



ARKANSAS 21C NETWORK MEETING

Meeting Summary
March 4, 2004

Introductions: each program introduced staff in attendance and noted if someone was at their first Network meeting.

Legislative Update: Susan Underwood (AR Dept of Ed) provided a summary of recent legislation. Act 49 provides additional funding for preschool; selection will be based on whether a district is in school improvement and is below 75% proficiency in math and reading. Meetings will be held throughout the state. (see enclosures)

Cindy Humphreys and Andi Ridgeway presented information about Act 1220, related to health and obesity. They described their role and interaction with the Arkadelphia 21C program. They also supplied the following web sites and information:

- www.healthyarkansas.com/advisory_committee/advisory.html
- www.achi.net/current_initiatives/bmi.asp
- August 10-11: Moving towards the "Natural State" of Health, LR Convention Center

Karen Benham, Rogers, described her involvement with a physical education grant that is focusing on the middle school.

Special Education and 21C: Karen Massey (SE AR Ed Coop), Mavis Elrod, and Velma Sanderson (Batesville) presented information on how to identify special needs, what services are available, and various responsibilities related to special ed for those in a 21C program.

Early Childhood Programs: There are many curricula and ways to work with preschool aged children. A panel provided a brief description of several of the options available. June Elliott from Cabot provided information on two types of play groups. Vicki Shelby from Paragould presented information about AR Frameworks, while Christy West from Hamburg gave an overview Core Knowledge (handout enclosed). Anne Sneed from Paris provided an update on PreK ELLA, including some information on the upcoming math and science rollout in July 2004. She also mentioned *Library Sparks*, a new magazine for children's librarians. Each issue has ideas for lessons that are adaptable for different grade levels.

Leadership: Norma Meek review some important tips on leadership. She emphasized that leadership is about influence and relationships, that leaders develop leaders, while managers develop followers. Each participant chose one of several topics and worked with a group to review a related article. Many of the groups presented a summary of their article in creative ways to the whole group.

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Roundtable Lunch: attendees ate lunch with their colleagues to discuss challenges unique to their job positions.

Odds and ends: Beth Lapin reminded everyone that the summer conference will be held July 11-13 in Kansas City. She also mentioned that there will be 21C coordinator and principal questionnaires for all to complete, while the programs that started July 2003 will also be doing parent/teacher surveys.

Beth also stated that three AR 21C coordinators, Martha Ragar, Vicki Shelby, and Marilyn Chambers, have been helping her and Norma plan the Network meetings. They were officially appointed by the group to be a Coordinating Committee to plan next year's AR network meetings.

Martha Ragar suggested that a way to promote 21C statewide would be to have a "21C Awareness Month/Week" during which each 21C program would do something visible. It was agreed that fall would be best and Beth will pursue this.

Communication Techniques 101: Norma Meek talked about ways of sharing what 21C provides, which is service more than a product. The group developed some fact sheets about several of the 21C components, each with a short list of facts to promote the feature (see enclosure).

Parent Involvement and Education Programs:

A number of 21C schools are involved with programs that provide parent education or promote family involvement. Susan Underwood introduced the topic and moderated a panel. Several programs were highlighted by 21C staff. Martha Ragar from Van Buren presented on a new program she is using called *PESA* (Parents Expectations Support Achievement) and provided brochures on this. Vicki Shelby from Paragould described the program, *Making 1st Experiences Count*. Tommy Tyler and Katrina Cavaness gave an overview of the program, *Dare to be You*, a program for families with preschool children which they are implementing in Monticello (and Hamburg is also participating with them).

Health Snacks: Materials from several programs such as Early Childhood nutrition money and the Department of Agriculture snack program were available, as we did our own 'make and take' snack for the road.