

Building Brighter Futures

*Montgomery County Collaboration
Council for Children, Youth and Families, Inc.*

2005 ANNUAL REPORT



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Kathy Lally (ex officio)

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MONTGOMERY COUNTY COLLABORATION COUNCIL

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Community Advocate

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Montgomery County DHHS,
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*Outreach Advisor to House Democratic
Leader Nancy Pelosi*

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*Recreation Specialist
Montgomery County Recreation Department*

Ellie Salour
Community Advocate

Pam Saunders
*Social Worker
Montgomery County DHHS/Child
Welfare Services*

Yvette Edghill-Smith, PhD
Project Leader, Southern Research Institute

Ulder J. Tillman, MD, MPH
*County Health Officer
Montgomery County DHHS*

Debbie Van Brunt
Parent Advocate

Delmas Wood
*Area Director
Maryland Department of Juvenile Services*

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BUILDING BRIGHTER FUTURES



The mission of the Montgomery County Collaboration Council is to improve the well-being of children, youth and families in Montgomery County, Maryland through collaborative partnerships.

Dear Friends, Neighbors and Colleagues:

The Montgomery County Collaboration Council and its partners have been building brighter futures for our children and youth since 1992. Our mission, then and now, is to improve the well-being of children, youth and families in Montgomery County through collaborative partnerships. We seek to accomplish this by identifying and remediating gaps in services and funding.

In fiscal year 2005, with the key support of Montgomery County Executive Doug Duncan and the Montgomery County Council, and with the special leadership of Councilmember George Leventhal and Carolyn Colvin, Director of the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, the Collaboration Council for Children, Youth and Families, Inc. is celebrating its first year as a quasi-public non-profit entity. We are pleased to provide this annual report of our accomplishments, activities and initiatives to support child well-being during our inaugural year.

One of our major accomplishments during this year was the establishment of our Data Collaborative and the publication of *The Children's Agenda 2004 Data Book*. The data show that Montgomery County is doing well in many areas for its children, youth and families and much better than other parts of the State. However, not all of our children and families have the same opportunities to maximize their potential.

Our 2004 data book reports ethnic and racial disparities in education, healthcare and in the juvenile justice system. Forty percent of our children do not enter kindergarten ready to learn. Alcohol is still widely used by our teenagers. Hispanic women between 15 and 19 years old still have a dramatically higher birth rate than any other group. As a Local Management Board, the Collaboration Council has a responsibility to create public awareness about these indicators of child well-being and focus our efforts at the programmatic and systems levels to make every effort to move these indicators in the right direction.




During this year, we have established a new governance structure including a standing committee of the Board focused on child well-being to ensure that we have a way for providers, parents, community members and others to get involved in improving child well-being in Montgomery County, Maryland. This is the heart of our work. Chaired by Kate Garvey, Chief of Children, Youth and Families for the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, the Child Well-being Committee has three workgroups:

- Early Childhood
- Youth Development
- Children With Intensive Needs

Each workgroup has a diverse membership of public and private providers, parents, advocates, and others. Each group is charged with providing oversight of our funded programs that are highlighted in this report, monitoring the associated key indicators of child well-being in their area and developing elements of our strategic plan to move the indicators of child well-being. In years to come these workgroups will be the engines that drive our fund development efforts.

By targeting our funding in areas of need, forging collaborative partnerships and supporting community involvement, the Collaboration Council hopes to continue to nurture communities where children are safe, healthy, successful in school, prepared for life, and supported by a caring family and neighborhood. As we continue to grow and develop in our new status, we stand ready to work with you to leverage resources and advocate for effective strategies to maximize our youth's unlimited potential.

Sincerely yours,


Carol W. Garvey, MD, MPH
Chair


Kathy Lally
Executive Director

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ABOUT THE COLLABORATION COUNCIL



The Governor's Children's Cabinet for Fiscal Year 2006

Christopher McCabe, *Secretary*
Department of Human Resources

Nancy Grasmick, Ph.D., *State Superintendent of Schools*
Maryland State Department of Education

Kenneth C. Montague, Jr., *Secretary*
Department of Juvenile Services

Cecilia Januszkiewicz, *Secretary*
Department of Budget & Management

Kristen Cox, *Director*
Governor's Office for
Individuals with Disabilities

S. Anthony McCann, *Secretary*
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Arlene Lee, *Executive Director*
Governor's Office for Children

Our Authority

Local Management Boards (LMBs) were established in each jurisdiction in 1992 under State law, Article 49D of the Annotated Code of Maryland, to bring public and private agencies, community members and families together to meet shared goals that would assure a stronger future for our children and families and for our community. With the sunset of Article 49D on June 30, 2005, Governor Ehrlich signed an Executive Order establishing the new Governor's Office for Children to continue supporting LMBs with funding from the Governor's Children's Cabinet, which includes the heads of six state departments.

