

EXHIBIT E

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, CHA/FAMILY HEALTH

SUBJECT: State Sponsored Home Visitation Program

DESCRIPTION: These rules implement a home visitation program under Ark. Code Ann. § 20-78-901, as amended. They set guidelines, standards, and reporting activities for all programs that provide home visitation services that are voluntary family-focused services delivered primarily in the home to assure healthy births and other services provided to expectant parents or parents with an infant, toddler, or child up to kindergarten.

PUBLIC COMMENT: A public hearing was held on this rule on March 14, 2014. The public comment period expired March 14, 2014. The Department received the following public comment:

Scott Gordon

Executive Vice-President, Arkansas Children's Hospital

COMMENT: I believe the Legislation passed by the Arkansas General Assembly and Proposed Rules and Regulations for Home Visiting Programs will set the stage for Arkansas to become a leader in the nation in terms of the implementation of evidence based programming in the area of assessing the impact of such programming.

It will provide policy makers and Legislators with the information necessary to grow the program appropriately, provide essential services for families that struggle, and provide an appropriate developmental environment for young children in the first formative five years.

I have watched Home Visiting in Arkansas grow from a cottage industry to a large enterprise that is quite complex, multi-faceted and which reaches out to a wide variety of families with very, very difficult situations – whether it be an economic challenge, or a developmental, educational or a social challenge.

Availability of Home Visitors to help link those families to human services and to provide developmental appropriate information in the home as the children move to various phases really sets the stage for these children to enter formal education ready to learn having mastered basic skills and being ready to be an active participant in their education and their formal education. (K-12)

I believe the Home Visiting Program in Arkansas have done a great deal to set the stage for many of these young people to not only hold their own in an educational setting, but also to excel because of the fact they have had parents that have become confident in their parenting skills in developing the confidence to serve as their child's advocate in the formal education system in our state (K-12)

So, I am pleased that we as a state are maturing to the point that we can recognize and apply evidence based practice in this field and I am proud of Arkansas taking the lead nationally in implementing a variety of evidenced models and not being tied to a single monolithic model.

So, I am pleased that we as a state are maturing to the point that we can recognize and apply evidence based practice in this field and I am proud of Arkansas taking the lead nationally in implementing a variety of evidenced models and not being tied to a single monolithic model.

RESPONSE: The Department thanked Mr. Gordon for his comments.

The proposed effective date for the final rule is June 1, 2014.

CONTROVERSY: This is not expected to be controversial.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: There is no financial impact.

LEGAL AUTHORIZATION: Acts 2013, No. 528, § 2, codified as Ark. Code Ann. § 20-7-139, directs the State Board of Health to “adopt rules to implement a home visitation program under § 20-78-901 et seq.” Act 528, § 3, codified as Ark. Code Ann. § 20-78-901 et seq., creates a home visitation program that provides in-home visits from early childhood and health professionals to promote appropriate prenatal care to an expectant parent and postnatal care to a parent with an infant, toddler, or child up to kindergarten entry.