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The Arkansas Health Center is a 350-bed long-term care psychiatric nursing facility, which serves the needs of elderly Arkansans with disabilities who require specialized services and programs not generally available through community nursing homes.

DHS Developmental Disabilities Services (DDS)

The Division of Developmental Disabilities Services (DDS) has adopted the service delivery philosophy of "Service Options". Service Options are designed so that individuals and their families can have choices in selecting appropriate services in their local community. This philosophy will allow each individual to maximize his or her abilities while enjoying a quality of life commensurate with those abilities. It will also prevent an individual from being forced to access more expensive and intrusive services.

To access Developmental Disabilities Services, contact your county Department of Human Services office to apply.

DDS provides programs and services through the following:

DDS COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES SECTION provides a variety of services, including day programming (early intervention, preschool), respite care, family support, follow-along, case management, integrated supports, and community integration companions. Individuals receiving services in the local community receive supervision from trained service providers in the most appropriate setting. Service providers must meet specified standards and criteria through either DDS licensure or certification. Community Support Services includes Field Services, First Connections (Part C Early Intervention), Early Childhood, Therapeutic Services, and Integrated Services that provide wraparound support to persons with dual diagnoses (developmental disabilities and mental illness).

Early Intervention and Early Childhood Services for Children Birth to Five Years of Age: The First Connections Program (through Parts B & C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act-IDEA) is responsible for the planning, development, and implementation of statewide services for infants and toddlers (0 to 36 months of age). Currently, this unit provides services for approximately 3,000 infants and toddlers. Eleven (11) Developmental Specialists and two (2) Developmental Specialists Managers provide intake, service option presentations, individual social history development, referrals, transition to public school, individual service coordination (case management), assistance and monitoring of early intervention/early childhood contracts, obtaining and maintaining client data tracking information and case notes. Early Intervention/ Early Childhood services include the following 16 federally mandated components: identification; evaluation; procedural safeguards; case management; speech, physical and occupational therapies; audiological services; developmental therapy; family training, health/medical services; nutrition

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services; psychological services; social work services and transportation. Additionally, this program works closely with both the State and Local Interagency Coordinating Councils, whose responsibility is to provide advice and assistance regarding early intervention services in the local community. Procedures and responsibilities designated by Part B & C of the IDEA are developed and supervised by First Connections staff. Home-based early intervention for infants and toddlers provides speech/language, physical and occupational therapies, and specialized services are provided in integrated day care programs, therapeutic settings, or the child's home.

Developmental Services:

DDS Developmental Services plans and provides continuous training for Speech Pathologists serving community programs as well as technical assistance to licensed community programs.

Field Services:

Field Services is responsible for the initial and on-going linkage of persons with disabilities to needed/requested services and the necessary supports to make those linkages timely, accountable and satisfactory. Specifically, the function of Field Services is to listen to what is being requested in terms of services needed and respond appropriately, making service referrals and performing case management activities based upon an individual's choice from an array of service options. Field staff functions are: Intake, service option presentations, individual social history development, referrals, emergency respite and transition/re-entry, individual service coordination (case management), inter-agency coordination, case notes, requests for assistance, interstate compact transfer requests, expediting emergency service requests, monitoring of field staff functions, obtaining and maintaining client data tracking information. Field Services has 21 Service Specialists who serve as intake points for individuals ages 6 to death who are entering the DDS system and are requesting services in the 75 counties throughout the state. Each Service Specialist is responsible for case management and has an average caseload of approximately 110 persons. Services include: information and referral regarding resources available in the individuals own community such as group home admission; Medicaid waiver; individual/family support services; integrated support services and application to any of the six Human Development Centers. Consultation and technical assistance is provided in the areas of individual habilitation, program development, assessments, individual/parent/guardian rights, individual service plans, and counseling.

