

THE ALABAMA COUNCIL ON HUMAN RELATIONS, INC.
ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD REPORT for May – July 2021
Nancy Spears, CEO; Dianne Kent, Fiscal Coordinator
Janet Burns, Administrative Coordinator

GRANT APPLICATIONS, REPORTS AND RELATED ITEMS

- Waiver request for FY20 approved.
- City of Opelika grant for assistance with childcare - applied for \$20,000. Status: Pending.

STAFF CHANGES/NEWS IN CENTRAL POSITIONS

- Dianne Kent, our Fiscal Coordinator, has continued to have severe, lingering problems after recovery from COVID. We currently are searching for person she can train as Fiscal Coordinator who can learn grants management and also are considering other options.
- Tim King officially stepped down as Program Coordinator/Housing Developer. His family has become active in assisting him; we have had some communication with his POA and helped by stretching the time his remaining sick leave and annual leave will pay (reduced percentage of time) to bridge him to when he can draw social security.
- We advertised the Program Coordinator/Housing Developer position within the agency per our procedures. We have agreed to try Tina Evans, who has been our Family Engagement Coordinator since December 2019. She formerly was the Executive Director of the Domestic Violence Shelter (five counties) and has held other positions of responsibility.

She began the three-month transfer period June 16. Since then she has been and continues to be involved in a series of on-line conferences and webinars to gain more in-depth knowledge of Early/Head Start as a whole as well as knowledge about the other ACHR programs. So far, in addition to many shorter events, she participated in the Community Action Agencies of Alabama conference and a CAPLAW conference, both virtual. Tina and Janet have spent a lot of time taking at the end of each day of conferences. Tina shares what she learned, so Janet learns some things, and Janet shares how the information relates to ACHR.

We are searching for a Family Engagement Supervisor; meanwhile, Tina is handling both roles. Unfortunately, FEAs are recruiting, trying to increase their community engagement efforts and for the children at Darden and in EHS starting their Family Assessments to set goals. Because that division has considerable room for improvement, it is absorbing time she needs to learn other areas. She understands that even after the transition period, she will have a considerable amount of learning to do.

- Going forward, there will no longer be a separate report from Edelman Center. Their various activities will be covered under Education, Family Engagement and Health, as are King and Darden Centers for Head Start and both models of Early Head Start (center and home based). By the way, Argentina (Tina) Miles is doing an excellent job as Edelman's Center Educator. She and Tina Evans have been working together on some projects.

OTHER ITEMS

- In the last board report, we talked about the work to be done at King Center on the gutters. It is on hold. That is not for lack of funds; we have the line of credit the board approved to cover until the sale of Bedell Village and Darden Oaks. The contractor cannot get the sheet metal and some of the other key items needed to do this project – and he does not know when the materials will be available. (We can relate; we are having supply chain problems also.) We have had a lot of rain this summer. Most of it has been gentle and the hard rainfall has been in short bursts, so though we have had some leaks, they have been relatively

minor. We hope the project can be completed before hurricane season because if one comes our way we will have long drenching rains which will cause major leaks. King Center opens to children in late August, so we have little hope the project can be completed before the children return. The contractor has agreed to do everything he can to minimize disruption to the children when the materials finally arrive and he can begin work.

- After reviewing the quotes for the phone/internet system, conference calls were held with representatives of each company that submitted a quote to clarify. This time we specified that the centers, all be reachable through our central number and receptionist as they now all, but also be independent. In that way, if the power goes out at King Center which takes out the phone and internet, our other facilities will still have service. Connectivity will be through fiber for almost everything except the elevator at King which must have an analogue line. We have already moved our alarm systems to cell packs, which has resolved the problem of some of them going off in the middle of the night for no good reason.

We selected CSpire. They had the lowest and best overall quote and though they are based in Mississippi, they have a technician who lives in Auburn. We called one of the companies they used as a reference and learned that although their service is not always up (no company can promise/do that) it is up 99% of the time and they are quick to respond to service needs so down time is minimal. Additionally, King and Darden Centers, our largest facilities will have a back-up system that through their managed network should pick up our traffic (though with slower service) if the main circuit fails.

Our phone equipment is old (20+ years), and will be replaced as part of this agreement. Because we accepted a five-year agreement (there is a clause that we can break it for poor service if it is their fault), even with the equipment cost rolled in our monthly cost will be less than what we are paying now and internet speed should more than double at every facility. Because we did not pay the equipment cost up-front (1 year warranty) they cover all repair of phones, routers etc., for the five years unless staff does something they should not to it. They have a 90 day window on this transition which started 6/25/21 so by the end of September. . . .

- A related and also time-consuming project that started at the end of July is determining what measures we need to and can take to protect our network. This came up because we had a small cybersecurity insurance policy. When it was due for renewal they asked about 20 questions and Dianne and Janet could not answer many of them, so the document was sent to GTI, the company that runs our internet network. The answer for many of those questions was “no,” so we were not insurable by that company. We understand their concern, because so many large companies recently have had breaches, which would have been expensive. The problem is that many of the things the insurance company listed are very expensive – and some would slow staff work. We will be reviewing our real risks should someone hack into the system or into someone’s computer and then determining what we need to and can do to thwart them.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT BOARD REPORT

MAY, JUNE, JULY 2021

SUCCESS STORIES

1. Ms. Lucinda Aldridge

A. SUCCESS STORY #1 – MAY, 2021

FEA sent parents a Lee County Habitat Homeowner Application Meeting updated FLYER. FEA sent parents a reminder notice: Lee County Habitat Homeowner Application Meeting – May 14 & 15, 2021. FEA sent a Follow-up e-mail to find out who attended the meeting. Three parents attended the presentation meeting that covered expectations for the program and they received an application after the meeting.

B. SUCCESS STORY #2 – JULY, 2021

FEA sent Ms. Benita Gunnells (Achievement Center) an e-mail stating that parent's vehicle is currently not working & the parent does not have transportation to get to work or get the parent and child to & from Darden Center Head Start Program. FEA referred parent to the LETA Bus Transportation & the Achievement Center can purchase some LETA bus tickets if needed. Email received from Ms. Gunnells, stating that she talked with LETA Bus Transportation Services & it is still FREE to ride...parent has to call & schedule rides. She also stated that if the parent has someone that would give her a ride until she can get on the route to please call her & the Achievement Center can issue her a gas voucher to fill-up the person's vehicle. FEA left a message for the parent. Parent called FEA back & stated that she called the LETA Bus Transportation Services to get on a schedule & the worker stated that they were full in the Auburn & Opelika area. Parent called FEAS & stated that she has a ride to get child to & from school. Parent has spoken with Ms. Benita Gunnells & she told her to bring the person's vehicle to them on E & they will fill-up with gas.

2. Ms. Carolyn Davis

A parent has a household of eight...she and her seven children including a child in Head Start. Parent was in a car accident that totaled her car. She stated that she had no way to transport child to and from the Darden Center. FEA made some calls to ACHR Staff to see if there was any way they could help her. Ms. Carolyn contacted Ms. Tina to let her know what was going on with the family. Ms. Tina contacted Ms. Michelle and Ms. Michelle contacted Ms. Theresa. Ms. Theresa contacted Ms. Carolyn to let her know that due to the circumstances; ACHR will allow the bus to temporarily pick-up and drop-off Child to allow the parent time to get something else in place for her family.

3. Ms. Cleo Day

Former King families are getting vaccinated & staying healthy.

4. Ms. Breah Ferreras

Parent was interested in school and doing an internship with education. Ms. Breah sent her the curriculum for Southern Union Early Childhood Program Curriculum and then got her connected to the Center. Parent did an interview with Early Head Start and they loved her. She will potentially be starting with them soon.

5. Ms. Elaine Jackson

Provided extra clothing for (2) Head Start Children.

6. Ms. Kambria Tolbert

An International family currently working at AU transitioned to our CB program from HB. Before starting, they were notified that the father's father had fallen ill and he would need to return to Nepal to sort out care and could be leaving at any point as flights become available. Through partnership with home visitor, we were able to sort out and encourage transportation for the child to still be able to attend daily.

