

Florida's Healthy Start Coalitions

2003



Healthy Start of North Central Florida Coalition



Service Area

Twelve counties: Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Marion, Putnam, Suwannee and Union.

The area is mostly rural; the major cities are Gainesville and Ocala. The University of Florida and numerous healthcare services are located in Gainesville. Challenges include low-income levels in the region, lack of transportation to access healthcare, and lack of healthcare insurance coverage.

Number of volunteer hours donated to the coalition:
857.75 hours

Value of in-kind contributions to the coalition:
\$202,207.94

Number of coalition members (agencies and individuals):
59

Organizations and persons represented in the membership: Consumers; county health departments; migrant/community health centers; hospitals; University of Florida; Children's Medical Services; local health advocacy groups; governments; social service organizations; education; and business

Contact: North Central Healthy Start Coalition; Edith Orsini, Executive Director; 18 North West 33rd Court; Gainesville, Florida 32607

(352) 955-2264 eorsini@ncfhpc.org

COALITION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Committee

Sandra Smith, President
Charlotte Hart, Vice-President
Shelia Walker, Secretary
Donna Poynor, Treasurer

Board of Directors (15 Members)

Sara Blackford, Supervisor, Sid Martin Bridge House
Gaye Cellon, Senior Nursing Supervisor, Children's Medical Services
Theresa Clavier, Assistant Director of Nursing, Marion County Health Department
Amelia Cruz, M.D., Project Director, North Central Florida Maternity and Infant Care Project
Becky Dobbin, Legislative Aide to Senator Rod Smith
Linette Gotay, consumer
Charlotte Hart, Health Program Specialist, Child Care Resources
Nancy McCullers, Administrator, Lafayette and Suwannee County Health Departments
Janet Oehmig, Legislative Aide to Senator Nancy Argenziano
Donna Poynor, Director of Program Services, March of Dimes
Ellen Prosser, Director, Maternal and Child Health, Munroe Regional Medical Center
M. Kristina Raattama, Assistant General Counsel, University of Florida
Julie Samples, Administrator, North Florida Regional Medical Center—Women's Center
Sandra C. Smith, Putnam County School Board
Shelia Walker, Nurse Manager, Labor and Delivery, Mother and Baby Unit, and NICU, Shands Hospital

Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition

Service Area

Five counties: Jacksonville and Duval (urban with a large African American population of childbearing age) and Baker, Clay, Saint Johns and Nassau counties (two are bedroom communities of Duval; the other two are predominately rural communities).

Additional funds leveraged by coalition:

\$925,000 federal Healthy Start—Magnolia Project
 \$350,000 Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration—Azalea Project
 \$200,000 University of South Florida (USF)/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—Friendly Access

\$69,000 USF/Robert Woods Johnson Foundation—Covering Kids
 \$1.6 million Total leveraged cash
 2,086 hours Volunteer hours donated

Value of in-kind contributions:
 \$96,733

Number of coalition members:
 (agencies and individuals): 45

Organizations and persons represented in the coalition:
 Maternal and child health care providers, public health agencies, elected officials, social service agencies, child development, special needs, consumers, churches, voluntary organizations, insurers, nurses, doctors, and more. We have made a special effort to ensure the participation of minorities on the coalition because we devote so much attention to racial disparities (25 percent of the membership is African American).

Special grant-funded initiatives:
 MAGNOLIA PROJECT Well-woman and

interconceptional health initiative targeting racial disparities in Black community;
AZALEA PROJECT Substance abuse/HIV prevention project targeting at-risk women of childbearing age and their families;
FRIENDLY ACCESS Customer service training for providers that serve Medicaid population in Jacksonville.

Greatest unmet need: Interconceptional health services for uninsured women; lack of continuum of care for women that includes ready access to family planning services.

Contact: Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition, Inc.; Carol Brady, Director; 6850 Belfort Oaks Place; Jacksonville, FL 32216
 (904) 279-0880

COALITION MEMBERS

Kathy Mankinen, Chair, Saint Augustine School for Deaf & Blind, Saint Johns
 Beverly London, M.D., Vice Chair, Obstetrician, Duval
 Robert Cook, Treasurer, Regency Electric Company, Duval
 Mary von Mohr, Secretary, Health Department, Nassau
 Sandy Arpen, Duval March of Dimes
 Cassandra Austin, Duval Family Support Services
 Rae Davies, Saint Johns The Birth Company
 Wilma Austin, Duval Jacksonville Children's Commission
 Stephen Baker, Duval, Jacksonville University
 Guy Benrubi, M.D., Duval UF Department of OB/GYN
 Lori Bilello, Duval (Area) Health Planning Council
 Thomas Bryant III, Duval Research and Evaluation
 Nina Buck, Nassau SHIP Program, Navy Support Ctr.
 Joy Burgess, R.N., Duval, University of North Florida
 Thomas Chiu, M.D., Duval, University of Florida Pediatrics/CMS
 Leslie Cook, Clay, consumer
 Diana Coyle, Saint Johns Health Department
 Lois Crook, Duval and Area Family Preservation and Support
 James Dawsey, M.D., Nassau, Retired OB/GYN
 Paige Reed-Degryse, Clay Lighthouse Lear.n.ing Center
 The Honorable Pauline Drayton-Harris, Duval County Court Judge
 Heather Dusseault, Duval American Lung Association
 Kerry Dunlavey, Baker Health Department
 The Honorable Christy Fitzgerald, Clay Elected Official
 Nick Chapman, Clay Health Department
 Phil Gilbert, Duval Medical Society
 Jeffrey Goldhagen, M.D., Duval Health Department
 Christine Guajardo, Area HealthEase
 The Honorable Mark Hartley, Baker County Elected Official
 Becky Henderson, Baker, Nassau and Clay School Readiness
 Jan Holder, Duval and Area DCF-ADAMHS
 Pejay Jackson, Duval County Consumer
 Mildred Kaufman, Duval Nutritionist
 Laura Lampke, Clay, Florida AIDS Alliance
 Lacy Lee, Nassau, consumer
 George Lewis, Duval, Insurance
 Beth Mitchell, Saint Johns Healthy Families St. Johns
 Alice Poe, Duval Nurse Midwife, UF/Shands Jacksonville
 Anthony Ross, Duval Pride in Action
 Patrick Sabadie, Nassau Florida Folic Acid Council
 Regina Suggs, Duval Fairway Oaks, HabJax
 Juanita Parker-Trice, DuvalJP Expressions
 Tammy Taylor, Baker, Student/Volunteer
 Jennifer Wimberly, Duval and Jacksonville Area Legal Aid
 Karen Wolfson, Duval, Wolfson's Children's Hospital

COALITION STAFF

Carol Brady, Director
 Dawn Clarke, Associate Director
 Rhonarbleda Baker, Project Magnolia Coordinator
 Faye Johnson, Project Azalea Coordinator
 Suzanne Morrow, Friendly AccessSM Director
 Terri Gibson, MomCare Advisor
 Janet Boyer MomCare Advisor
 Laurie Lee, R.N., FIMR Coordinator
 Kathryn Huddleston, M.D., FIMR Medical Director
 Barbara Wexel, R.N., M.S.N., QI Consultant

Healthy Start prepares parents for triplets by Jayne Krichbaum, Florida Times-Union writer



After the Webers planned, built and moved into their new home on several acres of land in Macclenny, Florida, they decided to take the next step. They planned to have another baby—a little sister or brother for their daughter.

During a routine prenatal checkup, Robin, 29, who was working at Prudential Financial as an administrative assistant, was shocked to learn she was expecting triplets. The Webers had been through childbirth when their daughter Kasey was born, but they didn't know what to expect with triplets.

"When we found out we were having triplets, it took about a month to sink in," said Jeff, 40, a foreman for U.S. Gypsum. "It's a whole new ball game." There is a history of twins in both families. Robin has twin uncles and Jeff has twin nieces. But the Webers never expected to have twins, much less triplets, and Robin had a lot of questions about multiple births.

In her doctor's office, Robin was screened for Healthy Start services and qualified because multiple births frequently result in low birth-weight babies. At 20 weeks she developed tachycardia and low hemoglobin and was restricted to bed rest. She looked forward to the home visits from Healthy Start Registered Nurse Norma Davis, who took her blood pressure and pulse, and monitored her progress. Davis works for the Baker County Health Department, which is the lead agency for the county's Healthy Start program.

"It helped having somebody to support me through all of this," Robin said. "Norma came out and gave me informational things about multiple births, premature babies, and breast feeding multiples to help me prepare."

On June 5, Robin gave birth to three beautiful girls: Anna Marie, 2 pounds 10 ounces; Carrie Grace, 3 pounds; and Ellie Elizabeth, 3 pounds 6 ounces. Born prematurely, the girls were in Baptist Medical Center neonatal intensive care unit for 50 days. And since they brought the girls home, the Webers have learned how to handle and feed premature infants, which is different from full-term infants. They still have many questions for Davis.

"This has definitely been a life-altering experience. We've had to adapt," Robin said. "There is no more sleep, no more spur-of-the-moment trips." It takes an average of two hours to get the babies ready to go, or to feed them and get them back to sleep. Every day the babies use 24–30 diapers, and they drink 24 bottles of formula, Robin said. The Webers also have had a lot of support from their families. Jeff's sister and husband take care of the triplets on Friday nights, and Robin's mother launders the babies' clothes daily. Robin's sisters and Jeff's mother also help take care of the triplets. But it was Healthy Start that helped the couple prepare for the triplets' birth.

"I really believe it's a good program," Robin said. "It helps prepare you for having a family. I think it especially benefits first-time mothers." ■

Reprinted with permission from the Florida Times-Union.

Bay, Franklin, Gulf Healthy Start Coalition, Inc.

Excerpt from **The News Herald, Saturday, August 16, 2003**

Service Area

The service area consists of three counties in Northwest Florida: the metropolitan, Bay County, is geographically positioned side by side to both Gulf and Franklin Counties. The geographic distance encompassed by the area creates obstetric care and delivery services from the two rural counties. Women have to travel to Tallahassee or to Panama City, which are about 60 and 40 miles from Franklin and Gulf respectively. In both Gulf and Franklin counties during the past few years, there began to emerge a circuit-rider presence from Bay County's obstetric providers at both county health departments. It is hoped that the emergence of the Florida State College of Medicine will bring increased services to the women in these two rural counties, which presently have only one pediatrician serving both Franklin and Gulf Counties. Bay County's population is 149,000, Franklin County's population is 11,000 and Gulf County's population is 14,000.

Additional funds leveraged by coalition: \$63,688.96.

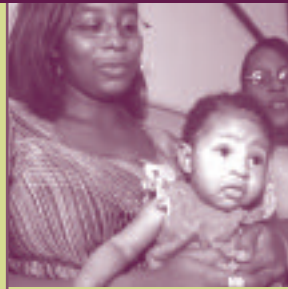
Number of volunteer hours donated to the coalition: 647

Value of in-kind contributions: \$47,415.00

Number of coalition members: (agencies and individuals): 164

Organizations and persons represented in the membership: TV stations; radio stations; newspapers; state agencies (such as Health, Education, Children and Families, Workforce Development, Healthy Families); hospitals; EMS; law enforcement; county and municipalities; private businesses; Chambers of Commerce; United Way; other non-profit organizations (health, educational, social services, child care, adoption); community colleges and University of Florida extension agents; transportation; disadvantaged; network; and churches.

Special grant-funded initiatives: A Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) Grant was managed for the eighth year by the Coalition. The FIMR program is a dynamic community process aimed at improving the health and well-being of women, infants, and families. A KidCare Outreach Grant was managed for the fifth year by the coalition, a consistent effort of the coalition since 1998 Legislation. These efforts resulted in increased access to health insurance for the children and families of these three counties and helped provide medical homes for the children.



A lactating mother, Florence Evans said, is at the mercy of her breasts. The Panama City woman initially wrinkled her nose at the idea of breast-feeding, but she changed her mind after learning about its benefits. "I want my baby to be healthy," she said. Evans feeds her 2-month old daughter, Zykeria, about eight times a day, she said, either directly from her breast or with a bottle of previously pumped breast milk.

Evans works at Wendy's, where she said her lactation schedule never is a problem. According to a government report, only 19 percent of Black mothers breastfeed. Many new mothers, ethnicity aside, don't have a support system like Evans'.

Breast-feeding has been more work than pleasure for Evans. She's considered quitting. But now that she's accustomed to it, and with a new electric pump, she'll breast-feed Zykeria until she's at least 4 months old, maybe longer. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that mothers breast-feed exclusively for four to six months. At that time, they can start to supplement the breast milk with baby food.

For Florence Evans, breastfeeding is all about Zykeria. She isn't embarrassed to feed her baby in public or to talk openly about what it's like. "It's for my baby so I don't care," she said. ■

Reprinted with permission from the The News Herald.

Greatest unmet need: Development of this predominantly rural part of Florida, being marketed as the Emerald Coast, has begun with a fury. Medical infrastructure and services to benefit maternal and child health in this service area are for the most part non-existent or lacking needed quality for the 21st century. SMART GROWTH, both state and local, should ensure that communities and developers work together to achieve the implementation of a national model of a coordinated system of health care (involving both services and facilities) that will serve the needs of those born and yet-to-be born.

Contact: Bay, Franklin, Gulf Healthy Start Coalition, Inc.; Marie Marshall, Executive Director; 459 Grace Avenue; Panama City, FL 32401

(850) 872-4130 healthystart@comcast.net

COALITION MEMBERS

Lynn Eldridge, Chief Executive Officer, Early Care & Education
Eileen Anne Ball, Director, Franklin County Public Library
Shelly Bear, Director of Early Intervention Program, Children's Home Society
Cecile Scoon, Attorney-at-Law, Scoon & Peters
Kim Shoemaker, Executive Director, Gulf Coast Workforce Board
Linda Daniels, R.N./Nursing Director, Bay Medical Center
Julie Kitzrow, Program Manager, Life Management
Evelyn Youngs, R.N., Gulf County Health Department
Frank Dean, Executive Director, BASIC/NWF, Inc.
Donna Drew, R.N./Case Manager, Children's Medical Services
Leah Rudek, consumer
Bill Mahan, Franklin County Extension Agent/Consumer
Ginger Conrad, R.N., Early Intervention Counselor
Carol Kelley, Teen Parent Coordinators, Gulf County Schools
Cathy Douglas, R.N./Education Department, Gulf Coast Medical Center-Women's Center

SUCCESS STORY

Healthy Start Coalition of Brevard County, Inc.

Service Area

The Healthy Start Coalition of Brevard County serves Brevard County which is 72 miles long and 20 miles wide with an estimated population of 500,000. The length of the county creates challenges for service provision. This is compounded by the fact we have a very limited public transportation system. The projected growth in 2006 is estimated at 11 percent. Of the 500,000, 49 percent are male and 51 percent are female with the following breakdown: 5.2 percent under the age of 5; 6.2 percent between the age of 5 and 9; 6.7 percent between the age of 10 and 14; and 19.9 percent over the age of 65 and the median age of 41.4. The population is composed of 86 percent White, 8 percent Black, 4 percent Hispanic or Latino, 1 percent Asian, 0.4 percent American Indian and 0.1 percent Native Hawaiian, and Other Pacific.

