# Unplanned Pregnancy Action Plan and Results for South Arkansas College

Submitted to the Arkansas Department of Higher Education by:

Jenny Sanders

Vice President for Student Affairs

South Arkansas College

August 7, 2023

## Introduction:

South Arkansas College is currently utilizing several different avenues to educate students, particularly first-year students, about the prevention of unplanned pregnancies and how unplanned pregnancies can impact educational attainment.

**Incorporation of unplanned pregnancy prevention information for students into new student orientation.**

South Arkansas College provides students with information regarding ways to prevent unplanned pregnancy during new student orientation. Students are led in a discussion regarding the impact pregnancy can have on their academic success. Students, both male and female, are presented several different options to prevent unplanned pregnancy. New student orientation is mandatory with both on campus and virtual options, so all new students receive this information.

**Integrate information that is recognized as medically accurate by the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists about the prevention of unplanned pregnancy into academic courses.**

Currently, South Arkansas College offers a Health and Community Education Class where the instructor reviews and displays several different birth control tools. Booklets provided by AFMC on long-acting reversible contraceptives are made available to all students.

**Identification of opportunities to raise awareness and provide resources about the prevention of unplanned pregnancies across the student population.**

The counselor shares information regarding prevention of unplanned pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases to any student requesting those services or any student identified as at-risk for becoming pregnant unintentionally or contracting sexually transmitted diseases during counseling sessions. In the future, guest speakers could be incorporated into student organization meetings, SouthArk Success classes, community education activities, or other student activities. As housing is established on the SouthArk campus, additional opportunities to educate students through residence life will be implemented.

**Identify opportunities for current students to reach out to younger teens to serve as mentors or role models of successful behaviors and healthy choices.**

Upward Bound students have been counseled about the consequences of unsafe sexual practices by the Arkansas Fights Aids Organization in years past. In the future, current students can participate in mentoring activities through Upward Bound, local organizations such as the Boys Club, or area schools. Guest speakers can present to joint groups as well.

**Identify private or federal grants available to address the prevention of unplanned pregnancy and promote student success, including any partnerships necessary to compete for such grants. Refer to Exhibit B.**

The college is currently looking for new sources of funding to improve and initiate unplanned pregnancy awareness and prevention programs.

**Collaboration with the Department of Health or federally qualified health centers to promote access to care.**

South Arkansas College continues to seek collaborative partnerships in this area. The college has partnered with AFMC to provide information to all new students regarding contraception options. A resource guide is available on the SouthArk website that includes contact information for local providers in a variety of areas, including the Arkansas Department of Health.

**Identify child care, transportation, financial aid and other challenges specific to existing single parents.**

Students have access to the Single Parents Scholarship Fund(www.Aspsf.org.). South Arkansas College has developed resources with the support of the Achieving the Dream Foundation to identify students in need and refer them to appropriate community resources. South Arkansas College has a food pantry available to all students. We also participate in the Career Pathways program. Career Pathways provides resources to parents that can include child care assistance, tuition assistance, and gas cards for transportation to classes.

**Identify a method to measure effectiveness.**

The College will identify means by which the effectiveness of unplanned pregnancy programs can be determined. The most likely mechanism will be through assignments in South Arkansas Success classes (freshmen seminar class for new students) or tracking of drop/add forms. These methods are still under development.

**Identify other topics or issues relating to the prevention and reduction of unplanned pregnancies among older teens.**

In addition to information provided through orientation, first-year seminar classes, and counseling services, Southern Arkansas College also lists resources online at

<https://www.southark.edu/student-services/personal/area-assistance-and-services>. There is also a significant opportunity for student organizations to conduct awareness programs to provide their fellow students with information and resources regarding the challenges of unplanned pregnancies.

## Summary:

South Arkansas College believes in giving students the tools they need to be successful including information on preventing unplanned pregnancies. We will continue to look to new forms of funding for programs as well as expanding the role of student organizations.