TRAINING**May**

Family Engagement Advocates participated in 21 trainings: Training included Inclusion Webinar Series, Catalyzing Family School and Community Partnership, The Impact of COVID-19 on Retirement Savings, Uniting Worldviews to Advance Relationships in indigenous communities, Nuts and Bolts of Developmental Screening, Dual Language Learners, The Developing Infant and Toddler and several other.

June

Family Engagement Advocates participated in 22 trainings. The training included the Share Financial Data with Care, Ready4K Kickoff, Better Together: Elevating Family – School Partnerships, Goal-Setting to make progress toward outcomes, ERSEA and Program Structure, COVID-19 and Children with Special health care needs, Identifying and working with children with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASDS), Leads Conference, CAPLAW Conference and several others

Additional Information:

- Ready 4k Training Meeting-6/23
- Ready 4k Meeting- 6/28

July

Family Engagement Advocates participated in 12 trainings. The training included Cash and Kids: Momentum on Child Tax Credit Policy and other Ideas to Increase Family Income, An Introduction to the American Rescue Plan Benefits for families, Inclusion Series: Increased Opportunity and Learning for children with disabilities, and several others.

COMMUNITY AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT**May**

Family Engagement Advocates Posted Head Start Recruitment FLYERS 12 locations: Woodbend Apartments, Opelika, Waverly Parkway Convenience Store, Midway Gardens Apartments, Opelika, Nice Cut Barber Shop, Darden Oaks Apartments, Auburn at East Park Apartments, Moton Apartments, Corner Store, Sam Harris park, Hurtsboro Senior Citizen, Hurtsboro Post Office, and several others.

Head Start Recruitment YARD SIGNS are placed at the following locations: Marathon – Grub Mart Gas Station, Opelika, Royal Park Estate Mobile Homes, Opelika, 214 Byrd Ave., Opelika, Fredrick/Trimble, Opelika, Lee County Health Department, Bay Service Station, Opelika.

Parents were given the following resources: Lee County Habitat Homeowner Application Meeting, United Way School Supplies, Dad's League Parenting Classes, Alabama Bankruptcy Assistance Project, Goodwill Career Center Job Fair, Hospitality Industry Job Fair, EAMC for COVID Vaccine

Number Of Families Who Utilized Resources: Lee County Habitat Homeowner Application Meeting – May 14 & 15, 2021 – (10 parents), United Way School supply – (11) Parents, EAMC for COVID Vaccine – (2) Families

June

Family Engagement Advocates Posted Head Start Recruitment Flyer at 10 locations: Eagle 280 BP, Opelika, M & M Grocery, Opelika, Chevron, Opelika, Family Engagement Advocate spoke with Women's Hope Medical Clinic-agreed to include flyer in Welcome folder they distribute to every family receiving their services, Phenix Youth Center Boys & Girls Club – Applications & Flyers, and several others.

Head Start Recruitment YARD SIGNS are placed at the following locations: Hall's Floral Inc., Opelika, Western Sizzlin, Opelika, Spring Hill and Antioch (OHA), Family Engagement Advocate posted (6) YARD SIGNS

FEAs Set-up Recruitment Table at Sites: Bus Station, Opelika – June 7, 2021, Pitts Barber Shop – June 9, 2021, Family Dollar, Opelika – June 24, 2021, Dollar General, Hurtsboro – June 10, 2021, Rainbow Foods, Phenix City – June 15, 2021, Auburn University parent referrals, Cold Contacting @ Winn Dixie Grocery Store, Mr. P's Laundry & Family Dollar

Parents were given the following resources: ACHR Paying Cooling Bills, Tax Credit Portal, Opelika City Schools Free Lunches and Breakfast, Circles of Opelika, United Way School Supplies, Mt. Zion Church, Sunshine Shop, Job Fair Hiring Event: Goodwill Career Center/Columbus Police Department, Dollar General Now Hiring; Hurtsboro, Next Young Leaders Program/Mentor: Scholarship/Mentorship Program for the class of 2022 (High School Students)

Number of Families Who Utilized Resources:

ACHR Paying Cooling Bills – (1), Tax Credit Portal – (1), Circles of Opelika – (3), United Way School Supplies – (7)

July

Family Engagement Advocates Posted Head Start Recruitment flyers at 8 locations: Kidz World – USA Factory Outlet; Opelika, Dollar General – Opelika, Went door to door at Housing Authority in Phenix City on July 16, 2021 – Received (3) applications while there; went door to door at Moton & Drake Apartments on July 22, 2021, and several others

Head Start Recruitment YARD SIGNS: are placed at the following locations: Grub Mart #21

FEAs Set-up Recruitment Table at Sites: Sam Harris Park – July 7, 2021, Dollar General (Hwy. 169) – July 16, 2021, Dollar General (Hwy.169) – July 21, 2021, Drop Zone Mini Mart; Fort Mitchell – July 23, 2021

Parents were given the following resources: LETA Bus Transportation Services, Achievement Center, Ready 4K FLYERS, Alabama Healthy Marriages, Outdoor Shopping Event at Sunshine Shop, Free Resources to Quit Tobacco, Heavy Machine Operator Job Postings, Jacob's Ladder After School Care, Village Table Food Distribution/FREE Community Food Give Away; Phenix City

Number of Families Who Utilized Resources:

Family Engagement Advocate referred (1) parent to the LETA Bus Transportation Services to help keep child in school (Achievement Center),Alabama Healthy Marriages Inquired – (3) Job Fair – (1), Sunshine Shop – (10), Jacob's Ladder After School Care – (7)

1. BeYond Expectations – Edelman Backpack of food
 - a. Enrolled Students Served - 16
 - b. Siblings Served - 9
 - c. Food Bags Distributed - 82
 - d. Meals Provided - 574
 - e. Program Withdrawal – 1



Education Board Report May-July 2021

May

- Head Start Centers held second virtual parent-teacher conferences. King/Edelman parents also drove through centers to drop off children's tablets and pick up child portfolios.
- Eight Educators and two HS teachers attended the 3-day virtual HighScope Conference hosted in Michigan.
- King and Edelman Head Start held virtual graduation through videos posted on Facebook.
- King/Edelman HS last child day was May 10. Teacher's last day May 11.
- Two King HS staff received preschool CDA's. Two long time classroom staff from King, Ann Taylor and Edward Allen retired. A King classroom staff member who received AA degree in December will take Ms. Taylor's lead teacher position.
- Darden HS duration classrooms and EHS continued serving children.
- Educators held virtual transition meetings with public school counselors, principals, teachers regarding transitions of Head Start children to public school, especially those with disabilities or mental health issues.
- ACHR purchased items to assist with child recruitment such as folding tables to take out in the community. Items with logos were designed by Educators such as tablecloths, recruitment business cards, recruitment t-shirts for staff and families who are accepted into HS/EHS, and retractable banners. ACHR purchased additional items with various forms of logo for recruitment events such as pens, key chains, mini hand sanitizers, magnets, and water bottle labels.
- PC provided lunch for classroom and center staff during Teacher Appreciation Week.
- ACHR applied for DHR COVID daycare improvement funds for each center.
- Training supplies purchased with training funds have been arriving. Karen Lusk and Sue Williams are inventorying, labeling, and sending items to assigned centers.
- ACHR purchased COVID vaccination pins for COVID vaccinated staff.
- Several program children were included in an electronic recruitment billboard. The billboard generated in-kind for the design/display work. Thanks to Janet Burns' daughter Elizabeth for donating design time.
- Staff held fire, weather, and shelter drills at centers.
- Construction began on a new office located on a portion of Darden gym stage for Sue Williams and Karen Lusk, as transformation of their current office to a classroom space occurs.
- ACHR held parent orientations for the next program year at all three centers.

June

- Darden HS held virtual graduations through Facebook videos.
- ACHR received DHR COVID Improvement funding for all three centers. Educators discussed items and projects needed at various centers. Sue and Karen began writing requisitions to spend this funding on improvements for centers.
- Staff held fire, weather, and shelter drills at centers.
- Darden HS's last day was June 10. Darden HS teachers went on leave until July 6.
- EHS children's last center program day and daycare was June 17.
- Sue Williams and Karen Lusk planned EHS training. Yolanda Pittman and Catina Chambers also planned a portion of EHS training. A guest speaker delivered training on the topic of children with disabilities.
- EHS staff received five days of training. Topics included COVID safety and adaptations, virtual transitional home visits, USDA, Special Services Referrals, Personal Safety, Working w/children

with disabilities and use of Visuals, Child Temperament, and Infant Toddler Cognitive Development.

