Exploring the Opportunities for OST Programs in Better Beginnings
Webinar Logistics

• All participants please mute line to start. Do NOT put line on hold.

• Select mute option on phone or type *6. Line can be un-muted by pressing *6 again for the opportunity to ask questions or make comments.

• Webinar features

• A copy of this Power Point presentation will be sent to all registered participants.
Agenda

• Quality Matters
• What is Better Beginnings?
  – History
  – Components
  – Resources and Supports Available to OST Programs
  – Incentives for participation
• Q&A with webinar participants
• Next Steps
Guest Presenters

Tonya Russell – Director, Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education
Nichole Parks – Project Coordinator, ASU Childhood Services
Nikki Caton – Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education
Jennifer Harris – School Age Special Projects Coordinator
Quality Matters for Children and Families in Arkansas

Tonya Russell
Historical Development of Better Beginnings

2004 - Present
What is Better Beginnings?

• Emphasizes quality child care and out of school time programs
• Empowers parents by providing an online tool that identifies and locates quality programs in their community
• Gives providers valuable tools to improve the quality of their program
• Establishes standards of excellence
• Provides a path for providers to meet or exceed these standards
Better Beginnings is a Building Block Model
Components of Better Beginnings for OST Programs

- Administration
- Administrator/Staff Qualifications/Professional Development
- Learning Environment
- Environmental Assessment
- Child/Youth Health & Development
Administration

PAS

Strengthening Families
Administrator/Staff Qualifications & Professional Development

- Membership in TAPP Registry
- Completion of SACERS or YPQA Training
- Training on physical activities for children and youth
- 40 Developmental Assets Training
- Training addressing program planning/management and leadership
Learning Environments

• Use of daily schedules
• Program activity plans incorporate 40 Developmental Assets framework
• Division of program space into interest areas
• Use of Youth Portfolios
Learning Environments

- Use of daily schedules
- Program activity plans incorporate 40 Developmental Assets framework and physical activity
- Division of program space into interest areas
- Use of Youth Portfolios Linkages to ADE K-12 Frameworks
Environmental Assessment

Program engages in self and external assessment using one of the following research-based tools:
Child/Youth Health and Development

- Distribution of ARKids First information to families
- Applicable Medical and educational plans for children are shared
- Programs share information with families about child/youth development, health, physical activity, nutrition, and medical homes.
Tools to Support OST Programs

Online trainings that meet Better Beginnings Requirements

Online School Age Tool Kit at Better Beginnings Website

Free onsite technical assistance to focus on program quality elements

Trainings and technical assistance help programs use quality assessment tools – YPQA and SACERS
Arkansas Youth Development Institute (YDI)

- All Courses are FREE!
- The content of the courses are of relevance to youth workers serving children and youth in elementary – high school.
- Free Supervisory Guides for select courses help supervisors take online course content back to site and take action!

To learn more about YDI visit www.aosn.org and click on YDI tab. Informational 1 hour webinar being held March 15th from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Arkansas YDI courses

- Overview of Positive Youth Development Approach
- Child Development
- Adolescent Development
- Engaging Parents
- Working With Culturally Diverse Youth
- Unhealthy Coping Behaviors in Youth
- Maltreatment of Youth
- Health Disparities and Their Impact on Academic Achievement
- Age Appropriate Discipline
- Conflict Resolution
- Bully Prevention
- Civic Engagement: Engaging Young People in Civic Life
- Working With Girls
- Building Assets With Youth
- Cultural Competency for Youth Workers
Other Online Trainings

- Physical activity and nutrition trainings
  - Foundations of Nutrition: MyPyramid
  - Snack Time: Providing Healthy Snacks in Your After School Program
  - Engage Youth to Live Healthy Lives and Build Healthy Communities
  - Physical Activity: Ability Awareness
  - Physical Activity 1: Up and Running
  - Physical Activity 2: Maximize Potential
  - Physical Activity 3: Going the Distance
To begin taking these online trainings visit the TAPP Registry website at [http://professionalregistry.astate.edu](http://professionalregistry.astate.edu) and click on “Training Opportunities” and “Online Courses”.

All Better Beginnings trainings (including face to face options) are registered with the TAPP Registry.
Online Out of School Time Tool Kit

www.arbetterbeginnings.com
FREE Onsite Technical Assistance Opportunities

Provided by ASU Childhood Services

Visit chs.astate.edu and click on “Downloads” – look for “Technical Assistance Request” form
Quality Assessment Support

Two variations of the tool exist and are based on the ages of youth being served: (K-6th grade) and/or (4th -12th grade)

Foundational trainings and support to conduct self assessments as well as opportunities for external assessment

Ongoing support in developing program improvement plans and coaching for quality improvement

Most suitable for traditional child care facilities serving children in grades K-6th
New Webinar Opportunities

Friday, March 11th – 1:00 – 2:00
“New Developments to the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Afterschool Meals Program”

Tuesday, March 15th 6:30 – 7:30 pm
“Arkansas Youth Development Institute Kick Off”

Thursday, March 31st – 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.
“Introduction to the Youth Program Quality Assessment”

Notice is being sent out thru AOSN list serv of these webinars. If you are not a part of this list serv and would like to participate contact Jennifer Harris at jenharris@astate.edu
Program Incentives for Better Beginnings Programs

Nikki Caton
Questions?

Please remember to unmute your line so that you can be heard
Webinar Reminders

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“You’ve given them the sun and moon. Now give them the stars.”

www.arbetterbeginnings.com