 OF 2015)

Submitted by Ann Clemmer, Senior Associate Director, on behalf of Director Maria Markham, Arkansas Division of Higher Education.

Senator Missy Irvin, Chair, Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor Committee

Representative Jack Ladyman, Chair, House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor Committee.

Senator Jane English, Chair, Senate Committee on Education

Representative Bruce Cozart, Chair, House Committee on Education

Under Act 943 of 2015, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) was directed to develop an action plan to address unplanned pregnancies on college campuses and to submit annual reports on implementation by November 1 to the Arkansas General Assembly via the House and Senate Education Committees and the House and Senate Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committees.

The legislation directs higher education institutions in nine areas. Among those directives colleges and universities are: to identify methods of addressing the problem of unplanned pregnancy, to collaborate with health centers, to identify a measure of success, and to incorporate into academic coursework "as appropriate". *The legislation mandates that campuses include in their orientations information on the prevention of unplanned pregnancy.*

The annual IHE reports have been collected by the Division of Higher Education for 2018-2019. The department is able to report that ten of eleven public four-year universities and all 22 two-year campuses have submitted reports and are in compliance with Act 943. A compliant school has met the requirements of the law, but a number of schools did much more. This report, as well as the reports of select campuses will be shared on the ADHE website. Some highlights from the work being done at our colleges and universities follows:

University Activities

Arkansas Tech – Student leaders and ATU staff were trained on Act 943 to teach material during small group sessions. During small group sessions at the fall 2018 orientation, the material was presented by peer orientation leaders to over 1300 freshmen. Incoming freshmen and transfer students were also presented curriculum during fall and spring orientations.

University of Arkansas– As requested in Item 4 in the legislation, U of A students provided community outreach to teens in Northwest Arkansas through service learning and the Center for Community Engagement as well as federal funded pre-college programs. Concerning identifying method to measure effectiveness of prevention activities, the U of A surveyed students in spring

2019 using the American College Health Association National College Health Assessment survey to collect data on the effects of an unplanned pregnancy on academic performance, as well as pregnancy prevention methods.

University of Arkansas Little Rock– Campus Living partnered with Health Services to put on Trojan Wars, an event focused on safe sex and unplanned pregnancy prevention during Trojan Daze. In addition, Resident Assistants created bulletin boards utilizing statistics on pregnancy aimed at encouraging students to practice safe sex and discussed pregnancy prevention at hall meetings. Roughly 80-100 mentorships were set-up through the Charles W. Donaldson Scholars Academy serving students in the Pulaski County School District.

University of Central Arkansas – *July and August* – Freshman Orientation students received a tour of the Student Health Clinic and were given a comprehensive overview of the services provided including Women’s Health Center and family planning. There were also several events throughout the year – *October*: Get Yourself Tested Campaign – a month long campaign promoting sexual responsibility; *February*: Sexual Health Fair – a group of students volunteered to promote health and well-being through developing wellness activities on campus in which seven booths focused on topics including safe sex practices and contraception; *March*: Safe Spring Break Week – 60 safety kits were handed out that included condoms; and *April*: UCA Wellness Fair hosted by Student Wellness and Development which included several booths covering pregnancy prevention, provided condoms and student discussions about campus and community resources.

College Activities

College of the Ouachitas - Concerning identifying a method to measure effectiveness of unplanned pregnancy prevention activities, COTO developed a Student Learning Outcome Assessment tool beginning fall of 2016. Baseline data was collected. Each semester, all students in SOS and PCS classes were assessed on their learning level of the materials presented regarding Act 943. Trend data as well as individual semester data was collected and analyzed.

North Arkansas College – Northark requires completion of a mandatory online orientation presented each semester for each new or non-consecutive returning student that includes information on pregnancy prevention, family planning and contraception, as well as health of reproductive systems. NorthArk also created brochures and flyers with pregnancy prevention and reproductive health resources. These materials were distributed to students throughout the campuses through brochure and literature racks, table tents and loose flyers placed in student populated areas such as the Advising Center, Student Center and Learning Resource Center. Posters were created with similar information and displayed throughout the campuses. Electronic materials were also created and displayed on the monitors on every campus. Northark’s athletes also mentor students and promote healthy living during the school year and through summer sports camps.

Phillips Community College – During mandatory orientation, there was a special session dedicated to pregnancy prevention awareness that included: administering a survey at the beginning asking if the students had thought about the impact that pregnancy may have on their

ability to begin, continue or complete a college degree; a general overview of prevention and unplanned pregnancy statistics among older teens; showing the pregnancy prevention video; and a presentation by members of the Phillips County and Arkansas County health departments describing the services they provide, including information on family planning and birth control. In addition, brochures were included in each student's orientation packet. After the session, students were administered another survey that asked if the information provided had made them think more about the impact of pregnancy on their education. The overwhelming majority reported a "yes" answer.