- EHS teachers were on leave from June 28 through July 5.
- King and Edelman Center floors waxed.
- Sue Williams, Early Childhood Coordinator and Karen Lusk, Trainer began packing and moving out of current office space being made into a classroom.
- Staff moved Head Start furniture off wing one because these HS classrooms are being converted to EHS classrooms. All Darden HS classrooms (7) will be on wing two in the new program year.
- Renovations began on Wing one to add adult sinks for food prep and diaper changing.
- ACHR completed replacement of Darden's front sidewalk and added drainage.
- Staff conducted Parent Orientation for the next program year at all three centers.
- Staff completed building maintenance such as floor cleaning, carpet cleaning, and furniture cleaning at Darden and Edelman Centers. New ceiling fan installed in classrooms on Darden wing two and three.
- DHR funded items began arriving. Sue and Karen work on inventorying, labeling, and sending items to where assigned.
- One home visitor resigned for a better paying job.

July

- Karen and Sue began moving into new office and their old space was painted and furnished to be a Head Start classroom.
- Educators worked with administrative team to set up the Ready4K parent texting program. This program will text parents 3x weekly with ideas for assisting their child with a particular learning item each week. The texts are based on the age of the children (infant/toddler, threes, fours, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th grades).
- HS Darden/Edelman duration classroom staff returned July 6. Stacey Winslett and Sharon Lewis (Educator and Mentor Teacher) conducted transitional home visit training with Darden duration and Edelman's new duration teachers.
- EHS and Darden/Edelman HS classroom staff did room set up and virtual transitional home visits.
- HS Staff needing CPR/first aide completed training.
- Staff held fire, weather, and shelter drills at centers.
- Staff conducted Parent Orientation for the next program year at all three centers Karen and Sue worked on Child Outcomes aggregation and analysis (see report at end of this document)
- Home based began their new year on July 6. EHS at Darden/Edelman began on July 12, and Darden/Edelman HS duration on July 14.
- DHR funded items continue to arrive. Sue and Karen continue work on inventorying, labeling, and sending items to assigned buildings.
- King Educator and HS Mentor teacher attended Conscious Discipline training in Orlando Florida.
- King Educator, HS Assistant/Health moved office items in preparation for new flooring in hallway and office at King Center.
- King HS Center's office and hallway carpeting was removed and installation of vinyl flooring began.
- King HS Educator and team interviewed two persons to assist with special needs children for the new program year (COVID funds).
- One Darden HS teacher left early for maternity leave and had her baby the last week of August.
- Darden HS needs one teacher and one intern because intern did not return and new teacher ended up turning down the job due to getting a higher paying job. Darden is also looking for a HS and EHS floater to have extra personnel during COVID (COVID funds).
- Due to EHS conversion in progress at Darden, promotion of one EHS teacher to Coach/Assistant occurred. A new teacher will take the teaching position.
- A 2nd home visitor left to take a higher paying job. One new home visitor was hired (still need one). One possible hire did not accept job due to salary. Still need one home visitor.
- King Educator did training with Foster Grandparents about COVID policies/procedures and reviewed general center/classroom policies for participation.

SCHOOL READINESS REPORT: Analysis of Child Outcomes, 2020-21

As per Head Start requirements, ACHR tracks children’s development and progress toward school readiness goals. ACHR uses the *Child Observation Record (COR Advantage)* to document ongoing assessment of Early Head Start and Head Start children. There is an alignment between the COR, the HighScope Curriculum and the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework (HSELOF). Teachers and Parent Educators (home visitors) gather and score observations using the COR Advantage online tool. COR Advantage is organized around 8 Categories and has 34 observation items. The tool covers birth through the end of kindergarten. It has scores that range from 0-7.

Head Start requires programs to aggregate and analyze child data three times per year; a baseline, in the middle, and at the end of each program year to determine the effectiveness of its program on child outcomes.

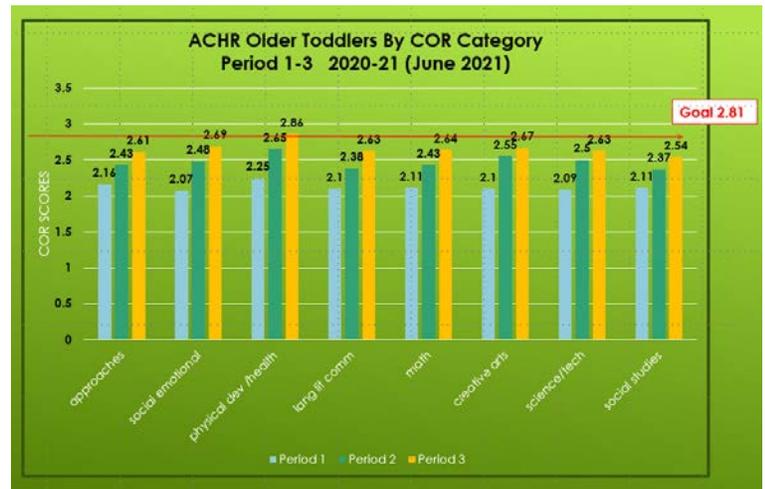
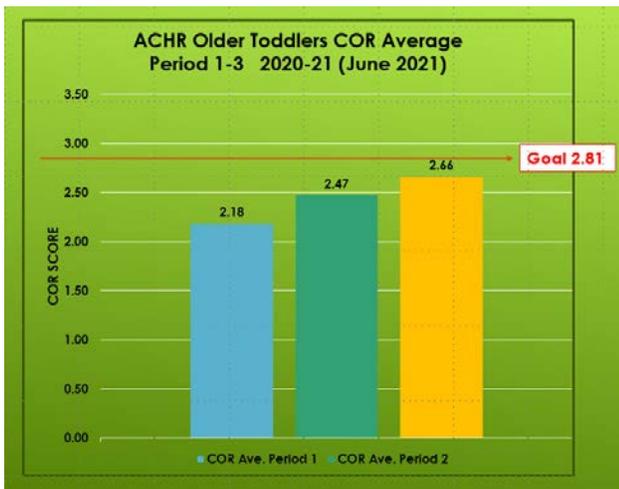
COR categories include:

Approaches to Learning	Social & Emotional Development	Physical Development & Health
Creative Arts	Mathematics	Language, Literacy & Communication
Science & Technology	Social Studies	

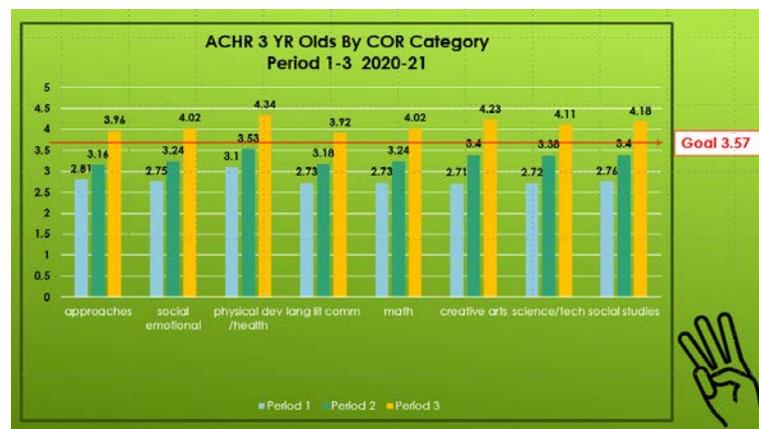
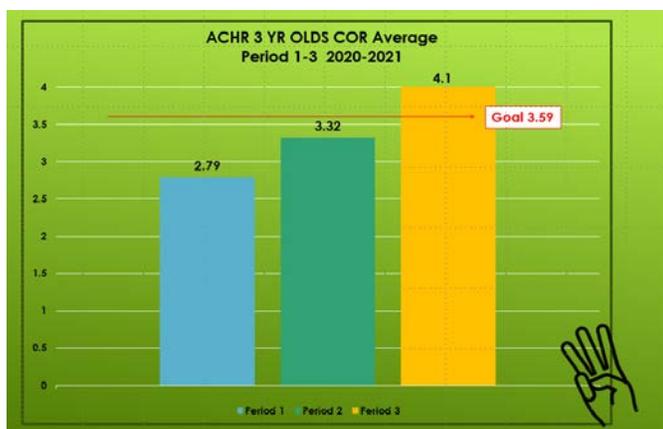
Group Data after Period 3 (ended in May 2021 for King/Edelman HS and June for Darden duration HS and all of EHS) helps determine growth in children’s developmental levels and progress towards school readiness goals at the end of the program year. We compared children in various data groups such as age, centers, gender, home language, and ethnicity. We also compare typically-developing children verses those with special needs.