Additional funds leveraged by coalition: The Coalition leveraged the following funds to assist with Healthy Start Services within Brevard County:

UNITED WAY \$10,000

SCHOOL READINESS COALITION \$170,659

HEALTHY START AND EARLY INTERVENTION CONFERENCE \$13,800

MARCH OF DIMES \$2,733

TOTAL \$197,192

Number of volunteer hours donated to the coalition:
258.50 hours

Value of in-kind contributions: \$158,217 in-kind services; \$13,800 cash match; Total: \$172,017

Number of coalition members: (agencies and individuals):
123 members; 63 voting and 60 non-voting.

Kinds of organizations and persons represented in the membership:

PRIVATE BUSINESS 30

CONSUMERS 20

SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES 11

STATE GOVERNMENT 8

SCHOOLS 6

PUBLIC HEALTH 1

HOSPITALS 4

FUNDING AGENCIES 2

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT 2

LOCAL GOVERNMENT 6

CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS 1

Special grant-funded initiatives: In an effort to reduce the low birthweight rate in Brevard County, Building Tomorrow's Child education and outreach program was initiated in October 2002. This program uses local mass media to improve awareness of how obesity, smoking, alcohol, drug use, poor nutrition, and lack of early entry into prenatal care contribute to low birthweight. The program uses incentives to encourage women to pursue prenatal risk assessments. In its first year 80 percent of Brevard's women, age 18-49, saw the Building Tomorrow's Child message. As of April 2003, 52 percent of the women who sought an initial prenatal visit in Brevard County received an incentive for seeking a prenatal risk assessment.

Greatest unmet need: Health insurance for pregnant women and children not eligible for Medicaid. Dental services for pregnant women and children. Treatment of unrelated medical conditions identified during family planning appointments with uninsured women who are of child-bearing age.

Contact: Brevard Healthy Start Coalition; Anne Cope, Managing Director; P.O. Box 560868; Rockledge, FL 32956
(321) 634-6101 acope@healthystartbrevard.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Donetta Hrkach, Chairperson, Marketing Supervisor, Florida Today Newspaper

E.E. Hadden, Jr., M.D., Vice Chairperson, Retired Pediatrician

Wendy Knippel, Treasurer, Comptroller, 5500 North Corporation, Inc.

Pedro Rodriguez, M.D., Retired Pediatrician

Dr. Ernie Kessel, Professor, University of Central Florida

Heidar Heshmati, M.D., Director, Brevard County Health Department

Dennis Sweeney, Network Administrator, Department of Children and Families

JoAnne Hernandez, consumer

Leo Roselip, Marketing Director, Community Educator's Credit Union

Sharon Tolson, FDLRS Director, Brevard County School District

success story



Theresa and Libbie Anne

Thinking back, to the first time Healthy Start was offered, Theresa Mitchell says "I thought, 'No I don't need this'." Why would she? At 42 years old, Theresa was a healthy business woman running a successful bath shop in Cocoa, Florida, during the first few months of a normal pregnancy. However when her baby, Libbie Anne, was born, she was diagnosed with Down syndrome and a heart defect, requiring surgery. Libbie Anne's life hung in the balance and Theresa wanted to give her daughter the best chance possible. Theresa was worried that her daughter's difficulty breastfeeding would weaken her immune system and diminish her chances for survival. She went looking for help and found it in the program that she thought was not for her, Healthy Start. Theresa was provided a lactation consultant who directed her to a speech pathologist that helped Libbie Anne strengthen her tongue and mouth muscles so she could nurse. Healthy Start also provided a registered nurse that regularly came by her home to see how they "were getting along" and assist with any issues common with a special needs child. And how are they doing now? Both are doing great; at 11 months, Libbie Anne is well and gaining weight daily. So, what is the final say? According to Theresa, Healthy Start "helped me immensely." ■

Broward Healthy Start Coalition, Inc.

Service Area

Broward County has a 3.6 million population; and is experiencing a high growth of immigrant population in the last five years, which increases the challenge of pregnant women getting into care.

Additional funds leveraged by coalition: approximately \$2,230

Number of volunteer hours donated to the coalition: 658 hours

Value of in-kind contributions: \$350,856 (includes match funding contributed by Healthy Start provider agencies)

Number of coalition members (agencies and individuals): 146

Kinds of organizations and persons represented in the membership: Health and social service providers; hospital and other health organizations; insurance companies; universities; funders of services; social organizations; medical association; Medicaid Program office; school personnel; and community advocates.

Greatest unmet need: "Friendly" access to prenatal care for pregnant women who are immigrants and have no insurance or other means of payment.

Contact: Broward Healthy Start Coalition; Nancy Becker, Director; 915 Middle River Dr., Suite 111; Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33304

(954) 563-7683, ext. 216 hstart@brhpc.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michael Weston, M.D., President
Mary Capobianco, M.S.W, Vice President
Joanne MacLean, R.N., Treasurer
Sharon Hamilton, L.M., Secretary
Audrey Millsaps, Immediate Past President
Daniel Austin, Ph.D.
Kathy Carrol
Hanna J.L. Fink
Deborah Hill, R.N., B.H.S.
Laura Hansen
Velonie Johnson
Sally Laws
Bettye Melton
Robert Missal
Gil Mitchell
Cynthia Peterson
Lanecia Radcliff
Tony Santa, M.D.
Ellie Pierce Schrot
Carol Smi



Pretty in pink, Teresa and Angely, big fans of Healthy Start!!

success story

Teresa Salazar

Teresa was referred to Healthy Start when she was about 11 weeks pregnant. She was living in a hotel and was under a lot of emotional stress. She was very concerned about her health and the health of her unborn child. She had a history of ovarian cysts and had a miscarriage a few months prior.

Teresa's Prenatal and Parenting Support educator worked very diligently with Teresa on stress reduction. After several months, Teresa was admitted to the hospital for pre-term labor on more than one occasion. Her educator was by her side during these difficult times. The Healthy Start educator was so dedicated to assisting Teresa, that she volunteered in the Baby Buddies program at Healthy Mothers-Healthy Babies and became Teresa's labor coach!

Finally, at 40 weeks gestation, Teresa delivered a 6-pound- 7-ounce healthy baby girl, Angely Abanto. To this day, Teresa describes the birth experience as the best experience of her life "filled with great emotions." She breastfed for many months and has bonded very well with her beautiful baby. She has expressed her thanks many times over for the Healthy Start services she received and has offered numerous times to come and speak to other women about Healthy Start. ■

Chipola Healthy Start Inc.

Service Area

Chipola Healthy Start provides maternal and child health services to five counties: Calhoun, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty and Washington. Chipola Healthy Start's service area covers 3,381 square miles and a population of 106,330. The region has a disproportionate number of teenage mothers; elderly and chronically ill persons; and persons with incomes at poverty level and lacking a high school education. There is also a large Black population concentrated in Jackson County and a growing number of Spanish-speaking residents, many of them migrant workers. Data analysis indicates racial disparity in the incidence of chronic disease and for premature and low birth weight babies. Each of the counties is designated a health professional shortage area (HPSA), which significantly affects access to services. As a result, patients seek health care services outside this five-county area, especially inpatient services. Centrally located in the service area, Jackson County has the largest medical community and the only hospital that provides secondary services, including obstetrics.

Number of volunteer hours donated to the coalition:
585.5 hours

Value of in-kind contributions: \$38,770.45

Number of Coalition members of the coalition (agencies and individuals): 97

Kinds of organizations and persons represented in the membership: Teachers, hospital administrators, physicians, consumers, university staff, social workers, nurses, CHD workers, Department of Children and Families, law enforcement. Organizations: University of Florida Extension Staff, early childhood Services, Children's Medical Services, Teenage Parent Program, Department of Health, Department of Juvenile Justice, Healthy Families, Even Start, Head Start, Jackson Hospital, and school boards.

Special grant-funded initiatives: Chipola is carrying out a peer support group project in targeted Black communities to address racial disparity in birth outcomes. Closing the Gap funds are used to employ outreach workers from the community, who engage in aggressive case finding. Peer support groups are conducted in the community following a curriculum that addresses healthy prenatal care, and women are linked to other needed services. Sixty-five pregnant women have enrolled in the program during the first three months.

The coalition continues to implement the Fetal and Infant Mortality Review Project (FIMR) and has identified obesity and mental health needs as priority areas to address. FIMR case reviews indicated a need to address the readiness of rural

hospital emergency rooms to respond to neonatal and obstetrical emergencies. With the assistance of a medical student assigned to the coalition during the summer of 2003, the coalition assessed each hospital facility's staff and equipment in the five-county area, and prepared a report and recommendations. The coalition has begun work with the Regional Perinatal Care Center and Neonatal staff at Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola to address the findings of the assessment report. This linkage has led to greater coordination of services to common patients, since so many local women in rural areas leave the area for prenatal care.

Greatest unmet need: Our maternal and child healthcare system is hampered by the region's poverty, the high cost of health insurance, the large number of uninsured and underinsured, the lack of coordinated care, and out-migration of commercially-insured patients to hospitals in larger towns. There are only three prenatal providers, two obstetrician/gynecologists, and only one hospital offering obstetrics services within the five-county area. Most women leave their home county to access care in Panama City or Tallahassee, Florida, or in Dothan, Alabama.

Contact: Chipola Healthy Start; Lisa Lamar, Program Director; 2863 Green St. Suite 2B; Marianna, FL 32447
(850) 482-9255 lamar@pahn.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cheryl Fitzgerald, C.H.S./E.I.P.
Margie Williams, Chipola Junior College
Glenda Younkens, Department of Children and Families
David Odum, Calhoun/Liberty Health Department
J. Corbus, University of Florida Cooperative Extension Office
Jimmy Rigsby, Jackson County Health Department
Dr. Leisa Bailey
John West, Jackson Hospital
Holly Segers, Holmes County Health Department
Billie Dickson, Jackson County School Board
Monica Brinkley
Cyndi Jackson, Tri County Community Council
Patsy Justice, Washington County Health Department
Joyce Wales, Even Start
Nitza Matthews, Calhoun/Liberty Health Department
Jane Jordan, Liberty County Library
Sam Sweazy, Early Intervention Services

Charlotte County Healthy Start Coalition, Inc.

Service Area

Charlotte County: Total Population—141,627; 90.4 percent White, 4.2 percent Black, 3.3 percent Hispanic, 2.1 percent other, 52.2 percent female; prenatal smoking is 2.5 times the state rate; increase of 2 percent the number of teen births in 2001–2002; 11 percent of low-income residents have dental care access compared to the state rate of 22 percent.

Additional funds leveraged by coalition: \$4,369.21, New Mom's Tote Bag Project; \$1,125.00, National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy Event; \$5,494.21, Total Monetary Contributions

Number of volunteer hours donated to the coalition: 430.5

Value of in-kind contributions: \$55,463.34

Number of coalition members (agencies and individuals:)
59 individuals and 37 organizations totaling 96 members

Kinds of organizations and persons represented in the membership: hospital, adult/child mentoring, faith-based, special needs, public safety, public health, education, health care providers, child care providers, library, Department of Children and Families.

Special grant-funded initiatives: In 2003, the coalition initiated the New Mom's Tote Bag project in collaboration with 14 other area agencies and providers. Each mother-to-be registering at Bon Secours-St. Joseph Hospital (the only birthing hospital in Charlotte County) is given a canvas tote bag. This tote includes literature on children's health and development, prenatal smoking and second-hand smoke, and agency specific literature. Other useful items such as electric outlet covers, infant bibs, medicine spoons, growth charts, and magnets are also placed in the bags.

Greatest unmet need: In 2002, more than 1/3 of low birth weight infants were born to mothers who smoked. The prevalence of prenatal smoking in Charlotte County is 2.5 times the state rate.

Contact information Charlotte County Healthy Start Coalition; Bonnie J. Scates, Executive Director; Post Office Box 380088; Murdock, FL 33938-0088
(941) 764-9700 ccoalit@earthlink.net

STAFF

Bonnie J. Scates, M.B.A., Executive Director
Nancy Kraus, Administrative Assistant
Marilyn McDonald, B.S., Maternity Care Advisor
Ruth Adams, B.S.N., M.S.H., A.R.N.P., Contract Manager

OFFICES

17940 Toledo Blade Boulevard, Suite A; Port Charlotte, FL 33948

EMAIL

healthystartds@earthlink.net

PHONES

(941) 764-9700—Coalition
(941) 764-9700—MomCare
(941) 625-1690—Fax

"Pam was like a friend"

In an article published on September 22, 2002, in the Charlotte Herald Tribune, an 18 year old Healthy Start client was quoted as saying: "When I went to apply for Medicaid, I was referred to Healthy Start and they have been so helpful. They opened doors to options I didn't know existed." Of her Healthy Start Care Coordinator, the client remarked: "Pam was like a friend, a really informative friend who could tell me about all the resources that are here." Later that evening she delivered a healthy baby girl weighing 6 pounds 11 ounces. ■

success story

photo 1



photo 2



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PHOTO #1 Smiling after attending coalition's general membership meeting are (left to right) Jack Baker, Nurturing Dad's Initiative; Maureen Morris, Early Intervention Program; Gail Buck, R.N., Head Start; Sharon Boyd, R.N., National Alliance for Autism Research (NAAR)

PHOTO #2 Board members gather outside coalition office for a group photograph. Left to right: Jeanne Wyman, A.R.N.P.; Patti Ryan-Raisch; Anne Sawney, R.N.; Olivia Becker; Paul Owens; and, Cheryle Worthen. Not pictured: Edna Apostol, M.P.H.; John Dzurak, J.D.; Sharon Mays, R.D.; and Helena Sloan.

2002–03 BOARD MEMBERS Cheryle Worthen, Chair, Program Manager/Supervisor, Healthy Families Charlotte County; Edna Apostol, Vice-Chair M.P.H., Executive Director, Gulfcoast South Area Health Education Center, Inc.; Marcia Jeanne Wyman, Secretary, A.R.N.P., Director of Nursing, Charlotte County Health Department; Helena Sloan, Treasurer, YMCA Children's Services Administrator; Marcia Jeanne Wyman, Secretary, A.R.N.P., Director of Nursing, Charlotte County Health Department; Helena Sloan, Treasurer, YMCA Children's Services Administrator

Healthy Start Coalition of Southwest Florida

Service Area

Serving Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee Counties, the region is diverse, ranging from the upscale coastal communities to the rural farming areas in the middle of the state. There are more than 740,000 residents in the region. The area's biggest challenge is trying to maintain access to medical care for a significantly large population of migrant and undocumented residents who are uninsured.

Additional funds leveraged by coalition:

GRANTS INCOME \$11,578	OTHER UNRESTRICTED \$266
PR INCOME \$19,554	TOTAL \$31,596
OTHER RESTRICTED \$198	

Number of volunteer hours donated to the coalition: 656 hours

Value of in-kind contributions: \$626,111

Number of coalition members (agencies and individuals): 49 members

Kinds of organizations and persons represented in the membership:

GOVERNMENT 12	POLITICAL 1
PRIVATE BUSINESS 2	PRIVATE CITIZENS 1
EDUCATION 3	SOCIAL SERVICES 15
MEDICAL 15	TOTAL 49

Special grant-funded initiatives: Healthy Start Southwest Florida received March of Dimes funding to conduct a fetal and infant mortality review project. As fiscal agent for the Lee County Healthy Kids program, we also received funding from the United Way and the Lee County Commissioners for the local match.