The Montgomery County Collaboration Council, designated by local Resolution 15-599, is the LMB for Montgomery County, Maryland. On July 1, 2004, the Collaboration Council officially changed its organizational structure from an arm of government to a quasi-public non-profit entity in order to better serve the community as a neutral convener, to create efficiencies in procurement and contracting, and to have the flexibility to raise funds from a broad range of sources.

Our Leadership

The Collaboration Council is governed by a board of directors that is appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council. The 21 board members represent public agencies, families, elected officials, businesses and community advocates.

This governance and policy-making body is supported by five committees: Executive, Child Well-being, Legislative, Fiscal and Membership. Both board members and service providers serve on these standing committees. Together they oversee and implement a shared vision of nurturing a community where children are safe, healthy, successful in school, prepared for life, and supported by a caring family and community, as outlined in *The Children's Agenda*.

Our Work

Using *The Children's Agenda* as its blueprint, the Collaboration Council plans, coordinates, funds and monitors specific interagency services to improve child well-being in Montgomery County. As a LMB, the Collaboration Council has a role at the systems and program levels to engage its public and private partners, parents and others to identify needs and gaps in services and to facilitate problem-solving with all its partners to respond to these needs and gaps.

A strategic plan must focus the collective will and resources into policies and programs to ensure that, as a community, Montgomery County fulfills the vision found in *The Children's Agenda*. The Child Well-being Committee and its workgroups focus on three priority areas—Early Childhood, Youth Development and Children With Intensive Needs. They are in the process of developing a community strategic plan to include action plans which implement strategies to achieve goals associated with each priority area.

THE CHILDREN'S AGENDA

In 1998, with tremendous community support and political will, the Collaboration Council developed *The Children's Agenda* to help its partners and the community to effectively and efficiently work together on a common mission with shared goals for children. Serving as a blueprint of what Montgomery County wants for all of its children and families, this agenda assists its partners in nurturing a community where children are safe, healthy, successful in school, prepared for life, and supported by a caring family and community. *The Children's Agenda* identified the following agreed-upon community outcomes to be achieved through collaborative partnerships:



Healthy Children

Adults and children who feel well, physically and mentally, are more able to work, play and learn. With sufficient health care resources that are accessible and affordable, children and families can be healthier.



Young Children Ready for School

The experiences and relationships that occur in the first years of children's lives have a lasting impact on their present and future development, as well as on their readiness to learn.



Success for Every Student

High expectations for academic achievement for all students, combined with skilled teachers, sound curriculum, adequate instructional materials, and family involvement, are essential for student learning.



Young People Prepared for the Workplace

School success includes preparation for life after high school. Partnerships between schools, businesses, higher education institutions, social services agencies and after school programs can ensure that teens transition to young adulthood successfully.



Young People Making Smart Choices

Adolescence is a time of experimentation and testing of limits to prepare for mature decision making as adults. It is critical that we listen to our youth, hear their fears and concerns, and provide the support and skills they need to make smart choices.



Stable and Economically Secure Families

A home environment with nurturing adults who love, care for and protect their children is a cornerstone of healthy child development. Children with special challenges—physical, emotional or developmental—have a substantially better likelihood of achieving their potential if raised in their family homes, or in their home communities, rather than in distant residential facilities.



Children Safe in Their Home, School and Community

In safe environments children thrive, learn, dream and explore. However, if children live in unsafe environments and it is left unaddressed, it will create community issues that will only serve to undermine the system's ability to offer its children every opportunity for success.



Communities That Support Family Life

Resources and services create a community of people committed to the well-being of its children and families. An array of services should offer prevention for all, early intervention at the first sign of problems and intensive intervention for those children for whom prior efforts have not been enough.