Older Toddler Group:

- Overall ACHR COR score: Typically Developing children grew from 2.47 in period two to 2.66 in period three, a score increase of 7.7% increase (Special Needs: [2 ch.] went from 1.87 in period two to 1.92 in period three, a score increase of 2.7%). The final COR Average of 2.66 for typically developing Older Toddlers is 95% to goal of 2.81.
- Highest Category Scores for typically developing children (after *Physical Development and Health*, which always scores high) was *Social Studies* 2.54 out of 2.5, or 1.6% over its goal and *Mathematics* 2.64 out of 2.6, or 1.5% over its goal. Lowest Category: *Approaches to Learning* at 2.61 out of 3, or 87% to its goal. The other five categories were between 90% -97% towards their goals.
- Highest single item for its goal was item *CC: Experimenting, predicting, and drawing conclusions*. It was 2.71 out of a goal of 2, or 35.5% above its goal.
- The lowest single item was a tie with *Item A: Initiative and Planning* and *Item DD: Natural and Physical World*. Both were 2.5 out of goal of 3.

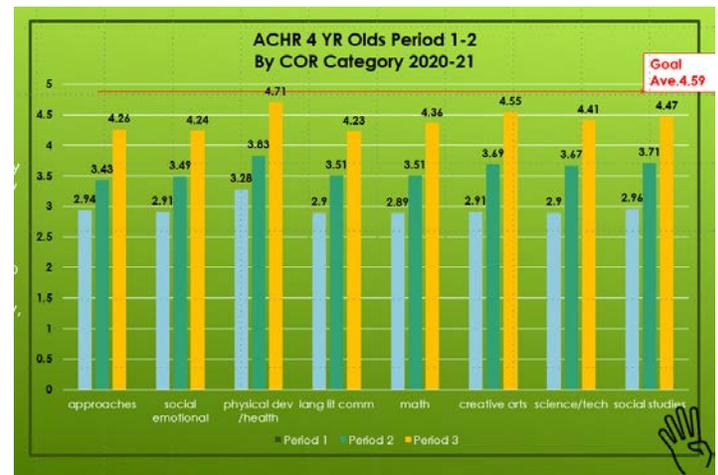
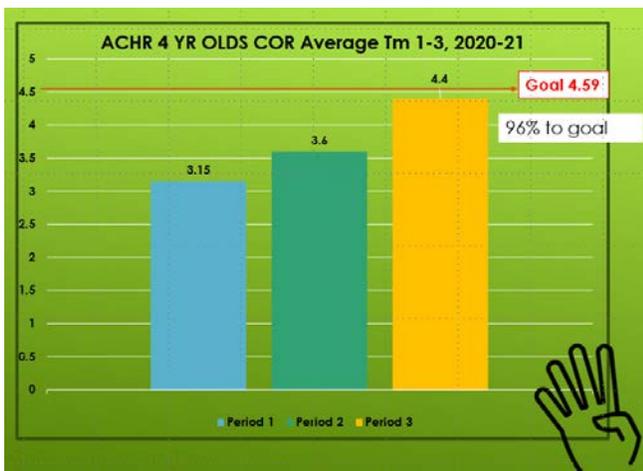


- Overall ACHR COR score: Typically-developing children grew from 3.32 in period two to 4.1 in period three, a score increase of 23.5% (Special Needs went from 2.45 in period two to 3.3 in period three, a score increase of 35%).
- Typically developing three year olds were over their goals in all 8 categories. The highest category score for typically developing 3 yr. old children was *Social Studies* with a score of 4.18 out of 3.5, or 19% above its goal. The lowest category: *Approaches to Learning* at 3.96 out of goal of 3.66, or 8.2% over its goal. The other six categories were 10-18% above their goals.
- The lowest single item was *Item M: Listening and Comprehension* at a score of 3.86 out of 4, or 96% to its goal.



4 YR Old Group

- Overall ACHR COR score: Typically Developing 4 yr. old children grew from 3.6 in period two to 4.4 in period three, an increase of 22% (Special Needs went from 2.53 to 3.3, an increase in score of 30%). The final COR Average of 4.4 for typically developing 4 yr. olds was 96% to goal of 4.59.
- For typically developing children, after *Physical Development and Health* at 100% of its goal the highest category was *Creative Arts* with a score of 4.55 out of goal of 4.62 or 98.5% to its goal. Lowest Category: *Approaches to Learning* with a score of 4.26 out of its goal of 4.67, or 91.2% to goal. The other six categories were between 92.6-98% to their goals.
- Additional information for the typically developing 4 yr. olds:
 - When examining various groupings such as gender, race, ethnicity, language, and ethnicity, there are no significant differences among any groupings other than those with disabilities. The score average difference between typically developing children and those with disabilities was 3.29 verses 4.4 or an average of 34% lower scores for the children in the special needs data group.
 - Data from skills tracking at the end of period three indicated children going on to kindergarten knew an average of:
 - 17.5 uppercase letters (down 16.7% from 21 in 2018-19 data)
 - 13 lower case letters (down 23.5% from 17 in 2018-19 data)
 - 9 letter sounds (down 35.7% from 14 in 2018-19 data)
 - 9.3 numerals between 0-25 (down 28.5% from 13 in 2018-19 data)
 - 7.2 shapes (down 20% from 9 in 2018-19 data)
 - 9.3 colors (down 7% from 10 in 2018-19 data)
 - 79% could write their first name (down 1.25% from 80% in 2018-19 data) and 37% could write their last names (down 26% from 50% in 2018-19 data).



Conclusions From 2020-21:

Baseline data was typical of previous years; however, at the mid-point the Head Start children's gains were less than in previous years. Overall scores at the mid-point were lower for both three and four year old groups in comparison to previous years. For example, the typically developing 3 yr. old group at the mid-point was at an average of 3.3 in 2019-20 but this year were at 3.01 or 9.6% lower. The 4 yr. old group at the mid-point was at an average of 3.86 in 2019-20 but the same age group in 2020-21 was an average of 3.6 or 7.2% lower than at the same time in 2019-20.

After the end of period three, as predicted, some age groups did not meet 100% of the average COR goal. This included older toddlers and the King Center 4 yr. old groups although they did attain respectively 95% and 92% of their goals.

Contributing causes of lower average scores for some groups after period 3 may include:

- Changes in children's home lives since the pandemic began (loss of employment, changing homes, illness/death in the family) are stress inducing. Stress affects the functioning of the brain and learning.
- COVID quarantines when children went back and forth between center-based services and virtual teaching.
- Sporadic child attendance of some center-based children, meaning they received less Head Start time than other children did.

Note: Children who received virtual services from home verses classroom (virtual learners) did not have lower scores than other groups of children, but scores were lower than scores of classroom based children in previous years.

These causes mean two things: 1) children spending less direct time with teachers and peers in the classroom due to periods of quarantine, stress, or poor attendance have fewer gains, and 2) data collection is more challenging when center-based children are out of the classroom. In-depth observations are also more difficult to attain while distancing in the classroom and during virtual teaching of any kind.

In addition to the overall COR data for the program, child outcome data of various groups is reviewed, including centers. King Center's typically developing 4 yr. old children started an average of .8 behind Edelman and .5 behind Darden. After the mid-point, King's 4 yr. olds remained behind Edelman by .4 and Darden by .5. After the third time period, King remained behind Darden by .36 and Edelman by .43 scoring points. The difference between King, Darden and Edelman is a little more than usual but King's trajectory was upward through all periods.

