Mission Statement: As good stewards of the public trust, we will advise the Office of Early Childhood in supporting the optimal and ongoing development of young children in Arkansas. The AECC will provide support by:

1) Increase the number of high-quality infant and toddler programs
2) Engage families in the child’s education through research-based programs that enhance child outcomes and success in school
3) Create an integrated system of professional development unifying the early childhood sectors-child care; HS; pre-k; public schools; early intervention and special education services
4) Support restructuring, expanding and growing Better Beginning/Quality Rating Improvement System
5) Strengthen and expand local and state partnerships with other agencies and organizations for connected action
6) Creating awareness of Health and Nutrition Programs and educate parents, children, and child care providers on the benefits of a healthy lifestyle

AGENDA

I. Call to Order / Reading of Mission Statement
   ❖ Welcome Senator Greg Leding
   Senate Committee on Children & Youth (11/17/26) Elizabeth Waldrum, Chair 
   Tonya Williams

II. Approval of Minutes from 10/17/23 Meeting
    Elizabeth Waldrum, Chair

III. Old Business
    ❖ DCCECE Commission Report
    ❖ HSSCO/AHSA Update
    ❖ ARPA Updates for Final Report for Supplemental Grant
      o TEACH Update
    Tonya Williams
    Barbie Baxter
    Brandy Ishmon
    Paul Lazenby & Paige Cox

IV. New Business
    ❖ Behavior Health Annual Report
    ❖ Prof Development Contracts (ABC/CCDF)
    ❖ AECC Commissioner On-boarding Discussion
    Nikki Edge & Melissa Sutton
    Paige Cox & Lori Bridges
    Tonya Williams

V. Summary/Announcements/Public Comments
    ❖ Upcoming Events
    ❖ Public Comment
    Elizabeth Waldrum, Chair
    Elizabeth Waldrum, Chair

VI. Next Meeting
    ❖ April 16, 2024 – Location -TBD

VII. Request for Adjournment
    ❖ Early Head Start Governing Board Meeting to Follow
    AECC Chair
    Ted Beck