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

Summary

Numbers Served:

1,923 children; 331 adults/families; 26 child care facilities, with 705 children total at those facilities; 3,705 home visits; 69 staff trained; 50 4-K slots; 20 children with Countdown to Kindergarten, and 7,601 books distributed.

Total Budget:

\$458,913.00 (includes all funding sources)

Dillon School Readiness Profile

| Population Characteristics | Figure |
|---|-------------|
| Population of Young Children (Ages 0-5) | 2,927 9 % |
| Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch (5K)* | 80 % |
| Average Per Capita Personal Income | 20,342 |
| Children in Poverty (Ages 0-5)*** | 41 % |
| Children Who Are Over Age in Third Grade** | 18 % |
| Children in Third Grade Performing Below Basic on PACT Reading ** | 15 % |
| Children in Third Grade Performing Below Basic on PACT Math** | 17 % |
| Low Birth Weight Infants | 16 % |
| Births to Mothers With Less Than High School Education | 35 % |
| Less Than Adequate Prenatal Care | 23 % |

*Note: Data is for 2005 except where noted (*2006, **2004, ***2000).*

Profile Comments: The business/industry community is interested in assisting with funding to get young children ready for school in Dillon County. High tech firms will locate in areas where the investment in education will prepare students for high tech positions that will keep businesses in the Dillon County. Eighty percent (80%) of students are on free/reduced lunch due to the unemployment and underemployment rate of 8.8% as of July 2006, in Dillon County. In 1999, forty-one (41%) of children ages 0-5 are in poverty. A sound educated workforce will help close the gap. Several large firms in the high tech area are opening up companies in China and India. China graduated 600,000 scientists and engineers this past school year and the United States graduated 300,000.

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 participating in developmentally appropriate and quality pre-kindergarten programs. Private Enhanced Early Education Program - Ready 4 School will prepare 20 students and their parents to enter public schools ready to succeed. This program was funded late June 2006, and data was collected throughout the fiscal year 2007.

- *The Private Enhanced Early Education strategy served 20 four year old children in Dillon County.*
- *100% of 20 parents were well pleased with the program and child's progress.*
- *100% of 20 students were able to complete curriculum and test ready for school.*

Partnership Goal: Page: 2

Increase number of children attending high-quality early childhood education programs by establishing two new full-day 4K classes at Kid's L.T.D. Child Care Center and Hamer- Canaan Head Start Center in Dillon County.

- *Each Classroom teacher has completed training in curriculum.*
- *South Carolina 4-K requirements were satisfactory implemented for our 4-K children*
- *Hamer-Canaan and Kid's L.T.D. children in 4-K were 30 in population*
- *Each classroom in Early Education revealed a higher rating on the assessment scoring scale.*
- *Credential teachers provided instruction.*
- *Transition of children to five year old kindergarten was effective because of the cooperation and collaboration with the Board and school districts.*
- *Provided quality care so parents can safely go to work and decrease the unemployment rate in our county.*
- *Age appropriate educational materials, curriculum based technology that will assist the children in math, reading, science, and social relations.*

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 through the Parent Child-Home Program.

- *The Parent Child Home Program (PCH-P) served 73 families (with 82 children).*
- *3,705 actual home visits were made.*
- *1,043 books were distributed.*
- *798 manipulatives were distributed.*
- *The Positive Parent-Child modeled was used in the home.*
- *The PCH-P was provided in Dillon School Districts 1, 2 & 3.*
- *97.8% of the parents surveyed indicated they were satisfied with the services their family received.*
- *97.6% of the parents indicated that program staff is supportive.*
- *98.4% of the parents surveyed indicated that program staff is friendly and respectful.*
- *98.2% of the parents surveyed indicated that program staff is knowledgeable and skilled in working with their family.*
- *92.6% of the parents surveyed indicated that their family was involved in making decisions about services provided to them.*
- *94.2% of the parents surveyed indicated that their family is better off because of these services.*
- *94.4% of the parents surveyed indicated that this program was delivered without delay.*
- *99.2% of the parents surveyed indicated they would recommend this program to a friend.*
- *Parents commented that they would like for the home visits to last longer and for the home visitors to come more frequently.*

Partnership Goal – Increase the number of books and introduce literacy activities for parents and their children. Other Family Literacy/Learning – Literacy Alive! Literacy bags were sent home with the children that included a book, either a puppet or manipulative, and a laminated activity card. Children and parents will use hands-on literacy activities, books and manipulative at home to enrich the environment of their children. This program was funded by a mini grant in late June 2006, and data was collected throughout fiscal year 2007.

