

University of Alabama at Birmingham Early Head Start Annual Report 2017-2018

Program Highlights from 2017-2018

Enrollment and Participation:

- Maintained full enrollment of 88 children throughout the year
- Maintained over 10% enrollment of children with an IFSP/IEP
- Active and continued recruitment
 - Our focus on homeless through transitional/rehab programs
- Hired a Family Partner who is bilingual; thus, we reestablished serving Spanish speaking families

Parent and Family Engagement Participation:

- Had several successful events during current fiscal year, including the Health Screening Days at Civitan-Sparks Clinics, advocacy training with Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program (ADAP) parent and staff training, and Weather Awareness training with James Spann, meteorologist with ABC 33/40
- Participation in socialization activities continued to be a strength of the program.
- The Policy Council is chaired by a parent who is actively involved in the program
- Policy Council noted that families enjoy the program and the services that UAB EHSP offers
- Strong parent involvement in choosing individual goals for their children for their Individual Development Plans
- Family Partnership Agreements are completed and family goals are being reviewed monthly
- Offer 21st Century parenting weekly prior to socialization activities

Medical Home:

- The UAB Early Head Start Program children had medical homes/providers and the majority of their immunizations continued to be up-to-date
- 100% of children had some type of insurance
- Of the 14 three year olds in the program, all have received well child check-ups and shots are up-to-date
- FP's have a great ability to build rapport and encourage families to follow through with medical recommendations
- Program continues collaboration with a nutrition consultant, Lauren Dodd, who is a Register Dietician with UAB Civitan-Sparks Clinics for all nutritional screenings
- Work with families to ensure Medicaid is up-to-date

Education/School Readiness:

- Approximately 80% of our funded enrollment currently meet or exceed current school readiness goals per our 3rd developmental checkpoint assessment
 - Sixty-three children (71%) exceed their school readiness goals
 - Eight children (9%) are currently meeting their goals, including children making progress toward their IFSP/IEP goals
 - Eight of the sixty-three children transitioned to a new checklist above their age-range, and the updated checklist indicated progress
- Continued to use ASQ-3 developmental screenings annually with 100% completion (38 of these were conducted by the DSC through the Health Screening Days at UAB Civitan-Sparks Clinics). The ASQ-3 is a screening tool to identify children at risk or in need of further services (as recommended by Head Start and the American Academy of Pediatrics).
- CDC Act Early Child Development Checklists were completed quarterly (4 times a year) as an assessment tool to identify children at risk or in need of further services.

Program Strengths for 2017-2018

Education (Curriculum, Assessment, and School Readiness):

- Program is currently fully staffed (Family Partners and Coordinators).
- Our program takes a holistic approach with each child and we individualize and meet children where they are in their development. Family Partners and teachers continue to form partnerships with parents to establish individual children's goals that are in alignment with, HS Early Learning Outcomes Framework and UAB EHSP school readiness plan.
- Program staff are equipped to work with all children to individualize home visits and incorporate early intervention services for children with disabilities.
- Our program has engaged families with books and encourage a love of reading from a young age.
- We have ordered and received a new home based curriculum, Partners for a Health Baby, and some staff will attend trainings on implementation this summer. We will use a train the trainer model for training all staff.
- The Individualized Developmental Plan for each program child has been modified to reflect the new performance standards as well as the early learning framework.
- This program year we developed weekly lesson plans and implemented using those in December of 2017 to reflect the HS performance standards as well as the early learning outcomes framework.
- Having an Education Coordinator onsite is very helpful.
- We have streamlined interactions during monthly Family Partner team meetings to include group planning time and peer to peer coaching.
- Program parents regularly attend PIPA and Parenting meetings throughout year.

- Program parents attend Socializations and scheduled home visits (or communicate with Family Partners if unable to do so).
- Program families regularly create and complete goals
- Implementation of our UAB EHSP Life Learning Skills Pre-school Readiness Plan continues, using the Act Early Child Development Checklists for data collection 4 times a year.
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Disability Services:

- Maintained more than 10% enrollment of children with an IFSP/IEP
- Family Partners and Disability Services Coordinator continued to have an excellent collaborative relationship with local early intervention programs.
 - Staff merge IFSP/IEP goals with program education goals and often share visits with early intervention service providers
- Supportive team to ensure all children are developing appropriately.
- Staff regularly attend IFSP, IEP, and/or therapy meetings
- We have a strong network of community resources for children with disabilities.
- Timely referrals were made for children in need of developmental services
- Disability Services Coordinator serves on the State EI training committee, serves on the Alabama Early Intervention Conference Planning Committee, is a member of the Stake Holders in Foster Care for Young Children with Child Welfare System and presented at the Alabama Pre/Post Adoption Connections Conference for Children's Aid Society of Alabama on Promoting Health Development for Foster and Adopted Children (she used this as a recruitment opportunity for our program as well and passed out brochures to all attendees)
- Coordinated advocacy training for staff and families during the week of training in August 2017
- Coordinated an increasing language stimulation in the home environment session for staff during our week of training in August 2017