Greatest unmet need: Resources/funding for prenatal care for the uninsured. Last fiscal year, we ran out of money approximately seven months early for most of our providers. We helped more than 2,100 uninsured pregnant women receive prenatal care last fiscal year.

Contact: Southwest Florida Healthy Start Coalition; Cathy Cortez, Executive Director; 1922 Victoria Avenue, Suite B; Fort Myers, Florida 33901
(239) 338-2676 cathy@healthystartswfl.com

COALITION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President, James Taylor, D.O., Chief Med. Officer, Family Health Centers of SWFL
Vice-President/President Elect, Cecilia Rokusek, Ed.D., R.D., C.F.C.S., Dean, College of Health Professions, Florida Gulf Coast University
Treasurer, Stephen Eller, C.P.A., C.F.P., Raymond James Financial Services
Secretary, Ken Shoriak, Director of Grants, Lee Memorial Health System Foundation
Juanita Barnhart, R.N., Registered Nurse Specialist, Children's Medical Services
Tom Conner, Superintendent of Instruction, Hendry County School District
Beth Drouin, Collaborative Grant Coordinator, Child Care of Southwest Florida Inc.
Joan Foss, Program Director, Early Intervention Program, Health Planning Council of Southwest Florida, Inc.
Sue Ann Goby, President, Business Solutions of Naples
Mina Hemingway, President, KIBO Film, Video & Productions
Paul E. Liles, Esq., Hussey & Liles, P.A.
Randi Rosete, Legislative Aide, Senator Burt Saunders, District 25
Laura Stacell, Director, Collier County Pre-K Program
Monica Steve, R.N., Glades County Health Department
Linda Weber, Consumer

Hi, my name is Rachael DeMoulin, please allow me one moment of your time to express my gratitude and appreciation toward the staff of the Lee Memorial Healthy Start Program.

Words cannot express the support and encouragement that were given to me by staff members. Ms. Maureen and Ms. Teresa went out of their way to help me. After four years I can now share the success I have achieved.

At the young age of 15 I was pregnant without any hopes for the future. I had dropped out of school with only an eighth grade education. I found myself living in Chicago with an abusive boyfriend. Shortly before the baby was due we moved back to Florida.

On Sunday, January 25, 1998, my son Izaak was born. He weighed 6 pounds, and the love I felt for him was so overwhelming. Suddenly I had someone else to take care of. Responsibility really set in. Within one week of being released from the hospital, I had my first visit from a Healthy Start nurse. Ms. Maureen came into my life; she encouraged me to set goals to better my life and that of my child. Being only 15-years-old, my main goal in life was a place to live for my new family. Ms. Maureen told me to set small goals and gradually move forward after reaching and completing the first.

I was still in an abusive relationship with my son's father when Ms.



Maureen started bringing me literature about domestic violence each time she would visit. She always asked if I was safe. She showed such genuine concern. I realized someone did care about me. When I needed to talk she was always there for me. I found myself reading the resource booklets she had left for me. They seemed to help me find the answers I was seeking.

In May 2000, I found myself pregnant with my second child, still trapped in an abusive relationship with the same man. Shortly after I told him about the second child he walked out of my life. At the time, I felt lost, but now I know this was the best thing that could have happened to me.

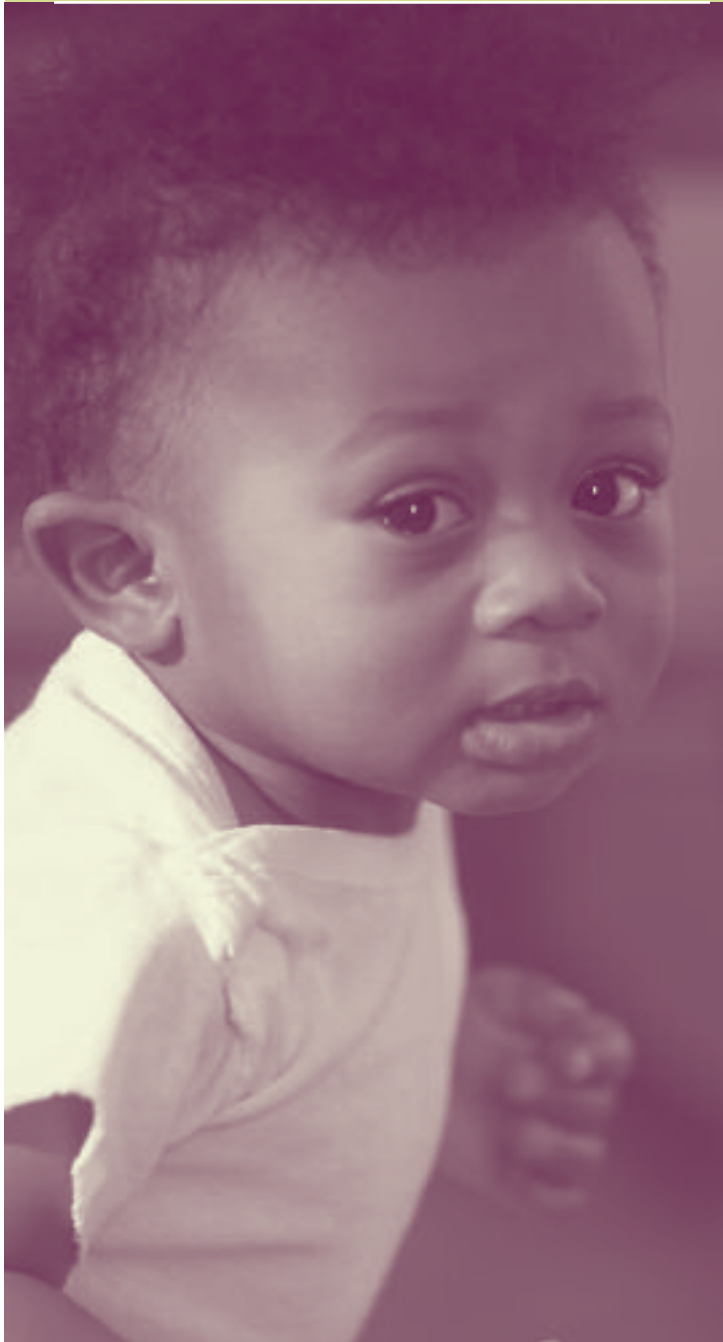
In September 2000, after having numerous unexplained symptoms and an abnormal blood test, I was diagnosed with lupus. Once again Ms. Maureen helped to educate me on the dangers and symptoms of this disease. I found myself in and out of the hospital, not feeling well and trying to deal with the pregnancy all at once. I soon found myself feeling so depressed. The emotional support that was given to me from the Healthy Start Program really helped me through this period in my life. The last three months of my pregnancy, I was unable to work so the money was really tight. I received only \$295.00 a month for child support. It is very hard to support a child on this small amount. On February 3, 2001, they had to induce my labor and my beautiful daughter was born. Once again my life had changed.

In 1998 I received my G.E.D., and last year, I finally enrolled in night classes at Edison Community College. After nine months, I completed 303 classroom hours and received a certification in Billing and Coding. On June 4 of this year, I enrolled in Southwest International College to work towards my Associates Degree in Paralegal studies.

I am presently employed with Lee County in the Economic Development Office as an intern. I live with my children in a nice apartment in a decent neighborhood, and I can now make it on my own. It's such a good feeling. I find myself in a healthy relationship for the first time in my life. We have even discussed marriage this spring. Joe has been a wonderful father figure to my two children.

I know with the assistance and encouragement of the Healthy Start Program and its staff I was able to move forward in my life, with a deeper understanding regarding the importance of education. I now feel self-sufficient and rewarded for all the accomplishments I have achieved.

Central Healthy Start, Inc.



Service Area

Citrus, Hernando, Lake, and Sumter counties are primarily in a rural areas, resulting in transportation and access concerns. There is a large migrant population ineligible for Medicaid in Lake County.

Number of volunteer hours donated to the coalition:
728 hours

Value of in-kind contributions to the coalition: \$38,754

Number of coalition members (agencies and individuals):
32 organizations, 55 individuals

Kinds of organizations and persons represented in the membership: County health departments, hospitals, community health clinics, birthing centers, private medical providers, health planning organizations, consumers, school readiness coalitions, child care organizations, county commissioner, mental health agencies, advocacy groups, child welfare groups, Department of Children and Families, and business partners.

Greatest unmet need: Eliminating barriers to health care for non-citizens and minority groups.

Contact information Central Healthy Start; Wendy Reed, Program Director; 18 Northwest 33rd Court; Gainesville, FL 32607

(352) 955-2264 ext 315 WReed@NCFHPC.org

COALITION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Jean Rags (Hernando), President
Pam Moore (Citrus), Vice-President
Glenna Osborne (Lake/Sumter), Secretary
Vicki Alvey (all counties), Treasurer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (13 MEMBERS)

Four appointed County Health Department Representatives
Paul Bonner, R.N., Director of Nursing, Sumter (CHD)
Lee Brannon, Healthy Start Coordinator, Citrus (CHD)
Dianne Casson, Healthy Start Coordinator, Lake (CHD)
Harriet Martin, Healthy Start Coordinator, Hernando (CHD)

Nine elected Board Members

Vicki Alvey, Sr. Human Service Program Specialist, Department of Children and Families, Economic Self Sufficiency
Judy Everett, Director, SEDNET (services for emotionally-disturbed children)
Charles Lloyd, retired attorney, Leesburg Kiwanis
Martha Money, mother, consumer
Pam Moore, R.N., Vice-President of Nursing, Citrus Memorial Hospital
Glenna Osbor.n.e, Director of Program Operations, Children's Home Society
Jean Rags, Social Services Director, Hernando County Board of County
Patty Lesmerises, Manager for Women and Children, Florida Waterman Hospital
James Murray, M.D., Nature Coast OG/GYN

Healthy Start Coalition of Miami-Dade

Service Area

Miami-Dade County

Additional funds leveraged by coalition: \$320,000 over 3 years. (\$106,649.00 per year)

Number of volunteer hours donated to the coalition: 126.57

Value of in-kind contributions to the coalition: \$3,797.10

Number of Coalition members (agencies and individuals): Approximately 40

Kinds of organizations and persons represented in the membership: Consumers of family planning, primary care, or prenatal care services, at least two of whom are low-income or Medicaid-eligible; Miami-Dade County Health Department; Migrant and Community Health Centers; Hospitals, birthing centers, and other providers of maternity and/or infant services to the population included in the coalition's service area; local medical societies, local health planning organizations; local maternal and infant health advocacy interest groups; county and municipal governments; social service organizations; local education communities; and community organizations that represent or serve the target population.

Description of special grant-funded initiatives: Liberty City Outreach Initiative: The Coalition is the recipient of the United Way of Miami-Dade Success By 6 JumpStart Kids Health grant for three years funding of \$320,000. The initiative will provide outreach to pregnant women and teens in the target zip code 33147 (Liberty City) to promote awareness and increase participation in the Healthy Start Prenatal Risk Screening. The outreach effort resulted in 30 percent increase in the screening rate in one of the highest at-risk zip codes in Miami-Dade and has the highest number of births—approximately 1,000.

Additional information:

- Miami-Dade County had 32,077 births in 2002
- 81 percent of infants born in Miami-Dade were screened in 2002
- Direct services offered in Miami-Dade County increased 59.09 percent
- Healthy Start Direct Services increased 59.18 percent in Miami-Dade
- Medicaid billables increased 58.29 percent
- Initial contact increased 31.69 percent
- Initial assessment increased 34.71 percent
- All Care Coordination services increased 24.10 percent
- Direct Care Coordination Services increased 22.01 percent
- Other Healthy Start services increased 128.07 percent

Contact: Miami-Dade Healthy Start Coalition; Manuel E. Fermin, Executive Director; 3250 Southwest 3rd Avenue, 5th Floor; Miami, FL 33129

(305) 646-7239 hscmiamidade@yahoo.com

MEMBERS OF THE COALITION EXECUTIVE BOARD

Paul C. Hunt, President, Community Activist
Cathy Lynch, Vice-President, Audubon Society
Sonya R. Albury, Treasurer, Health Council of South Florida
Marta Pizarro, Secretary, consultant



Celebration event for World Breastfeeding Month 2003

The Early Childhood Initiative Foundation, the Miami-Dade County Health Department, Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program, and Healthy Start Coalition of Miami-Dade celebrated World Breastfeeding Month with a month-long coloring contest at all of the WIC clinics in Miami-Dade. The finale event was on Tuesday, August 19, at Dr. Rafael Penalver Clinic in Miami, a Healthy Start service provider. ■

success story

DeSoto County Health Department

Service Area

DeSoto County is a rural area with a population of approximately 32,209 people: 28 percent of the population is at or below the poverty level; 74.5 percent are White, 24.6 percent are Hispanic (during the harvesting season this population may double); and 13.1 percent are Black. There are a few local cab services in the county; however, the demand is great for participants to obtain transportation to prenatal clinic and/or hospitals/medical appointments.

Additional funds expended in the DeSoto program:

The fiscal year 2002–03 budget for Healthy Start and Maternal Child Health was \$162,286; actual expenditures were \$173,082.00. Staff implementing the Healthy Start Program include a lead social worker who functions as the Healthy Start care coordinator and three additional full-time staff.

Advisory groups: The County Health Departments (CHD) works with the School Readiness Coalition of DeSoto County. The Program Manager is also a member of the board and the Secretary.

Kinds of organizations and persons representing membership:

DeSoto Memorial Hospital, Ob Gyn physicians, pediatricians, School Health Advisory Committee, Community Traffic Safety Team, Catholic Charities, and the Breath of Life Pregnancy Crisis Center. The Healthy Start and Healthy Families DeSoto programs have consolidated many common functions to prevent service duplication. The same Family Resource Coordinator is used by both programs to complete Healthy Start and Healthy Families risk assessments.

Target population: Healthy Start DeSoto works with participants that generally qualify for Medicaid and have significant risk factors for premature delivery or infant mortality. The Healthy Start DeSoto program provides Healthy Start services to a high number of migrant women who have no payer source for prenatal care. Healthy Start funds are used to provide prenatal care through the DeSoto County Health Department.

Greatest unmet need: The lack of service availability. Healthy Start DeSoto requires an increase in funding to provide services to keep up with the birth rate in DeSoto County. DeSoto County needs public transportation to transport Healthy Start and Healthy Families participants to prenatal clinics and to hospital birthing centers. Medicaid transportation will not pay for the transportation of the mother of the baby to the neonatal intensive care unit in Sarasota to spend time with the baby prior to discharge. This is a “teachable moment” that can be used by medical professionals and paraprofessional staff to provide

discharge instructions and newborn education to the new parents. Healthy Start and Healthy Families require the continued support of the legislature in the area of future funding, positive marketing, and offering of ideas for program changes as needed in the area of preventing poor health outcomes and preventing future patterns of child abuse and neglect. Florida’s children cannot afford to have unmet needs in this area.

