

# Arkansas Home Visiting Notes

February 2018 Newsletter



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Features

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- AHVN Welcomes New Team Members
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Kathy  
Pilllow-Price



Arkansas Home  
Visiting Network

## AHVN Director's Note: New Year, New Goals

I am excited to announce that two of the funding sources for Arkansas home visiting programs were recently reauthorized at the federal level. The Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Visiting (MIECHV) program was reauthorized for 5 years and the Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP) was reauthorized for 10 years. This important funding will ensure that families in our state will receive the evidence-based home visiting support they need to have **stronger families and brighter futures**.

In Arkansas, MIECHV funding supports approximately **1,553** currently enrolled families with evidence-based home visiting programs that improve outcomes for children. CHIP provides healthcare coverage to more than 9 million children across the nation, but it also funds our newest home visiting model, SafeCare Arkansas. SafeCare AR will enroll approximately **1,390** families a year once it is fully implemented statewide.

**#HomeVisitingWorks** and I know that these federally funded programs, alongside our state ABC-funded HIPPY and PAT programs, are making a real difference in the lives of families in our state. We are celebrating this continued funding in our office and, as always, we thank our home visitors for their hard work. You are amazing! Let us know how we can continue to support you!

## Laura Morgado: 2017 Scott Gordon Arkansas Home Visiting Professional Of the Year

Laura Morgado is a staff member of the Parents as Teachers program for the Batesville School District, and has worked her way through college after moving to Batesville from Mexico when she was in 8th grade.

Laura is a graduate of the University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville, and was nominated for the award by coordinator for the Batesville School District Lorrie McClure.

Laura became involved with the PAT program when her family was served by it because of her son, Hector Campos Jr., who was 2 at the time. She works with ESL families, and was surprised with the award at the 2017 AHVN Conference.



# 2017 ARKANSAS HOME VISITING NETWORK CONFERENCE



2017 Arkansas Home Visiting Network Conference

**Where  
Great Things  
Start Small**

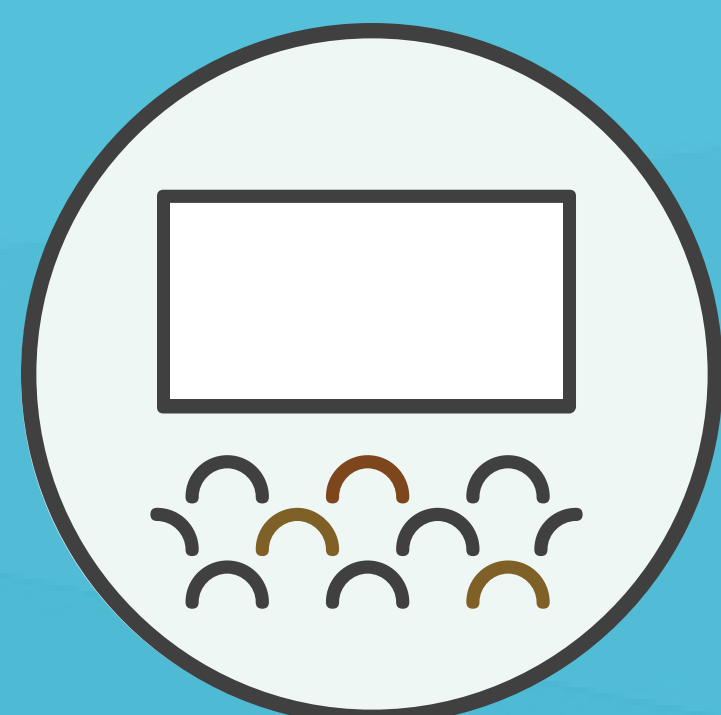


Tuesday, November 7, 2017  
Hot Springs Convention Center  
Hot Springs, Arkansas



**Stronger Families.  
Brighter Futures.**

ARKANSAS HOME VISITING NETWORK



A total of 355 attendees  
were present at the  
November 7th, 2017  
annual conference.