We also looked for differences among gender, race, home language and children with special needs (IEP/IFSP) verses typically developing children.

- There is no significant difference in the scores between genders and races.
- There is no significant difference between English speakers and the overall Dual Language learning (DLL) group. Many DLL's parents are college educated foreign students. They score generally as high

or higher on the COR than the typical age groupings. Spanish speaking DLLs scored an average of 12.4% less than the overall DLL group.

- Children with special needs: There has been low enrollment in HS and low numbers of enrolled children with IEPs/IFSPs during the pandemic this program year. Scores among these children vary with the severity and type of disability. As with previous years, this group of children tend to score significantly lower than typically developing children. Within their age groups, the Older Toddlers with special needs scored 18.75% or .39 of a point lower than their typically developing peers did. The 3 yr. old group's scores were equal with their typically developing peers. In the 4 yr. old group, the children scored 25% lower than their typically developing peers, and .87 of a point behind. Each child with an IEP/IFSP has their own benchmarks established in their personalized plan overseen by the public school (3-5 yr. olds) or Early Intervention (0-up to 3 yrs.). ACHR helps each child to move from wherever he/she starts towards their benchmarks and school readiness goals.
- Attendance 2020-21: Average daily attendance of enrolled children in Early Head Start was 71.12% and Head Start's was 71.37%. Against funded enrollment, however, Head Start attendance was an average of 55.49% and Early Head Start's was 57.11%. This difference was due to the low enrollment.

ACHR predicted earlier in the year that skills and scores of children going on to kindergarten in 2021 might not meet our goal of 4.59. In spite of the difficulties of 2020-21 program year, children's outcomes were 92% and higher. Individual skill logs of the same group, however, show less progress than in 2018-19 pre-pandemic program year. Less classroom time and time with teachers results in less progress.

While there were many challenges during the 2020-21 program year, the pandemic was also responsible for elements that may have ameliorated some of its negative effects on children. Low enrollment and the necessity of social distancing led to smaller than usual group sizes in Head Start. Classrooms started with no more than 10 preschool children. Some classrooms added a few more children later in the program year, but overall the center group sizes stayed small. This resulted in calmer classrooms, more teacher-child time and a large decrease in challenging behaviors. ACHR transported fewer children per bus with children more spread out, so buses also experienced a calmer transportation experience with less challenging behaviors.

The preschool children had fewer issues with mask wearing than we expected☺. Staff wore buttons with photos of their smiling faces on them so children could see what staff/teachers looked like under their masks. Families adapted to COVID screenings at doors of the buses and centers and the new center sign-in/out procedures. ACHR adapted to new ways of working with parents by phone and virtual parent teacher conferences, family engagement contacts, and parent meetings.

As stated in the last board report, it is the nature of things that children grow and develop constantly—thus the COR Advantage observations, computer logging and daily lesson planning are a huge piece of the classroom staff's work. The ACHR Education Team want parents, Policy Counsel, and Board members to be aware of the dedication and hard work ACHR teachers and Parent Home Educators do to implement the Early and Head Start programs. The ACHR Education Team is proud of the classroom staff's efforts and consistency during this very difficult time in our nation's history.



**REPORT TO THE BOARD OF
THE ALABAMA COUNCIL ON HUMAN RELATIONS, INC.
HEALTH/NUTRITION/SPECIAL SERVICES
for the period May - July 2021
Natalie Stephens RD LD, CFI, Health Services Coordinator**

HEALTH/DENTAL/OTHER

- **2020-21 E/HS school year: May - June**
 - **Immunizations:** All are up-to-date. Health staff is able to pull the immunization forms from ADPH's online system, Imprint. This has made it easier to get all the immunization records. If the child's record is not in the system, we still request that the parents provide the shot record at orientation.
 - **Dental:** All children without updated documentation were referred to family engagement advocates. If we did not receive the Dental Exam paperwork, we notified parents (via notes sent home and text messages) of our need for this required documentation. If able, we obtained the Dental Screen from the well child check up.
 - **Growth assessments:** Spring heights and weights were taken in March. If a child came in after the growth assessments were done, or was absent on that day, their height/weight was taken in the health area.
 - **Vision/Hearing:** All children that needed treatment after screened in our centers were referred.
 - **Other required Health screenings:** Completed within the 45 days.
 - We are continuing to encourage parents to provide the updated documentation from the pediatrician of the latest well child checkup.
 - Health staff have contacted parents who have not brought in this information multiple times. The names of these children have been given to family engagement advocates to continue to support parents in providing the needed information.

- **2021-2022 E/HS school year:**
 - Orientations during May, June, July (Darden, FBK, and Edelman)
 - Health Documents were reviewed and slightly changed before sending to parents to complete for orientation.
 - Health Documents were signed and reviewed – include release of information, emergency medical information, health history, dental information, lead screening, physical, and immunizations.
 - **Edelman and Darden EHS Start July 12th**
 - **Darden HS Start July 14th**
 - Special Services Committee reviewed any children with suspected “special needs” and made a plan of action for them going forward.
 - Nutrition/Health assistant has worked with parents to obtain any needed medical information pertaining to dietary or health needs.

Board Report - Health/Nutrition/Special Services – May – July 2021

- Registered Dietitian has reviewed all children's health charts and is writing a "needs plan/ plan of action" for every Head Start child who has a medical diagnosis or food allergy.

NUTRITION - KITCHENS

- Kitchen Scores:
 - Darden: 99%
 - Edelman: 100%
 - King:100%

NUTRITION – LIFE (Learning Information about Food and Exercise)

- **Nutrition/Exercise Counseling:** Nutrition counseling is offered to parents during parent meetings and/or other parent functions. One-on-one counselling is also offered to ACHR families.

SPECIAL SERVICES

- **Screenings:** All children are up to date with ASQ screenings.
- **Children with an IEP/IFSP:** 17 completed IEP/IFSPs.
- **Behavior/Developmental referrals:** 21 children from all centers
- **Mental Health:** East Alabama Mental Health continues to collaborate with us to cover the required mental health services and meet the needs of our children, families and staff. We are currently in the process of setting a date for them to monitor the classrooms. Our I/B Specialist, is continuing to work with them using the Conscious Discipline techniques to better help our students, families, and classrooms.

OTHER

- **Discussions concerning Health Procedures and COVID Policies:** It was decided that COVID Health Procedures (including mask wearing and health screenings) will continue into the 2021-22 school year.
- **Intervention/Behavior Specialist Position:** Ms Formeeca Tripp, our Intervention/ Behavior Specialist turned in her one month notice on June 15, 2021. Per procedures, her position was advertised in the center. We have a few staff members who have inquired about the position. The intervention/behavior specialist job description and procedures are currently being reviewed and rewritten.
- **Student health volunteers for school year 2021-22:** It was decided that student volunteers from colleges and organizations that we have agreements with can return in the 2021-22 school year. Natalie has been working with Auburn University School of Nursing, SUSCC school of Nursing, and some others to schedule dates for students to come into the center to help with health screenings.
- **Training:** Due to our continued mask policy and other COVID related policies, Natalie has been training various ACHR departments (upon request) concerning health changes.

Alabama Council on Human Relations, Inc.

Board Report - Parent Engagement/Special Projects and Technology

Saundra Aldridge, Parent Engagement/Special Projects/Technology/Coordinator

May – July 2021

Parent Engagement, Technology and Special Projects

S.T.E.P.S.'s first student to receive the USDA's 1860 Scholarship has completed his first college year and his first internship. He did his internship in Oregon. His mother informed us that he loved his internship. One down, three to go. When he graduates he will have a job with USDA and all the Annual Leave and Sick Leave he will have accrued during his internship.

S.T.E.P.S. is working with 5 students. Most of them attended Head Start. We are in the process are getting them registered and placed in FACSpro.

We are in the process of completing a partnership with another STEPS Organization which work with girls 9-17. The objective is to introduce young ladies to the world and all the possibilities.



