



ARKANSAS HOME VISITING NOTES



ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

It has been a very busy and productive time for Arkansas home visiting programs and families! The September 2016 issue of ARKANSAS HOME VISITING NOTES includes:

- 2016 AHVN CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS
- AHVN LEADERSHIP ACADEMY: Applications due by September 23
- PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: Following Baby Back Home - SW Region
- CQI SPOTLIGHT: NAESC HIPPIY
- UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND TRAININGS - Learn more about the latest conferences and trainings available to home visiting staff

MAKE SURE TO SIGN UP FOR FUTURE ISSUES!

Arkansas Home Visiting Notes will be delivered electronically. We want the newsletter to be interactive and useful to the home visiting community, so your input is greatly needed on this issue. Please see the last page for details and additional information about the AHVN.

AHVN DIRECTOR'S NOTE: EMBRACING CHANGE AS OPPORTUNITY

Fall is coming, and you can sense that change is in the air. As we look forward to cooler weather, football games, and putting on our comfy sweaters, I'm reminded about changes we will soon experience in the home visiting field. It is important to remember that change can be good! As we ask our home visiting families to embrace change for the better, we should also ask the same for ourselves.

MIECHV home visitors can expect a few changes in assessments and the ETO data entry system. While we may need to learn some new things, I am convinced these changes will make your jobs easier. These changes will allow you to spend more time focusing on the needs of your families. Regardless of which model you work for, or where your funding comes from, we all should make it a priority to improve how we report on the work that we do. When we tell our home visiting stories well, we increase our chances of building stronger families and brighter futures.

Another change is that many of you are receiving complimentary SECA and AECA memberships. This is a great time to invest in your own personal development and to network with other colleagues that help children and families thrive. We hope to see many of you at the AECA conference in Little Rock, and the SECA conference in Mississippi early next year.

More positive change is coming with the AHVN Leadership Academy. This is literally a dream come true for me. Investing in developing others so they can reach their potential is something near and dear to my heart. I can't wait to spend time with everyone accepted into the first academy cohort and witness their growth. It's an opportunity I wish I had available to me when I accepted my first director's position.

Remember: embracing change can lead to exciting opportunities. Happy fall, y'all! - *Kathy Pillow-Price, Ed.D., AHVN Director*



LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

APPLY TO THE AHVN LEADERSHIP ACADEMY - APPLICATIONS DUE SEPTEMBER 23!

September 23 is the deadline to apply to participate in the Arkansas Home Visiting Network's Leadership Academy! This exciting new program focuses on providing important leadership skills to new and emerging leaders in the Arkansas home visiting field. The AHVN Leadership Academy is an important component in the network's strategic plan in providing high-quality professional development opportunities for home visiting staff.

Leadership seminars will be available to AHVN Leadership Academy participants. Two seminars will be held at the Greystone Estate in Rogers and led by the Soderquist Institute at John Brown University, with the final seminar being held in Little Rock. Participants will learn about three important leadership themes: Leading Yourself, Leading Others, and Leading Within an Organization. Activities offered through the academy include experiential initiatives, personalized assessments, and assignments between sessions.

Kathy Pillow-Price, Director of the AHVN, describes the AHVN Leadership Academy as a unique and transformative opportunity for interested home visiting staff. "Our Leadership Academy will be a chance to have fun, meet other new and emerging home visiting leaders in Arkansas, learn about leadership and develop practical skills. It will also give individuals an opportunity to learn more about themselves, others and organizations.

"Leadership is vital in every walk of life and the Academy experience will help participants develop their own Personal Leadership Philosophy while expanding their view of leadership styles. As the AHVN moves into the future, we believe the academy experience will form a critical foundation for our rising leaders as they advance to new roles and responsibilities within the home visiting field."

APPLY BY SEPTEMBER 23! Home visiting staff interested in applying to the AHVN Leadership Academy can access the online application by clicking [here](#). Applications must be fully completed in order to be considered. Applicants will be asked to provide the following information for the application:

- Contact information
- Information about current home visiting position
- Personal statement
- Professional resume (PDF format preferred)
- Two required letters of recommendation

This is a unique opportunity for Arkansas home visiting staff, and we encourage anyone interested in applying to do so. Please contact Kathy Pillow-Price at pillowpricekl@archildrens.org with any additional questions.