Cooperative ventures with other divisions of DHS have improved the quality of services for persons with multi-divisional needs. DDS is the lead agency designated to administer the innovational Together We Can Program to provide community-based "wrap-around" services for these individuals. The Together We Can Program (TWC) brings together the participating agencies of: the Department of Human Services (Divisions of Children and Family Services,

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Developmental Disabilities Services, County Operations, Mental Health, Medical Services, Youth Services, and Office of Administrative Services), the Department of Education, and the Department of Health. The program is currently operational in 27 counties: Craighead, Drew, Independence, Jefferson, Stone, Sebastian, Benton, Union, Desha, Baxter, Grant, Greene, Ashley, Cleburne, Bradley, Crawford, Franklin, Faulkner, Columbia, Logan, Polk, Johnson, Poinsett, Mississippi, Jackson, and Hempstead.

Arkansas Community Services-Home and Community Based Waiver Services is a program that continues to expand and requires changes to accommodate people in the most integrated setting. Fifty of the licensed community-based programs have elected to provide Case Management and direct service delivery through the Medicaid Waiver as an alternative to institutional placement. Fourteen other providers are certified waiver providers. Adaptive equipment, environmental modifications, consultation, integrated support services (including: habilitation; supportive living and alternative living); personal care; transportation; crisis abatement; supported employment; specialized medical supplies; and case management are provided to qualifying individuals in their home and community. A multi-agency plan process is used to identify generic resources, individual's needs, desired outcomes and provider commitment.

The Medicaid Home and Community Based Waiver Unit ensures that home and community based services are maintained as an alternative to institutional placement. This unit ensures that up to 2,404 eligible persons can receive their choice of services through community based programs, that their individual program mix is programmatically correct, and is cost effective under standards established by Medicaid and the DDS.

This Unit serves as the liaison with the Federal Center for Medicaid/Medicare Services and through networking and on-going educational activities advises and accomplishes changes to improve and expand waiver service opportunities. Administrative functions include; review of policy and procedure development and implementation, plan of care approval, service delivery tracking, monitoring, individual choice, income and ICF/MR level of care eligibility. Currently 2,183 people are receiving these community services. Assessments for additional applicants are on-going.

DHS Division of Services for the Blind

Statewide Support Group Activity Contact
501-682-0199 or 1-800-960-9270

The DHS Division of Services for the Blind works as a partner with persons age 14 and older who are blind or severely visually impaired. The agency goal is to bring about the individual's greatest level of functional independence both in home and on the job. Qualified DSB specialists counsel visually impaired individuals in ten offices statewide. Counselors travel to homes and job sites at

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the convenience of consumers to deliver or monitor whatever training, equipment and services are needed. Services for the Blind field offices are located as follows:

Batesville

Services for the Blind
100 Weaver Avenue
Batesville, AR 72501-7314
(870) 793-6876
FAX: (870) 793-9014
TDD: (870) 793-4224

Fayetteville

Services for the Blind
4044 Frontage Road
Fayetteville, AR 72703
(479) 527-2580
FAX: (479) 521-2311
TDD: (479) 521-0103

Harrison

Services for the Blind
2126 Capps Road
Harrison, AR 72601-1096
(870) 741-6107
FAX: (870) 741-6198
TDD: (800) 285-1121

Little Rock

Services for the Blind
700 Main Street, S101
P.O. Box 3237
Little Rock, AR 72203-3237
(501) 682-5463
(800) 960-9270
FAX: (501) 682-0366
TDD: (501) 682-0093

Texarkana

Services for the Blind
3809 Airport Plaza
Texarkana, AR 71854
(870) 773-0563, Ext. 339
FAX: (870) 779-1335
TDD: (870) 772-3813

El Dorado

Services for the Blind
123 West 18th Street
El Dorado, AR 71730-4669
(870) 862-6631
FAX: (870) 862-7295
TDD: (870) 862-3729

Fort Smith

Services for the Blind
616 Garrison Ave., Room 224
Fort Smith, AR 72901-2521
(479) 782-4555, Ext. 3224
FAX: (479) 782-7278
TDD: (479) 782-9873

Jonesboro

Services for the Blind
2920 McClellan Dr., Rm 1106
Jonesboro, AR 72401-7393
(870) 268-2230
FAX: (870) 268-2233
TDD: (870) 972-6013

Pine Bluff

Services for the Blind
6th & Mulberry
P.O. Box 5670
Pine Bluff, AR 71601-5670
(870) 534-4200
FAX: (870) 535-1714
TDD: (870) 534-8976