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# Colleton County First Steps Partnership *Fiscal Year 2007 Annual Report*

## Summary

### **Numbers Served:**

417 children; 28 adults/families; 9 child care facilities, with 249 children total at those facilities; 9 child care centers achieved a higher quality status; 0 higher adult education levels achieved; 336 health assessments and screenings; 397 home visits; 20 staff trained; 21 4K slots and 1,696 books distributed.

### **Total Budget:**

\$353,272

## Colleton County School Readiness Profile

Population Characteristics	Figure
Population of Young Children (Ages 0-5)	3,242/8%
Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch (5K)*	75%
Average Per Capita Personal Income	21,662
Children in Poverty (Ages 0-5)***	30%
Children Who Are Over Age in Third Grade**	22%
Children in Third Grade Performing Below Basic on PACT Reading **	23%
Children in Third Grade Performing Below Basic on PACT Math**	37%
Low Birth Weight Infants	13%
Births to Mothers With Less Than High School Education	27%
Less Than Adequate Prenatal Care	30%

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

**Profile Comments** In FY'07, 34 children were on the waiting list, and 56 children who were identified for priority placement in 4K (on the basis of compounded developmental, academic and family risk factors) were not served due to lack of available space. Only 19 of the county's 53 child care facilities were ABC-Enhanced or equivalent. Kids Count figures indicate that 61% of the county's children under the age of five have parents in the workplace. Moreover, 50.4% of all births were to single mothers, 16.5% of births were to mothers under the age of 20, and 25.9% were to mothers who had not completed high school. In a recent parent survey 83% of parents of children in 4 and 5 year old kindergarten selected parenting skills and quality early education as top priorities in Colleton County. To increase children's readiness for school and respond to parents concerns and county needs, Colleton

County Partnership targeted its resources toward Parenting/Family Literacy and quality early education in both the public and private sectors. Recognizing the importance of early literacy activities on children's future success in school, the partnership has also integrated a strategy to promote family reading at preschools, child care facilities, and health offices.

## **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: To provide young children with supportive learning environments that will enable them to enter 1<sup>st</sup> grade ready to succeed.
- *27 students were documented to have met the SC Curriculum Standards for 4K*
- *All participating students were targeted for participation on the basis of compound readiness risk factors*
  - *Homes of 150% poverty or above*
  - *Unstable home*
  - *Single parent homes*
  - *Families of low literacy and those who qualify for family literacy services*
  - *Parents not completing high school*
  - *Children of incarcerated parents*
  - *Children with IEPs best served in an inclusive 4K class*
  - *Homeless and foster children*
  - *Migrant and children from homes whose primary language is not English*
  - *Low birth weight, participation in Baby Net*
  - *Long term/chronic illness, diagnosed disability or delay*
  - *Agency referral/traumatic experience*
- *ECERS scores*
  - *4.58 on May 5, 2005*
  - *Program Quality Assessment score of 3.76 (out of 5) on April 13, 2005 (by nationally accredited H/S trainer)*
- *Each teacher has completed training through High/Scope Curriculum and Work Sampling System through the SCDE*
  - *Margaret Farrell and Susan Hickman completed the High/Scope 4 week Learning Through Teaching Play training during 2002-2003. Mrs. Farrell participated as the peer teacher during the completion of Martha Strickland's High/Scope Trainer's Certification during the 2004-2005 terms. Susan Hickman completed the In-Depth ECERS training in May of 2004*
  - *Mrs. Farrell and Mrs. Hickman completed Work Sampling System Training during 03-04*
  - *Mrs. Farrell and Mrs. Hickman completed Anderson 5 Curriculum training during summer of 06*
  - *Workshops and Conferences, and Staff Development Attendances for 2006-2007*
    - *How the Brain Learns-3 hrs*
    - *Bloom's Taxonomy-2 hrs*
    - *Adult-Child Interaction-4hr*