ABOUT THE COLLABORATION COUNCIL

Montgomery County Data Collaborative Partner Organizations

- Family Crimes Division, Montgomery County Police Department
- Geographic Information Systems Services, Montgomery County Department of Technology Services
- Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families
- Housing Opportunities Commission
- Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- Maryland Department of Human Resources
- Maryland Department of Juvenile Services
- Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission
- Montgomery County Child Care Resource and Referral Center Services
- Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services**
 - Accountability and Customer Services
 - Children, Youth and Family Services
 - Crisis, Income and Victim Services
 - Public Health Services
- Montgomery County Public Schools**
 - Department of Shared Accountability
 - Department of Planning and Capital Programming
 - Safe and Drug Free Schools

Our Role

As a quasi-public non-profit entity that manages State resources, the Collaboration Council is committed to making objective decisions regarding the development of an interagency service delivery system by supporting data-driven decision-making, ensuring efficiencies in procurement and accountability, and communicating with its stakeholders.

Supporting Data Driven Decision-Making

The Collaboration Council has launched the Montgomery County Data Collaborative—a multi-agency collaboration among a team of data providers from public and private child-serving agencies whose mission is to empower the community by providing information needed to improve the lives of children, youth and families in Montgomery County.

In *The Children's Agenda 2004 Data Book*, the Collaboration Council has provided the community with a comprehensive document of key indicators of child well-being in Montgomery County. The goal for this document was to raise awareness of the issues confronting Montgomery County's children, youth and families and to compel action by our decision-makers.

The Collaboration Council is also convening stakeholders to create a web-based interagency human services resource database to connect people to resources and to identify gaps in services.

In addition, the Collaboration Council has supported data analysis and research in four specific areas in FY05:

Assessing Gang Activity—Gang Task Force Report

Working closely with the Montgomery County Police Department to support the Montgomery County Gang Prevention Task Force, the Collaboration Council's Data Collaborative produced a document assessing the nature and scope of gang activity.

Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC)

With support from the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, the Collaboration Council examined juvenile justice decision points at which minority youth experience disparate outcomes.

School Based Health Centers (SBHC)

The Data Collaborative assisted the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, School Health Services and Montgomery County Public Schools with data analysis to support the rationale for planning an expansion of School Based Health Centers.

Adolescent Reproductive Health Needs Assessment

The Collaboration Council's Adolescent Reproductive Health Needs Assessment explored both the risk and protective factors that affect adolescent behaviors in order to identify community needs around pregnancy prevention.

Full reports are available at www.collaborationcouncil.org.



Managing Funds

The Collaboration Council has adopted comprehensive *Procurement Policies and Procedures* to provide an efficient and transparent framework for the distribution of funds, requiring specific criteria for Requests for Proposals (RFP) and Open Solicitations. With an average of 90 days from release of RFP to contracting with an agency, the Collaboration Council has provided a mechanism for resources to get to service providers in an efficient manner. The Collaboration Council's program monitors then ensure oversight and give assistance to providers to ensure appropriate service delivery and contract compliance.

Creating Public Awareness

The Collaboration Council communicates regularly with its stakeholders through the *Collaborative Piece* newsletter, the redesigned web site (www.collaborationcouncil.org), and publications such as *The 2004 Data Book*. As part of the communication plan, the Legislative Committee develops the Legislative Agenda to help our State and local elected officials make educated decisions on funding and programs that support children, youth and families living here in Montgomery County.



2005 CHILDREN AND FAMILY LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

As part of its 2005 Children and Family Legislative Agenda, the Collaboration Council advocated at the State and local levels for its three priority areas:

Early Childhood Care and Education

- Full funding for State of Maryland Purchase of Care child-care subsidies for low-income parents.
- Full funding for Montgomery County's Working Parents Assistance Child Care Subsidy Program.
- Increased funding for home visiting programs like Families Foremost and Healthy Families that prevent child abuse and neglect and support parents as their child's first teacher.
- Continuation of State funding for the Judy Centers.

After School Activities

- Maintenance of State funds for After School Activities that provide safe, developmentally appropriate academic enrichment, leadership development and recreation activities for youth across Montgomery County.
- Promotion of increased collaboration among Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, Public Schools, Recreation and Police Departments to identify resources to more fully support after school activities across the County.

Children With Intensive Needs

- Maintenance of State funds for wraparound support services for children with developmental disabilities and severe emotional disturbance.
- Promotion of County funding for the Montgomery County Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health, and case coordination and family support currently funded by a five-year Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration grant for the Community Kids Initiative.