- Continue to make referrals and help families navigate the intake packets for Civitan-Sparks Clinics for children who need more comprehensive developmental evaluations

Parent and Family Engagement/Partnerships/Involvement:

- Had several successful events during current fiscal year, including the Health Screening Days at Civitan-Sparks Clinics, advocacy training with Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program (ADAP) parent and staff training, and Weather Awareness training with James Spann, meteorologist with ABC 33/40
- Participation in socialization activities continued to be a strength of the program. Parents reported they enjoy sharing with other parents at socializations regarding resources. For example, through PIPA parents learned about how to get free car seats through Children's of Alabama.
 - Socialization partnerships with the local library further this familiarity, present parents with the opportunity to get library cards, children are able to check out any book or resource available.
- Parents continued to be more interactive with their children, as well as, more helpful cleaning up after socialization activities.
- Mental Health, Disability, & Health Coordinators continue to provide monthly handouts to Family Partners for families and to Teachers for center-based families
- The Policy Council is chaired by a parent who is actively involved in the program
- The Policy Council has good communication regarding program status—program stays on top of recruitment, fill open staff positions quickly, communication and services with families is good and you come back with feedback to the PC.
- Policy Council noted that families enjoy the program and the services that UAB EHSP offers. The Policy Council conducts organized meetings with agenda's and the program sticks to the agenda and the Policy Council meetings are always informative about what is happening in the program.
- Strong parent involvement in choosing individual goals for their children for their Individual Development Plans
- Family Partnership Agreements are completed and family goals are being reviewed monthly
- Continued to have male caregiver participation at socialization and other activities
- Offer 21st Century parenting weekly prior to socialization activities

Health Services:

- Conducted Health Screening Days at Civitan-Sparks Clinics with 38 children who received a hearing screening conducted by an audiologist; a nutrition assessment by a registered and licensed dietician; the Ages and Stages Questionnaires, 3rd Edition (ASQ-3) to monitor children's development, conducted by the DSC who is a Developmental Psychologist; the ASQ-Social Emotional screening for children in addition to depression screenings for primary caregivers done by our Mental Health Coordinator; and a vision screening. In addition, some children were seen by a dental resident. As a thank you to families who participated in the health screenings, we had a field trip to the Birmingham Zoo, which was attended by families and program staff.
- FP's have a great ability to build rapport and encourage families to follow through with medical recommendations.

- Health Coordinator can provide outside encouragement to families to complete medical requests, Nutrition recommendations or safety concerns
- Program continues collaboration with a nutrition consultant, Lauren Dodd, who is a Register Dietician with UAB Civitan-Sparks Clinics for all nutritional screenings
- Coordinators are able to attend Socializations and other on-site events to build rapport with families
- Of the 14 three year olds in the program, all have received well child check-ups and shots are up-to-date
- 100% of children had some type of insurance and a medical home
- The UAB Early Head Start Program children had medical homes/providers and the majority of their immunizations continued to be up-to-date
- Continued using a dental disclaimer form for families that choose not to get dental services for their child when they turn one.
- Continued to encourage access to dental homes with list of providers for families regarding dental services available in their community and continued collaboration with UAB Pediatric Dentistry to provide education and screening services
- Work with families to ensure Medicaid is up-to-date
- Conducted weather preparedness training in conjunction with James Spann, meteorologist with ABC 33/40, for staff and parents
- Conducted CPR training for staff needing 2-year recertification

Mental Health:

- Continued strong Community Partnerships
 - DHR, Substance Abuse Centers, Health Department, etc.
- Having a Mental Health Coordinator onsite is very helpful who provides quick and empathetic responses to families' needs.
- Maintained and utilized ASQ-SE-2 screenings annually to identify children at risk for socio-emotional difficulties and in need of further services (as recommended by Head Start and the American Academy of Pediatrics)
- Continued to provide timely adult mental health referrals and suicide prevention measures and maintained a list of mental health services for parents and children (focusing on services that were milder forms of mental health issues) for enrolled or recently screened families and continued using a post-natal depression screening for mothers

Community Partnerships:

- Continued to work with other Head Start programs in Jefferson, St. Clair and Walker Counties to facilitate smooth transitions from UAB Early Head Start to Head Start
- UAB Early Head Start Program staff continued to have strong community partnerships including multiple demographic groups in Jefferson County.