THE ONLINE APPLICATION CAN BE ASSESSED BY CLICKING [HERE](#).

CQI SPOTLIGHT: NAESC HIPPY

The latest CQI Spotlight features creative CQI work from the Northcentral Arkansas Education Service Cooperative (NAESC) HIPPY program. During the month of August, the NAESC HIPPY program worked on increasing program capacity through a variety of activities.

Tasks were divided between the coordinator and home-based educators (HBE). HBEs placed fliers in community businesses, attended open houses, and worked with local churches. The coordinator posted ads in local newspapers, Facebook, online garage sale pages, and worked with DHS partners. In addition, parents who already enrolled in the program received an incentive if they referred families that completed the enrollment process.

CQI has been beneficial to the NAESC HIPPY program for many reasons, including increased accountability, brainstorming, and discovering what activities really work for a program.

Susan Cowgill, NAESC HIPPY's coordinator, says "don't be afraid to get your staff involved" in CQI projects. Cowgill, who reviews CQI activities on a weekly basis, recommends that sites make sure they are mindful of staying on top of tasks. She also says she has found it easier to make long-term goals as "they are more in-depth and tend to be more meaningful" than short-term goals.

**Article submitted by Alice Story, Grants Coordinator, Arkansas Department of Health. For more information on CQI projects, please contact Alice at alice.story@arkansas.gov.*



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

SOUTHWEST ARKANSAS FOLLOWING BABY BACK HOME (FBBH) - MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The latest home visiting Program Spotlight features the Southwest Arkansas team of Following Baby Back Home (FBBH). This program serves families in eleven counties from Miller to Drew counties and spans nearly the entire southern region of the state. FBBH is a MIECHV-funded promising home visiting model that is currently taking steps to become an evidence-based home visiting model.

What makes FBBH unique? The model provides a registered nurse and a social worker who work as a team to provide an array of medical, social, and case management services to enrolled families. Families with medically-fragile children are referred by NICU staff to FBBH once the infant has been discharged from the hospital. The FBBH program in Southwest Arkansas has been in operation since 2012 and currently serves 35 families and 41 children. Staff include Jessica Doherty, RN, Beth Massey, LSW, and Tiffany Ross, who provides administrative assistance to the home visitors.

Tips from the FBBH Southwest Arkansas team include:

RECOGNIZE EXPERIENCES CAN INFLUENCE WORK: As mothers, staff recognize their experiences influence their work with enrolled families. Staff empathize and support families by being professional and consistent in their practices. Both parent educators have worked in home visiting for a number of years—Jessica in nursing for 18 years & Beth in social work for 11 years, and are very comfortable working with families in this environment.

BE ORGANIZED: Scheduling and organizing for the week is crucial to serving families in a large area which at times can be a four-hour round trip to visit certain families. Each morning the team meets at the office to load supplies and begin travel for home visiting.

PROVIDE INCENTIVES FOR PARTICIPANTS: Incentives are a great way to acknowledge program milestones accomplished by families. The program offers incentives to retain families such as diapers, wet wipes, books, and toys that coincide with the completion of required assessments such as ASQ or other activities.

PARTICIPATE IN PROJECTS THAT PROMOTE GROWTH: Working with the Home Visiting Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Network (HV COIIN) has helped the program emphasize early intervention services and develop community partnerships with several developmental daycare centers and the local DHS offices in the service area.

For additional information on FBBH, please contact Carmen Irby, FBBH Director, at cirby@uams.edu

You can also search for a local FBBH program in your area through the AHVN website at <http://www.arhomevisiting.org/programs>

** Article submitted by Nichetra MaGee, AHVN Outreach Coordinator.*

LET US FEATURE YOUR PROGRAM!

We want everyone to know of the great work happening in Arkansas home visiting programs. If you know of a program doing innovative and creative work, let us know! See the last page of the newsletter for details.



ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL AHVN CONFERENCE IN THE BOOKS!