EARLY CHILDHOOD

Convening Stakeholders

The Collaboration Council's Early Childhood Workgroup and the Home Visiting Consortium allow stakeholders to oversee funded programs, and monitor the outcomes and indicators of child well-being associated with early childhood development.

Fund Grant from the Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families and receiving \$99,000 for the development of an early learning promoters program to assist families in diverse communities better prepare their children for school;

- monitoring the Collaboration Council's early childhood services; and,
- committing to developing the next five-year County plan for early childhood services to ensure that young children are ready to learn when they enter school.

Early Childhood Workgroup

Under the direction of the Child Well-being Committee, the Early Childhood Workgroup's accomplishments included:

- applying for the Resource Development and Enhancement

Healthy Children



Children Safe in Their Home, School and Community



Stable and Economically Secure Families

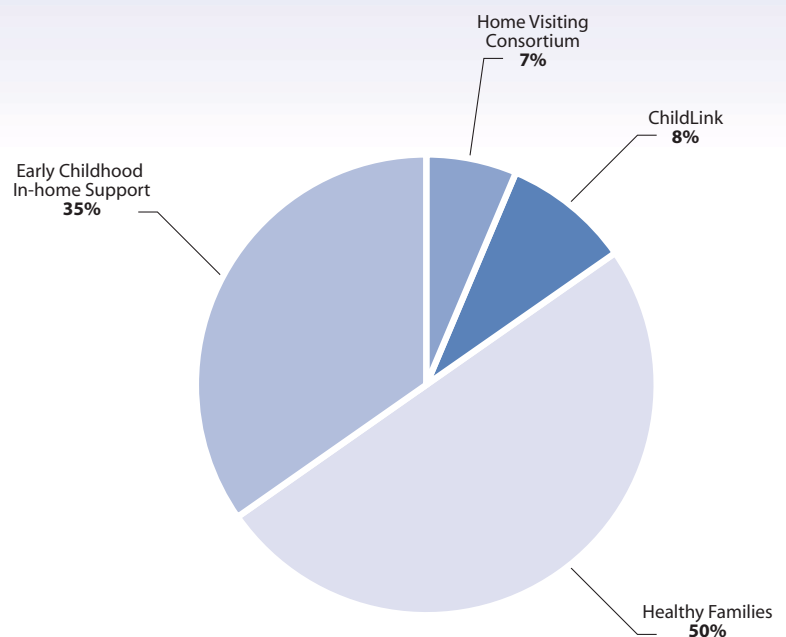


Young Children Ready for School



Early Childhood—Fiscal Year 2005

Total Expenditures \$558,263



Home Visiting Consortium (HVC)

In close partnership with the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, Early Childhood Services, the Collaboration Council facilitates this interagency group of eleven home visiting programs. The HVC provides an opportunity for exchanging information, and establishing common training and data collection across home visiting programs in the County. The HVC members have determined that they will add young children ready for school as a key outcome for their programs.

The HVC collaborative activities included:

- providing training for HVC members to determine eligibility and refer to the Infants and Toddlers Program;
- developing and disseminating parent “booster” packets to families in the HVC programs in partnership with MCPS Early Childhood Services;
- developing and producing early childhood public engagement materials in English and Spanish, water bottles advertising ChildLink’s telephone number, and *What Every Child Needs* brochure in English and Spanish—the Collaboration Council provided one-time funding and technical assistance to support this effort.

Early Childhood Workgroup

Workgroup Co-Chairs:

Carey Wright, EdD
Board Member, Collaboration Council

Ellie Salour
Board Member, Collaboration Council

Members:

Julie Bader
*Supervisor, Child Find/Infants and Toddlers, Preschool Education Programs
Montgomery County Public Schools*

Harriet Berger
Chair, Commission on Child Care

Allison Fellows Comly
Clinical Social Worker, Reginald S. Lourie Center

Carol Garvey, MD, MPH (Ex Officio)
Chair, Collaboration Council

Gladys Gutierrez
*School Based Social Services Supervisor
GUIDE Program, Inc.*

Naseem Hoque
Director, Academy Child Development Center

Elena Hutchinson
*Librarian II
Montgomery County Public Libraries
Noyes Library for Young Children*

Helma Irving
*Healthy Families Montgomery
Early Intervention Specialist and Baby Steps Program Supervisor
Family Services Agency, Inc.*

Soraia Leventhal
Owner, Home Day Care

Brenda Lockley, RN, MS
*Project Director
African American Health Program*

Jerrilyn Matthews
Board Member, Collaboration Council

Debbie Shepard
*Early Childhood Administrator
Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services*