- Staff serve on several community boards and provide awareness of Program services and community training
- Coordinators attend meetings at DHR focusing on the JOBS program, medical providers meeting and a resource fair, Alethia House (substance abuse) Advisory Board, JCCEO Family Services Advisory Board, JCCEO Grandparents Support Group member/Advisory Board, JCCEO Health Services Advisory Board, Children's Policy/Family Reunification/Coaching Committee, Children's Policy Council Early Care and Education Work Group, Children's Policy Council First Friday Forum, Alabama Department of Human Resources Stakeholders for Foster Care Children, Parent's as Teachers Advisory Committee, Alabama Early Intervention Conference Planning Committee, Alabama Early Intervention District Coordinating Council, and Alabama Early Intervention District Coordinating Council Training Subcommittee
- Continued agreements with Well House, a shelter for violence against women and Project Independence (a transitional program for teenage girls/young adults)
- Maintained Interagency agreements with programs such as Olivia's House and Alethia House (substance abuse centers), Birth Well Partners, Civitan /Sparks Clinics, Jefferson County Child Welfare, Birmingham/Jefferson County Housing Authorities, the Jefferson County Health Department, United Abilities (UCP), the JOBS program, JCCEO, and Children's of Alabama Early Intervention Program (Kristi is trying to locate and verify these with Robin)
- Maintained our collaboration with Birth Well Partners Community Doulas for pregnant mothers; Mental Health Coordinator serves on their Advisory Board
- Continued participated in the Jefferson County DHR Job and Resource Fair
- Established new community partnerships with Birmingham Public Library and local parks for socializations.
- Families are informed of great community resources by program staff and each other.

Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment & Attendance (ERSEA):

- Maintained full enrollment every month
- Maintained over 10% enrollment of children with an IFSP/IEP
- Active and continued recruitment
 - Our focus on homeless through transitional/rehab programs
- Hired a Family Partner who is bilingual; thus, we reestablished serving Spanish speaking families

Communication:

- Established monthly meetings for program management team staff
- Maintained and advertised our UAB Early Head Start Program Facebook page to enhance public awareness and communication with Program families about program and community events
- Continued updates of the UAB Early Head Start Program website which included the Program's Annual Report
- Families received monthly calendars in a timely manner
- Continued staff bonding activities

- Maintained our parent computer station for parents to use for resume preparation, job searches, to find housing information, etc.
- Conducted regular and ad hoc staff and coordinator's meetings to address ongoing and areas of concern regarding Head Start Performance Standards requirements
- Conducted regular meetings with ARC of Walker County using Health and Safety checklist annually
- Conducted grief counseling training by the Amelia Center related to the loss of a neonate or child during our week of training in August 2017

Record Keeping and Reporting:

- Child Plus has been purchased, is being designed to fit our program needs with Child Plus consultants, and will be utilized by staff in the fall after staff training this summer
- Conduct monthly family/child reviews of all enrolled children and their families
- Education coordinator developed a tracking system for making sure monthly reviews are completed by Family Partners and a reschedule date is agreed upon when necessary
- Began implementing monthly reviews at the center (every 3rd Friday of the month) with teachers to review all center-based children
- Sign in sheets are completed for each meeting held to document attendance

Community Needs Summary:

The UAB EHS Community Needs Assessment document has been developed to assist program staff in decision-making and is updated annually as new information becomes available. National, state, regional, and local data related to the general service area, population demographics, Head Start eligible children and families, educational needs, health and social services needs including children with disabilities, homelessness, child care availability, community strengths and resources, description of UAB Early Head Start enrolled children, and relevant opinions of community needs are included in the complete assessment.

In summary, Alabama traditionally lags behind other states in allocating resources for children and families. Data from the National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP; 2017) suggest that there were approximately 348,434 children under the age of six living in Alabama in 2015. Of these children, 31% lived in poverty (less than 100% federal poverty level), in comparison to the national average of 23%. Alabama reported higher than national average rates for the children from poor families who live in single parent families (73%). Relevant NCCP state indicators for Alabama in comparison to national indicators of young child and family well-being are as follows:

NCCP Alabama and U. S. Comparisons

2015 NCCP Indicators of Young Child and Family Well-Being	Alabama	US
<i>Young Child Poverty Rates (< age 6)</i>		
Poor families	31%	23%
Low income families	55%	46%
<i>Young Children in Poor Families in Alabama by Parents' Education</i>		
Less than High School	70%	57%
High School degree	48%	38%
Some College or more	18%	13%
<i>Family Structure and SES in Poverty</i>		
Single parent families	73%	66%
At least one parent employed full-time, year-round	25%	30%
At least one parent employed either part-year or part-time	41%	41%
Do not have an employed parent	34%	29%

