

# Tulsa County Early Childhood Development System

## Strategic Plan - 2006-2007

*This work includes efforts by both the principal partners and the program partners of the Tulsa County Partnership for Early Childhood Success*

### Responsible Parenthood

#### Family Health Coalition and Early Intervention Task Force

##### *Promote healthy babies and effective early parenting*

- Expand early identification and case management services for women with mental health needs (family violence, depression, and substance use) through the Free Pregnancy Testing Program, Babyline, and other outreach programs.
- Reduce infant mortality by addressing women's health before conception with a focus on education and services which reduce risks of prematurity and teen pregnancy, and increase father involvement in family health.
- Implement a community-wide social marketing campaign, in conjunction with JumpStart, to expand participation in family planning services supported through the Family Planning Waiver, Planline, Title X Family Planning Services for Special Populations, and community investments from the George Kaiser Family Foundation. Emphasis will be on removing cultural, language, and other barriers identified in recent study on "Racial and Ethnic Minority Women in Eastern Oklahoma, Assessment of Reproductive Indicators."
- Maintain prenatal services for Hispanic women as well as preventive services for their children.
- Create new sources of funding for health care for the uninsured to prevent needless mortality and morbidity.
- Support expansion of SoonerCare to families at 200% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL) or less through the OEPIC.
- Prepare and begin implementation of mandated developmental, social and emotional appropriate screenings for infants and toddlers (child care, physicians' offices, parent homes, etc).

### Preventive Health Care and Early Treatment

#### Preventive Health Care and Early Intervention Task Force

##### *Promote access and use of medical homes and other resources for addressing health and special early intervention needs*

- Distribute major studies: "Starting Life in Tulsa", "Analysis of Babyline Data 1991-2004", and the "Community Profile for Tulsa County: Analysis of Selected Variables from the 2000 US Census" (CD and printed).
- Distribute Early Intervention Study and recommendations regarding children with special health care needs, and educate key stakeholders on issues, needs, and opportunities for change.
- Coordinate implementation of common early developmental screening tool, "Ages and Stages," among local assessment providers to develop common data base on need and measure progress long term.
- Educate local pediatricians, in conjunction with JumpStart, regarding developmental screening standards, with emphasis on early diagnosis of autism and autism related syndromes.
- Create Community Autism Task Force to educate parents, educators and the community on autism.
- Develop a plan for postnatal home visits (within 72 hours of birth) for initial assessment of home environment and referral, and obtain resources for initial implementation.
- Develop clear strategy for meeting growing infant/toddler behavioral health needs through expanded local child behavioral health planning efforts.
- Renew Project LINK, a multi-disciplinary team approach to provide developmental, hearing, vision, and speech screening in targeted child care sites for low income children.
- Expand the Child Care Health Consultant program to make available more nursing and nutrition assistance to child care centers and homes.
- Establish work group on infant mental health that will create plan for prevention, awareness, and intervention addressing issues from pre-conception through age 8.

### Early Care and Learning

#### Early Childhood System Development Committee

*Representatives of area school districts, Head Start, Child Care Resource Center (CCRC), child care providers, parents, funders, public school four year old providers, principals, K-3 instructors, and interested others*

##### *Promote effective quality early learning system*

- Increase Quality Enhancement Fund to sustain quality achieved by Success By 6® participants and initiate expanded quality improvement efforts.
- Expand quality enhancement technical assistance to move additional programs from Two-Star to Three-Star quality level.
- Distribute findings from the CCRC Study on Non-Parental Child Care in Tulsa County to educate the community on changing needs and impact.
- Follow-up to validate study's findings, including assessing employment patterns which affect the need for child care and examining infant and toddler trends in child care availability.
- Use results of study to develop new strategies for expanding quality care—including all types of non-relative care—to all children in the community.
- Expand "Minds in the Making," a national model early childhood provider curriculum training, through CCRC.
- Expand health and developmental related technical assistance to centers and homes focusing on children with special needs, developmental screenings, and learning luggage on health and safety topics.
- Coordinate efforts to build integrated early care and learning systems among schools, Head Start, child care, Hispanic outreach programs, and early childhood pre-enrollment/round-up efforts. Process will be included in implementation of community schools initiative.
- Complete survey and report findings on area school district plans for expanding Pre-K programs.
- Assess provider/professional training needs and resources in Tulsa area, and identify opportunities for improvement, in conjunction with the Child Care Provider Education planning group.
- Create new Early Literacy Task Force to enhance overall coordination of effort including preparation of local early literacy action plan.
- Expand efforts to engage parents in improving early literacy through model Raise a Reader Program, early literacy program for pediatric care providers, and Read Now!
- Continue early literacy efforts, based on Raise a Reader materials and other early literacy program, using the parent engagement approach, specially focused on Spanish-speaking and Native American families.
- Advocate for health insurance for child care workers.