Contact: DeSoto County Health Department; Ron A. Turner, Sr., B.S.W., C.P.M.; Healthy Start/Healthy Families DeSoto; 34 South Baldwin Avenue; Arcadia, Florida 34266 (863) 993-4601 ext 145

success story

Healthy Start DeSoto serves the community

Healthy Start DeSoto served a prenatal participant who had five previous children removed from her care due to cocaine use. Healthy Start DeSoto worked with the participant throughout her pregnancy allowing the participant to complete parenting classes, Certified Nursing Assistant classes, and substance abuse counseling. The participant remained drug-free throughout the pregnancy and was able to keep custody of her newborn as well as regain custody of her two-year-old son. The participant is no longer participating in the Healthy Start DeSoto program; however, she has been transitioned to the Healthy Families DeSoto program. Healthy Families is able to serve program participants for up to five years.

Healthy Start also worked in cooperation with Redlands Christian Migrant Association to arrange for medical referral and transportation to Shriners’ Hospital in Tampa for a four-year old with advanced medical problems.

The Healthy Start program is implementing the MomCare Program with 220 active clients. The Healthy Start and MomCare programs are combined. The Maternity Care Advisor/Family Support Worker provides case management to the clients that are being served by both Healthy Start and MomCare.

The DeSoto Healthy Start program has a Child Passenger Safety Program that has five certified car seat technicians. Healthy Start works actively with the Community Traffic Safety Team and hosts four check-up events annually in the community. The Healthy Start team provides car seat education for participants in the proper installation of car seats by appointment.

Efforts will continue to focus on both programs as a seamless provision of services that does not duplicate the delivery of these services, thus saving taxpayer dollars. ■

Escambia County Healthy Start Coalition

Service Area

The coalition area consists of residents of Escambia County, which is predominately an urban population with a small rural section. There are four delivering facilities in the area, one of which is a tertiary Regional Perinatal Intensive Care Center (RPICC) facility. There were 3,916 live births in Escambia during 2001, (2,486 White, 1430 Non-white) yielding a fetal mortality rate of 11.0 with 43 fetal deaths and 58 infant deaths yielding an infant mortality rate of 14.8 per 1,000 live births.

Additional funds leveraged by coalition: \$3,377.32

Number of volunteer hours donated to the coalition:
1,229

Value of in-kind contributions: \$43,857

Number of coalition members: 138

Kinds of organizations and persons represented in the membership: 100 Black Men; Agency for Health Care Administration/Medicaid; Alpha Center; American Lung Association; ARC/Pearl Nelson Center; Baptist Hospital-Pensacola; Beggs Educational Center—Teen Support; Blue Cross Blue Shield; Camp Fire Boys and Girls; Catholic Charities of Pensacola, Inc.; CDAC; Child Protection Team; Children's Services Center; Children's Home Society; Children's Medical Services; City of Pensacola; CNS, U.S. Naval Hospital; Cyesis Program/Beggs Education Center; Department of Children and Families, Safe and Stable Families Program; Department of Children and Families; EASE; Escambia County School District; Escambia County Extension Service; Escambia County Health Department Teen Support, Head Start, Woman, infants and Children (WIC), PATHS and WAGES programs; Escambia High School; Escambia School Health; Favor House of Northwest Florida; FDLRS Westgate; FILM Even Start Program; Florida First Start Program; Girl Scouts of America; Gulf Coast Parent Newspaper; Healthy Families Escambia; Informed Families; Lakeview Center; Lutheran Services; Mama's Cradle; March of Dimes; Mental Health Association; Molino Health Department; New Parent Support Program; Northwest Florida Comprehensive Services for Children; Pensacola High School; Pensacola OB/GYN Society; Peoples First Community Bank; Pensacola Junior College; Regional Perinatal Center; Rose of Sharon Outreach Ministries, Inc.; Sacred Heart Children's Hospital; Sacred Heart Hospital/DEI; Sacred Heart Medical Group; Sacred Heart Pediatric Clinic; School Health; Special Parents, Inc.; Success By 6; The Seton Center; Title I FRAME Nurse; University of Florida Residency Programs, College of Medicine, and University of Florida OB/GYN Department; U.S. Naval Hospital; Post Partum Unit; University of West Florida Student; West Florida Regional Medical Center and Hospital; WISE Program.

Contact: Escambia County Healthy Start Coalition;
Deborah Trocki, Executive Director; 5625 Dixie Drive, Suite
3; Pensacola, FL 32503
(850) 474-5333 Healthystart17@aol.com

The Healthy Start Coalition of Flagler and Volusia Counties, Inc.

Service Area

The service delivery area comprises Flagler and Volusia Counties. There are approximately 493,175 residents in the two-county area with 49,832 residing in Flagler County and 443,343 residing in Volusia County. The racial composition of the service area is 86.7 percent White, 9.1 percent Black and 4.3 percent other. About 8.6 percent of Flagler County residents and 12.2 percent of Volusia County residents are below the poverty level. One of the unique characteristics of the area is its highly transient population.

Additional funds leveraged by coalition: \$894,292

Number of volunteer hours donated to the coalition: 604

Value of in-kind contributions: \$291,829

Number of coalition members (agencies and individuals): 350 different organizations and persons are represented in the membership including government, clergy, private business, private citizens, social service, medical practitioners, education community, and elected officials.

Special grant-funded initiatives: Fiscal year 2002–03 was our coalition's fourth year as lead agency for Flagler/Volusia Healthy Families program. Over the past two years, we have been working diligently with our partner agencies to integrate the Healthy Start and Healthy Families programs to the degree possible in order to maximize resources and provide a more seamless system of services to our target population. During the past year, the integration process was completed. Highlights of the integrated system include a central assessment unit and process for both programs, and the integration of service documentation forms, policies and procedures, and staff training requirements. Implementation of this integrated system has greatly reduced duplication of services. A total of 2,784 pregnant women and infants received services through the central assessment unit from July 1, 2002, through June 30, 2003.

Greatest unmet need: The greatest unmet need in maternal and child health in our service delivery area is the lack of quality, affordable mental health services.

Contact: Healthy Start Coalition of Flagler and Volusia Counties, Inc; Carrie Wilson, Interim Executive Director; 232 North Amelia Avenue; DeLand, FL 32724
(386) 736-1629 carrie.wilson@stewartmarchman.org

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Clare Watson, President, First United Methodist Church of Ormond Beach
Ray Salazar, Vice-President, President of the United Way of Volusia and Flagler County
Sheila Flemming, Treasurer, Division Chair for Social Sciences, Bethune-Cookman College
Linda Merrell, Secretary, Child Advocate
Lynn Sinnott, provider member, President and Chief Executive Officer of Easter Seals
Volusia and Flagler, FL.

Gadsden County Health Department

Service Area

The Gadsden County Health Department is located in the city of Quincy, population 52,859 (Public Health Indicator Report, 2000). The county is a rural, sparsely populated, mostly agricultural county in the northern region of the state. Gadsden County has endured generations of illiteracy, poverty, teen pregnancy, social services dependency, and an alarmingly high rate of infant mortality and morbidity. Even though the county has initiated numerous efforts to improve the health, education, and social status of the county, there are no easy solutions to transforming multiple social systems and cultural norms. The majority of Gadsden's residents are Black (30,698 or 58.07 percent, Public Health Indicator Report). The majority of the population is employed in low-paying positions in retail, agriculture, services, and manufacturing. The county has a higher poverty rate among children under five and families with children under five than the state, and the proportion of children from birth to five living below the federal poverty level continues to exceed that for the state. Almost 10 percent of residences have no telephonenumber and 20 percent have no personal transportation. Therefore, arranging and accessing health care can be an insurmountable problem for Gadsden's most needy citizens—it is a challenge meeting the needs of the citizens.

In 1999, the infant mortality rate was 22.4 infant deaths per 1,000 live births versus the state's rate of 7.32 infant deaths per 1,000 live births. In 2000, the infant mortality rate was 17.0 per 1,000 live births versus the state's rate of 6.97 per 1,000 live births. Using the three-year rolling averages, the infant mortality rate for 1998–2000 was 18.91 infant deaths for every 1,000 live births. This rate exceeds the overall state infant mortality rate of 7.17 infant deaths per 1,000 live births for the same time period.

Currently, the only prenatal care provider within the county is the Gadsden County Health Department. The health department is only able to provide services to those clients who are eligible for Medicaid or those who are self-paying. This makes accessing health care an obstacle for many who have no choice but to travel outside the county to Tallahassee, 30–90 minutes away. In 2000, 2.31 percent of women received late or no prenatal care. This represents a reduction from 1998–1999 with rates of 2.61 and 2.40 respectively. Black women tend to enter prenatal care later than other pregnant women in Gadsden County. There are no delivery facilities in the county so women must travel to one of the two hospitals in Tallahassee. Rare exceptions may include emergency deliveries at home, at Gadsden Community Hospital, or other nearby locations such as Jackson County. Medicaid, MediPass, or a Medicaid Health Maintenance Organization pays for almost two-thirds of all births for Gadsden County residents.

The low birthweight rate has increased steadily since 1993 and remains higher than Florida's average rate (8.08 percent in 1998–2000). The average low birthweight rate for total live births in Gadsden County in 1998–2000 was 11.82 percent. The average low birth weight rate was 10.24 percent in 1992–94, and 11.15 percent in 1995–97. These rates are higher in births to Black mothers than in births to mothers of

other races. The very low birthweight rate has also been steadily increasing as well, with the rates being higher for Black mothers.

Currently, the health department has been allocated additional funds to enhance services provided through Healthy Start case management/care coordination. The grant was awarded to Florida State University's (FSU) Center for Health Equity. Targeting approximately 600 Black women of childbearing age, their children and their families, the overall purpose is to reduce racial disparities in perinatal health and decrease poor birth outcomes.

Collaborations with community agencies include:

Healthy Families, Early Head Start, Gadsden Woman to Woman, public library, law enforcement, Gadsden Public Agency for Children, Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition, FSU's Center for Prevention, and local churches. Additionally, we have worked closely with the Department of Health's Office of Maternal and Child Health to execute the Healthy Start contract.

Special initiatives:

Childbirth Education Classes, taught by a health department nurse practitioner, screening of pregnant and postpartum women for depression through a grant provided by FSU's Center for Prevention, and the provision of SOBRA/MomCare counseling provided by our presumptive eligibility for pregnant women interviewing clerk. The health department targets all high-risk women of childbearing age, but especially Blacks. Often those at highest risk are unemployed, uninsured, have obtained less than high school education, and are not married.

Greatest unmet needs:

Access to prenatal care and delivery services, transportation services, poverty and the overall lack of available community resources.

Contact: Gadsden County Health Department; Margaret Awad, Director of Nursing; Post Office Box 1,000; Quincy, FL 32353 (850) 539-2750

Baby "L" was born weighing just over 1lb.

The mother stated she had not been aware of the pregnancy until a few weeks before she delivered, and therefore, had not received any prenatal care. Mom was living with her father and Baby L's teenaged sibling. They lived in a small mobile home, with the father's social security as the only source of income. Neither of them possessed transportation. As Baby L was delivered, the baby's father wisely transported them to the police station for help.

Having been born prematurely, at a very low birth weight, with various other risk factors, the infant's Healthy Start score was 16 and she began life in the newborn intensive care unit. The case manager worked very diligently with this mom and baby to help them enroll in WIC, obtain Medicaid, AFDC, a car seat, crib, and an apartment. The mom did not have any furniture for her apartment or any other housewares, and it was approaching the holiday season. She and her family were submitted on every wish list around town. She was given food and cooking/eating utensils for Thanksgiving. She received an abundance of donations at Christmas due to a local church adopting her family. She was donated all the furniture for her apartment, presents for both children and herself, and a big boost in her self esteem. After being encouraged by the case manager, she enrolled in G.E.D. classes that were offered at the apartment complex and was able to find an inexpensive, well-kept car.

The case manager provided education on the importance of well-child care/immunizations, facilitated choosing a pediatrician, bonding, and self-sufficiency. Case management was provided until Children's Medical Services began to provide services. This mom reluctantly terminated services with the Healthy Start case manager, but she lives in our hearts and memories. ■

Healthy Start Coalition of Hardee, Highlands & Polk Counties, Inc.

Service Area

Population 615,000—rural, agricultural, some areas of high poverty, there is a high percentage of teen pregnancy, a lack of early access to care, a high percentage of unplanned pregnancies, and a lack of public transportation.

Additional funds leveraged by coalition: \$68,040.84

Number of volunteer hours donated to the coalition: 1439.73

Value of in-kind contributions: \$52,053.31

Number of coalition members (agencies and individuals): 637

success story

Positive change

In Highlands County, the Healthy Start team was not feeling hopeful when a mother, whose four children had been removed from her home due to substance abuse, was referred for a new pregnancy. The case management team was surprised to find that this time, the mother was eager to participate in services and was committed to making a positive lifestyle change. The mother agreed to participate in the ACTS program for in-home substance abuse counseling for pregnant women. The support, guidance, and education provided by the Healthy Start team, and the commitment and desire of the mother to keep this child produced a healthy 6-pound-12-ounce baby boy. Because of these positive changes, this mother was allowed, for the first time, to take her baby home from the hospital.

The Hardee County Healthy Start Program developed a very active Spanish-speaking Grief Support Group helping women and families deal with a loss in their family. The Healthy Start team recognized this unmet need, and with community support, formed this group. Many women who have miscarriages, fetal deaths, or infant deaths attend and support each other. The group has proved to be a mechanism for strengthening and uniting the community.

The Polk County Health Department Healthy Start staff recognized that few Spanish-speaking women were attending Prepared Childbirth Education in Polk County. To address this need, the Polk County Health Department hired a bilingual health educator who was trained in the Florida Outreach Childbirth Education Instructor Program. Guided by a community survey, Spanish classes were advertised and a schedule was developed with classes taught at three locations. Attendees rated the class “excellent” and reported increased knowledge of childbirth, infant care, SIDS prevention, and baby spacing. In just one year, comprehensive prepared childbirth education has become a reality for Polk County’s Spanish-speaking pregnant women thanks to the support and collaboration of local community agencies, the Healthy Start Coalition, and the Polk County’s Healthy Start Program. ■

Kinds of organizations and persons represented in the membership: Social and economic service agencies, non-profit organizations, faith-based organizations, news media, medical and preventative providers, governmental representatives, law enforcement, and local businesses/merchants.

Special grant-funded initiatives: CJ Foundation for SIDS Express Grant to fund the “Place for Grace Project.” Provides grief support services to families that have suffered the loss of an infant or young child. Services include a monthly support group, home visits, peer support, and education and outreach services.

March of Dimes Community Grant to expand Back to Sleep educational materials and increase community awareness. five hundred child care facilities and 650 families received the Back to Sleep message and child safety products such as the Halo Sleepsack and infant safety kits. An informational video was produced by teen parents for community distribution and presentation. Program response, media coverage and support from community partners reflect a continuing interest to reduce the incidence of SIDS.

Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative to enhance and support efforts of the Polk County Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coordinator. Funded by the Polk County Health Department, Polk County Board of County Commissioners, United Way of Central Florida and the Department of Children and Families. Activities geared toward community awareness and teen involvement include a Faith Leaders Luncheon, “Wise Guys” Male Responsibility certification training, three teen summits, development of a Youth Leadership Team, billboards featuring local teen pregnancy statistics, middle school abstinence presentations, and television commercials performed by area teens. Community response has been exceptional, and since being funded in 2000, the Polk teen birth rate has declined 20 percent.

Greatest unmet need: Hardee County—funding for undocumented women; Highlands County—transportation; Polk County—early access to prenatal care.

Contact: Healthy Start Coalition of Hardee, Highlands & Polk Counties, Inc.; Mary Jo Plews, Executive Director; 301 3rd Street Northwest, Suite 200; Winter Haven, FL 33881 (863) 297-3043 mplews@healthystarthp.org

Healthy Start Coalition of Hillsborough County, Inc.

Service Area

Serves all of Hillsborough County, which includes a mix of rural and urban areas. The racial and ethnic make-up is 75 percent White, 15 percent Black, 18 percent Hispanic, 82 percent Non-Hispanic. There were 14,946 births in 2001 with a 8.41 rate of infant mortality, 8.35 percent rate of low birth weight births, and 1.63 percent rate of very low birth weight births. Predominate local challenges include limitations of transportation, housing, job training, and child-care, a significant population of undocumented and uninsured citizens, and a teen pregnancy rate that is 15 percent higher than the state of Florida's rate and 20 percent higher than the national rate.

Additional funds leveraged by coalition: \$3,457,461

Number of volunteer hours donated to the coalition:
750 hours

Value of in-kind contributions: \$126,308

Number of coalition members (agencies and individuals):
66 voting members, 870 general members

Kinds of organizations and persons represented in the membership: Social service agencies, hospitals, businesses, education, government, community health centers, physicians, attorneys, county health department, foundations, religious organizations, migrant organizations, health insurers, and child/family advocates

Description of special grant-funded initiatives: The coalition was awarded a \$1 million annual grant from the Children's Board of Hillsborough County to take over the management and growth of geographically-targeted Family Support and Resource Centers. The Centers are safe and welcoming places in the community that are managed with input from Family Advisory Councils and focus on co-location of services and programming to support the health and safety, child development, and self-sufficiency of families.

The coalition was also awarded \$860,000 in funding for teen pregnancy prevention and teen pregnancy and parenting programs by the Tampa Bay Workforce Alliance (\$300,000), the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners (\$280,000), and the Children's Board of Hillsborough County (\$280,000). Services for the teen programs are provided in partnership with the School District of Hillsborough County, the Tampa Metro YMCA, and the Child Abuse Council of Hillsborough County.

Greatest unmet need: Economic and self-sufficiency issues including housing, transportation, child care, lack of health insurance, and job training and the impact of these issues on preconceptional health, interconceptional health, early childhood development, and infant mortality.

Contact: Hillsborough County Healthy Start Coalition;
Jane Murphy, Executive Director; 3902 W. Henderson
Boulevard, Suite 205; Tampa, FL
(813) 233-2800, healthystart@hstart.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nate Forbes, University of South Florida, Department of Anesthesiology
Pat Grosz, PhD, Infants and Young Children of West Central Florida
Elizabeth Gultitz, Ph.D., University of South Florida, College of Public Health
Tonya Hammond, Hammond & Associates Realty, Inc
Jeff Hinton, Department of Children and Families
Douglas Holt, M.D., FACP, Hillsborough County Health Department
Michael Johnson, Ph.D., voting member
Evan Jor.n., La Mission Beth-El
Liz Kennedy, child advocate
Carol Kurdell, Hillsborough County School Board
Lorraine Lutton, Chief Operating Officer, St Joseph's Women's Hospital
Charles Mahan, M.D., University of South Florida, College of Public Health
Claudia Mahonorabley, R.N., Tampa General Hospital
Margie Mueller Boyer, R.N.C., M.S., University Community Hospital
Sandra Murman, Representative/District 56
Dennis Penzell, D.O., Suncoast Comm Health Center, Ruskin
Richard Sheridan, M.D., Saint Joseph's Women's Hospital
Judy Woodworth, Vice President, Humana Health Care Plans
Robert Yelverton, M.D., President, Tampa Bay Women's Care

Indian River County Healthy Start Coalition, Inc.

Service Area

Indian River County—population of 112,947 in 2000. There were 1,049 births in 2002. Third highest per capita income in the state, yet 45 percent of all births were to families on Medicaid or were indigent. In 2003, the unemployment rate for Indian River County was near 12 percent, among the highest rates in the state.

Additional funds leveraged by coalition: \$99,817.00.

Note: The coalition is also the lead agency for Healthy Families-Indian River County, which generated an additional \$369,000.00 toward maternal and child health efforts in the county.

Number of volunteer hours donated to the coalition: 684.5

Value of in-kind contributions: \$29,826.00

Number of coalition members: 41

Kinds of organizations and persons represented in the membership: Not-for-profit, governmental, 22; for profit, private, 16; social service clubs, 3; retired or community volunteers, 6.

Description of special grant-funded initiatives: March of Dimes funded a Bilingual Outreach Coordinator as part of the Healthy Start Care Coordination Team.

John's Island Foundation grant for child safety seats, high chairs, and cribs.

Initiated Safe Kids Chapter in January 2003, which has helped install or inspect more than 200 child safety seats, helped organize or participate in 25 events, and helped bring in almost \$9,000.00 in real and in-kind dollars directed toward child safety initiatives.

Mini-grant from Exchange Club of Indian River for client necessity items in Healthy Start and Healthy Families programs.

Greatest unmet need: Addressing teenage pregnancy education, awareness and prevention.

success story

5,000th baby served

Eight families graduated from the Healthy Families, Indian River County program (first graduation).

The TLC Newborn program served its 5,000th baby since its inception in 1998.

Contact information Indian River Healthy Start Coalition, Inc.; D. Scott Joseph, Executive Director; 603 10th Avenue; Vero Beach, FL 32960
(772) 563-9118 irchsc@aol.coms

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jean Anderson, Board President, retiree and founder of the TLC Newborn Program
Fanny Musculus, Board Vice President, homemaker
Christine Horrocks, Board Treasurer, businesswoman and accountant
Josie Lieberman, Board Secretary, homemaker

Healthy Start Coalition of Jefferson, Madison & Taylor Counties, Inc.

Service Area

The coalition service area is very large and highly rural. The population for the three counties is approximately 50,866 covering a geographic area of 2,775 square miles. The coalition area has limited health services in close proximity. To receive specialty care, many county citizens must travel to neighboring counties or to the state of Georgia. This medical factor is compounded by the fact that an average of 14.6 percent of all households are without a vehicle. Compared to the state as a whole, all three counties have more than twice the rate of families living below the poverty level. Employment, transportation, and access to needed services are a continuing challenge.

My name is Suzie and I am 16 years old. This is my story

Names have been changed to protect the privacy of participants

I lived in Florida for most of my life with my Mom and two younger brothers. I got pregnant when I was 15. During that summer I had a chance to spend a couple of weeks visiting with my two aunts. I told them I was pregnant and they offered to help me. So my aunts said they would take care of me. My baby's Dad gave me the money to move to live with my aunts. And that's when I got into Healthy Start. I was 24 weeks along.

Just a few weeks later, my baby started to come. It was too early for her to be born and I was put into the hospital. I stayed there while the doctors and nurses helped me to keep my baby. They taught me how to give myself shots and to take care of myself when I was finally able to go home. But I had to be on total bed rest for the next 8 weeks. It was a scary time for me, but I really wanted this baby.

While I was at home, I continued to keep up with my school studies. It is important to me to get my education. Healthy Start helped me to get back into school.

Healthy Start always kept up with the care I was getting. And they helped me get ready for my baby. With their help, I was able to get a crib and blankets. Healthy Start made sure I was getting the right nutrition so that I could keep myself and my baby healthy. They made sure I knew about breastfeeding and how to take care of my baby after she was born.

Daisy went full term in my body. She weighed 6 pounds 14 ounces on her birth day. Her Dad comes to see us when he can. My Mom and my two brothers come for visits too. I'm back at school now in advanced classes. I plan on graduating High School and maybe go on to college.

I learned about Healthy Start from my aunt. You see, she gave birth to a Healthy Start baby two months before Daisy was born.

Thank you Healthy Start. ■

Additional funds leveraged by coalition: \$6,950.00

Number of volunteer hours donated to the coalition: 763

Value of in-kind contributions: \$51,059.42

Number of coalition members: 323

Kinds of organizations and persons represented in the membership: child development centers, 7; churches/religious organization, 5; community/social service organizations, 19; corporations/private industries, 4; county and municipal governments, 6; county health departments, 3; Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF), 3; hospitals, 4; insurance/managed care, 1; local education community, 6; local health advocacy interest groups; community organizations, 7; local health planning organizations, 4; local housing/shelter organizations, 1; local medical societies, 3.

Description of special grant-funded initiatives: Safe Haven Program—a safe sleep initiative provides cribs to at-risk families. Parents or guardians must attend a class which provides education on the dangers of shaking babies and are provided with strategies for stress relief and caring for a crying baby that include the use of the crib for time-outs. This initiative is funded by the Target Foundation and DCF Safe and Stable Families (Family preservation Grant).

Car Seat Program—provides car seats through a grant funded through the Department of Transportation. Car seat recipients must indicate need, must attend a tutorial, and must observe/participate in the installation of the type of car seat they are purchasing.

Healthy Start Incentive Program—made possible from donations of the Madison Kiwanis Club to purchase fundamental infant supplies for needy families.

Pine Tree Craft 'N' Quilters, Madison, Florida—This faith-based community group provides handmade quilts for every Healthy Start infant.

United Cooperative Methodist Ministries, Madison, Florida and Christ United Methodist Women, Venice, Florida—partnered in a Healthy Start Baby Shower.

Greatest unmet need: Readily accessible prenatal care and delivery facilities; mental health and substance abuse services for pregnant women and their children; and, transportation to healthcare and social services.

Contact: Healthy Start Coalition of Jefferson, Madison, and Taylor Counties, Inc.; Kimberly Allbritton, Executive Director; Post Office Box 568; Greenville, FL 32331 (850)948-2741 Kallbritton@earthlink.net

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Eric Scott, President, Taylor, Head Start Executive Director
Ernest Bruton, Vice President, Madison, Faith-Based
David Driggers, Secretary/Treasurer, Jefferson, Banking Executive
George Pridgeon, Board, Madison, Elementary School Principle
Gladys Roann, Board, Jefferson, School Nurse
Tim Sanders, Board Member, Madison, Elected County Official
Mary Wallace, Board Member, Taylor, L.P.N./Prenatal Services
Tomica King, Board Member, Jefferson, Private Business Owner
Sabrina Parga, Board, Taylor, Daycare Owner/Operator

success story

Capital Area Healthy Start Coalition, Inc.



Service Area

Leon and Wakulla counties. A long time leader in early entry to prenatal care, Leon County currently suffers racial disparity in infant mortality. In 2000, 72 percent of all infant deaths were to Black families. A fast growing bedroom community, Wakulla County is working to lower its teen pregnancy and smoking rates with community-wide initiatives such as after-school activities.

Additional funds leveraged by coalition: \$99,400.50

Number of volunteer hours donated to the coalition: 320.5

Value of in-kind contributions: \$150,550.59

Number of coalition members: 125 agencies

Kinds of organizations and persons represented in the membership: Non-profit organizations, businesses, universities, legal firms, public relations firms, hospitals, medical providers, social workers, nurses, doulas, county health departments, La Leche League, Literacy Volunteers of America, and the Public Library

Description of special grant-funded initiatives: Capital Area Healthy Start Coalition (CAHSC) continues to provide statewide technical assistance for the Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) projects across the state. We are also the home of the Panhandle FIMR The March of Dimes continues to support our health educators who provide community presentations on behalf of our Racial Disparity Task Force.

Greatest unmet need: Good dental care is now recognized as an important part of prenatal care, yet few pregnant women have access to dental care in our area. We are working to provide dental health kits to pregnant women while educating dentists.

Contact: Capital Area Healthy Start Coalition, Inc.; Ann Davis, Executive Director.; 2110B South Adams Street; Tallahassee, FL 32301

(850) 488-0288 cahsc-ann@nettally.com

COALITION BOARD

Jon Winter, President, Computer Aid Inc.
Dot Inman-Johnson, Past President, Capital Area Community Action Agency
Fran Close, President Elect, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University Professor
JoAnne Brown, Secretary, Morgan Stanley Dean Witter
Linda Shelley, Treasurer, Fowler, White, Gillen, Boggs, Billareal and Banker, P.A.
Vivienne Kisco-Pepper Treharne, Leon County
Sheryl Mosley, Wakulla County
Karen Phillips, Administrative Committee Chair, Florida United Business Association
Pat Kitchen, Membership/Public Awareness
Diana Padgett, Resource/Fund Development, Governmental Consultant
Wendy Matthews, member-at-large
Katherine Blyth, member-at-large
Jane Marks, member-at-large, Marks & Associates

Healthy Start Coalition of Manatee County, Inc.

Service Area

Manatee County, 741 square miles; six incorporated cities; 87.3 percent White and 8.4 percent Black population by ethnicity; employment of 48 percent service, 13 percent retail, and 10 percent manufacturing; 9.8 percent Hispanic origin with many unmet needs in housing, social services, employment, and language.

Additional funds leveraged by coalition \$30,612 additional grant funds for outreach programs

Number of volunteer hours donated to the coalition: 6,702

Value of in-kind contributions: \$50,348

Number of coalition members: 133

Kinds of organizations and persons represented in the membership: Consumers, migrant/community health centers, hospitals, physicians, maternal/infant health advocacy groups, county government, social service agencies, and school board.

Description of special grant-funded initiatives

Hispanic outreach programs include sewing classes, mother/peer support groups, dental screenings, and outreach support worker training. Receipt of a special grant to assemble prematurity kits for distribution through physician offices and prenatal clinics.

Greatest unmet need: Insufficient funds to provide (1) consumer education regarding early entry into prenatal care; (2) prenatal services to reverse trend of more low birth weight babies and higher infant mortality rates among black women; and (3) psychosocial interventions to address denial, high stress, and postpartum depression.

Contact: Healthy Start Coalition of Manatee County, Inc.; Fred Leonard, Executive Director; 410-43rd Street West, Suite G; Bradenton FL 34209

(941) 708-6111 Coalition@healthystartmanatee.org

MEMBERS OF THE COALITION BOARD

Carla McGill, Ph.D., R.D., Board President, Tropicana Products, Tropicana Fellow/Nutrition Science

Marion Stuart, Board Vice President, American Cancer Society, Area Patient Service Representative

Candy Strickland, Board Treasurer, Regions Bank Assistant Vice President

Beth Trent, B.Sc., Board Secretary, Wachovia Bank, Finance Specialist

Helene Hubbard, Ph.D., M.D., pediatrician

Jacqueline Kelsey, A.R.N.P., retired

Adela LeComte, Covered Bridge Estates, Operations Manager

Reмония Lewis, Southeast Residents Association, President

Stacy Quaid, B.A., consumer

Gerardo Ramirez, B.Sc., Accredited Court Interpreter, INTRAESPA, owner

Susan Ulsh, M.A., Child Find Specialist, FDLRS



"Healthy Start helped me during the most difficult time of my life. Thank you for my healthy baby. Gracias, muchas gracias."

