
Arkansas Building Effective Services for Trauma (ARBEST)
Quarterly Legislative Report (April 1, 2016 – June 30, 2016)

OVERVIEW

Arkansas Building Effective Services for Trauma (ARBEST) was established in the spring of 2009, when the Arkansas State Legislature approved funding to improve screening, monitoring, and continuity of care for children experiencing physical or sexual abuse. Several changes were made to the ARBEST website in July 2013 in order to maintain quality assurance for the Mental Health Appropriation for the state's Child Advocacy Centers (CAC). These changes enhance procedures for monitoring the type and duration of care for each child and their family referred to a CAC-contracted mental health professional (MHP). All ARBEST activities are housed within the UAMS Psychiatric Research Institute (PRI) to minimize redundancy and allow for improved communications between UAMS and the state's CACs, CAC chapter, MHPs, child welfare workers and other stakeholders. ARBEST holds quarterly Advisory Committee meetings with representatives from the UAMS Departments of Psychiatry, Pediatrics and Family and Preventive Medicine; the Children's Advocacy Centers of Arkansas (the Executive Director and members of the Mental Health Workgroup); and the Arkansas Commission on Child Abuse, Rape and Domestic Violence.

TIMELINE

- February 2015 – 13 out of 14 CACs respond to the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for CAC Mental Health Services
- April 2015 – The 13 eligible CACs complete the UAMS Professional Contract Services (PCS) form
- June 2015 – Legislative Review Committee approves PCS
- August 2015 – First payment for FY16 is distributed to CACs
- January 2016 – FY16 second quarter payment is distributed to CACs
- March 2016 – 14 out of 14 CACs respond to the RFQ for CAC Mental Health Services for FY17
- April 2016 – FY16 third quarter payment is distributed to CACs
- June 2016 – Legislative Review Committee approves PCS

MENTAL HEALTH APPROPRIATION RESULTS (April 1, 2016 – June 30, 2016)

- 1,309 children were registered by the state's CACs during the 4th quarter of FY16.
- 275 (32%) children who were eligible for counseling were registered by mental health professionals across the state affiliated with a local CAC. Registration indicates intent to provide mental health assessment and/or treatment to a child.
- 1,771.52 hours of mental health services were provided to children and their families by mental health professionals during the 4th quarter, which is an average of 6 hours per child.
- An additional 382.47 hours of indirect services were provided by MHPs, the majority of which included attendance at Multidisciplinary Team meetings, supervision, outreach and ARBEST data entry.

- 11 CACs met the goal of providing mental health services to at least 30% of children registered by the CAC or providing 94 hours or more of direct service to their clients.
- 2 CACs did not meet the goal of providing mental health services to at least 30% of children registered by the CAC or providing 94 hours or more of direct service to their clients. Based on the performance standards listed in the ARBEST Mental Health Appropriation Agreement, these CACs received a decreased proportion of their funding for the 4th quarter.

MENTAL HEALTH APPROPRIATION GOALS (April 1, 2016 – June 30, 2016)

- The 2 CACs that did not meet the 30% goal of registering new eligible clients or providing 94 hours of direct service will receive technical assistance during the 1st quarter of FY17.

RELATED ARBEST ACTIVITIES

During the 4th quarter of FY16, ARBEST was also engaged in the following activities to support the mental health of children with suspected abuse and their families:

- Partner Trainings:
 - 4/5/16 – 32nd International Symposium on Child Abuse, Huntsville, AL
 - 4/14/16 – AR Mental Health Counselors Association 15th Annual Conference
 - 6/17/16 – AR Association for Infant Mental Health Annual Conference
- ARBEST Webinars:
 - 4/13/16 – Cyber Crimes: Protecting Our Children through Online Investigations (Will Jones, JD)
 - 5/18/16 – Is This Helping? Using Assessment Tools to Monitor Your Clients' Symptoms and Your Program Outcomes (Chad Sievers, MSSW)
 - 6/16/16 – Psychological Evaluations for Children and Adolescents (Glenn Mesman, PhD)
- The seventh annual Introductory Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) training took place on April 27-28, 2016. The ARBEST-sponsored event was attended by over 200 professionals from around the state. The Advanced TF-CBT training was held on April 29, 2016, and was attended by over 150 professionals.
- In May, the TF-CBT consultation calls started. Over 120 professionals are continuing their TF-CBT training. The calls will last until December of 2016.
- Publication of three e-newsletters; publication of informational columns in partner newsletters.

FY 2016
Q4 (April – June 2016)

ARBEST General Activities	
Salaries/Fringe	\$113,384
Supplies	\$419
Training	\$15,987
CAC Data Entry	\$6,530
Other	\$1,777
Sub-Total	\$138,652
Admin Fee	\$24,957
Total	\$163,610

CAC Mental Health Appropriation	
Salaries/Fringe*	\$10,464
CACs	\$37,688
Total	\$58,617

*Required to be less than \$50K annually for the management of the Mental Health Appropriation.