Alabama KIDS COUNT 2017

According to 2017 KIDS COUNT Data Online compiled by The Annie E. Casey Foundation, Alabama achieved national composite rankings of 46 for overall child well-being. KIDS COUNT national and Alabama trend data for these indicators for 2016 are as indicated below:

Kids Count Alabama and U. S. Comparisons

2017 KIDS COUNT Indicators of Child Well-Being	Alabama 2016	US 2016
<i>Poverty Rates</i>		
Children in poverty	25%	19%

Family and Community		
Families with children headed by a single parent	39%	35%
Children living in high poverty areas	16%	13%
Children whose parents lack secure employment	31%	28%
Children in families where the household head lacks a high school diploma	12%	14%
Children in families where the household head has a high school diploma or GED	49%	44%
Children who speak a language other than English	7%	22%
Education		
Children ages 1 to 5 whose family members read to them less than 3 days per week	18%	18%
Eighth grade reading levels below proficient	74%	67%
Eighth grade math levels below proficient	83%	68%
High school students not graduating on time	26%	18%
Teens not attending school and not high school graduates (ages 16-19)	4%	4%
Number of Childcare Facilities in Alabama (by type) 2015		
Family Day Care Homes	521	
Group Day Care Homes	197	
Day Care Centers	999	
Number of Alabama Children Served through Head Start by age 2013		
< 3 years old	2,294	
3 & 4 year olds	17,682	

<i>Health and Well-Being</i>		
2016 KIDS COUNT	Alabama	US
Indicators of Child Well-Being	2015	2015
Infant mortality (rate per 1,000)	8.6	6.0
Low birth weight babies	10.0%	8.0%
Teen birth rate (births per 1,000 females ages 15-19)	32	24
Child and teen death rate (deaths per 100,000)	35	24
Children and teens overweight or obese	35%	31%
Children without health insurance	3%	5%
<i>Child Protective Services</i>		
Children confirmed as victims of maltreatment (birth to 4 years old)	3,395	265,817
By race and ethnicity (%)		
Hispanic or Latino	4%	24%
Non-Hispanic Black	27%	18%
Non-Hispanic White	61%	37%
Children in foster care (birth to 5 years old)	1,761	171,732
2016 KIDS COUNT	Alabama	US
Indicators of Child Well-Being	2014	2014
<i>Early Intervention (birth to 3 years)</i>	6,124	350,581

Funding awarded by ACF for 2017-2018: \$1,030,751
Program Budget for the 2017-2018 fiscal year:

<u>Budget Category</u>	<u>Funds Budgeted</u>
Cell Phone Charges	\$6,000.00
Conference Travel	\$2,500.00
Disability Services	\$1,000.00
Educational Supplies	\$2,500.00
Health Services	\$500.00
Local Travel	\$35,000.00
Mental Health Services	\$500.00
Nutrition/Food for Events	\$12,000.00
PIPA	\$6,000.00
Supplies//Soc. Supplies	\$17,209.00
TA/Training	\$24,192.00
Walker County Subcontract	\$103,208.00

Salaries and Wages	\$536,202.00
Fringe Benefits	\$186,796.00
Total Direct Cost	\$933,607.00
Indirect Cost	\$97,144.00
Account Total	\$1,030,751.00

**ACYF Funds for the UAB EHSP (Total award \$1,030,751 for 2017-2018)
Program Funds expended for the 2017-2018 fiscal year:**

<u>Budget Category</u>	<u>Expended</u>
Cell Phone Charges	\$2,520.12
Conference Travel	\$3,256.25
Disability Services	\$296.28
Educational Supplies	\$2,470.73
Health Services	\$0.00
Local Travel	\$28,831.78
Mental Health Services	\$649.75
Nutrition/Food for Events	\$12,100.61
PIPA	\$12,352.25
Supplies/Soc. Supplies	\$33,327.59
TA/Training	\$24,068.83
Walker County Subcontract Sept - Aug 2018	\$100,629.49
Salaries and Wages Sept. - Aug 2018	\$491,231.19
Fringe Benefits Sept - Aug 2018	\$170,588.54
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Total Direct Cost	\$882,323.41
Indirect Cost	\$83,112.63
Account Total	\$965,436.04

Local Travel - staff mileage, bus tokens, van repairs and gas, taxi services, etc.

Nutrition Services - food for policy council and health advisory committee meetings

Parent Committee funds - substitute pay, taxi service to parent functions, parent trainings, etc.

Socialization Activities - includes food and materials for socialization events

UAB's financial contribution (in kind and match): \$288,856.17

Total program funds expended: \$ 1,254,292.21

Financial Audit:

Annual Audit: There were no findings in our annual A 133 fiscal audit conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers for 2017- 2018.