- *Multicultural Awareness All Around Us-4hrs*
- *Incorporating Active Learning-2hrs*
- *Talking About Touching seminar-4hrs*
- *Improving In-School conferences-2hrs*
- *Administering the DIAL-3- 2hrs*
- *Authentic Assessment in the Classroom-3hrs*
- *Anderson 5 Curriculum in Action, site visit-8hrs*
- *All SC 4K requirements were met or exceeded:*
  - *Curriculums-High/Scope Curriculum with standards based Anderson 5 Program*
  - *Pupil-teacher ratios are maintained at a maximum of 20*
  - *Materials- High quality environment to support multilevel learning of every child according to 4K SC standards as set by a H/S learning environment and ECERS-R*
  - *Classroom size exceeds the standard 35 sq. ft. per child and 100 sq ft. per child outdoors; warm water at sinks in both classrooms*
- *100% parent participation in 2 conferences and 2 home visits each.*
- *100% reported satisfaction!*

### **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:** Provide parents with access to the support they might seek and want to strengthen their families and to promote the optimal development of their preschooler.
- *19 families were served (23 children were served)*
  - *42% Hispanic*
  - *58% African American*
- *84% were single-parents*
- *5% only speak Spanish and English*
- *21% of families consisted of more than one child*
- *342 home visits were completed by Parent Educators*
- *23 children received at least 2 home visits each month*
- *All Parent Educators completed training in the Born to Learn Curriculum*
- *4 Referrals were made to other community support services*
  - *Colleton County School District*
- *84 Dental screenings were done*
- *84 Health screening were done*
- *82 children received a book each month from Dollywood's Imagination Library*
  - *1,696 were distributed*

### **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:** To increase the competency of staff in order that quality of training/instruction young children receives is age/developmentally appropriate.
- *Quality Enhancement grants were offered to 9 providers, serving 122 children. These facilities represented 21% of the childcare community for Colleton County.*
- *9 facilities received technical assistance*
- *8 facilities have had an ECERs assessments*
  - *On the post- ECERs assessments the child care providers in proved there scores by 86%.*
  - *Average for pre-assessments was 3.68*
  - *Average for post-assessments was 4.25*
- *All of the child care providers and their completed Early Childhood Development through the Technical College of the Lowcountry*
  - *100% of the childcare providers had passed the course*
  - *100% would take ECD 102 if offered this spring*
  - *15 childcare providers received TEACH scholarships*
- *100 technical hours were planned, 90 hours were actual technical assistance*
- *3 facilities are working towards licensing*
- *2 facilities are working towards NAEYC accreditation*
  - *1 facility is being evaluated now.*
- *92 providers participated in training*
- *9 children received childcare scholarships*
  - *100% of parents who received scholarships have receive a minimal of 2 home visits a month equaling 2 hours per child*
  - *100% attended one of the 9 childcare providers facility who participated in the Quality Enhancement program*
- *Training was provided for all childcare providers 24% participated*
- *22 Providers have used the Lending Library*
  - *Checking out over 50 items*
  - *135 books were loaned to childcare providers from the lending library*

**School Transition**

**Statewide Goal:** South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness recognizes school entry as a pivotal transition point in each child's educational career. In an effort to ensure strong collaborative relationships between the state's families and schools, the initiative will develop strategies to maximize parents' understandings of state and local expectations and ensure a smooth and beneficial school transition for each child.

**Partnership Goal:** Ensure an educationally beneficial school transition by serving 20 at-risk children in the Countdown to Kindergarten program.