Helping Hispanic/Latino families

Maribel Martinez came from Mexico two years ago with her husband and her 3-year-old child. Maribel was pregnant at the time she arrived in Bradenton. Like many new immigrant families they went to the Spanish service at their local church. She told one of the parishioners that she was pregnant and had no family support. She was referred then to one of the Healthy Start support groups for pregnant women. Maribel became a client of Healthy Start immediately and started accessing many of our services. She also began taking English as a second language classes at the literacy center where we hold our support groups.

Maribel received education and information about her prenatal care. She developed gestational diabetes and she was often accompanied by Healthy Start staff members to her prenatal appointments. Maribel attended our educational groups and learned to manage her sugar levels adequately throughout her pregnancy. She was scheduled for a C-section and had a healthy baby girl, named Angie. While she was in the hospital, mothers in the support group looked after her other child and gave her the help and support she needed while she was recovering from surgery.

Today, she continues to attend the groups and brings Angie who is now one year old. They are both healthy and doing well. Maribel has helped to open Mom's Closet, a place initiated by Healthy Start that gives out donated maternity and baby items to pregnant women who cannot afford to buy them. She collects donations and helps out at the closet. Maribel also visits the local clinics and health centers regularly to let other pregnant women know about the support and educational groups offered in Spanish by Healthy Start. She is an advocate for new families and is well informed about the services we offer for the Hispanic/Latino families in Manatee County. ■

success story

Martin County Healthy Start Coalition, Inc.

Service Area

Martin County is on Florida's east coast, 40 miles north of West Palm Beach. The population, as of 2000, was 126,731 residents with 19 percent under the age of 17 and 29 percent age 65 or older. Although 90 percent of the population is Caucasian, only 65 percent of the births are to Caucasians. The remaining births are primarily to residents who are Black, or who have immigrated to the county from Mexico or Guatemala, many as undocumented residents.

Additional funds leveraged by coalition: \$416,000 which provides funding for the Prenatal Care Program, Healthy Start enhanced services and the Father and Child Resource Center.

Number of volunteer hours donated to the coalition: 647

Value of in-kind contributions: \$47,912

Number of coalition members: 109 individuals representing 60 agencies.

Kinds of organizations and persons represented in the membership: Member agencies include maternal/child health providers, businesses, civic groups, legislators, government agencies, school district, attorneys, and not-for-profit organizations that fund/provide services to related populations.

Description of special grant-funded initiatives: The Prenatal Care for the Uninsured Program is funded by six local partners. Prenatal clinical care, labor and delivery management, and postpartum care were provided for 185 uninsured Hispanic/Mayan women in 2002-03, many of whom were undocumented citizens.

The Father and Child Resource Center, funded by three local agencies, works to encourage the emotional, physical, moral and financial support of fathers to enable the healthy growth and development of their children.

Greatest unmet need: Lack of preconceptional/interconceptional health services for women, particularly those of color or who are uninsured. This includes access to oral healthcare and mental healthcare services, nutrition counseling to address obesity, and early entry into prenatal care. Additional care coordinators are also needed, particularly those who work with private physicians' offices, to increase Healthy Start participation rates and to reduce high care coordination caseloads overall.

Contact: Martin County Healthy Start Coalition, Inc.; Sarah Gosney, Executive Director; 2026 Southeast Ocean Boulevard; Stuart, FL 34996
(772) 463-2888 sgosney@gate.net

Today, a healthy son

The Healthy Start Program made it possible for me to receive prenatal care at the Martin County Health Department through the Voucher Program (i.e., Prenatal Care for the Uninsured Program). I received educational information during my prenatal care specifically for each month of pregnancy, as well as information on Shaken Baby Syndrome, SIDS, care seat safety, how to care for a newborn, and community resources for parents.

During my pregnancy I developed gestational diabetes. Healthy Start arranged a nutritional consultation and provided me with a glucometer. Also, I had financial difficulties while pregnant and Healthy Start was able to make referrals to local agencies for me to receive assistance with my rent and light bill.



Today I have a healthy son thanks to the Healthy Start Program. ■

Success story

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sharon Lippisch, President, Soroptimists
Bonnie Landry, Vice President, Head Start
Gary Abramowicz, Treasurer, Gulfstream Business Bank
Peggy Schwarz, Secretary, Stuart Police Department
Rosalind Hall, Rosalind's Downtown Fitness Center, NAACP
Les Jackman, Department of Children and Families, Economic Services
Alice Leliukas, certified nurse midwife
Martha Poorbaugh, Martin County Health Department/Healthy Start Care Coordination
Janice Robinson, YMCA, Indiantown Branch
Lorna Sinclair, Martin Memorial Medical Center
Darren Steele, attorney
Steve Strickland, Riverside National Bank

Florida Keys Healthy Start Coalition, Inc.

Service Area

Monroe County, Florida, covers 38 keys linked by a 112-mile highway. Geography and limited transportation route pose many challenges for residents. In 2002, the population was 81,345 with 724 live births (89 percent White, 11 percent Non-white). Twenty-five percent of these births occurred outside of Monroe County. There are a large number of undocumented immigrants who are unable to access government-sponsored health programs. There are no prenatal care providers located in the upper 60 miles of Monroe County.

Additional funds leveraged by coalition: \$10,210.00

Number of volunteer hours donated to the coalition: 456.25 hours

Value of in-kind contributions: \$49,097.00

Number of coalition members: 24

Kinds of organizations and persons represented in the membership: Social service, non-profit organizations, education, private providers, substance abuse programs, domestic violence prevention, children's services, Medicaid, judicial/state representative, school district, and employment and training council.

Description of special grant-funded initiatives:

Through a grant from the Shared Asset Forfeiture Fund of Monroe County, our coalition was able to provide community education on the effects of drinking alcohol during pregnancy. Laminated posters were distributed to local restaurants, bars, community agencies, and physician offices describing the effects of drinking during pregnancy. These posters were widely accepted and are located in ladies bathrooms throughout the county.

Greatest unmet need: The greatest unmet need in maternal and child health in Monroe County is access to prenatal care for women who are uninsured and not eligible for Medicaid. During the last fiscal year, our program identified more than 25 pregnant women who were unable to access Medicaid due to citizenship and/or income level. The cost of living in Monroe County is extremely high with many families working more than two jobs to make ends meet. We need to see additional funding for women to receive prenatal care and an increase in the number of OB/GYN providers in the upper portion of Monroe County. The majority of OB/GYN offices are located in Key West, causing some women to travel over 50 miles to receive care in Key West or Miami.

Contact: Florida Keys Healthy Start Coalition, Inc.; Melissa Murphy, Executive Director; 1100 Simonton Street; Key West, FL 33040

(305) 293-8424 Melissa_Murphy@doh.state.fl.us

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mary Kay Reich, President, Past County Commissioner
Keith Douglass, Vice President, Rural Health Network
Mary Williams, Treasurer, Florida Keys Employment Council
Cheryl Cottrell, Vice President of Nursing, Mariner's Hospital
Rev. Steve Torrence, Key West Police Department
Lynn Wintermyer, Wesley House Family Services

Healthy Start Community Coalition of Okaloosa-Walton Counties, Inc.

Service Area

Okaloosa and Walton Counties are located in the Florida Panhandle. Both counties stretch from the Gulf of Mexico to the Alabama border, with a large Air Force base located in the middle of each. Okaloosa County is home to 170,498 citizens; Walton to 40,600. While Okaloosa County can be considered a small urban area, Walton County is rural. Both counties are experiencing tremendous growth as a result of the development of the beach resort areas. There has been a significant increase in the number of Hispanic residents in both counties.

Additional funds leveraged by coalition: \$30,000

Number of volunteer hours donated to the coalition: 2,500

Value of in-kind contributions: \$43,000

Number of coalition members: 24

Kinds of organizations and persons represented in the membership: Health care agencies, private medical practitioners, hospitals, military, social service agencies, domestic violence agencies, child care resource and referral agencies, United Way agencies, School Readiness, community mental health, Healthy Families, private individuals.

Description of special grant-funded initiative: The World's Greatest Baby Shower is a winning event for everyone in the community. In Okaloosa County, 150 new or expectant mothers attended; in Walton County 60 mothers attended. Each mother was accompanied by the people most important in their lives. At each baby shower—more than 30 vendors set up booths to inform families of the resources available to them in the community. Attendees also learned about brain development, car seat safety, breastfeeding, child care, parenting, shaken baby syndrome. It is hard to imagine something about babies that is not addressed at the shower. And while they were at it, attendees won door prizes, had food, played games, linked with services and met with friends and neighbors. And the rest of the community? It benefits most because its newest citizens are more likely to come into the world healthy and happy!

Teen Awareness Team, a peer education program, offers presentations in all middle and high schools in Okaloosa and Walton Counties. Team members, juniors, and seniors recruited from local high schools share their stories with their younger peers. Teen moms and dads tell how their lives have changed because of their decision, and those

committed to abstinence share the idea that it's cool to wait a while.

Greatest unmet need: Five OB/GYN physicians have left the state or limit their practices to GYN because they can no longer afford medical malpractice insurance to practice obstetrics. In a recent survey, 16 percent of pregnant women said they had trouble finding a doctor. In the past, finding a doctor has never been an issue.

Contact: Evie Fox, Executive Director; 12 Miracle Strip Parkway Southeast, Suite 204; Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32548 (850) 833-9284 eviefox@aol.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Margie M. Collins, President, Director District I Safe and Stable Families
Rosemary Jones, Past President, Director, Prevention Project
Catherine Freshette, Secretary, Licensed Mental Health Counselor, Bridgeway Center
Children's Program
Crawford Henley, Treasurer, Boys and Girls Club

Healthy Start Care Coordinators, Kathy and Connie

It was just another telephorable call for Kathy Clark, Healthy Start supervisor; one of the many she receives each day. But this one was different. The voice on the other end seemed distraught, as if something was very wrong for the caller. Indeed, it was. The new mother had just received the letter that Healthy Start sends to all new mothers screened offering them Healthy Start services. Yes, the voice said, she did think she needed help. She said she really needed a nurse to come to talk to her and examine her baby. She went on to say that she had two other children and had no trouble caring for them, but "something felt different" with this baby. As the conversation continued, Kathy drew on her mental health background to recognize the signs of depression. And she heard the sound of fear in the new mother's voice—fear that she might harm herself or neglect her baby. Kathy knew someone had to get to this mother as soon as possible. She immediately spoke to Healthy Start nurse Roseann Durbin, who was in the mother's home within the hour. A few hours later, Kathy received another call—from the same mother, thanking her for sending someone out to see her. She had never reached out for help before, but realized she had some serious problems—problems that she had never shared with anyone else. Roseann was able to refer the new mother to community mental health agencies, listened compassionately to her concerns, and made plans for future visits. No one will ever know what might have happened if our new mother had not received the Healthy Start letter that day to become one of hundreds who turn to Healthy Start for help. But Healthy Start care coordinators feel great with the knowledge that Healthy Start can and does make a difference! ■

Healthy Start nurse Connie Kilpatrick visited a young Hispanic woman who had just had her first baby. The new mother did not speak English, but through an interpreter, Connie spent more than an hour with the mother, teaching her about baby care and answering questions. All in a day's work for Healthy Start care coordinators. However, Connie had a surprise when she went to her next scheduled visit with this mother. When she arrived, she was greeted by a room full of other young mothers, all awaiting "Doctor Connie," as they had named her, so she could answer their questions and teach them about maternal and infant care. Connie was happy to share her knowledge with them and is confident their babies will be healthier and safer for her effort. ■

Okeechobee County Family Health/Healthy Start Coalition, Inc.

Service Area

Okeechobee County is 774 square miles of mostly agricultural land located in South Central Florida, at the northern end of Lake Okeechobee. We are the largest dairy producing county in the state and also lead the state in beef cattle production. Agriculture makes up 79 percent of land use, 10 percent is for conservation and 11 percent is developed. The census (U.S. Census Bureau State and County QuickFacts) reports the population of Okeechobee County to be 70 percent White, 20 percent Hispanic, 8 percent Black and 2 percent other. Sixteen percent of residents are below the federal poverty level and the per capita income is \$14,553 (1999). The majority of the population, (36,385 for 2001) is located in the City of Okeechobee, the county seat that is situated on the northern edge of the lake. The Atlantic Ocean lies 45 miles to the east and the Gulf of Mexico 110 miles west. The next nearest city is Fort Pierce in Saint Lucie County 35 miles northeast of Okeechobee. Sebring is second nearest, lying 50 miles northwest in Highlands County.

One local challenge is a lack of obstetrical services in the county. The two largest providers of prenatal care are the Okeechobee County Health Department and Florida Community Health Center of Okeechobee. They both bring doctors in from adjacent counties who are willing to travel and provide prenatal care one to two days a week. The only hospital in Okeechobee County has not provided obstetrical/newborn services for many years. Pregnant women travel primarily to Fort Pierce or Sebring to deliver their babies.

Number of volunteer hours donated to the coalition: Although cash in Okeechobee is scarce, it is compensated by in-kind and volunteer time. In this close knit community citizens volunteer many hours for the betterment of others. Five hundred and eighty-five (585) hours of their time was donated to Okeechobee's Healthy Start Coalition.

Value of in-kind contributions: The value of all in-kind contributions to the coalition amounted to \$39,678. In addition to contributions from volunteers and vendors, an additional in-kind gift is generated from office space donated by the Okeechobee School Board.

Number of coalition members 37 members.

Kinds of organizations and persons represented in the membership: Member organizations represent private business; city re-development; mental health; hospital; churches; healthcare providers; city, state and county government; and the school system.

Description of special grant-funded initiatives: In Okeechobee the teen birth rate is nearly twice that of the state rate and 35 percent of adults do not have a high school education (U.S. Census Bureau State and County QuickFacts). A teen pregnancy prevention awareness project initiated this year resulted in a billboard placed near the entrance to the high school emphasizing that students graduate before starting a family.

Greatest unmet need: The re-instatement of the Family Planning Medicaid Waiver would be one of the most pressing needs we will have after September 30, 2003. We also have a large population of migrants who are uninsured and consequently come in very late for prenatal care. We would like to see funding that would provide care for this population.

