

## **Southeast Arkansas AECA Affiliation Meeting**

### **February 9, 2026 Minutes**

The first affiliate meeting of 2026 was held on Monday, February 9, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the University of Arkansas at Monticello – College of Technology McGehee campus.

There were 16 individuals present at the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by President Elaine Hargraves.

#### Meeting Business:

- Kim Burgess welcomed all attendees and those present introduced themselves along with their child care facility name and location.
- The minutes from the September meeting were shared with the members present at the previous meeting. Cortez Smith moved the motion to approve the minutes with Ms. Elizabeth Coakley, our Local Lead, seconding the motion.
- The members present stated that Monday evenings worked best for meetings and the timing/months throughout the year was also preferable. Therefore, we will maintain the same schedule for all upcoming meetings.
- The affiliate revisited previous community engagement ideas and determined a plan for the implementation of the events.
- Members in various counties will be hosting a clothing drive for both children and adult clothes in the near future. The host sites will collect and sort all donated items. They will then establish a distribution day for families in their communities to come pick up any wanted items. The affiliate will create and distribute flyers with the site locations, dates, times, and any additional information to notify the families in the community. The following sites/locations were established during our affiliate meeting – York Williams CDC will host the Dermott/Chicot County drive, Head of the Class will host the Monticello/Drew County area drive, while Loving Care Child Care Center will host the drive for Mitchellville/Desha County.
- Ms. Elizabeth Coakley shared information about the upcoming A-State Child Care Aware Super Saturday event slated for Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>. The event will be hosted at Cornerstone Christian Academy again this year with a registration fee of \$20. The event will offer multiple trainings and workshops including ones specific to interactions and CLASS.
- For Child Abuse Awareness month in April affiliate members will observe Wear Blue Day Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. The affiliate plans to contact Mr. Lloyd Franklin, Sr. or Sherri Williams to conduct a Child Abuse/Maltreatment training for members during our April meeting. Secretary Kim Burgess will also contact DeVonda Brown with CASA of the 10<sup>th</sup> district for a partnership with spreading awareness through the pinwheel placement on the UAM campus also.

- The date for the next meeting has been tentatively set for Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. The date will be determined based on the availability of the Child Abuse Awareness speakers listed above.

Before adjourning the meeting, multiple drawings were held for door prizes consisting of multiple children's books and donated UAM branded items.

Mrs. Hargraves and Mrs. Burgess thanked the members for their attendance. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.