



Bamberg County First Steps Partnership *Fiscal Year 2007 Annual Report*

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Ricky Allen Kears

Executive Director:
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Summary

Numbers Served:

1,195 children; 43 adults/families; 6 child care facilities, with 230 children total at those facilities; 4 child care centers achieved a higher quality status; 57 health assessments and screenings; 364 home visits, 2 Full day 4K classroom (11 students) and 2,276 books distributed.

Total Budget:

\$420,509

Bamberg School Readiness Profile

Population Characteristics ¹	Figure
Population of Young Children (Ages 0-5)	1,209 /8%
Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch (5K)*	73.%
Average Per Capita Personal Income	\$19,927
Children in Poverty (Ages 0-5) ****	40%
Children Who Are Over Age in Third Grade***	23%
Children in Third Grade Performing below Basic on PACT Reading **	21.%
Children in Third Grade Performing below Basic on PACT Math**	33%
Low Birth Weight Infants	11.%
Births to Mothers with Less than High School Education	26.%
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	49%

*Note: Data is for 2003 except where noted (*2005, **2004, ***2001, ****1999).*

Profile Comments: Bamberg County continues its quality efforts and diligence in reducing the problems that affect school readiness and school success in the early grades for our children. However serious problems continue to exist in terms of student readiness and school success in the early grades. With 32.1 % of the county's children continuing to be assessed "not ready" for the first grade. 23% of children in the third grade are over the appropriate age. 25.1% of eight and nine year olds are placed in special education. An unacceptable number of children still began school without good prospects of success in future achievement and graduation. Children's success is strongly influenced by the education of their parent, recent data identifies that approximately 26% of all babies in the county were born to mothers with less than a high school education. 16% of babies in the county were born to mothers under the age of 20 years. 41.6% of children live in single parent homes. Childcare programs continue to require

significant training, technical support and mentoring. Recent parent surveys indicated the following areas as high priority needs: Childcare scholarships for working parents, Parents needing Parenting Skill, Full day 4K classes and higher quality of childcare programs. To increase children's readiness for school and respond to parental and community concerns, the Bamberg County First Steps Board directed its resources toward the following strategies: Family Literacy/Parenting, DSS Childcare Scholarships, Center Staff Training & Development and Facility Quality Enhancements.

SCHOOL READINESS STRATEGIES

Early Education

Statewide Goal: South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness will leverage state, local and private resources to increase the quality of, and number of children participating in, developmentally appropriate pre-kindergarten programs in both the public and private sectors. Particular emphasis will be placed on *fidelity* to research-based instructional models and *targeting* of students at-risk of early school failure.

FY 2007 Results:

Partnership Goal: Increase the number of children attending high quality early childhood education programs by establishing two new full-day 4K classes at Little Precious Angels Daycare Center and Progressive Family Life Childcare Center.

- *A total of 11 students participated in this program.*
- *1 classroom scored 5 or higher on the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scales (ECERS).*
- *All participating students were targeted based on a series of school readiness risk factors.*
- *Each classroom teacher received training in Creative Curriculum and the Work Sampling System through the SC Department of Education.*
- *Both programs met the 4K requirements for curriculum, teacher-pupil ratios, classroom materials and class size.*
- *Families reported an average of 4.00 satisfaction with this program (based on a 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) point scale).*

Family Strengthening

Statewide Goal – South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness will work collaboratively with its agency partners, the faith community and private sector to support parents and families in their own efforts to maximize the school readiness, well-being and long-term academic success of the state's young children.

FY 2007 Results:

Partnership Goal – Increase the capacity of parents to be their child's best and most important teacher by expanding home visitation services.

- *43 adults and 42 children received Parents as Teachers visits.*
- *Using the PAT Program model to differentiate intensity according to need, all families received weekly or biweekly visits.*
- *A total of 364 home visitations were delivered, providing parents with information and resources to strengthen their role as their child's most important teachers.*
- *All families received developmentally appropriate books, learning tools and materials.*
- *All PAT Educators are certified in the Born to Learn Curriculum.*
- *All PAT Educators have a Bachelor of Arts in Education degree.*
- *Families reported an average of 5.00 satisfaction with this program (based on a 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) point scale).*

Child Care

Statewide Goal – South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness recognizes quality child care as a research-based determinant of school readiness. As such, First Steps will collaborate with parents, the child care community and its agency and community partners to maximize child care quality throughout the state. Particular emphasis will be placed on assisting parents in their efforts to identify those settings most likely to maximize developmental outcomes, and assisting providers in their own efforts to maximize the learning environments they provide for young children.

FY 2007 Results:

Partnership Goal – Improve the quality of childcare by offering quality enhancement grants and technical assistance to childcare providers.

- *Quality Enhancement mini-grants were offered to 6 childcare providers in the community.*
- *40 First Steps funded childcare program staff participated in on-going DSS certified training offered by the county.*
- *210 non-funded childcare program teachers and staff from 6 local towns participated in DSS certified training offered by the county.*
- *All programs received monthly technical assistance and program mentoring.*
- *4 programs achieved ABC enhancements.*
- *1 program extended program hours for nights and weekend services.*
- *1 program increased enrollment and opened a new center.*
- *2 programs participated in the state's 4k Expansion Program.*
- *All programs received quality developmentally appropriate materials and supplies per the ITERS/ECERS assessment.*
- *230 children were directly affected by this strategy.*
- *894 children were indirectly affected by this strategy.*
- *Families and staff reported a satisfaction rating of 4.95 out of 5 (based on a 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) point scale).*

SCHOOL READINESS STRATEGIES FOR 2007-2008

Bamberg County First Steps will continue its quality efforts on comprehensive parenting services and offer quality enhancement mini grants to our local childcare providers with emphasis on intensive quality improvements in conjunction with the (ITERS/ECERS Rating) assessment tools and bi-monthly professional and technical support. To optimize on assisting young parents with the cost and quality of childcare, the Board will continue to offer 18 DSS Childcare Scholarships. Additionally, childcare training and developmental opportunities have been expanded to include all county childcare providers, school districts paraprofessionals and 4K teachers.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

State Appropriation	State-Private	In-kind	Local-Private	Lottery Appropriation	Federal	EIA Appropriation	TOTAL
\$141,159	\$105	\$101,301.	\$8,820	\$0	\$0	\$53,841	\$305,226

NOTE: The above State Appropriation amount leveraged all state-private, in-kind, local-private, lottery and federal dollars.