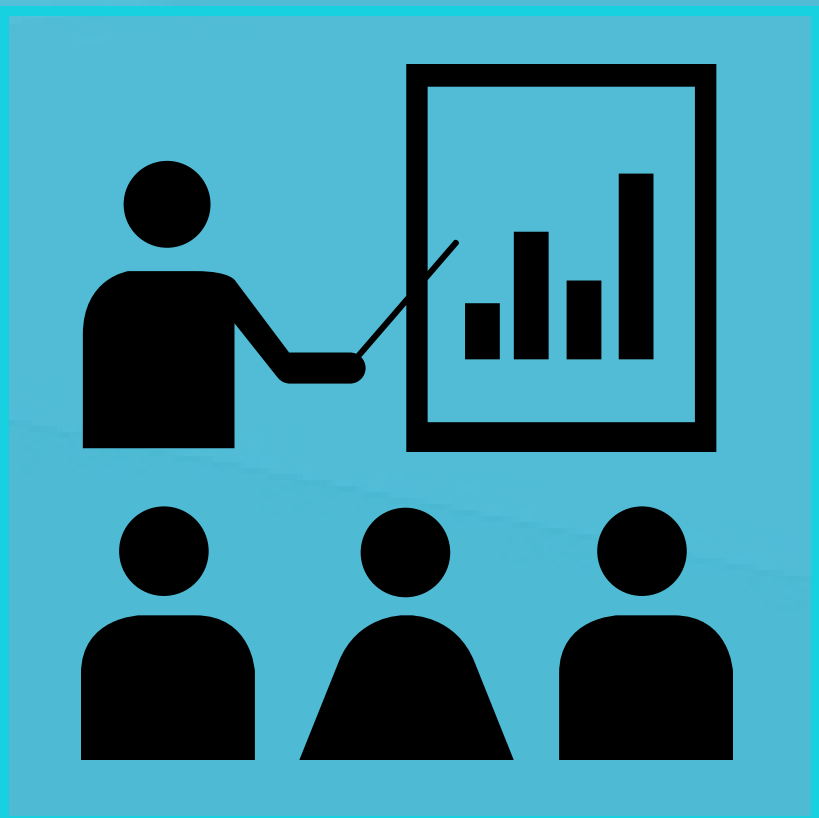
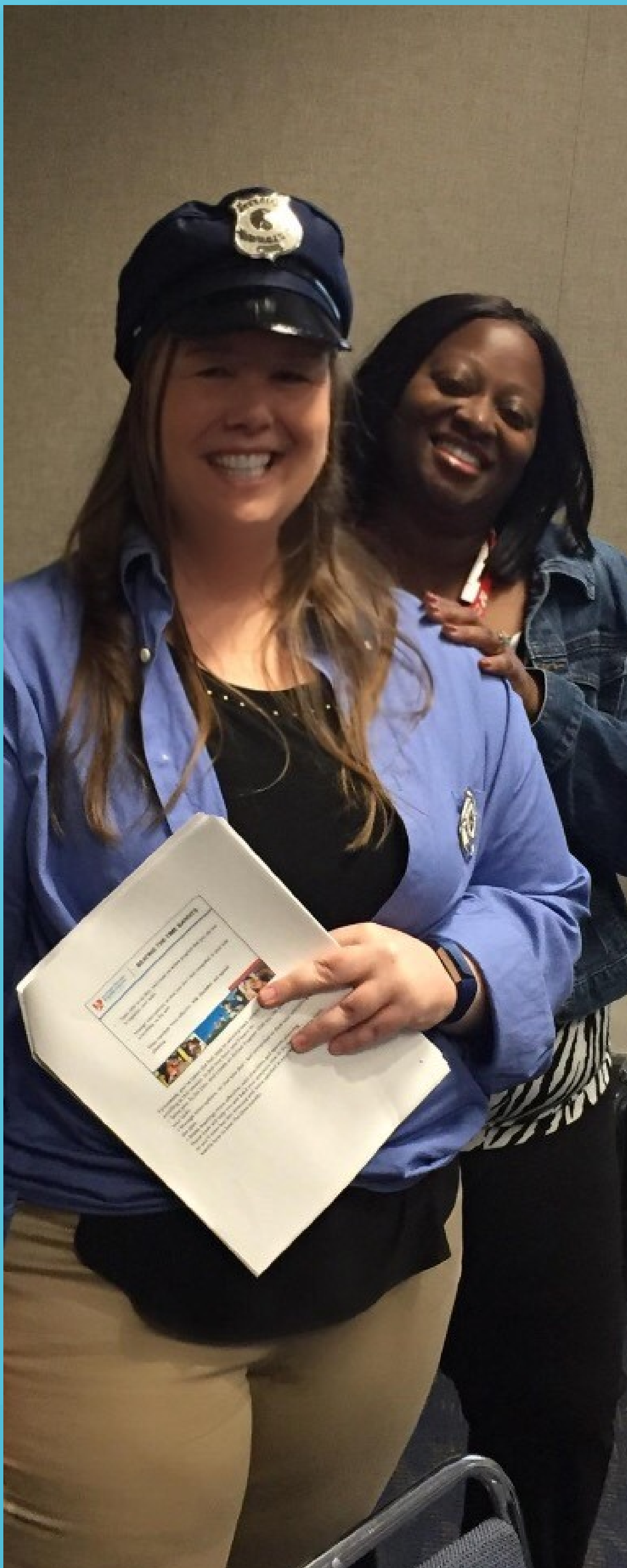
Cathy Fowler (HIPPY) and  
Cheryl Gookin (HIPPY)  
were announced runners-  
up for the 2017 Scott  
Gordon Arkansas Home  
Visitor of the Year Award