EMERGENCY SERVICES PROGRAMS QUARTERLY BOARD REPORT: MAY — JULY 2021

<u>MAY:</u>	HOUSEHOLDS ASSISTED:	CLIENTS' INFORMATION OBTAINED/UPDATED:	SERVICES & INDICATORS:				HOUSING COUNSELING PROGRAM
			SRV: (S)	FNPI: (I)	4i: Utility Payments 4j: Utility Deposits 4k: Arrears Payments 4z: Avoid Shut-off		
LIHEAP GEN./CARES:	171/128	235/242	SRV: 4i 299	FNPI: 4z 299	SRV:	SRV:	Tabitha assisted 3 clients by telephone counseling (approved by HUD due to COVID) with Home Maintenance Counseling and 2 clients with Pre-Purchase Home Buying Education who was referred through the City of Opelika's Down Payment Assistance Program.
LIHEAP CRISIS:	000	000	SRV: 4i	FNPI: 4z	SRV:	SRV:	
ABC TRUST:	022	032	SRV: 4i 22	FNPI: 4z 22	SRV:	SRV:	
EFSP/EFSP-COVID	000	000					
CSBG/CSBG-COVID	003	007	SRV7: Case Management				
NO SHOWS:	MISSING DOCUMENTATION:		SURVEY:				

<u>JUNE:</u>	HOUSEHOLDS ASSISTED:	CLIENTS' INFORMATION OBTAINED/UPDATED:	SERVICES & INDICATORS:				HOUSING COUNSELING PROGRAM
			SRV: (S)	FNPI: (I)	4i: Utility Payments 4j: Utility Deposits 4k: Arrears Payments 4z: Avoid Shut-off		
LIHEAP GEN./CARES:	192/034	375/061	SRV: 4i 226	FNPI: 4z 226	SRV:	SRV:	Tabitha assisted 2 clients by telephone counseling (approved by HUD due to COVID) with Pre-Purchase Home Buying Education who was referred through the City of Opelika's Down Payment Assistance Program.
LIHEAP CRISIS:	005	016	SRV: 4i 5	FNPI: 4z 5	SRV:	SRV:	
ABC TRUST:	059	063	SRV: 4i 59	FNPI: 4z 59	SRV:	SRV:	
EFSP/EFSP-COVID	000	000					
CSBG- COVID	000	000	SRV7: Case Management				
NO SHOWS:	MISSING DOCUMENTATION:		SURVEY:				

<u>JULY:</u>	HOUSEHOLDS ASSISTED:	CLIENTS' INFORMATION OBTAINED/UPDATED:	SERVICES & INDICATORS:				HOUSING COUNSELING PROGRAM
			SRV: (S)	FNPI: (I)	4i: Utility Payments 4j: Utility Deposits 4k: Arrears Payments 4z: Avoid Shut-off		
LIHEAP GEN./CARES:	254/020	498/048	SRV: 4i 274	FNPI: 4z 274	SRV:	SRV:	Tabitha assisted 1 client by telephone counseling (approved by HUD due to COVID) with Pre-Purchase Home Buying Education who was referred through the City of Opelika's Down Payment Assistance Program.
LIHEAP CRISIS:	025	068	SRV: 4i 25	FNPI: 4z 25	SRV:	SRV:	
ABC TRUST:	050	055	SRV: 4i 50	FNPI: 4z 50	SRV:	SRV:	
EFSP/EFSP-COVID	000	000					
CSBG- COVID	000	000	SRV7: Case Management				
NO SHOWS:	MISSING DOCUMENTATION:		SURVEY:				

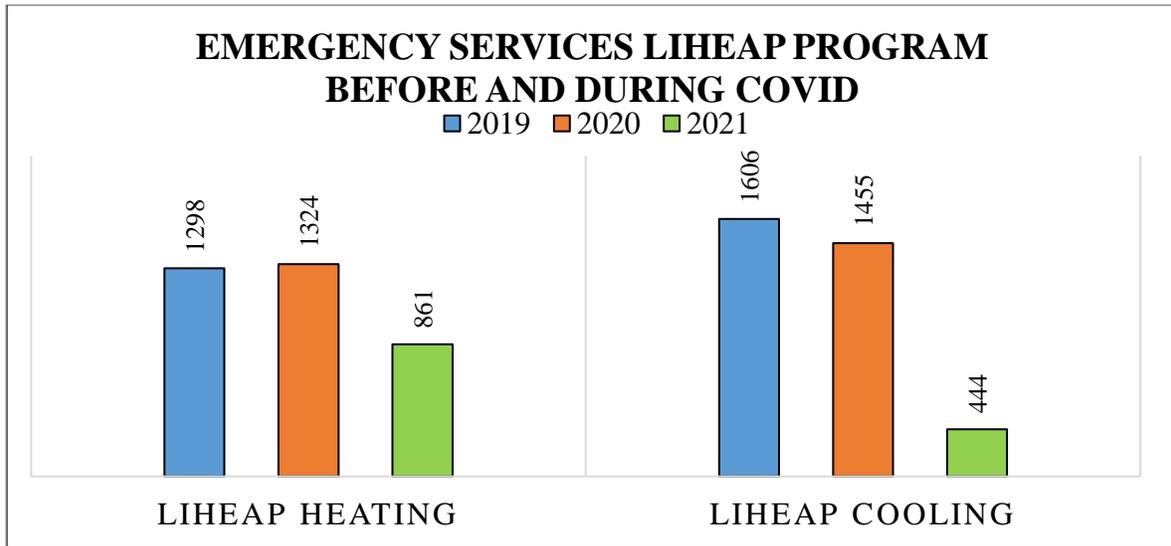
LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program)
ABC TRUST (Alabama Business Charitable Trust: Funded by Alabama Power)
EFSP (Emergency Food and Shelter Program)
CSBG (Community Service Block Grant Program)

Any questions, call Emergency Services at 334-821-8336 ext. 406 or you may send an email to:
 Tabitha.Perry@achr.com



EMERGENCY SERVICES PROGRAMS QUARTERLY BOARD REPORT: MAY — JULY 2021

HAPPENINGS:



In 2020, during COVID, the Emergency Services LIHEAP Heating Assistance Program assisted 26 additional households than pre-COVID 2019. The LIHEAP Heating Program runs from January – April, but due to COVID it was extended to June and due to this extension, we were able to assist an additional 78 households.

In April of 2020, Lee County had an unemployment rate of 12.4%. Many Lee County residents did not receive their unemployment benefits until July 2020, so our LIHEAP Cooling Program also experienced an increase in households we assisted. We assisted an additional 131 households than pre-COVID 2019.

In 2021, the Emergency Services LIHEAP Heating Assistance Program experienced a decrease in assistance of 501 households from 2020. We assisted only 823 households on this program. This decrease can be contributed to various reasons; additional unemployment weekly (600) stimulus checks households received due to the 12.4% Lee County unemployment rate in April 2020 (dropped to 2.3% in April 2021); 3 additional stimulus payments households received (600, 1200 and 1400 with an additional 1400 per child); an abundance of COVID funds awarded throughout the community, and the delay in receiving the LIHEAP grant (usually begins in January but we did not begin the program until March).