We hope you were able to attend the Sixth Annual Arkansas Home Visiting Conference on August 25-26, 2016 at the Embassy Suites Little Rock. The conference, organized by the AHVN Training Institute, was the largest conference yet, with over 350 participants! The conference is the largest home visiting event in Arkansas and the premier opportunity for Arkansas home visiting staff to network while participating in a variety of workshops and presentations. Conference highlights included:

- Dr. Kathleen Gallagher, inaugural Cille and Ron Williams Community Chair for Early Childhood Education at the University of Nebraska at Kearney and the Buffett Early Childhood Institute at the University of Nebraska, delivered the keynote address "The Health and Well-Being of Home Visitors: Standing Up for Children, Families and Our Professions."
- Coach Sidney Moncrief and Takisha Moncrief conducted a Leadership and Team-Building workshop for home visiting coordinators and supervisors, where they learned the seven principles of team-building, including Trust, Communication, Responsibility, Respect, Resolve, Assisting, and Effort.
- HIPPY Arkansas's 30th Anniversary Celebration, with Dr. Miriam Westheimer, director of HIPPY International, as the keynote speaker.
- Presentation of the Scott Gordon Arkansas Home Visitor of the Year award to Laura Landrum, Family Support Worker for Healthy Families America at the Centers for Youth and Families
- Several exciting sessions, including home-visitor led presentations and the first AHVN Parent Panel.

Be sure to check out the [AHVN's conference page](#) for details! You can also search for #AHVN2016 and #HIPPYAR30 on Facebook and Twitter for additional conference photos!

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT NEWS: TRAININGS AND CONFERENCES

ONLINE AND INSTRUCTOR-LED TRAININGS FROM THE AHVN TRAINING INSTITUTE: Whether you need instructor-led or online trainings for home visiting staff, the AHVN Training Institute can help! Be sure to check out their FREE comprehensive training list available on the AHVN Training [website](#).

HIPPY - PARENTS AS TEACHERS REGIONAL TRAININGS: Be sure to stay tuned for upcoming combined HIPPY-PAT regional trainings currently being scheduled

for this fall! Model leads will send sites additional information as it becomes available!

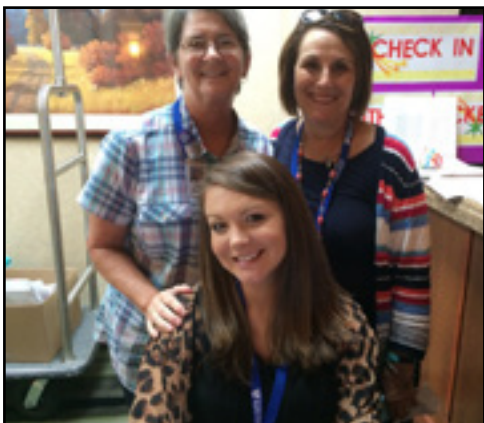
AECA CONFERENCE: Did you know that there will be a home visiting track available at the upcoming Arkansas Early Childhood Education Association conference? The conference will be held October 13-15 in Little Rock. Full details can be found on the AECA conference [website](#).

NATIONAL HFA AND PAT CONFERENCES: October is a busy month for national HV model conferences! [PAT's annual conference](#) will be held in St. Louis, while [HFA's conference](#) will be in Cincinnati. Please make sure to register if planning to attend.

NFP TRAINING NEWS: Arkansas Nurse-Family Partnership staff will be attending a Certified Lactation Consultant course on Sept. 26-30. This will be beneficial in helping staff support AR NFP families.



PHOTOS FROM THE #AHVN2016 CONFERENCE - AUGUST 25 - 26, 2016





HIPPY ARKANSAS 30th ANNIVERSARY PARTY

AUGUST 25, 2016
#HIPPYAR30



WE WANT YOUR STORIES!



WE ARE LOOKING FOR THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF STORIES:

Arkansas Home Visiting Notes is intended to be an informative and user-friendly resource for home visiting staff. Our intention is to share information and best practices, and we need your stories!

- Programs that are excelling and willing to share best practices
- Innovative home-visiting research
- Activities being done in the community to promote home visiting
- Events held with home-visiting families

We want content that matters to you! If you would like something featured in this newsletter, please contact Sarah Coleman at frithse@archildrens.org.