Keynote presenter Mike Veny  
spoke about "Transforming  
Stigma Into Strength" and  
held a popular followup  
session with percussion  
instruments called "Drum Up  
Your Feelings."



# 2017 ARKANSAS HOME VISITING NETWORK CONFERENCE



# 25 Years In The Field:

## An Interview With Natasha Kile

Natasha Crosby Kile has been involved in the early childhood field for more than 25 years. Currently serving as the Building Bridges/Parents as Teachers Program Coordinator for Bentonville Schools, Natasha has also worked as a teacher, administrator, mentor, and trainer. She earned her Master of Science in Childhood Services from Arkansas State University and her Bachelor of Science in Child Development from the University of Arkansas, but credits the majority of her "education" from her experience in the early childhood field. She also attributes her interest in home visiting to her own upbringing.

"I had an extremely difficult childhood, so I knew that I had to do something with my life that spared other children from the same upbringing. I began as a camp counselor and then moved into the childcare field during my senior year of high school," said Natasha. "I truly enjoy seeing the difference that early childhood programs can make in the lives of young kiddos, and their families as well!"

Her experiences paved the way for Natasha's breakthrough into home visiting, and in 2013, Natasha began working with PAT supervising Parent Educators. At the same time, she began the process of becoming a Blue Ribbon Affiliate.

"My background had always been in the childcare realm, so home visiting was very new to me. I had to learn everything from what a home visit looked like, to what the quality requirements of PAT National were, in addition to all of the requirements for multiple funding streams that support our program. It was tough!" said Natasha. "But when we became the first Blue Ribbon Affiliate in the state of Arkansas, I felt like all of our hard work was worth it."



**“Home visiting makes parents the primary teachers within the educational process, and that's why it is so important.”**

According to Natasha, home visiting will always be an important part of her life because it means so much to the people who benefit from its outcomes.

"Being someone who has essentially always worked in childcare, I can see that home visiting takes education to a deeper, more intimate level. Families are welcoming us into their homes and trusting us to help guide them on this journey," Natasha said. "It is truly a partnership. Home visiting makes parents the primary teachers within the educational process, and that's why it is so important."

In the future, Natasha hopes to have an opportunity to grow within the Bentonville Schools' Childcare Enrichment program, and to continue to provide leadership as well as hone her skills in order to be beneficial and effective in her service.

"I think that work of this magnitude requires strong leadership with an understanding and a sincere heart for helping children and families," said Natasha. "We have seen some of our home visiting families overcome crippling barriers to become stronger and more resilient and that makes my heart happy and keeps me motivated to continue this work every day."