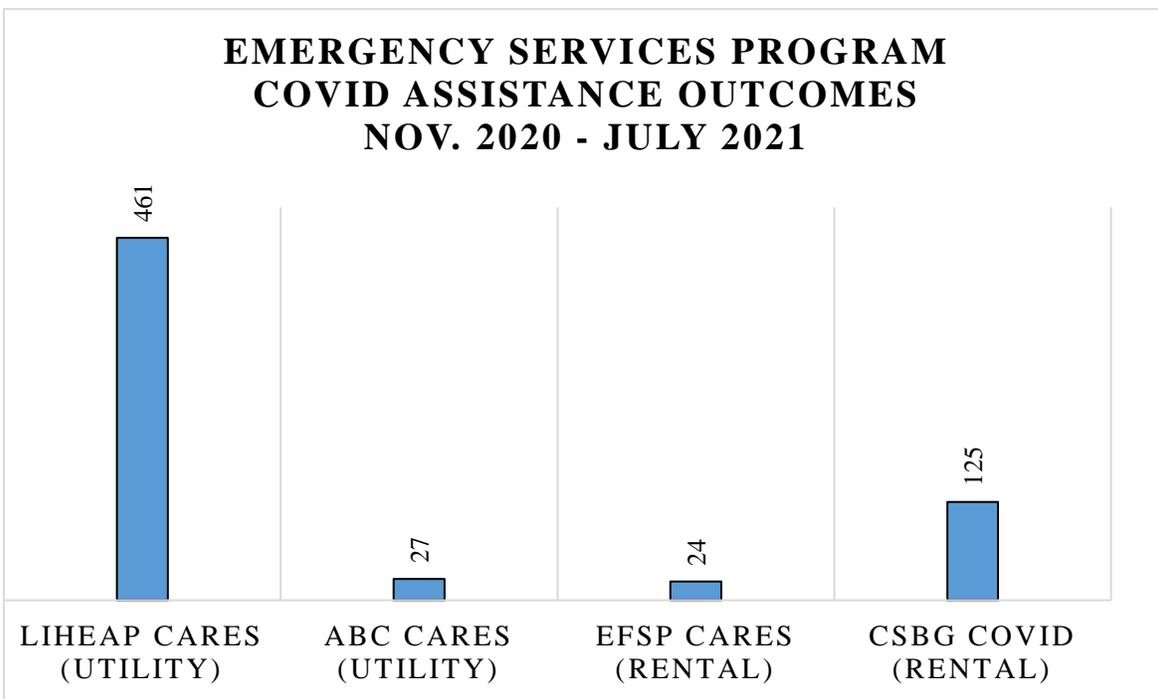
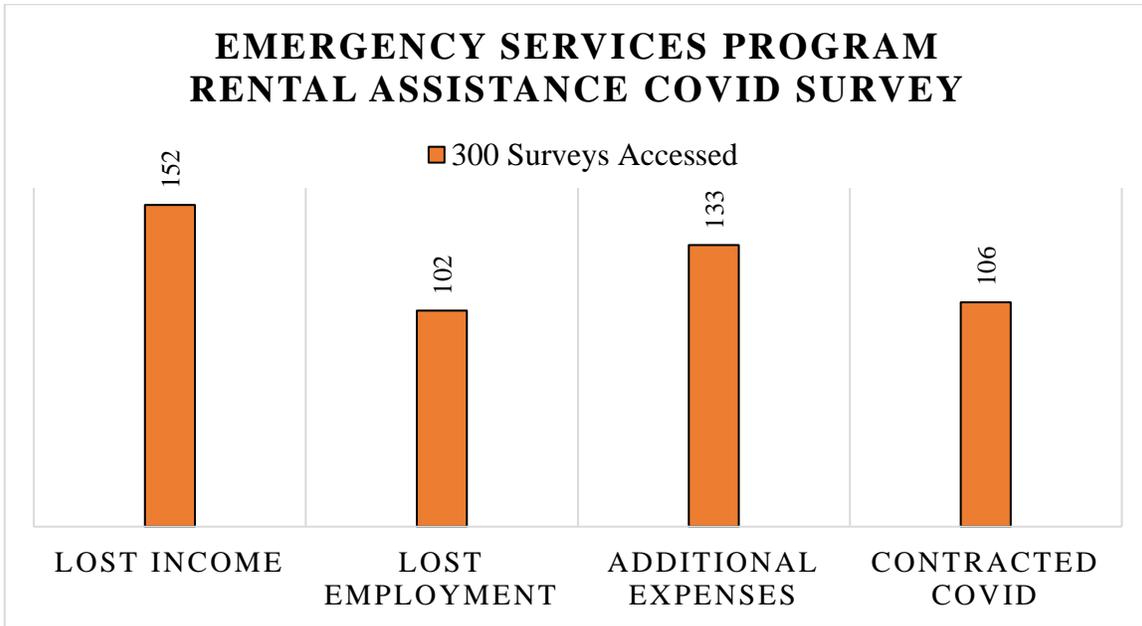
The 2021 LIHEAP Cooling Program began in June and it will run until September. Surveys are offered to clients online before accessing the appointment screen. Hardcopy surveys are attached to applications that are attached to drop boxes at two locations. We distributed 679 surveys (291 online and 388 hardcopies) during the month of June. We received 340 surveys back as of July 22nd.

ADECA has introduced two new programs that will be offered to the community: The American Recovery Program (ARP) that will be offered beginning in August and the Water Assistance Program that will begin during the winter program. The ARP Program will allow an additional 300 dollars to be placed on a client’s account each program (2021 Cooling Program, 2021-22 Heating Program and 2022 Cooling Program).



EMERGENCY SERVICES PROGRAMS QUARTERLY BOARD REPORT: MAY — JULY 2021

COVID Related: The Emergency Services Program received the following COVID funds to distribute throughout the community (LIHEAP Cares 583,000, ABC Trust 5,718, EFSP 14,000, and CSBG COVID 383,000). To appropriately allocate these funds a survey was placed on the agency’s website and was announced on the agency’s Facebook page and on Charity Tracker (community partner sharing system). 300 surveys were accessed for rental assistance reporting multiple impacts that were caused by COVID. 861 COVID related surveys were attached to the LIHEAP applications and 637 households reported they had been affected by COVID.



Any questions, call Emergency Services at 334-821-8336 ext. 406 or you may send an email to: Tabitha.Perry@achr.com



EMERGENCY SERVICES PROGRAMS QUARTERLY BOARD REPORT: MAY — JULY 2021

MAY: May ended the LIHEAP Heating Program. We assisted 861 households with this program. Clients were assisted with their heating bills on the LIHEAP Heating Program and were assisted on their light bills with the LIHEAP Cares (COVID) Program. The LIHEAP Cares Program will end September 30, 2021.

The Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) held its Phase 37, 38 and CARES virtual meeting. EFSP funds are assigned to qualifying clients who have mortgages because the CSBG housing assistance program will only assist households with rental and/or utility assistance. All EFSP funds must be exhausted by October 31, 2021.

During the month of May, Tabitha was awarded two scholarships from NeighborWorks. She passed both courses and received Certificates in: Fair Housing-Building Competency in Housing Counseling (HO003WT) and Strategic Thinking and Planning (ML120vc); a four week virtual class. She also attended the Community Action Association of Alabama (CAAA) Annual Conference that was held virtually this year. Throughout the week she attended the following workshops: Raising and Preserving Low-Income Voice of the Tripartite Board, Strategic Planning in a Pandemic, CSBG and Head Start--A Collaborative Guide that Promotes Self-Sufficiency, Practicing Empathy and Respect in the Workplace and she ended the virtual workshop by attending Rapid Roma.

JUNE: June ushered in the beginning of the LIHEAP Cooling Program. Because many households had received assistance with the LIHEAP Cares (COVID) Program (1000.00 payments on their utility bills) they had credit from the LIHEAP Heating Program. This allowed available appointments during the month of June for those households that would normally have to wait to make an appointment for July or August.

Because we have several programs going at one time, to be able to utilize the benefits of each program, especially the Alabama Business Charitable Trust Fund (ABC Trust), which pays only the amount of the bill and is designed for those who are 60 and over, we will be assisting available households on this program first and then we will be able to assist them a second time with the LIHEAP Cooling Program as well as the LIHEAP Cares Program and the new program: American Recovery Program (ARP).

JULY: We received the FY 2022 Community Action Plan (CAP) packet which is due September 10, 2021, and the Emergency Services staff attended Spire's Annual Roundtable. The focus of this meeting was to introduce the Spire Pledge Portal training. This portal will operate like the Alabama Power Portal. We will be able to view current bills and pledges that are made to a Spire account.

Tabitha was also selected to be interviewed by the ROMA Cares Act Team concerning how the agency utilized ROMA during COVID. Tabitha discussed topics concerning the assessment of programs, the planning of COVID funds, the collection of data and how the data was analyzed.

ALABAMA COUNCIL ON HUMAN RELATIONS

Board Report May, June, and July 2021

TRANSPORTATION, MAINTENANCE/JANITORIAL, WEATHERIZATION, HOUSING

Michelle Cosper, Transportation–Maintenance Manager/Housing Coordinator

TRANSPORTATION

Therese Sampson, Transportation Assistant, attended the orientations for all three centers. Therese and I designed bus routes based on transportation agreement forms turned in at orientations. Therese entered all transportation information into our child data system, ChildPlus.