Contact: Okeechobee County Family Health/Healthy Start Coalition, Inc; Leslie Spurlock, Executive Director; Post Office Box 2560; Okeechobee, FL 34973
(863) 462-5877 hsci@okeechobee.com



COALITION BOARD

Sally Wibbels, President, First United Methodist Church
Lowry Markham, Vice President, Gil Culbreth Real Estate
Doni Bar.n.hill, Secretary, Okeechobee County Schools
Viki Lamberti, Treasurer, Breakthrough Recovery Services
Marge Poplin, Department of Children and Families
Pat O'Connor, Okeechobee County Library
Jeff Fadley, Department of Juvenile Justice
Stephanie Locke, Martha's House
Sharon Vinson, Shared Services Network of Okeechobee County
Maureen Loughman Abel, Tir na n'Og Ranch

Orange County Healthy Start Coalition (OCHSC)

Service Area

The OCHSC's service area is Orange County, which encompasses all of Orlando, a major portion of Winter Park, and 11 other municipalities, most notably Apopka, Maitland, Eatonville, and Winter Garden. Its population is 936,781 with 639,144 Whites and 297,637 Non-whites (2001 population data). There were 14,242 births in 2001 with 105 infant deaths (or 7.4 infant deaths per 1,000 live births) and 129 fetal deaths (9.1 per 1,000 live births). We are heavily dependent on the tourist industry, which results in large numbers of minimum wage workers who have little to no health insurance. Our county population continues to grow as workers come to the area in search of jobs. This fact presents one of our county's biggest challenges: providing access to affordable health care for the uninsured and underinsured, and specifically, providing prenatal care to uninsured and undocumented women who have no ability to pay. Orange County has lost 13 obstetric physicians in the last two years due to the medical liability crisis. As a result, pregnant women are experiencing difficulty in accessing prenatal care and accessing it in a timely manner, often waiting up to one month or more for a first appointment.

Additional funds leveraged by coalition: Total, \$251,555: four foundation grants, \$71,960; OCHSC managed the \$70,408 KidCare outreach state contract and secured an additional \$25,223 from Heart of Florida United Way for additional outreach; community support, \$75,700 (\$6000 from various sources to publish Healthy Start newspaper insert; \$37,500 from Orange County for OCHSC match; \$15,000 from Florida Hospital for OCHSC match; \$10,000 from Orange County to print Abandoned Baby materials); \$6,200 from Orange County to advertise Healthy Start and KidCare on local bus; \$1,000 from Heritage Bank to publish our coalition's newsletter; interest generated from deposits, \$4,134; donations from private individuals, \$4,130

Number of volunteer hours donated to the coalition: 830 hours

Value of in-kind contributions: \$28,950

Number of coalition members: OCHSC has 110 Coalition members. This membership represents 104 agencies/organizations and six individuals (not directly affiliated with an agency).

Kinds of organizations and persons represented in the membership: OCHSC by-laws reflect the requirements for membership representation. Our Board of Directors consists of: two consumers, one county health department representative, two non-hospital prenatal providers, one non-hospital maternal care provider, one infant care

provider, four hospital representatives, two local government representatives, one corporate representative, four maternal-child health advocates, four social service/non-profit reps, and six members-at-large (who represent a church community, the Local Health Planning Council, the NAACP, the Metropolitan Urban League, the University of Central Florida, and a community advocate.) General membership represents similar agencies/organizations.

Description of special grant-funded initiatives:

OCHSC was able to secure \$1,200 from Orange County to paint the back of a bus from the local transportation system with our recently chosen Healthy Start brand of a rear view of three sitting babies. This bus ran for three months on a high-visibility route in targeted neighborhoods in Orlando.

OCHSC participated throughout 2002-03 as one of the practice sites for the National Perinatal Periods of Risk

Collaborative, sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CityMatch, and the national March of Dimes. Through our participation in this endeavor, we learned that racial disparities in birth outcomes are a major problem affecting the health of our community: Black babies are twice as likely to die in their first year of life as White babies. To combat this problem, we initiated our "Save Our Babies" Campaign and were awarded two grants to support and expand this campaign. (A third grant was awarded but funds have not yet been dispersed.) Through this project, we are bringing information that "our Black babies are dying!" to the Black communities and engaging beauty/nail salon stylists to teach their clientele about positive health practices to promote healthy births.

Greatest unmet need: Our greatest unmet need is lack of funding, both for prenatal care (particularly for those women with high-risk obstetrical conditions) and for a Healthy Start issues awareness/marketing campaign.

Contact: Orange County Healthy Start Coalition (OCHSC); Linda Sutherland, Executive Director; 600 Courtland Street #565; Orlando, FL 32804
(407) 741-5240 ochsc@ix.netcom.com



OCHSC launches its 'Beginning to End' Campaign

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Tyra Witsell, Chair, Manager, Citizens Commission for Children
Ray Larsen, Immediate Past Chair, Executive Director, Healthy Community Initiative of Greater Orlando
Carmel Munroe, Vice Chair, Operations Manager, Howard Phillips Center for Children and Families
Sue Idtensohn, Secretary, Chief Executive Officer, Planned Parenthood of Greater Orlando
Lize Kalashian, M.P.H., Treasurer, Health Consultant
Linda Sutherland, Ex. Officio, Executive Director, Orange County Healthy Start Coalition

Healthy Start Coalition of Osceola County, Inc.

Service Area

Osceola County, population 172,493 (2000 Census), is located in the center of Florida, just south of the Orlando area. Its population increased 60.1 percent between 1990 and 2000 against a state average of 23.5 percent. This makes it among the fastest growing counties in both the state and nation. The population is centered in the two major cities, Kissimmee and Saint Cloud. Some areas of Osceola are sparsely populated and fairly remote. Osceola County has one of the fastest growing Hispanic populations. The county has a larger percentage of Hispanic residents (29.4 percent) than the state (16.8 percent). Tourism is the county's major industry. Sales and service occupations make up almost 43 percent of the work force. The racial and ethnic make up of the county is White 77.2 percent, Black 7.4 percent, Hispanic 29.4 percent, and Other 15.2 percent.

Osceola residents had 2,704 births in 2001. The three-year rolling average of the infant mortality rate for 1999–2001 was 4.43 per 1,000 live births. Our successes include lowered infant mortality rates, increased rates of early entry into prenatal care, lowered teen pregnancy rates and top Healthy Start screening rates for pregnant women and infants. Our challenges include: low birthweight rates; premature births; access to health care (lack of health insurance and large, undocumented resident population); high service industry work force; high smoking rates; high domestic violence rates; and child safety issues, especially in the areas of motor vehicle crashes and Shaken Baby Syndrome.

Additional funds leveraged by coalition: \$254,528.83

Number of volunteer hours donated to the coalition: 197

Value of in-kind contributions: \$18,246.14 in donated products and services and \$182,218.11 in matching cash

Number of coalition members: 99

Kinds of organizations and persons represented in the membership: civic groups, consumers, citizens, private business, physicians, hospitals, public health, government (city, county, state), legislative, non-profits, law enforcement, schools and school district, mental health, faith community, library, newspaper, and utility authority.

Special grant-funded initiatives: The Osceola County Doula Program is funded by the Community Health Improvement Council of Florida Hospital and Florida Ounce of Prevention Fund. This is a unique collaboration among Florida Hospital, Osceola Regional Medical Center, the Osceola County Health Department, and the coalition. Four Doulas serve as child birth assistants to Healthy Start and Healthy Families clients resulting in better birth outcomes.

Greatest unmet need: Research has shown that in Osceola County more outreach is needed to women before they become pregnant and between pregnancies. Well-woman care and education on nutrition, smoking, disease prevention, and baby spacing could reduce babies born with low birth weights and bor.n. prematurely by reducing risk factors.

Contact: Healthy Start Coalition of Osceola County, Inc.; Patricia H. McWhirter, Executive Director; Post Office Box 701995; Saint Cloud, FL 34770
(407) 891-9199 Patty@teennet.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Linda Clarke, Chairman; Convenience Foods, Inc
Anne Quirk, Past Chairman, County Resident
George Gant, M.D., Vice Chairman; Osceola County Health Department
Maria Rincon-Dwyer, Treasurer; Osceola County District Schools
Lori Sangiovann, Secretary; Saint Cloud Hospital
Mary Allen, Mid Florida Women's Center
Rose Hernandez, Representative Frank Attkisson's Office
Vicki Kilroy, Community Vision
Olivine Singh, Florida Hospital
Teresa Spittle, consumer
Terrie Watkins, certified nurse midwife
Gwen Winkfield, Osceola Regional Medical Center
Robert Young, county resident

COALITION STAFF

Patricia McWhirter, Executive Director
Amy Riordan, Program Specialist
Lisa Houpt, Office Manager

Maternal Child Family Health Alliance of Palm Beach County, Inc.

Service Area

Palm Beach County, 2001 population of 1,165,049, 5.6 percent under age five. Per 2000 figures, 17.4 percent are foreign-born. The Hispanic/Latino population is 12.4 percent (U.S. Census Bureau); this figure is growing annually. There is a Haitian population of 30,958, 90 percent of whom were born in Haiti (U.S. Census Bureau). There were 13,886 births during 2002 (DOH Vital Statistics). The local challenge is in serving undocumented residents.

Additional funds leveraged by coalition: \$9,104,589

Number of volunteer hours donated to the coalition: 51—Volunteer hours are limited to two board members. All other hours are in-kind contributions. However, many of our network agencies have volunteers who assist with client activities, mailings, and events.

Value of in-kind contributions: \$83,082. In addition, 180 hours of in-kind contributions were made by the organizations employing eight of our board members.

Number of Coalition members: 90

Kinds of organizations and persons represented in the membership: A full range of social services agencies, government agencies, individuals, and hospitals are represented.

Description of special grant-funded initiatives: An ongoing special initiative involves funding we have obtained, which enables a representative to make a bedside visit to mothers in all 10 maternity hospitals to encourage them to complete the Healthy Start Infant (Postnatal) Screen and accept Healthy Start services.

Greatest unmet need: Our greatest unmet need is for prenatal services for undocumented residents. Ineligible for Medicaid, many do not have the required documentation for other coverage and appear to fear sharing personal information. We are applying for a grant to hire two navigators to assist some of these clients with prenatal care linkage.



Contact: Maternal Child Family Health Alliance of Palm Beach County, Inc.; Bruce Parsons, Executive Director; 3003 South Congress Avenue, Suite 2-F; Palm Springs, FL 33461

(561) 434-2700 bruce@mcfha.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Hanna Fink, at-large President, past-Vice President, Chairman Nominating Committee, member Ways and Means Committee, March of Dimes, Executive Director
Aurie Moore-Williams, at-large Secretary, Personnel Committee Member, Glades Development Corporation, Executive Director
Sandra Chamblee, member-at-large, Glades Health Initiative Executive Director
Paula Triana, at-large Palm Beach County School District
Jacqueline Nicholson, Department of Health/Vice President, past Treasurer, Chairman Ways and Means Committee, Boca Raton Community Hospital Community Projects Coordinator
Marilyn Parker, Quantum Foundation Florida Atlantic University College of Nursing
Eleanor Weinstock, Children's Services Council, retired state legislator (1978-1986) and state senator (1986-1992) and children's advocate
Linda Coffin, Department of Children and Families, member, Personnel Committee Foster Parent
Donna Wisneski, Health Care District of Palm Beach County, Treasurer, Chair Ways and Means Committee, C.P.A.

Healthy Start Coalition of Pasco, Inc.

Service Area

Pasco County which is 745 square miles. The total population equals 344,765 made up of 317,873 White residents and 26,892 Non-white residents. The large population of White retirees affects statistics of average age and birth rates per 1,000. A major local challenge is the large percentage of teen pregnancy and the lack of availability and access to dental services.

Additional funds leveraged by coalition: \$5,800.00

Number of volunteer hours donated to the coalition: 1,167.50

Value of in-kind contributions: \$54,531.60

Number of coalition members: 90 individuals representing 30 agencies

Kinds of organizations and persons represented in the membership: Schools, hospitals/medical centers, medical organizations, transportation; health department, colleges, insurance agencies, SHARE, PAR, Visiting Nurses, Pediatric Foundation, Department of Children and Families, March of Dimes, Medicaid, Housing and Urban Development Housing Authority, and consumer representation.

Description of special grant-funded initiatives: Folic Acid Campaign provides for grocery labels placed in local stores (March of Dimes grant); Gentle Touch Crib Grant for MomCare clients (Family Continuity Programs, Inc.)

Contact: Healthy Start Coalition of Pasco, Inc.; John Tschirhart, Executive Director; Post Office Box 1527; New Port Richey, FL 34656
(727) 849-7765 hscpasco@aol.com

COALITION BOARD

Jody Lazzara, Board Chair, Director, Professional Education and Training, Gulf Coast North Area Health Education Center

Norma Bruce, Board Vice Chair, Director, Clinical Operations, Health Resource Alliance
Mary Arment, Board Treasurer, R. N., School Health Clinic, Pasco County School Board
Carol Cummins, Board Secretary, Director of Nursing, Pasco County Health Department
Clara Lawhead, Board Parliamentarian, Director, Women, Infant and Children (WIC)

program, Pasco County Health Department
Anita Cruz, Dietetic Technician, Women, Infant and Children (WIC) program, Pasco County Health Department

Melissa Culver, Consumer Representative

Kathy Gardner, R. N., Dr. Anchetta's Office

Rick Hess, Executive Director, Pasco Kids First

Marilyn Koop, Director of Nursing, Pasco County School Board

Thad Lowrey, Vice President, Community Development Operation PAR

Kathie Luzader, Health Coordinator, Pre-Kindergarten Services/Head Start

Mary Sandvik, Supervisor, Healthy Families Pasco



Healthy Start works for families

A Healthy Start mother, Tatem Shasteen, age 23, first contacted the Hudson Healthy Start staff members, Cindy Lundstrom and Susan Steiner, in March 2002. Tatem was four months pregnant, single, and living with her mother in a crowded two-bedroom mobile home in Hudson. She had dropped out of high school in the eleventh grade and was doing low paying, odd jobs to support her, when she discovered that she was pregnant. During a routine prenatal visit, her obstetrician discovered that she had a heart condition. Unfortunately, she was then forced to stop working for the sake of her health and the health of her unborn child. Tatem had to depend on others to assist her financially.

On July 28, 2002, Tatem gave birth three weeks early to a tiny, but healthy 4-pound-7-ounce baby girl, named Gabrielle. Tatem was also able to bring the baby to a new home, which she obtained through government-subsidized housing with the help of the Healthy Start staff. Tatem's family and friends were able to help her furnish an apartment. However, she was still in need of a baby crib. With the help of a grant received by the Healthy Start Coalition of Pasco, Inc., our Healthy Start care coordinators were able to provide Tatem with a brand new crib for Gabrielle.

At this time Tatem is preparing to further her education. She is working with Pasco Hernando Community College to obtain her G.E.D. and then plans to attend college to obtain financial security for herself and her daughter. Gabrielle is doing well now. She is a happy and healthy toddler who has a chance for a bright future. The Healthy Start staff continues to work with Tatem and her daughter to ensure her future success. ■

success story

Healthy Start Coalition of Pinellas, Inc.

Service Area

Pinellas County is a large urban area with a population of approximately 921,000. It is one of Florida's most densely populated counties, with 3,292 persons per square mile. Blacks represent approximately 9 percent of the total population of the county, and 16 percent of the births are to Black families. The county also has a growing population of Latino families, many immigrating to the Clearwater area from Mexico. Approximately 10 percent of the residents of Pinellas County live below the poverty level.

Additional funds leveraged by coalition: 217,080

Number of volunteer hours donated to the coalition: 1917 hours

Value of in-kind contributions: 67,565

Number of coalition members: 141

Kinds of organizations and persons represented in the membership: Physicians, midwives, consumers, health department, government agencies, school system, hospitals, law enforcement, advocacy groups, business/corporate, women's centers, ministers, attor.n.ey, other nonprofit agencies and community representatives.