- *The Other Family Literacy/Learning – Rural Initiative strategy served 152 families (with 154 Children)*
- *890 Literacy Kits were lent to these families.*

Partnership Goal – Increase the number of books and parents reading to children and in the comfort of their homes through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. This program was funded in late June 2006, and data was collected throughout fiscal year 2007.

- *The Imagination Library – Rural Initiative strategy served 257 children.*
- *1,742 books were distributed*
- *90.0% of the parents surveyed indicated they were satisfied with the service their family received.*
- *Parents indicated that read along books with tapes would be helpful to their children*

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 improve the quality of child care by providing professional development opportunities to child care staff.

- *26 or (55%) of the facilities in Dillon County participated in one or more of the Child Care Video Conferences or Child Care Networking Sessions provided by the Dillon County First Steps.*
- *69 child care staff received certified training hours.*
- *Average of 705 children at these facilities 0-5 years of age.*
- *6 Child Care Network Sessions were held at the Dillon School District Two Technology Center that resulted in 16.5 certified training hours.*
- *16.5 DSS certified training hours were provided by DCFSS. Certified Training Hours include 5.0 hours Child Growth and Development, 2.5 hours Health and Safety, 6.0 hours Curriculum Activities, and 2.5 hours Professional Development.*
- *3 child care providers earned all sixteen and one-half training hours.*
- *Training incentives were given to child care facilities participating at the Child Care Networking Sessions consisting of developmentally appropriate materials/supplies such as manipulatives, First Aid Kits, Crayola crayons, paper, storage tubs, curriculum materials, books, and pencils.*
- *57.26% average increase in the pre-post test scores of the providers attending the Child Care Networking Sessions.*

Partnership Goal – Increase the number of children receiving quality child care by making child care affordable to parents.

- *The Scholarship Initiative was implemented by the Department of Social Services – ABC Division.*
- *23 half-time scholarships were awarded to thirteen low income families.*
- *100% of the scholarships were awarded.*

Partnership Goal: To purchase quality books for young children to be used in various child cares in Dillon County on a rotating schedule.

- *The Library Strategy serves 106 adults with 632 children at the child cares in Dillon County*
- *3,624 books were lent to Dillon County child care facilities*
- *302 literacy kits were lent to Dillon County child care facilities*

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.*
- *95 percent of the children received five or more home visits.*
- *100 percent of the children were placed in their Countdown home visitor's kindergarten class.*
- *90 percent of the children qualified for free lunch.*
- *10 percent of the children qualified for reduced lunch.*
- *Countdown to Kindergarten resulted in improvements in parent-child interactions, including: playing with the child, involved child in household chores, reading, and visited the library.*
- *24 percent of the parents read to/listened to child read from a book.*
- *25 percent of the parents talked about letters, words or numbers with child.*
- *20 percent of the parents drew, painted, or did other arts and crafts with the child.*

SCHOOL READINESS STRATEGIES FOR 2007-2008

The four (4) new officers and eight new board members that were appointed at the August 28, 2007 public board meeting by the current members are very ambitious and ready to move our strategies to a higher level. The same strategies will continue with more collaboration and partnership than ever before.

Dillon County First Steps will increase our private funding by a closer working relationship with the Dillon County Chamber of Commerce, because we are an active member. The business and industry supported us on Dillon County First Steps' First Annual Awareness Day on May 15, 2007 and Mrs. Susan DeVenny, State First Steps Director, participated and observed the energy and pride that the Dillon County residents enjoyed on that great day.

More scholarships are needed to assist childcare programs with achieving a higher level of care through a quality enhancement strategy.

