

Arkansas Home Visiting Notes

May 2018 Newsletter



- A Look Back at Past Home Visitors of the Year Winners
- New Funding, New Opportunities!
- Warm Welcome to New Team Members
- Looking Forward: 2018 AHVN Conference



Kathy
Pillow-Price



Arkansas Home
Visiting Network

AHVN Director's Note: Spring Into Summer

It was wonderful to see everyone who was able to make it to the AHVN Leadership Retreat last week at Lake DeGray State Park Lodge! As the director of the Arkansas Home Visiting Network, I wear many hats. I am a mother, a wife, a member of my church and community, a leader, and a builder of **stronger families and brighter futures**.

I never want to forget why we do what we do in our many different roles as home visitors, coordinators, supervisors, trainers, and leaders. We are here to make a difference in the lives of children and families, and to lead by example everyday. I am so glad we got to take time to work together as a team, reconnect at our retreat, and start this season with some spring in our step to help Arkansas families.

I want to thank you all for the hard work you continually and consistently do. Let us know how we can support you and work to help you. We are looking forward to a great summer and we can't wait to see you at our November conference! Don't forget to submit your proposals on our website! **You are all awesome and we appreciate everything you do!**

We Want Your Home Visiting Stories!

Do you have a home visiting success story? Do you know somebody who deserves to be recognized? Have you ever seen a story shared on social media and wanted to share your own? Send them our way!

We love to hear from you. We want to share your good news! Send us your home visiting news, success stories, and accolades! You might just see them featured on our social media or in the AHVN Newsletter!

Email your stories to: huckabayce@archildrens.org and be sure to follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to stay up-to-date with the latest AHVN news!



A background image showing a close-up of hands gently holding a baby, with a soft, warm color palette of pinks, oranges, and blues.

More Funding, More Questions?

What does the reauthorization of
MIECHV and CHIP funding mean for the
future of home visiting?

The federal Mother, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program was reauthorized and granted funding for five years as part of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 on February 9, 2018. Congress passed the bipartisan spending bill, which provides \$400 million each year for five years (until 2022). This new funding will provide the Arkansas Department of Health with the support to continue MIECHV-funded evidence-based home visiting programs. This is great news for the home visiting community since this funding ensures that families in Arkansas will receive the continued support they need.

On January 22, 2019, Congress also passed a six-year extension of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), as part of a broader continuing resolution to fund the federal government. CHIP funding had expired in September 2017, just like MIECHV funding. Without the additional federal funding, some states were operating on remaining funds from previous years and came close to exhausting their funding, ultimately being forced to reduce coverage for families. Thankfully, this was not the case in Arkansas. In February, Senate leaders announced that as part of a broader budget agreement, they would lengthen the six-year extension for CHIP to a full 10 years of funding for the program. CHIP currently covers more than 9 million children in the United States. In Arkansas, a small portion is used for prevention purposes and works with the Division of Child and Family Services to fund SafeCare Arkansas home visiting, which will be rolled out statewide incrementally.

The Scott Gordon Home Visitor of the Year Award: A Look Back On The Winners

As we begin to accept nominations for the 2018 recipient of the Scott Gordon Arkansas Home Visitor of the Year Award, it seems only fitting to take a walk down memory lane and remember the past winners of the award.

The Scott Gordon award was established for the purpose of annually recognizing an individual who is making an outstanding contribution thorough home visiting and to building stronger families and brighter futures for the children and communities in Arkansas. Those eligible for the award include all home visitors, home-based educators, parent educators, administrators, supervisors, and coordinators who work in home visiting programs in Arkansas. The award is meant to recognize and honor these individuals who do outstanding jobs of helping to equip families to achieve their greatest potentials!

2014

Deena Dillard (formerly Deena Tougaw) began working as grant coordinator at North Arkansas College in June of 2011, where she is still employed. She taught English at the Arizona School of English from September 2010 to May 2011, and worked in public relations and marketing at Pierce Arrow Theater in Branson, Missouri from 2009 to 2010. When Deena was in College at the University of Arkansas, she interned for State Representative John Boozman during the summer of 2007. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Journalism in 2008. Deena works with the Circle of Life program, which works with first-time mothers 18 years old or younger whose babies are no older than two weeks at time of enrollment. Its services include group and home visits that assist with available support services, transportation to doctor appointments, education for parenting, and continuing the mothers' education.