Claudia Simmons
*Coordinator, Pre-K and Head Start Programs
Montgomery County Public Schools*

Vickie Strange-Moscoso
*Director, Special Education Operations
Montgomery County Public Schools*

John Surr
*Advocate for Young Children
Maryland Community Association for Education of Young Children*

Shari Waddy
Director, Families Foremost Center

Collaboration Council Staff Support:

Kathy Lally, *Executive Director*
Carol Walsh, *Senior Associate*
Cheryl Lynn Jenkins, *Project Coordinator*
Tracey Webb, *Program Monitor*
Patricia Arriaza, *Program Monitor*

Home Visiting Consortium Members

Family Services Agency, Inc.

Baby Steps
Framework for Families
Healthy Families Montgomery
Early Head Start

Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services

Healthy Start Case Management
High Risk Infant Services
ChildLink

Infants and Toddlers Program
(Collaboration of Montgomery County DHHS Early Childhood Services and Montgomery County Public Schools)

Families Foremost Center (Collaboration of Mental Health Association and The Reginald S. Lourie Center)

Early Head Start,
The Reginald S. Lourie Center

Black Babies S.M.I.L.E. (Collaboration of Montgomery County DHHS African American Health Programs and The People’s Community Baptist Church)

EARLY CHILDHOOD



Funding Direct Services

Initiatives and programs are strategically funded through the Collaboration Council based on local planning, using demographic and needs assessment data, with collaborative partners.

Healthy Families Montgomery

Program Goal and Activities: To provide home visiting services to first time parents who have been screened positive for risk of child abuse and neglect from before birth to age five years old.

Outcomes: Healthy Children; Children Safe in Their Home, School and Community; Young Children Ready for School

Provider: Family Services Agency, Inc.

Funding: \$282,095 from the Governor's Subcabinet Fund

Program Measures

- 116 families served
- 546 positive referrals were received
- 3,586 home visits were completed
- 94 percent of mothers have not had additional births in two years
- 99.4 percent of families have no abuse or neglect complaints
- 93 percent of children demonstrated normal child development
- 340 children were administered the Ages and Stages Questionnaire, and 316 children demonstrated academic preparedness

ChildLink

Program Goals and Activities: To coordinate information about public and private early childhood services and offer a bilingual telephone line to help parents and caregivers reach the services and resources they need for their young children from birth to age five years old.

Outcomes: Healthy Children; Young Children Ready for School; Children Safe in Their Home, School and Community

Provider: Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services

Funding: \$44,565 from the Governor's Subcabinet Fund

Program Measures

- 1,621 children were served
- 1,599 calls were received
- 625 program referrals were made
- 160 agencies requested information and resources
- 249 callers received services in Spanish

Early Childhood In-home Support

Program Goals and Activities: To provide in-home support for families involved, or at-risk of becoming involved, in the child welfare system. Families were offered opportunities to learn how to better manage stressful situations, identify and utilize community resources and support their children's school readiness. Families were also provided an opportunity for center-based services such as peer group support at the Families Foremost Center.

Outcomes: Children Safe in Their Home, School and Community; Young Children Ready for School; Healthy Children; Stable and Economically Secure Families

Provider: Families Foremost Center of the Mental Health Association

Funding: \$193,928 from Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families and Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention

Program Measures

- 43 parents and 41 children received home visiting services
- 94 percent of families had no further involvement with Child Welfare Services
- 52 percent of parents completed a formal parenting course that consisted of six sessions
- 86 percent of parents participated in at least 70 percent of scheduled home visits
- 34 percent of parents enrolled in the center's ESOL and literacy classes
- 21 percent of parents took domestic violence reduction steps by moving into safe housing





YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Convening Stakeholders

The Collaboration Council's Youth Development Workgroup and Youth Strategies Consolidated Grant Committee allow stakeholders to oversee funded programs, and to monitor the outcomes and indicators of well-being in school age children.

Youth Development Workgroup

Under the direction of the Child Well-being Committee, the Youth Development Workgroup's accomplishments included:

- monitoring the performance of Collaboration Council-funded

programs through written reports and presentations by contractors;

- contributing to the development of a community strategic plan by becoming more acquainted with needs and services related to successful youth development through research and consultation with experts; and,
- recommending target communities and key program components for funding after school activities programs, including funding for small or emerging nonprofit organizations.