# All Aboard! AHVN Welcomes New Team Members



- Mona Scott -  
Instructional Design  
and Technology  
Specialist  
- Training Institute -



- Lacye Vance -  
Healthy Families  
America MIECHV AR  
State Lead  
- Arkansas Home  
Visiting Network -



- Chelsea McCurdy -  
Communications  
Coordinator  
- Arkansas Home  
Visiting Network -



- Jodie Dailey -  
Instructional  
Development Specialist  
III  
- Training Institute -



- Amanda Neal -  
HIPPY Staff Development  
Coordinator/Monitor  
- Arkansas Home Visiting  
Network -



Lacye  
Vance

Lacye Vance took on the role as HFA State Lead in October 2017 and will be acting as the primary point of contact between the Arkansas Home Visiting Network, HFA National, and the Arkansas HFA sites.

Previously, Lacye worked with ABC-funded HIPPY home visiting programs, and with Arkansas Children's Injury Prevention Center. She holds a Master's Degree in Public Health from Walden University and a Bachelor's of Health Science from the University of Central Arkansas.

Lacye loves spending time with her family and fur babies. Her favorite pastimes are hiking, swimming, and being in nature.



Mona  
Scott

Mona Scott is the AHVN Training Institute's Design and Technology Specialist. She joined our staff in August of 2017 after previously working with the UAMS UConnect and EPIC Team.

Mona has a background in Mass Communications and has earned her Master's Degrees in both Educational Technology and Adult Professional Learning. In her role as Technology Specialist, Mona creates new online professional development courses and manages online modules via the Blackboard learning management system.



Jodie  
Dailey

Jodie Dailey joined our staff as the Instructional Development Specialist for the AHVN Training Institute in fall 2017. She has over 20 years of experience working in child and youth services, including school-based mental health and developmental assessment. She has a Master's Degree in Social Work and Library and Information Science, and is a licensed certified social worker in Arkansas.

In her spare time, Jodie enjoys spending time with her family, hiking and camping in the outdoors, and researching her family genealogy. She is an active Girl Scout volunteer and serves on the organization's Heritage Committee. She looks forward to developing relevant and helpful training modules for home visitors across the state.



Amanda  
Neal

Amanda Neal comes to the AHVN with more than seven years of experience under her belt having worked as a home-based educator with Faulkner County HIPPY where she met with families, teachers, and administrators. Her new title is HIPPY Staff Development Coordinator/Monitor.

She currently lives in Greenbrier, which has been her home for 32 years, but will be moving May 2018 right outside of Conway with her husband, Rick, and their three children, Stephanie, JB, and Colton. She loves summertime, being outdoors, and water. Amanda is excited about her new position with HIPPY Arkansas and can't wait to meet everybody!



Chelsea  
McCurdy

Chelsea McCurdy is the Communications Coordinator for the AHVN. She joined our staff in October of 2017 after previously working at the University of Central Arkansas as a writer, editor, and blogger for the University Relations and Creative Services Division for the President's Office. Chelsea's background is in writing, mass communications, social and digital media. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Writing with an emphasis in Linguistics.

Chelsea lives in Conway with her wife, Hailey, and their menagerie of animals, Charlotte the cat, Gabbie the lab, and two guinea pigs, Sunshine and Button.



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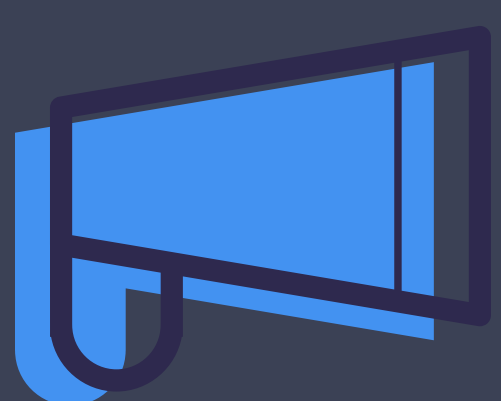


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