

BARNWELL COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.

2005 ANNUAL REPORT



Barnwell County First Steps Partnership *Fiscal Year 2006 Annual Report*

Board Chair:
Mildred B. Ford
Executive Director:
Ethel T. Faust
Contact Information:

695 Main Street
Blackville, SC 29817

Phone: 803-284-3160
Fax: 803-284-9940
Email: bwellfirststeps@bellsouth.net

Summary

Numbers Served:

453 children; 491 adults/families; 7 child care facilities, with an estimated 502 children total at those facilities; 475 health assessments and screenings; 2,401 home visits; 2 staff trained; 20 Head Start slots and 185 books distributed.

1,209 children; 702 adults/families; 262 health assessments and screenings; 1,027 home visits; 20 4-K slots through Head Start and 77 books distributed.

Total Budget:

\$539,547 - \$162,223 state funds; \$76,707 private funds; \$23,347 local funds; \$240,418 in-kind match; \$3,025 and EIA \$33,827.

Barnwell County School Readiness Profile

Population Characteristics	Figure
Population of Young Children (Ages 0-5)	1,930 8 %
Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch (5K)*	65 %
Average Per Capita Personal Income	19,296
Children in Poverty (Ages 0-5)***	29 %
Children Who Are Over Age in Third Grade**	29 %
Children in Third Grade Performing below Basic on PACT Reading **	25 %
Children in Third Grade Performing below Basic on PACT Math**	31 %
Low Birth Weight Infants	10 %
Births to Mothers with Less than High School Education	18 %
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	17 %

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

As SC Kids Count 2005 conveys, “the data on families, economic status, health, readiness, school achievement, and adolescent risk behaviors provide a troublesome picture of the condition of children in Barnwell County. The 39.4% of children in single-parent families, 27.7% in poverty, 40.7% not graduating from school, 30.8% of high school students using alcohol and 14.1% using drugs each month, and other data profiled in this report suggest that too many children are at risk of not growing up to become self-supporting adults, good family members, and responsible community citizens.”

Specifically, the Readiness Summary states “A serious problem exists in terms of student readiness and school success in the early grades. With 38.4% assessed not consistently ready for the 1st grade, 29.2% over age in grade 3, and 19% of eight and nine year-olds placed in special education, unacceptably large numbers of students still begin school without good prospects of success in future school achievement and graduation.”

The report emphasizes the need for providing good support and appropriate influences for children and youth. It references the Search Institute's work which emphasizes the critical importance of "developmental assets" to promote and support positive development. Thus, highlighting the book, (What Kids Need to Succeed, by Peter J. Benson, Judy Gailbraith, and Pamela Espeland, 1995) that presents an excellent array of suggestions for promoting developmental assets through families, community, faith congregations, and schools. It suggests that if each family, school, religious congregation and community organization assertively worked to build such assets, the problems described in the report would be reduced dramatically. Such positive family-school-community efforts could improve Barnwell County as well as South Carolina's national Kids Count ranking from the bottom 10 to the average or even into the top 10 by prevention of unnecessary problems affecting children and youth.

The SC Kids Count 2005 report resembles what we in Barnwell County know and are continuously progressing in to meet the needs of our community. New collaborations are being formed and earlier ones are being strengthened among key stakeholders such as school districts, Head Start, private and public childcare providers, and other community organizations.

SCHOOL READINESS STRATEGIES

Early Education

Partnership Goal – To provide a full-day of developmentally appropriate pre-kindergarten services in a high quality early childhood educational program environment in Barnwell County School District #19 – Blackville, South Carolina and to reduce travel and transportation barriers.

- Collaborated in partnership and leveraged federal, state, local and private resources to increase the quality of, and number of children participating in, developmentally appropriate pre-kindergarten programs with Aiken Barnwell Head Start.
- Targeted Children age 3 – 4 at-risk of early school failure to participate in the newly established Macedonia Elementary School Head Start Class.
- Twenty (20) children participated and met the Creative Curriculum Developmental Areas of Objectives with an overall progress of 99.33%. Objectives meet/exceed SC Curriculum Standards for 4-K.
- Seventy-five (75%) of parents participated in all home visits and 100% of parents participated in parent/teacher conferences.
- Classroom teacher and assistant both received on-going training in Creative Curriculum.
- Parents report a 75% level of satisfaction.
- Classroom met the Head Start Performance Standards and the SC 4K requirements for curriculum, adult-child ratios, materials and size.

Family Strengthening

Partnership Goal – To enhance family literacy services and incorporate all four components in program operation: early learning, adult education/adult literacy, parent education and parent and child interaction.

- **Parents As Teachers and Parent Child Home programming**

Number of New Children Served – 226

Number of New Adults/Families Served – 234

Number of Health Assessments Screening – 177

Number of Actual Home Visits – 2,240

Child Care

Partnership Goal – To provide technical assistance and training opportunities to providers to enhance their own efforts to build on the learning environments they provide for young children and to help them recognize and understand quality childcare as a research-based determinant of school readiness.

