The Arkansas Disability Coalition (ADC) is a statewide organization that assists families and individuals with all types of disabilities, providing health-related support, information, resources and training. ADC works to ensure that all Arkansas families of children or youth with any kind of disability or special health care need are empowered with the knowledge and assistance they require to make informed decisions that support their child or youth’s health and development, through advocating the value and power of partnerships between families, health care professionals, lawmakers and the community-at-large.

**IMPACT on a FAMILY**

“The AR F2F recently worked with a mom of an 8-year-old child who had suffered with chest pains for months. Fearing the high cost of medical services, his parents had not taken their child to see a doctor. We connected the family with AR Children’s Hospital and the child received a complete check-up. The mother noted in our follow-up call that she was very thankful for the F2F’s involvement as she would never have taken the child to a hospital for fear of the bills associated with hospitals. She was not aware that Children’s Hospital had so many services that were available to her for free. Her son is now in a 1-year care plan through AR Children’s Hospital and she is very grateful. Her son now has much less chest pain and their family is better equipped to deal with the challenges that he faces.”

**2016 HIGHLIGHTS**

**Collaborative Relationship with AR Title V Program** ADC has a strong collaborative relationship with the Title V Maternal and Child Health program in the state. They are an important funding source for the ADC program, allowing the F2F to more than double the direct family support they provide in Arkansas. ADC has been working with Title V in the area of transition for over three years, including their third annual statewide transition conference scheduled for this coming October. They also have worked with Title V on the block grant, needs assessments, and numerous joint family outreach events. This relationship has helped to build and strengthen collaborative relationships with other agencies, programs and projects.

**Collaborative Relationship with AR Children’s Hospital (ACH)/Research Institute/University of AR for Medical Sciences** ACH has also been a regular funding source for the F2F program. They have provided funding through several federal grants in the past, and are currently supporting ADC through the HRSA Autism Implementation grant. Through these projects the F2F program has greatly improved its ability to work directly with health care professionals, allowing ADC to train and help them better understand the needs and challenges of families of children/youth with special health care needs. These projects also fostered ADC’s ability to build other collaborative relationships with many areas at ACH and UAMS, and with other state agencies, such as the Dept. of Health, and Developmental Disability Services.

**CONTACT**

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1. CSHCN in AR
   - 139,580 children (19.8%)
   - 48,743 children have inadequate insurance
   - 44,523 children have conditions that consistently affect their activities
   - 52,323 children do not receive family-centered care

2. CSHCN Whose Conditions Cause Financial Problems for the Family:
   - 21.2%
   - 12.4%
   - 33.8%

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9/2016 F2F data represents families and professionals served through one-to-one contact, training, and broader outreach from June 1, 2015 through May 31, 2016.

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