

THE BOARD BULLETIN

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AACCS World Wide Web Address: www.audubon-area.com

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HEAD START PRISM REPORT

Federal Report Positive

Results from the Department of Health & Human Services PRISM (Program Review Instrument for Systems Monitor) visit indicate near compliance for the Audubon Area Community Services Head Start program. The few findings that were documented, such as faulty locks on cabinets and the claiming of parent co-payments as non-federal match, have already been corrected or will be soon. The agency has 90 days to formally respond in writing.

“All in all I believe it was a great report with all programmatic and program design areas in full compliance,” said Aubrey Nehring, Audubon Area’s Head Start director. “Considering the intensity of the reviews in the current environment, I believe we came out very well.”

A team of federal reviewers visited the agency February 6-10 to examine AACCS systems and Head Start services. The team met with families, community members who collaborate with the agency and administrative personnel in finance and human resources. Of the four items found to be in non-compliance, three were in finance. The other was due to a missing lock at one of the sites.

The Head Start program, governed by the Head Start Act, provides grants to local public and private non-profit and for-profit agencies to provide comprehensive child development services to economically disadvantaged children and families. Its goals are to enhance early learning and promote parental involvement.

The Head Start Act requires that each grantee be reviewed every three years to ensure that the standards are being met.

Audubon Area Community Services administers Head Start in the 16 counties in the Pennyryle and Green River regions. In May it was named a *Program of Excellence* by the National Head Start Association.

Did You Know?

Audubon Area Community Services uses the Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) tool to measure and report outcomes of its services and programs. ROMA consists of measuring activities built around a framework of six goals. Watch next month for more on these goals.

COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

2007 Funding Appropriations

Federal funding for the Community Services Block Grant program now stands at \$449 after the mark up of the FY 2007 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Bill by the House Appropriations Committee. This last mark up added \$18.6 million, but the amount still accounts for a 29 percent cut in the program.

CSBG, which funds many services including the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), receives a great amount of bipartisan support, and many Republicans and Democrats say funding will be restored in its entirety before the end of the year. Paying for the additional dollars for CSBG, however, is a hurdle all Community Action Agencies are facing. With limited funding in the proposed federal budget, an addition in one program within the appropriations bill means a cut in another. Other programs in the bill include Head Start, job training and Older Americans services.

The bill was still in Committee in late June. But Appropriations Chairman Lewis (R-CA) has set the goal of passing all appropriations bills in the House before the July 4 recess.

The National Community Action Foundation believes that support for CSBG continues to grow. The Bush Administration called for a phasing out of the program., but 143 Representatives signed a joint letter requesting that CSBG funding be restored to at least the FY 2005 level of \$637 million. Of those who signed, 35 were Republicans.

This most recent letter brings the total of letters in support of CSBG sent this year to three. A total of 42 Representatives, including 13 Republicans and a half-dozen appropriators, signed on to the letters to the White House and the Budget Committee but didn’t sign on to the most recent letter. A total of 185 Representatives have expressed support for protecting CSBG funding in recent months.

CSBG funding at Audubon Area Community Services keeps offices operating in the seven counties in the Green River region, consisting of Daviess, Ohio, Henderson, McLean, Hancock, Webster and Union counties. Eligible clients sign up for a variety of services at these offices, including LIHEAP, Weatherization, CHOICES (a case management program), Senior Employment and more. Funding also provides for annual community assessments that determine unmet needs. To learn more about CSBG or to see results from the 2006 assessments, go to www.audubon-area.com.

AACCS Current Events

30 Shauna Boom's Birthday	31	July 2006				1 Helen Sear's Birthday
2 Glen Calhoun's Birthday	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 Hon. James Townsend's Birthday Community Services Committee Meeting	19	20	21 Administrative Committee Meeting	22
23	24 Community Support Committee Meeting	25	26	27 Child and Family Services Committee Meeting	28	29

Head Start Parent Survey Results Positive

Parents of children enrolled in Audubon Area Community Services Head Start have once again given high marks for the program. Results from the 2006 Parent Satisfaction Survey just released indicate a range of excellence on all responses. The survey consisted of nine questions that asked parents to rate their overall satisfaction of the program on a scale from 1 to 4, with 4 being excellent. Out of the approximately 2,500 surveys that staff sent, 1,194 responded for a response rate of nearly 50 percent.

The question that received the highest ranking pertained to staff respect and courtesy toward families. It received an overall score of 3.85 out of a possible 4 points. The lowest ranking score was 3.71, which asked if the enrollment process was easy to understand. That's an area that Aubrey Nehring, Head Start director, said staff is constantly working to improve. Head Start began surveying parents in 2001 in an effort to measure the impact on families. Since then, responses have remained in the excellence range, 3.65 or higher. Visit www.audubon-area.com to see the complete Parent Satisfaction Survey results.

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