READINESS STRATEGIES	BUDGET	ACTUAL EXPENDITURES	DIFFERENCE
Parents As Teachers	\$50,607	\$50,604.39	\$2.61
Center Staff Training and Development	\$9,046	\$9,044.48	\$1.52
Facility Quality Enhancements	\$32,022	\$32,018.48	\$3.52
Scholarship Initiatives	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$0
Local Allocation	\$8,820	\$2,873.39	\$5,946.61
In-kind Allocation	\$101,301	\$101,301	0
Lottery Federal Allocation	\$0	\$0	\$0
County Programmatic	\$40,266	\$40,264	\$2.00
County Administrative	\$18,059	\$18,031.53	\$27.47
Full Day 4 K	\$115,387	\$39,234.31	\$76,152.59
TOTAL	\$420,509	\$338,371.58	82,136.32

Bamberg County First Steps Board continues to work diligently to ensure that all strategies utilized their funding to ensure compliance. All primary strategic program funds were utilized for the exception of \$37.12. Bamberg County First Steps County Board is very proud of this achievement.

NOTABLE DONORS

DONOR'S NAME	AMOUNT
DSS Childcare Training	\$4,520
Community Donations	\$1,370
TOTAL	\$5,890

Local Match Percentage for 2007: 73.82% (at least 15% required)

BOARD INFORMATION

During FY 07 Bamberg County First Steps Partnership Board members volunteered 750 hours, including, 250 hours for the Annual Meeting, Richard Carroll Primary School Fall Festival, Pumpkin Patch Reading Festival and Bamberg County Community Festivals, meetings and conferences.

Value of Volunteer Time: \$18.77 X 1000 Volunteer Hours = \$18,770

BAMBERG COUNTY FIRST STEPS BOARD MEMBERSHIP

1. Ricky Allen Kears, Board Chair, Legislative Appointee
 2. Ketha Stokes, Headstart Appointee
 3. Contrilla Gainyard, Parent of Pre-school child
 4. John Bamberg, Non-Profit Org.
 5. Gwen Folk, Pre-School thru Primary Educator
 6. Genrose Braye, Family Education Training and Support
 7. Carol Ann Bunch, Library Appointee
 8. Kay Carson, Transportation
 9. Shonta Crosby, Early Childhood Education
 10. Becky Brunson, Early Childhood Education
 11. Shirley Bell, Early Childhood Education
 12. Cathy Self, Childcare and Early Childhood Development
 13. Laverne DeRienzo, Parent of a Pre-school child
 14. Mabel Frazier, School District Appointee
 15. Madge Fleming, Pre-School thru Primary Educator
 16. Shontae Chisholm, Parent of Pre-school child
 17. James Barnwell, Business Community
 18. Anthony Williams, Business Community
 19. Cynthia Hurst, Legislative Appointee
 20. Christine Patrick, Leg. Appointee
 21. Barbara Tyler, Non-Profit Org.
 22. Phyllis Sandifer, Childcare and Early Childhood Development
 23. Lisa Thomas, Pre-School thru Primary Educator
 24. Dr. Michael Watson, Healthcare Provider
 25. Joann Stroman, Healthcare Provider
 26. Cynthia Williams, DSS Appointee
 27. Leigh Wood, Healthcare Provider
 28. Rev. Albert Middleton, Faith Community
 29. Rev. Edward Mintz, Sr. Faith Community
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SUCCESS STORIES

My name is Mrs. Shirley Bell and I am the director at Progressive Family Life Childcare Center located in Denmark, South Carolina. I am very pleased to express that Bamberg County First Steps has done some very wonderful and marvelous things for our child development center. There isn't any other agency or organization that has offered mini-grants for childcare centers to enhance their environments, technical assistance and staff training for teachers. We are forever grateful to Bamberg County First Steps for expanding our enrollment, providing professional training for our teachers and staff and supporting our parents in many, many ways.

Bamberg County First Steps Partnership

For the last six years, we've been recipients of quality enhancements through Bamberg County First Steps. Ms. Pauletta Plowden and Ms. Erica Smith are excellent people to know and work with. They have gone the extra mile to help our program become more polished and professional. We are blessed to be affiliated with these ladies and an agency that care so much about our children and families.

Respectfully,

-Shirley Bell, Director--Progressive Family Life Center, Denmark, South Carolina ---First Steps Board Member

My name is Shemika Sease and I am a single parent of two little girls ages two and nine years. I have been involved with the First Steps Parenting program for two years and I also receive the childcare scholarship. First Steps has helped me in many ways to be a better mother to my children. I now do a variety of learning activities with my youngest daughter that I didn't know about for my oldest child. I work full time for minimum wage and the childcare scholarship has helped me and my family tremendously. Thank you First Steps for the hard work that you do for Bamberg County's families!

Sincerely,

-Shemika Sease, Parent, Bamberg, South Carolina