Sausage and White Bean Soup

- 1 T. Olive oil.
- 4 lbs. Italian sausage, de-cased and made into bite-sized meatballs.
- 2 med. Onions, finely chopped.
- 2 T. Garlic, minced.
- 3 cans. Cannellini beans, drained (14.5 oz cans).
- 4 T. Tomato paste.
- 2 t. Black pepper.
- 2 T. Quick-cooking tapioca.
- 2 cans. Chicken broth (14.5 oz cans).
- 1 head Escarole, washed and chopped.
- ½ c. Parmesan, grated
 - Brown sausage and onions in olive oil.
 - Add sausage and onion mixture to slow cooker.
 - Add remaining ingredients to slow cooker, except escarole and parmesan.
 - Mix until tomato paste dissolves.
 - Cover and cook for 7 hours on low. Add escarole, stir, and cook for an additional 1 hour.
 - > Serve topped with parmesan.