Description of special grant-funded initiatives: The Pinellas County Health Department is the lead agency for Healthy Start services. In the past year, they have received an additional 1 million dollars to offer enhanced Healthy Start services to Black families in Pinellas

County. The coalition hosted a community initiative focused on eliminating racial disparity in health outcomes funded by the Allegany Franciscan Foundation. The coalition organized and hosted a data analysis project in conjunction with the six other largest counties in Florida sponsored by the state chapter of the March of Dimes.

Greatest unmet need: Health insurance for the working poor. Despite the appearance of economic affluence, the vast majority of residents are employed by small businesses, retail, or service industries. Since many of these employers do not offer affordable insurance, healthcare for the "working poor" is a particular challenge.

Contact: Healthy Start Coalition of Pinellas, Inc.; Debra Bara, Executive Director; 2735 Whitney Road; Clearwater, FL 33760

(727) 507-6330 dbara@healthystartpinellas.org

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Mark Wong, Chair, Social Worker, Teen Parent Program, Pinellas County School System
Elena Gustin, Vice Chair, Clinical Services Director, Matria Healthcare
Mary Cross, Secretary, Community Representative
John Sabatier, IV, Treasurer, Vice President, Bank of America



"I credit them with saving my son's life, and possibly my own."

Just around the corner from Linda's house in Pinellas Park is another house that serves as a daily reminder of how differently her life could have turned out without the help of Healthy Start. In fact, for a while, Linda lived in the house when it was a treatment home for pregnant women undergoing drug and alcohol rehabilitation. Frequently in and out of prison due to her drug and alcohol addiction, Linda relapsed once from a treatment program. But, when she discovered she was pregnant, she once again took steps to recovery. Linda is convinced that this time, Healthy Start made all the difference. "I needed to get clean," says Linda, "and Healthy Start was there." Today, Linda has been clean almost eight years. Her life has dramatically changed for the better thanks to her own efforts supported by Healthy Start. Her son John was born healthy, full-term and was named "student of the year" in first grade at his elementary school. Linda works full-time, is attending Saint Petersburg College and serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the Healthy Start Coalition of Pinellas. Her goal—to offer her "real life" perspective to decisions being made for the 5,000 people Healthy Start in Pinellas County serves each year. "I can't be more grateful to Healthy Start. They were a big part of my life and I don't know what I would have done without them. I credit them with saving my son's life, and possibly my own." ■

success story

Healthy Start Coalition of Santa Rosa County, Inc.

Service Area

The service area consists of Santa Rosa County, which is a diverse county of approximately 117,000 people and approximately 1,500 births each year. The north end of the county is farmland, the center is the main business district and the south end, which is separated by a body of water, is mainly tourist. Transportation is a challenge.

Additional funds leveraged by coalition: Approximately \$8,000

Number of volunteer hours donated to the coalition: 413.5

Value of in-kind contributions: \$37,500

Number of coalition members: 28

Kinds of organizations and persons represented in the membership: child care, consumers, Agency for Health Care Administration, county health department, Kiwanis, Sacred Heart Hospital/DEI, pediatrician, obstetrician, local church, school district, pregnancy center, Healthy Families, Northwest Florida Compensation Services, midwife, United Way, city of Milton, and County Commissioners

Greatest unmet need: Dental care for women and children

Contact: Healthy Start Coalition of Santa Rosa County, Inc.; Martha Zimmermann, Executive Director; 6751 Berryhill Street; Milton, FL 32570
(850) 626-6751 zimmermanm@mail.santarosa.k12.fl.us

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Betty Ar.n.old, Chair, Children Services Center
Dorothy Dykes, Vice-Chair, Agency for Health Care Administration
Jane Judy-Miller, Secretary, Kiwanis
Dr. E.W. Sutton, Treasurer, Retired, Health Department Director

success story

She is making healthy decisions and continues to grow.

This Healthy Start story began as a prenatal referral that would start a process of intense care coordination for a mom in crisis. She was early in her pregnancy at the time and residing at an inpatient community mental health facility. This mom had a long and extensive history of mental health problems and a previous history of drug abuse. The Department of Children and Families referred this mother to Healthy Start when it was determined that she had made the decision to stop her medication because she was pregnant.

At initial contact and assessment, mom was overwhelmed and fearful. At the time she was more than 20 weeks pregnant and had not seen her doctor for several months. There were also problems with her Medicaid status. Healthy Start followed up with Medicaid and assisted this mom-to-be with paperwork that was a priority in order for her to receive care. As a result, prenatal care was reinitiated. This mom had also previously received medication from the Santa Rosa County Health Department, which could now be covered by Medicaid.

At delivery, the infant was placed into a relative's care. Mom was referred to community agencies for mental health counseling and empowered and encouraged to follow through; she was referred to community transportation, and reminded or encouraged to keep appointments. She was also referred for substance abuse assessments. Parenting education was provided by Healthy Start which maintained contact with this mom and also provided ongoing assessments of her baby. In late August after much work and many successes, mom and infant were reunited. The baby is now healthy and developing well, and has a great bond with mom! This mom's growth as a parent is demonstrated by her decision to maintain current day care despite it being inconvenient for her, because she did not want her baby to experience another "change."

Lastly, this at-risk mom has been able to successfully separate herself and her child from an environment of domestic violence. She is continuing to be a parent and has followed up with classes, and continues to nurture and protect her child. She has truly turned her life around in the midst of seemingly insurmountable risks and challenges. She is making healthy decisions and continues to grow. Healthy Start services continue for this family to support their continued growth and self-sufficiency. ■

Healthy Start Coalition of Sarasota County, Inc.

Service Area

Sarasota County, which has a population upwards of 350,000, primarily suburban residents. The county has experienced a substantial increase in Hispanic population since 1990. High per capita income masks large numbers of working poor in a service-based economy. Local challenges include reducing the premature birth rate; supporting women with post-partum mood disorders; and sustaining a high quality fathering program.

Additional funds leveraged by coalition: \$147,574

Number of volunteer hours donated to the coalition: 667

Value of in-kind contributions: \$87,251

Number of coalition members: 50 types of organizations and persons are represented in the membership: Consumers of primary care and prenatal services; county health department; hospitals; local government; local school system; School Readiness Coalition; Hispanic-Latino Coalition; social service agencies; childbirth and parenting educators; businesspeople; and physicians

Description of special grant-funded initiatives: Prenatal care for 30 undocumented citizens was funded by the Healthy Start Coalition. One day of professional training for 120 healthcare providers was held on "Asking the Hard Questions: Practical Strategies for Perinatal Substance Abuse Intervention."

Greatest unmet need: High quality, no-waiting-list, free and low cost mental health services for pregnant women and new parents. A true community system of support for pregnant women and new parents, including better and broader public understanding of prenatal and infant health issues.

Contact: Healthy Start Coalition of Sarasota County, Inc.; Sarah Gorman, Executive Director; 1750 17th Street, Building M; Sarasota, FL 34234
(941) 373-7070 info@healthystartsarasota.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Holly Anderson M.Ed., United Way Success by 6, Chair
Jim McMillan, YMCA Children and Family Services, Vice-Chair
Eleanor Tiemann, M.S.W., retired, Secretary
Lucile Mobley M.S.W., Cysis Teen Parent Program, Treasurer
Shelley Rence M.A., Sarasota County Health Department, ex officio
Barbara Kochmit, M.Ed., Sarasota Coalition on Substance Abuse
State Representative Donna Clarke
Vice Mayor Richard Martin, City of Sarasota
John Capaccione, President, Yellow Cab of Sarasota
Carol Selvey, M.H.S.A., Healthcare Information Technology

success story

Kerri L. Routledge, Denisha and Dmitry

Kerri has been able to achieve her goals as she overcame obstacles from her past with little support from her family. She received regular prenatal care and quit smoking during her pregnancy. She attended psych-social counseling sessions with her counselor, Linda Mendenhall, L.M.H.C. She

worked full-time as a waitress to support herself and her preteen daughter, Denisha. She lived within her means and was a good money manager. On August 2, she delivered Dmitry, a healthy, full-term baby boy, who weighed 8-pounds-8-ounces. She chose to

breastfeed after returning to work soon after Dmitry's birth. Kerri always had excellent follow-through with the resources available to her.

Kerri's first thought is for her children. She recently changed jobs in order to work hours that are more compatible with the family's needs. On her home computer, the screen saver reads "Denisha & Dmitry." Love for her children gives Kerri strength to overcome obstacles and to plan for a bright future. ■



Healthy Start Featured Family of the Year
2003, Sarasota County

Seminole County Healthy Start Coalition, Inc.

Service Area

With more than 2,000 lakes, Seminole County is known as Florida's "Natural Choice." Located just north of Orlando, Seminole has a population of approximately 377,000 people, 75 percent of whom are over the age of 18. Seminole's famous Lake Munroe serves as the gateway to the Saint John's River, and the county remains the third most densely populated county per square mile in Florida!

Additional funds leveraged by coalition: \$60,530.67

Number of volunteer hours donated to the coalition: 1226

Value of in-kind contributions: \$73,123.48

Number of coalition members: 24 agencies are represented by 59 members

Kinds of organizations and persons

represented in the membership: Local hospitals, local health department, social service agencies, mental health agencies, local businesses, Seminole County Public School System, and community residents.

Description of special grant-funded

initiatives: Known as the ENABL (Education Now and Babies Later) program, this teenage pregnancy prevention program is funded by a grant from the Seminole County Board of County Commissioners. ENABL uses an abstinence-based curriculum to teach sixth graders in Seminole County Public Schools about the consequences of early sexual activity. This five-session program educates students about the risks involved



William and Andrew growing up strong the Healthy Start Way

The words hit 40-year-old Carla like a ton of bricks. Was the doctor serious? It had just been the most stressful three months of her life. And now this? Already devastated by a recent bout of unemployment, Carla began to experience some health problems and began to feel helpless. She realized that this might be her only opportunity to have a child, and she desperately wanted this pregnancy to work out. Due to her pregnancy, Carla was eligible for health insurance facilitated through a Medicaid Program called MomCare. The black cloud was finally getting a silver lining. At least for a short while. With her new insurance, she was finally able to get treatment for her health problems, only to discover she had congestive heart failure. Her baby was in trouble.

At her first visit to her OB/GYN doctor she completed the Healthy Start Prenatal Risk Screen and because she and her baby were at risk, she was referred to the Healthy Start program. Healthy Start visited Carla in her home, and provided lots of services and support. Healthy Start also helped Carla transfer her prenatal care to a specialist, who was very optimistic that both Carla and her baby would begin their lives together with a Healthy Start.

Carla delivered a healthy baby boy, Lee, who is today a very healthy, bright and active toddler. Carla says she owes it all to Healthy Start and her doctor, but they say it was team work all the way. ■

with early sexual activity, and models refusal skills to counteract peer pressure. The goal of the program is to give young people the knowledge, skills, and self-confidence to say "No" to sexual activity and other risky behaviors. ENABL also provides "Can We Talk?" workshops for parents to help them learn how to talk to their children about sex. More than 12,000 Seminole County students have participated in ENABL since it began in 1998.

Black infant death rates in the county are often twice as high as those for White infants. Churches Save the Babies, a faith-based outreach initiative, works with churches in the Sanford area to raise awareness among the Black community about the disparities in infant deaths and to educate women of child-bearing age about the importance of early prenatal care. The goal of Churches Save the Babies is to reduce the health disparities for Black infants and to give all babies the best chance to celebrate their first birthday. This program is funded by a March of Dimes grant.

Since 2001, more than 1,500 community members have been educated about prenatal care and safe child health practices.

Greatest unmet need:

Lack of client-friendly system of care for women without insurance, particularly for high-medical risk, continues to discourage women from seeking prenatal care.

Contact: Seminole County Healthy Start Coalition, Inc.; Marnie G. Shanbhag, Ph.D., Executive Director; 237 Fernwood Boulevard, Suite 101; Fern Park, FL 32730
(407) 830-7235
schsc2@earthlink.net

COALITION BOARD

Hortense Evans, President, retired, Seminole County Public Schools
Preston Adams, Vice President, Pastor, Joint Heirs Christian Center
David Tegeler, Treasurer, Attorney-at-Law
Jackie Bianco, R.N., Secretary, Director of Baby Suites, Central Florida Regional Hospital
Jim Berko, Executive Director, Seminole Community Mental Health Center
Jorge Deju, M.D., Seminole County Medical Society
Susan Schrank, R.N.-C.B.S., Nursing Manager, Florida Hospital Altamonte
Juan Ravelo, M.D., Mid-Florida OB/GYN
Jennifer James-Mesloh, Community Member
Claire Godfrey, M.D., Physician Associates in Maitland

Clients' names have been changed to protect their identities.

Healthy Start Coalition of Saint Lucie County, Inc.

Service Area

Saint Lucie County experiences a combination of “big city” problems of high poverty, unemployment, crime, and teenage pregnancy, primarily located in the heart of Fort Pierce, but also contends with “suburban sprawl” issues in the fast growing city of Port Saint Lucie. The percentage of children living in poverty in Saint Lucie County exceeds the state rate by 2.7 percent. In 2001, the crime rate reported from the Fort Pierce Police Department was twice as high as the reported crime rate for the state.

success story

A thank-you note

Thanks so much for all you've done for our family! Helping us get to all of our classes and home again safely was a real blessing! Me and Josh had tons of fun and learned so much! We feel pretty good about being able to care for our new little family member, “Jacoby” when he arrives! We made so many new friends, too! Here is a list of the classes we took I'll call you to set up a time to pick up the certificates, and we're putting them all into a photo album that we can show our friends and baby!

Parenting class

Car Seat safety class

Infant CPR class

Breastfeeding class

Thank you! ■

Additional funds leveraged by coalition: \$913,123

Number of volunteer hours donated to the coalition:
184 hours

Value of in-kind contributions: \$102,959

Number of coalition members: approximately 140

Types of organizations and persons represented in the membership: Law enforcement agencies, healthcare industry, service providers, education, community agencies, non-profit community organizations, hospitals, and county health department.

Special grant-funded initiatives: The coalition is continually developing the Maternal Child Health Continuum of Care. Some of the programs available through grant funding initiatives are: The Teen Case Management for Sexually Active Teens, Targeted Outreach for Pregnant Women At Risk for Aids (TOPWA) program, the Prenatal Uninsured Voucher Program, Healthy Families, the Crib Program and Healthy Kids of Saint Lucie County Inc.

Greatest unmet need: The single greatest unmet need is the availability of prenatal care for the high-risk, uninsured/uninsurable pregnant woman.

Contact: Healthy Start Coalition of Saint Lucie County, Inc.; Sylvie Kramer, Executive Director; 117 Atlantic Avenue; Fort Pierce, FL 34950
(772) 467-2016 kcbdslc@bellsouth.net

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kathryn Priest, Board President, Private sector
Stephen Pike, Board Vice President, Wachovia
Michael Panella, Board Secretary, Planned Parenthood
Christine Epps, Board Treasurer, Executive Roundtable
Peggy Stewart, private sector
Linda Hall, day care provider, Gingerbread Lane
Juliette Lomax-Homier, M.D., Just Ladies Health Care