Two staff person received child development training in WestEd and Motherread/Teacheread
 Staff provided 8 series of Motherread/Teacheread training to childcare providers
 7 Centers participated in Motherread/Teacheread training
 23 providers participated in Motherread/Teacheread training

Healthy Start

Partnership Goal – To support parents and the medical community in recognizing that a healthy start for children is important in maximizing both school readiness and long-term wellbeing. Collaboration among partners of families, the medical community and other stakeholders will offer resources for increased awareness of good healthcare, proper nutrition and early developmental needs of young children.

- 133 new children were served
- 150 new adults were served
- 56 screenings were provided
- 54 home visits

School Transition

Partnership Goal – Ensure an educationally beneficial school transition by serving at-risk children in the Countdown to Kindergarten program.

- 27 identified children completed the Countdown program during summer 2005.
 100% percent of the children received seven or more home visits.
- 97% percent of the children were placed in their Countdown home visitor’s kindergarten class.
- 92.59% percent of the children qualified for free lunch.
- 3.70% percent of the children qualified for reduced lunch.
- Countdown to Kindergarten resulted in improvements in parent-child interactions.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

State Appropriation	State-Private	In-kind	Local-Private	Lottery Appropriation	Federal	EIA Appropriation	TOTAL
\$162,223	\$76,707	\$240,418	\$23,347	\$3,025	\$0	\$33,827	\$539,547

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

READINESS STRATEGIES	BUDGET	ACTUAL EXPENDITURES	DIFFERENCE
Other Family Literacy/Learning	\$39,305	\$29,166	\$10,139
Library Based Programs	\$46,904	\$31,091	\$15,813
Family Literacy Model Programs	\$177,247	\$127,723	\$49,524
Public Health Promotion	\$35,127	\$20,821	\$14,306
Head Start Programming	\$105,746	\$19,577	\$86,169
Countdown To Kindergarten	\$8,875	\$7,878	\$997
Scholarship Initiatives	\$36,000	\$0	\$36,000
County Programmatic	\$54,520	\$45,035	\$9,485
County Administrative	\$19,386	\$17,204	\$2,182
Pending Strategy/Plan Approval	\$16,347	\$0	\$16,437
TOTAL	\$539,547	\$298,495	\$241,052

Actual Expenditures are less due to implementation delays, resignation of staff, and unsecured in-kind support.

NOTABLE DONORS

DONOR'S NAME	AMOUNT
Sunshine Foundation	\$10,000
Julius Ness Richardson	\$10,000
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
TOTAL	\$20,000

Local Match Percentage for 2006: 62.28% (at least 15% required)

BOARD INFORMATION

During FY 06, the Barnwell County partnership board members volunteered more than 150 hours.

Value of Volunteer Time¹: \$18.04 X 152 = \$2,742

BARNWELL COUNTY FIRST STEPS BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Category I – Community Elected

- Mildred B. Ford, Chair – Retired Educator**
Barnwell County Library
- John McHenry, Vice Chair – Banker**
Legislative Appointee
- Melinda Wilson, Secretary – Kindergarten Teacher**

- Tina Sanderlin – pre-k/primary education*
- Lisa Zissette – pre-k/primary education*
- Carol Coffman – family education/training/support
- Cathy Glass – family education/training/support
- Bettie Bedford – childcare/early childhood *

¹ http://www.independentsector.org/programs/research/volunteer_time.html

BARNWELL COUNTY FIRST STEPS BOARD MEMBERSHIP continues

Catherine Riley – childcare/early childhood
Linda Starnes – Healthcare
Kim Amick Hair - Healthcare
Marcus Fields – transportation
Melvin Counts – transportation
Diane Sheppard – family/children non-profit organization*
Shadie Hall – family/children non-profit organization
Loretta Atkinson – early childhood education
Harris Barker – faith community
Laura Buice – faith community
Rosaland Kenner – early childhood education
Shawntel Green – parent of preschooler
Carol Sitton – parent of preschooler
Daisy Car – business community

Category II – Agency Appointees

Kimberly Lawrence – Department of Social Services
Denise Cone – Department of Health and Environmental Control
Peggy Kirkland – Aiken Barnwell Head Start*
Mildred Ford – Barnwell County Library
William Sandifer – Blackville School District #19*
Alexia C. Clamp – Williston School District #29
Carolyne S. Williams – Barnwell School District #45

Category III - Legislative Appointees

Kathy Fox – Axis I Center
Jackie Holman – Mayor, Blackville
Marty Martin – Economic Development

*Initial Board Member

SUCCESS STORIES

A re-focus of parenting services to full family literacy services has impacted participants positively. Five parents enrolled in the Positive Parenting Power adult education/enhancement classes have gained employment; one parent received an associate degree, while 3 others are enrolled.

Childcare providers for the first time participated in training provided within the county in order that they could receive the required DSS certification hours. Some of their comments on the training include:

I liked...

“That we didn’t have to drive far and it was free. The information was interesting.”
“Where the workshop was held.”
“The teachers and the comfort.”

I wished...

“More people learn from this.”
“Every daycare center would get involved.”
“That we could do this more often.”

The most important thing I got from this session was...

“How to make reading fun for the children.”
“Sharing and story play.”
“Group togetherness.”