

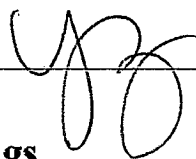


DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
Office of Head Start
8th Floor Portal Building
1250 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20024

To: Board Chairperson
Mrs. Karen Burris
Board Chairperson
Black River Area Development Corporation
1403 Hospital Dr.
Pocahontas, AR 72455-3847

From: Responsible HHS Official
Ms. Yvette Sanchez Fuentes
Director, Office of Head Start

 3/29/11
Date

Overview of Findings

From 3/6/2011 to 3/11/2011, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) conducted an on-site monitoring review of the Black River Area Development Corporation Head Start and Early Head Start programs. We wish to thank the governing body, Policy Council, staff, and parents of your program for their cooperation and assistance during the review. This Head Start Review Report has been issued to Mrs. Karen Burris, Board Chairperson, as legal notice to your agency of the results of the on-site program review.

Based on the information gathered during our review, it was determined that your Head Start and Early Head Start programs are in compliance with all applicable Head Start Program Performance Standards, laws, regulations, and policy requirements. Accordingly, no corrective action is required at this time.

Since 2009 two new features were added as applicable to triennial and first year reports. First, if during the course of a review an area of noncompliance was identified and corrected on site, the report will include a narrative to describe the area of noncompliance and a narrative to describe the corrective action the grantee took to correct the finding.

Secondly, program strengths identified during the on site review will also be included in triennial and first year review reports.

If you are a grantee serving preschool age children in the center-based option, a sample of your preschool classrooms will be observed using the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS). This classroom observation instrument looks at the teacher/child interactions, as well as interactions between children. If you operate a center-based program for preschool age children, the results of CLASS will be included in your monitoring report as a separate

attachment. The Office of Head Start encourages grantees to consider the CLASS results in planning ongoing efforts to improve classroom quality.

The ACF Regional Office will contact you soon to address any questions you may have about this report.

Distribution of the Head Start Review Report

Copies of this report will be distributed to the following recipients:

Ms. Deborah Drake, Acting Regional Program Manager

Mrs. Lori Henson, Policy Council Chairperson

Mr. Jim Jansen, CEO/Executive Director

Mrs. Barbara Sisco, Head Start Director

Overview Information

Review Type:	<i>Triennial</i>
Organization:	<i>Black River Area Development Corporation</i>
Program Type:	<i>Head Start and Early Head Start</i>
Team Leader:	<i>Ms. Shannon Hills</i>
Funded Enrollment HS:	<i>326</i>
Funded Enrollment EHS:	<i>64</i>

Area of Strength

Community-wide collaboration was a strength of the Black River Area Development Corporation. From local mayoral offices to school districts and community colleges to performing arts studios, the grantee established and maintained collaborations resulting in positive outcomes for children and families.

Six of eight facilities operated by the grantee were constructed through partnerships. Funding from Arkansas Economic Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and local municipalities and school districts was used to construct state-of-the-art infant/toddler and preschool centers fitting aesthetically into the communities in the three-County area served by the grantee. No Head Start dollars were used for construction, and the grantee maintained lifetime lease agreements on all facilities for a nominal fee per year.

The grantee maintained an additional collaboration with Black River Technical College. Through a Cooperative Agreement with the Dietetic Education program, students in the program received field experience by working in Head Start/Early Head Start centers. On a rotating basis, Dietetic students assisted with mealtimes, completed cooking activities, and coordinated and participated in food-tasting events with Head Start/Early Head Start children encouraging them to try new and different foods.

A third area of collaborative strength was the grantee's relationship with the Early Childhood Performing Arts Studio. Lessons and classes in drama, ballet, painting, and other arts were

offered to Head Start families at reduced tuition rates. If a Head Start parent volunteered at the studio, tuition was waived.

— END OF REPORT —