The partnership we share with the faith community is getting larger. The Honorable Kent Williams, South Carolina State Senator has appointed two pastors from the community who are well respected and pledge their cooperation to secure more support from our churches.

The municipal and county governments are showing more interest in early childhood education in Dillon County and the Dillon County community is aware of our commitment, and the strategies the board has approved because the newspaper editor is extremely interested in little children and the work we do at First Steps. The local ***Dillon Herald*** is on the job by getting the information to the public.

To the public, hopefully as we created more effective and successful strategies in Dillon County every consideration should be given to increase funding for us to do more and not deduct funding because of our improvements when the poor, in poverty, free/reduced lunch children from disadvantaged families continue to increase.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

| D O L L A R S (budget only) | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| State Appropriation | State-Private | In-kind | Local-Private | Lottery Appropriation | 4K COC Initiative | EIA Appropriation | TOTAL |
| \$230,841 | \$2,388 | \$57,554 | \$1,348 | \$0.00 | \$150,480 | \$16,302 | \$458,913 |

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

| READINESS STRATEGIES | EXPENSES |
|---|------------------|
| Parent Child Home | \$107,812 |
| Library Based Programs | \$5,000 |
| Full Day 4K – Hamer-Canaan Head Start | \$25,334 |
| Full Day 4K – Kids L.T.D. | \$61,728 |
| Countdown to Kindergarten | \$2,416 |
| Scholarship Initiatives | \$28,500 |
| Center Staff Training & Development | \$16,449 |
| County Administrative – Rural Initiatives | \$1,198 |
| County Programmatic | \$60,127 |
| County Administrative | \$23,750 |
| TOTAL | \$332,314 |

NOTABLE DONORS

| DONOR'S NAME | AMOUNT |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| Americplan | \$30.00 |
| A Touch of Essence | \$10.00 |
| A.C. Stephens, P.C. | \$30.00 |
| AFK Properties & Construction | \$20.00 |
| Ayers Appliance Shop | \$30.00 |
| Bartell Funeral Home, LLC | \$55.00 |
| Beauty & The Beads | \$20.00 |
| Benefit Designs, LLC | \$20.00 |
| Bill's Korner | \$20.00 |
| City of Dillon | \$100.00 |
| Clarence "Sonny" McRae | \$20.00 |
| Curves for Women | \$20.00 |
| David's Accounting & Tax Service, LLC | \$20.00 |
| Denise's Flowers & Gifts | \$20.00 |
| Dillon Church of God | \$20.00 |
| Dillon County Library | \$55.00 |
| Dillon Family Medicine, P.A. | \$55.00 |
| Dillon Garden Apartments | \$20.00 |
| Dillon School District 2 Bus Drivers | \$10.00 |

Dillon County First Steps Partnership

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|--|----------|
| Dillon School District One | \$55.00 |
| Dillon School District Two Family Literacy | \$30.00 |
| Dollar Central | \$20.00 |
| Dr. & Mrs. Daniel W. Blue, Jr. | \$100.00 |
| East Carolina Hearing Center | \$30.00 |
| E-Manuel Temple Outreach Center | \$10.00 |
| E-Manuel Temple Outreach Center | \$20.00 |
| ERA Dillon Realty, Inc. | \$20.00 |
| Family Sports Center | \$55.00 |
| First Bank | \$30.00 |
| First Citizens | \$100.00 |
| GBI Contracting, Inc. | \$20.00 |
| Greene & Huggins, P.A. | \$20.00 |
| Guardian Ad Litem Program | \$20.00 |
| Hayes & Hayes Attorneys At Law | \$20.00 |
| House of Thomas Funeral Home | \$20.00 |
| Hwy. 41 Convenience & Grill | \$20.00 |
| Lake View Farm Center | \$20.00 |
| Lake View Trading Post | \$20.00 |
| Lane's Seafood | \$30.00 |
| Little Treasures Christian Learning Center | \$55.00 |
| M & M Hair & Beauty Supply | \$30.00 |
| Mary Kay – Ruthabell Nance | \$20.00 |
| McKellar Check Cashing | \$30.00 |
| McLeod Medical Center – Dillon | \$100.00 |
| Miller Plumbing & Electric | \$20.00 |
| Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Coward & Family | \$20.00 |
| New Hope Missionary Baptist Church | \$100.00 |
| Paiges' & Paiges' Incorporated | \$55.00 |
| Pee Dee Regional Violent Crime Task Force | \$20.00 |
| Petal Pusher Florist & Gift Shop | \$20.00 |
| Phones & More | \$20.00 |
| Rev. Brenda Bucy | \$20.00 |
| Senator Kent Williams | \$100.00 |
| Smithboro Flea Market | \$20.00 |
| Styles by Frenchy | \$20.00 |
| Successful After School Site | \$100.00 |
| Thomas Florist & Gifts | \$30.00 |
| Tommy Wallace Auction Co. | \$30.00 |
| Tony's Road Service | \$20.00 |
| True Value Hardware of Dillon, Inc. | \$30.00 |
| Wix Corporation | \$55.00 |
| Young world of SC, Inc. | \$20.00 |