***FY 2007 Results***

- *20 identified children completed the Countdown program during summer 2006.*
  - *100 % of the children received five or more home visits.*
- *50% of the children were placed in their Countdown home visitor's kindergarten class.*
- *78.95% of the children qualified for free lunch.*
- *10.53% of the children qualified for reduced lunch.*
- *Countdown to Kindergarten resulted in improvements in parent-child interactions, including:*
  - *5% improved on having a conversation with their child*
  - *30% improved on played toys, games or sports with their child*

- 21% improved on taking the child with them while doing errands
- 30% improved on involving their child in household chores like cooking, cleaning, setting the table, or caring for pets
- 20% improved reading to/listening to child read from a book
- 3% improved talking about letters, words or numbers with child
- 13% improved singing songs or dancing with child
- 39% improved on drawing, painting, or did other arts and crafts with child
- 14% improved on keeping a regular morning or bedtime schedule for child
- 5% improved on praising child for accomplishments or doing things that you want him/her to do
- 11% improved on visiting a library with child
- 12% improved on attending a house of worship with child and,
- 8% improved on visiting a playground, park or went on a picnic

**SCHOOL READINESS STRATEGIES FOR 2007-2008**

The Colleton County Partnership originally planned to continue working intensively with the nine child care provider, however due to the limited space that the home providers have, the partnership board has decided to continue working with the providers who operate centers. These providers will also receive mini-grants and ECERs assessments. All the childcare providers who signed up for teach, and took the Early Childhood Development 101 class; the partnership will be offering Early Childhood Development 102 to these providers. The partnership board will continue to offer childcare scholarships to the providers they are working with in order to continue to monitor scholarships. The partnership also plans to continue two half-day 4K classrooms to full-day in FY08.

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

<b>D O L L A R S (budget only)</b>							
<b>State Appropriation</b>	<b>State-Private</b>	<b>In-kind</b>	<b>Local-Private</b>	<b>Lottery Appropriation</b>	<b>Federal</b>	<b>EIA Appropriation</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
\$231,357	\$1,507	\$83,756	\$17,742	\$0	\$0	\$18,910	<b>\$353,272</b>

*NOTE: The above State and EIA appropriation amounts leveraged all state-private, in-kind, local-private, lottery and federal dollars.*

<b>READINESS STRATEGIES</b>	<b>EXPENSES</b>
Parents as Teachers	\$49,470.81
Imagination Library	\$1,975.17
4K classroom	\$129,973.39
Quality Enhancement	\$61,390.30
Childcare Training and Development	\$6,389.26
Scholarship Initiatives	\$9,030.00
Countdown to Kindergarten	\$3,321.08
County Programmatic	\$37,706.65
County Administrative	\$20,264.43
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$319,521.09</b>

**NOTABLE DONORS**

<b>DONOR'S NAME</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Dollar General	\$1000
Clemson University	\$10,000
SC First Steps	\$341,064
United Way Association of SC	\$1,000
Wachovia Bank	\$3,922.18
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$356,986.18</b>

**Local Match Percentage for 2007:** 33.58% (at least 15% required)

**BOARD INFORMATION**

During FY 07, the Colleton County partnership board members volunteered 15 hours, including annual meeting.

Value of Volunteer Time<sup>1</sup>: \$18.04 X 15 = \$270.60

**COLLETON COUNTY FIRST STEPS BOARD MEMBERSHIP**

- Leila Williams, Chair, School District Appointee
- Elizabeth Moody, DHEC
- Georgette Frazier, Childcare
- Jamaal Jones, Business Community
- Juliet Green, DSS
- LaTasha Gibson, Non-Profit
- Lonnie Moore, Family Training Support
- Lorraine Ward, Health Care
- Millie Murray, Early Childhood Education
- Phyllis Murdaugh , Legislative Delegation
- Rev. Eric Campbell, Faith Community
- Rev. JaDon Buckner, Transportation
- Roxie Bishop, Pre-K
- Shiela Keaise, County Library Appointee
- Wendy Robbins, Early Childhood Education

**SUCCESS STORIES**

I'm a single parent of twins; I have been in the Colleton County First Steps Parenting for the past year, my children and I have benefited greatly. My daughters are no longer shy, they have learned how to share, and follow directions. I've learned that reading to them at an early age is important. I wish it was possible that we could receive weekly visits. Books received from the Imagination Library program have been read and discussed over and over again.

- Cynthia Lane

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.independentsector.org/programs/research/volunteer\\_time.html](http://www.independentsector.org/programs/research/volunteer_time.html)