

Arkansas AWARE Program



Joint Performance Review Committee

**Stacy Smith, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Learning Services
Arkansas Department of Education**

October 9, 2018

Arkansas AWARE

Grant Overview

- **AWARE** : Advancing Wellness **A**nd Resiliency in Education
- **Awarding Federal Agency:** Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
- **Funding Cycle:** September 30, 2018 through September 29, 2023; 5 years
- **Funding Amount:** 1.8 Million annually



Arkansas AWARE

Key Goals for the Program

Develop model comprehensive school-based mental health programs and build the capacity of educators to identify and address the needs of students. The program will accomplish the following:

1. Focus **Prevention**- Build **Safe and Supporting school climates** (PBIS /Mental Health First Aid Trauma Informed Schools, ACE awareness)
2. Focus **Intervention**-Comprehensive School- based and linked MH services - Develop 3 distinct models across the state which are scalable to any district in Arkansas (Texarkana, Marvel-Elaine, OUR Cooperative (Ozark Mountain, Valley Springs, Eureka Springs)
3. **Follow-up** – Data collection and Evaluation



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Develop model comprehensive school-based mental health programs and build the capacity of educators to identify and address some of the needs of our students in our state. The program will accomplish the following:

1. Focus **Prevention- Build Safe and Supporting school climates** (PBIS /Mental Health First Aid Trauma Informed Schools, ACE awareness)
 - **PBIS** (Positive Behavior Intervention System) a systematic approach to behavior expectations and consistent positive discipline practices with in a school setting
 - **Mental Health First Aid** (Provides layperson with basic training to intervene in the presence of someone in crisis. (has been described as the equivalent to CPR to the health care field).
 - 150 Train The trainers at the end of 5 years
 - Arkansas currently has the lowest rate of MHFAiders in the nation
 - CJI is attempting to secure funding for MHFA for Law Enforcement, including SROs
 - Trauma informed schools – provides for understanding and awareness for school staff students with behavior diagnosis. Provides for resources and opportunities to develop a supportive school environment for students and staff.



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2. Focus **Intervention**-Comprehensive School- based and linked MH services
Develop 3 distinct models across the state which are scalable to any district in Arkansas (Texarkana, Marvel-Elaine, OUR Cooperative (Ozark Mountain, Valley Springs, Eureka Springs)
 - Each site will employ the following
 - Licensed Mental Health Professional
 - Behavioral Specialist
 - Project Coordinator
 - Schools are a key component in outcome based care, and aligns with the State efforts to implement organized care model (PASSE).



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- **SHAPE Assessment** (School Health Assessment and Performance Evaluation System)
- Utilization of Student GPS
- Implementation data, Behavior and discipline data



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State Personnel Resources

- The **ADE will employ a Project Aware Coordinator** to oversee the direct grant activities and to provide technical assistance and training
- The ADE and **DHS/DBHS will create a formal partnership to jointly employ a Project AWARE Co-Coordinator**; this will allow the ADE and DHS to work together collectively specifically to support this aspect of school-based health strategies.



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School Safety Commissioner Recommendations

The work of the Arkansas AWARE Program will address several of the School Safety Commission's 2018 Recommendations:

#13. SHAPE (School Health Assessment and Performance Evaluation System)

#14. PBIS/Trauma Informed Schools

#15. Comprehensive School-Based Mental Health Service Models

#16. SHAPE Assessment/Evaluation Tool - behavioral threat assessment team and process.