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### Family Engagement and Support in Neighborhoods

#### Community Schools

*Promote effective partnerships among young families, neighborhood schools, and other resources to further development of young children*

- Complete plans for creating 14-17 community schools in Tulsa and Union school districts, each with an early childhood component. Begin implementation in 2006-07. A primary focus: linking preschool experiences to first years of school.
- Establish community leadership steering committee through MHSC to guide implementation of community schools initiative.
- Organize work groups to support development of each component: early childhood care and education, parent engagement, health/emotional health, neighborhood development, and out-of-school enrichment.
- Develop and implement community schools marketing plan; distribute "Getting There, PK-3 as Public Education's Base Camp" from Foundation for Child Development, October 2005 as a key communication tool including strategies for a 0-8 years approach.
- Work with Community HealthNet and Tulsa Community Hospital Authority to implement indigent care plan in conjunction with the Community Schools Initiative.
- Assess impact of comprehensive school health clinic model at six elementary school sites, with a focus on determining impact on children 0-5.

### Community Mobilization for Resource and Policy Development & Community Engagement

#### Metropolitan Human Services Commission (MHSC)

*Promote policies and resources to further early childhood development*

- Maintain a data base on all Tulsa County elementary school neighborhoods that includes data on census numbers, Pre-K enrollment, student performance and characteristics of students and families, and neighborhood conditions. Use for community schools, Tulsa Head Start, and other planning and program development purposes.
- Provide ongoing policy advocacy for research-based efforts to improve early childhood development and school readiness (e.g., Children First, Healthy Families Oklahoma, Parents As Teachers, adequate child care subsidy, information systems, state and local collaborations).
- Provide assistance in data gathering, advocacy, and research to assist planning by the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness and the Tulsa County Partnership for Early Childhood Success.

#### Tulsa County Partnership for Early Childhood Success

*Promote engagement of all community sectors in improving early childhood development*

- Enhance JumpStart's new speaker's bureau program, using new local video and Jumpstart materials, to strengthen and expand the roles of parents, employers, health care providers, state legislators, members of the Hispanic community, and educators.
- Prepare annual report on Tulsa County's progress in improving school readiness, and new opportunities. Include latest results from Pre-K readiness assessment tool now being used in most school districts in Tulsa County.
- Convene ad hoc task force of school district representatives and other early childhood providers to determine "status of school readiness level" in Tulsa County using all available data, including focus groups of kindergarten and first grade teachers. Task Force also will examine current and future possible steps to assess impact of early childhood experience on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade performance, review use of current school readiness assessment tools among area schools, and determine direction for continuing a common assessment strategy.
- Implement partnership with Tulsa World to provide more effective engagement of print media in promoting early childhood success.
- Enhance the early parenting skills of mothers and fathers through the distribution of 2,600 "Baby Basics" guides in conjunction with outreach efforts of Children First, Healthy Start, Healthy Families Oklahoma, and Parents As Teachers programs.
- Continue Child Watch Series to engage leaders in challenges in early learning and opportunities to further improvements.
- Organize and present at least one community forum on cutting-edge thinking in early childhood development to promote and sustain Tulsa's leadership position.
- Enhance [www.jumpstarttulsa.com](http://www.jumpstarttulsa.com) to increase awareness of the Partnership's role and impact, issues, events, and resources.