TOTAL \$2,170.00

Local Match Percentage for 2007: 26.29%% (at least 15% required)

BOARD INFORMATION

During FY 07, the Dillon County partnership board members volunteered 332 hours, including 180.25 devoted to committee meetings, child care sessions, foundation mini grant meetings, and our 1st Annual First Steps Awareness Day.

Value of Volunteer Time¹: \$18.77 X 332 volunteer hours = \$6,231.64

DILLON COUNTY FIRST STEPS BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Ms. Tanya S. Page, Chair, childcare & early childhood development/education provider
Ms. Karla Berry, business community
Mr. Charles Bethea, family education, training and support
Ms. Kristi Bourgoin, pre-kindergarten through primary educator
Ms. Nina Bradley, Department of Health and Human Services
Rev. Brenda Bucy, healthcare provider
Ms. Krista Byrd, Dillon School District Three
Ms. Sharon T. Davis, childcare and early childhood development/education provider
Mr. Gerald Fogle, Vice-Chair, Department of Social Services
Ms. Vickie D. Ford, Assistant Secretary, non-profit organization (families and children)
Ms. Beulah Fowler, early childhood education
Ms. Georgia German, transportation provider
Ms. Patricia Gillespie, parents of pre-school children
Mr. Randolph Gurley, Legislative appointee
Mr. John Harlow, business community
Ms. Margaret Jackson, transportation provider
Ms. Mavis Jones, Dillon County Library
Rev. Mary Kinney, Legislative Appointee
Ms. Loretta M. Love, non-profit organization (families and children)
Ms. Agnes L. McDonald, healthcare provider
Mr. Art McMillan, Dillon School District Two
Ms. Priscilla Morrison, Head Start
Ms. Ruthabell Nance, Dillon School District One
Rev. Eugene Paige, Legislative Appointee
Ms. Kimberly Porter, parent of pre-school children
Ms. Cathy Smith, early childhood education
Ms. Blondell Thomas, faith community
Rev. Frankie D. Thomas, Legislative Appointee

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

SUCCESS STORIES

“I have really and truly enjoyed this program. The awesome materials that were given on a weekly basis were great. I have never experienced anything like it before. This has been a very enlightening and successful program for the age of these kids. Keep up the good work and truly it is and always will be a success story behind each year. Mrs. Powell is a jewel, very sweet and outgoing person. I enjoyed her coming in my home. To God be the Glory for our successful little ones who have people like you in their corners. Much success in the years to come.

-Parent

Dillon School District Two

This is a very good program, and I really love the way, Ms. Powell interacts with my child. He really enjoyed this program. He has learned a lot and has become very social. My child has really enjoyed his teacher, and she has prepared him a lot to look forward to 4K. Keep up the good work Mrs. Powell and the preschool program.

-Parent

Dillon School District Two

My son looks forward to seeing Mrs. Judy. He’s getting better. He’s trying more. He loves to color even though wall and TV screen are fair game with him.

-Parent

Dillon School District Two