

Arkansas Public Higher Education Unplanned Pregnancy Prevention Report

Academic Year 2017-18



Academic Affairs

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Arkansas Department of Higher Education
423 Main Street, Suite 400 Little Rock, AR 72201

Unplanned Pregnancy Prevention Annual Report

Submitted by Ann Clemmer, Senior Associate Director, for Director Maria Markham, Arkansas Department of Higher Education, in compliance with Act 943 of 2015, to:

Senator Cecile Bledsoe, Chair, Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor Committee

Representative Jeff Wardlaw, Chair, House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor Committee.

Senator Jane English, Chair, Senate Committee on Education

Representative Bruce Cozart, Chair, House Committee on Education

Under Act 943 of 2015 the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) was directed to develop an action plan to address unplanned pregnancies on college campuses and to submit annual reports on implementation by November 1 to the above named offices.

The legislation directs higher education institutions in nine areas. Among those directives colleges and universities are: to identify methods of addressing the problem of unplanned pregnancy, to collaborate with health centers, to identify a measure of success, and to incorporate into academic coursework “as appropriate”. *The legislation mandates that campuses include in their orientations information on the prevention of unplanned pregnancy.*

The annual reports have been collected by the Department of Higher Education for 2017-2018. The department is able to report that all 11 public four-year universities and all 22 two-year campuses have submitted reports and are in compliance with Act 943.

The implementation reports will be scanned and posted on the ADHE website for campuses to use as they look for additional ways to address this important issue.

Highlights from Selected Programs:

Arkansas Tech University had ongoing programming throughout the school year that began with resident hall director training on health services available for students, including birth control. A fall workshop and a sexual responsibility week in February offered training and presentations that informed students about abstinence, safe sex and preventing unplanned pregnancy. Notably, a campus produced online magazine that included several topics related to unplanned pregnancy and sexual health had over 3,500 visits.

Henderson State University’s campus health center works with the local Department of Health to obtain contraceptives for students and their APRN has implemented a priority oral contraception policy which helps students in need of birth control, but unable to get an immediate appointment. The APRN assists not only with a temporary prescription, but with finding a provider for future

visits. Their health center screens all student patients for sexual health, drug/alcohol abuse and depression. The campus is also engaged in year round activities that include mentor programs, training, and online lesson plans. They report integrated unplanned pregnancy content into 17 different academic courses.

At **Southern Arkansas University**, every student who sees a nurse or nurse practitioner, regardless of ailment, receives information about unplanned pregnancy. The campus provides data on the statistics for unplanned teen pregnancy to parents attending freshman orientation. Parents are made aware that their students will be provided with resources for preventing unplanned pregnancy throughout the school year. Unplanned pregnancy information is shared via the first year seminar classes. As requested in item four in the legislation, SAU is including unplanned pregnancy counseling conversations with their high school Upward Bound students.

At **UA Fort Smith** a resource list is shared with parents of incoming students that includes nearby resources for health and other human services. Actual workshops for pregnancy prevention were held as part of their multi-day immersion experience for new students. Residence halls had themes each month hash tagged #UMatter with bulletin boards decorated accordingly. January and February both had health and pregnancy prevention as themes.

UA Little Rock's schedule included a number of activities in their residence halls aimed at prevention, including the distribution of 4 x 6 cards on birth control to every student resident. They have incorporated material into their first year experience course. UA Little Rock also collaborated with ADHE to present at the Partners for Student Success Conference with a program titled "Preventing Unplanned Pregnancies on Your Campus in 140 Characters or Less." This presentation was aimed at spreading awareness of the legislation and promoting campus activities for compliance. Notably, Health Services at UA Little Rock are able to offer eligible students long acting contraceptives by expanding their third-party billing and certification of their APRNs.

ASU-Mid South has utilized their first year experience course to impress upon students the challenges an unplanned pregnancy can bring to completing a college credential. They took students to the East Arkansas Family Health Center and familiarized them with the services offered there. An annual campus health fair in the spring and the campus-wide unplanned pregnancy fall event distributed information on unplanned pregnancy. ASU-Mid South developed programs for their athletes and partnerships with Home Visiting Services to reach more students with unplanned pregnancy information.

College of the Ouachitas has incorporated the unplanned pregnancy material into freshman experience courses by devoting a full class period to the delivery of medically accurate prevention information. The instructor is conducting pre-tests and post-tests to gauge student learning. "Student-parents" participate in various panels where they talk about the challenges of parenting while in

college. All incoming students who indicate that they are also parents are screened for participation in the Career Pathways Initiative, for Healthy Family resources, and encouraged to apply for the CADC Single Parent Scholarship.

UACC Hope-Texarkana also incorporated unplanned pregnancy into their first year experience course; they conducted an awareness campaign in conjunction with the Arkansas Department of Health; and partnered with 1st Choice Pregnancy Resource Center for their abstinence program and adoption referral services. They worked with Hope Academy of Public Service 9th grade class on college preparedness and a discussion on unplanned pregnancy. UAHT has applied for a grant (as encouraged in the legislation) to move to a professional advising model which will have an emphasis on life coaching and include unplanned pregnancy prevention information.

This report was shared with the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board at their quarterly meeting on October 26, 2018.