2015

Onika Gibson-Lovett has worked in the home visiting field for six years as a Registered Nurse/Nurse Home Visitor for Nurse-Family Partnership. However, she has been in the nursing field for 15 years in many roles, including long term care and Medical Clinic Supervisor, rehab care, and home health. She began her career as a License Practical Nurse after working as a supervisor in 2011 and receiving her Bachelor of Nursing degree. She plans to further her career and eventually obtain her Doctor of Nursing Practice. She was nominated for the award by her former supervisor, Crystal Webb and it was a complete surprise. Nursing is her passion and she tries to go above and beyond to make her clients feel like even at their lowest "it's just a stepping stone that they are using to make the path to success!"

2016

Laura Landrum works as a Family Support Worker for the Centers for Youth and Families under Healthy Families America. She teaches from Home Visit Curriculum (Partners for a Healthy Baby) and has been employed in the home visiting field for six years. She was nominated by several of her coworkers because she "exemplifies Centers for Youth and Families' commitment to excellence by going above and beyond serving new moms as they learn to bond and nurture their infants." She loves her job because "it's a joy to serve a community that really needs it and appreciates it!" You also might recognize her from our AHVN and HFA videos on YouTube!

2017

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 two at the time. She works with ESL families, and was surprised with the award at the 2017 AHVN Conference.

Nominate Someone Today!

2018 AHVN SCOTT GORDON HOME VISITING PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

NOMINATION PROCESS

Step 1: AHVN Awards Committee sends out request for nominations.

Step 2: You receive request for nominations.

Step 3: You think of a superhero home visiting professional you would like to nominate.

Step 4: You take a few days to think about WHY your superhero deserves to be nominated. Refer to the two essay prompts for what the Awards Committee needs to know about your superhero home visitor/supervisor. See link below for more information on the essay prompts.

Step 5: Write out the REASONS WHY your superhero home visitor/supervisor deserves this award. Think hard. The longer the response the better. This should be in the form of two essays. One essay for each prompt. 200 words minimum for EACH essay prompt. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/hvofyear> for more details.

Step 6: Collect basic info about your superhero to include in the nomination (home visiting model, role, contact phone, email address, supervisor/coordinator, full name and address of organization/site).

Step 7: Think of additional professional reference. Someone who will support your superhero home visitor/supervisor nomination. Gather info about him/her (name, relationship to nominee, email address, phone number).

Step 8: Complete online nomination form. Remember to SUBMIT! You must complete the form ALL IN ONE sitting so gather ALL of the needed information BEFORE filling out the form.

Step 9: The Awards Committee will review the nominations towards the end of the summer.

Step 10: The Awards Committee WILL contact you, the person you nominated, and the professional reference during the follow-up process.

Step 11: The Awards Committee will select the **2018 Scott Gordon Home Visiting Professional of the Year Award** winner from the SUBMITTED nomination forms based on the nomination submission content AND the follow-up information received.

Step 12: The list of persons nominated, first and second runners-up, and the winner will be announced at the 2018 Arkansas Home Visiting Network Annual Conference in Hot Springs, Arkansas on November 5-6, 2018.

FULL details and link to Online Nomination Submission Form are located at: <https://tinyurl.com/hvofyear>

All Aboard! AHVN Welcomes New Team Members



LeCole
White

LeCole White joined the AHVN team as the SafeCare Arkansas State Manager in May 2017. She previously worked for the Arkansas Department of Human Services where she gained a wealth of knowledge administering services and advocating for children and families in various capacities during her tenure. LeCole holds a Master of Science in Special Education from Harding University and a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

LeCole treasures spending time with her son, Jakaiyah, hosting family gatherings throughout the year, and a relaxing hair wash. Her favorite pastimes are volunteering, traveling, and journaling.



Natha
Jolly

Natha Jolly joined the Research and Evaluation team in October 2017 as Research Associate I after previously working for HIPPI USA as a data management specialist. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Information Science from University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Natha acts as the administrator for data management and reporting system for SafeCare Arkansas. She enjoys spending time cuddling with her dog, working with her hands to create and craft, spending time with her close friends and family, and is an avid science fiction lover.



stronger
families.
brighter
futures.



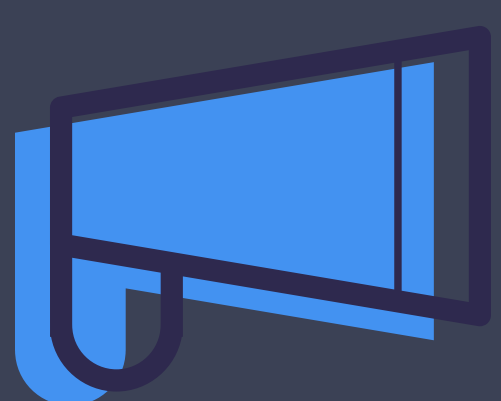
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hear from you!
huckabayce@archildrens.org

Send your home
visiting stories,
ideas for future
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