Training was held for one week to prepare drivers and bus aides for the new school year. We had a representative from DHR to discuss their rules and regulations, Natalie Stephens, Health Coordinator, trained on ACHR policy, procedures, and *Hand in Hand*, our parent book. Therese and Michelle covered DOT rules, transportation procedures, and job descriptions and discussed how to handle situations that may arise.

Interviews and training for new bus aides was held to be able cover buses with proper adult-child ratio.

Drivers inspected buses and wrote repair requests. Several buses are being taken to Davis Tire and Auto for repair. We need them all back before King Center and Edelman Center open. Drivers sanitize their bus morning and afternoon before each route. All COVID rules are being followed to ensure safety for staff and children.

MAINTENANCE/JANITORIAL

King Center

Our janitorial staff at King Center does a good job performing daily routine duties such as cleaning, mopping, taking out trash, raking leaves, etc.

King Hutchinson also performs some maintenance duties, including trimming trees, replacing light bulbs, repairing tricycles and other playground equipment, painting, etc.

As we prepare for the new school year Janitorial and Maintenance staff have been busy at King Center stripping and waxing floors in classrooms, shampooing carpet throughout the center, touching up paint and replacing light bulbs. They have replaced damaged countertops in two HS classrooms and installed new mulch on the playground. Carpeting in our Head Start wing was removed and replaced with waterproof vinyl flooring. Lamar Electric was at King Center installing new ceiling fans in every classroom as well as wiring the new laundry shed, repairing a GFCI plug on the playground and installing new plugs in the Rainy Day room upstairs. This work was beyond the skills of ACHR's maintenance staff.

Maintenance /janitorial staff at King Center also completed the following:

Clean AC drain in mechanical room upstairs; help install and install sinks and new faucets; bring supplies to King Center from Darden; help put toys together; and go to Decatur to pick up donated Weatherization truck.

Darden Center

Maintenance and janitorial staff at Darden have been busy maintaining the center. They continue with everyday tasks of cleaning and taking out trash as well as routine maintenance items such as changing a/c filters and performing building and playground inspections as well as a new responsibility of spraying building with a chemical to prevent the spread of COVID. All floors have been cleaned with a machine and touch up painted. All classrooms have been touch up painted. Each classroom has been set up, cleaned and sanitized. On all three playgrounds grass has been fertilized and sprayed for weeds. Janitorial staff assisted teachers with getting their classrooms ready to open for children.

A lot of changes are happening at Darden. A new office was built on the stage. The sidewalk to the front door was re-done due to flooding in heavy rains, despite the awning built over the front entrance door all the way to the parent parking lot. The changes needed on Wing I to convert from HS to EHS classrooms has begun. Changing tables with adult sinks, food prep tables with adult sinks and a child’s sink must be installed in all the classrooms on Wing 1, A B C D E F. A concrete pad was poured and will be covered in artificial turf for the toddlers on Wing 1. There is more to come! Supplies and equipment is being ordered to better serve our children. Due to the age of some cameras and DVR’s (they are obsolete and some no longer work) we sought written quotes to up-grade the camera and video/audio recording system at Darden.

Maintenance /janitorial staff at Darden Center also completed the following items

<p>Shred files at garage, Update 2 light fixtures to LED in classroom B Move furniture off stage to prepare for new office Repair cabinet in room P Repair faucet in room T Monitor tree-trimming company Repair toilet in women’s bath Burton House Spray weeds at Burton House Repair toilet in men’s bath Burton House Install 2 soap dispensers at Burton house Install 2 paper towel dispensers at Burton house Replace filters at Burton house Spray weeds at rear of Darden, playgrounds- wing 2, front of building, Burton House and Darden on the hill Add sand to playgrounds 1 & 2 Unload mulch from trailer and take to play ground 1 and 2 and spread Add gravel to pot holes Replace ceiling tile in hall wing 3 Work on AC on wing 3 Try to clean out AC drain wing 3, Check dryer on wing 3 Replace emergency exit light at Darden on the Hill, Replace security light in back of Darden on the Hill Repair kitchen light at Darden on the hill Hang temp tester at front door that had been pulled out of wall</p>	<p>Repair safety lock on cabinet room P Check toilet in room P Take down pocket book cases from rooms P, T Install two new locks on cabinets in room T Unclog sink wing 2 Replace ceiling tile wing 3 Put together medical cabinets Take floor sealer to King center Install new faucet and supply line in room Q Install new faucet and supply line in room R Install thermometer at each entrance to Darden Check AC at Sunshine Shop building, Repair toilet in Darden on the Hill Spray weeds on wing 1 playground and front drive Spray weeds wing 3 Clean playground equipment playgrounds 1& 2 Clean playground equipment Darden on the Hill, Repair gate lock on pay ground 3, Repair gate going to door wing 1 Mud wall to repair hole in wall and paint in room L Install new fans in rooms Q, R, P (EHS) Install fans in rooms H, I, J, L, M, N, O (HS) Change A/C filters Change filters in gym Go to King center and pick up changing tables and bring to wing 1 Darden Reinstall lock on door room E Replace/repair cabinet locks room R, S Check water pressure in room Q</p>
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Install base board room I (old office; new HS room) Cut pipe off and patch holes in wall in room I Repair sink room I Hang Shelves in room I paint room I install child toilet in room I Install new lock on door room I Put utility cabinets together Install locks on Early Childhood Coords office Replace ceiling tile near front door Run Wi-Fi cable for Dana Unstop toilet in break room (Key card in toilet!)	Install two new fans in room A B C D E G Replace cabinet lock room T Repair door lock room L Repair door lock room O Assemble 3 more kitchen cabinets with sink and faucet Change filters monthly Replace safety lock on fridge room S Put together a kitchen cart Put together 3 sink cabinets Put together 4 kitchen carts Take carts and sink and cabinets rooms to wing 1
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Edelman Center

The maintenance/janitorial staff at Edelman continue to perform routine janitorial duties such as cleaning, sweeping, mopping and taking out trash. Joe and Morris also help out with maintenance issues such as changing light bulbs, changing a/c filters, painting and routine inspections; they report any issues they are unable to repair to Michelle and/or Mike.

As we prepare for the new school year, our janitorial/maintenance staff have been busy stripping and waxing the floors throughout the center. A vender that was in the center stated how clean and how great the floors looked all through the center (had to brag on our staff). Lee’s Heating & Air has been to Edelman and serviced all the a/c units at the center. He had to make repairs to the units in the kitchen, the center office and the breakroom. Dan Hart Refrigeration has been to Edelman recently to repair the freezer and the cooler; both needed new compressors. Due to Edelman Center offering extended school year, the center had to be prepared to open in July. Janitorial staff helped teachers set up, clean and disinfect their classrooms. They spray the center every day with a disinfectant spray (COVID) plus do playground inspections and keep the center clean and safe for our children.

WEATHERIZATION

The ACHR weatherization staff continues working on our goal of helping as many clients as possible.

Our two-weatherization grants – DOE and LIWAP – require we weatherize 17 houses for fiscal year 2021. Summer at ACHR is a busy time for maintenance staff as we prepare for the new school year. Therefore, we will not start assessing new weatherization houses until September.

One highlight for our weatherization program is that we were gifted a Ford F-150 pickup truck from the Community Action Agency in Decatur, AL. They contract out much of their weatherization work and no longer needed this truck.

We look forward to assisting more clients as the weatherization program moves into the future.

HOUSING

This has been a busy period for housing.

I am currently working on 2 rehab projects and planning for a new project in 2022. Several five year and two fifteen-year extensions were completed. I was able to obtain more time on the five-year extension for Darden Oaks. This will allow us time to make the best decision for this property.

I have visited eight of our properties and plan to visit and revisit properties soon. I am creating a checklist to help monitor and inspect every property.

The new checking account was set up for ACHR Housing Corp as instructed by the board. Recent Waterfall payments were deposited in the account. This will allow more clear documentation and tracking of funds. This is a requirement on AHFA when trying to rehab or do a new project.

Land has been secured for a new project "Brighton Way" that will be submitted in 2022. We submitted this a couple of years ago, scored 100 points and still did not get the deal. The mayor is very interested in this project for seniors and has helped secure a better property. A lot of work goes into turning in all the required paperwork for a new project; hopefully this time we will score 100 points (the max) and be approved. The other agency had some additional funding from Neighborworks. We will be looking into that possibility.