Healthy Children



Children Safe in Their Home, School and Community



Success for Every Student



Young People Prepared for the Workplace

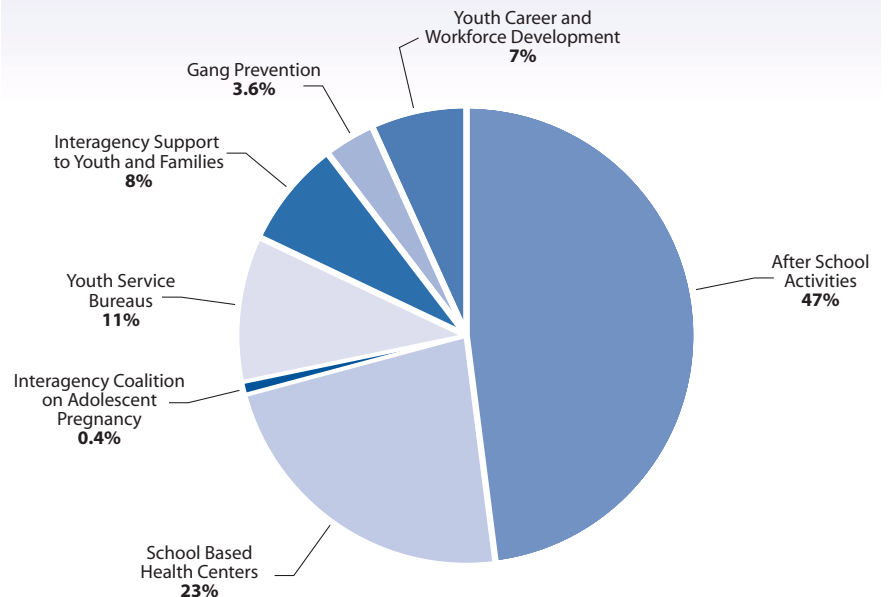


Communities That Support Family Life



Youth Development—Fiscal Year 2005

Total Expenditures \$1,163,781



Youth Strategies Consolidated Grant (now called Youth Strategies Initiative) Committee

The Collaboration Council convened the YSCG Committee to serve as an inclusive collaborative network to identify, recommend, support and monitor community and countywide strategies and policies to lessen the effects of adolescent substance abuse, juvenile delinquency and disproportionate representation of minority youth in our child welfare, juvenile justice and special education

systems. The YSCG Committee’s accomplishments included:

- monitoring the performance of Collaboration Council-funded programs through written reports and presentations by contractors;
- continuing refinement of the YSCG strategic plan by updating needs assessment and gaps in services; and,
- determining the systems-building and direct services strategies for FY06 resulting in a successfully funded proposal of \$520,000.

Youth Strategies Consolidated Grant (YSCG) Committee

Chair:

Delmas Wood, *Area Director, Department of Juvenile Services*

Membership:

- Commission on Juvenile Justice
- Community Kids
- JJFAIR
- Maryland Department of Juvenile Services
- Maryland International Corridor CSAFE
- Montgomery County DHHS
 - Child Welfare Services
 - Juvenile Justice Services
 - Substance Abuse Prevention
- Montgomery County Police Department
- Montgomery County Public Schools
 - Department of Student Services
 - Safe and Drug Free Schools
- Sixth Circuit Court
- State’s Attorney’s Office
- Wheaton CSAFE

Youth Development Workgroup

Workgroup Chair:

Yvette Edghill-Smith, PhD
Board Member, Collaboration Council

Members:

Jean Clarren
League of Women Voters

Brigid Dunn
Acting Supervisor, School Counseling Department of Student Services Montgomery County Public Schools

Peggy Feeney
Instructional Specialist, Division of Academic Support, Federal and State Programs Montgomery County Public Schools

Alice Forcier
Director, Housing Solutions Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless

Flora de Maria Lordes Gutierrez
Case Manager Montgomery County Cancer Crusade

Virginia Hillhouse
Public Relations Chair Montgomery County Council of PTA

Joan Karasik
Community Advocate

Meagan Labriola
Executive Director, Community Bridges

Catherine Lane
Community Member

Anu-Lusa Lukk
Director, Child and Family Services Jewish Social Services

Judy Madden
Acting Director, Department of Student Services Montgomery County Public Schools

Emily McDonell
Board Member, Collaboration Council

Peter Meleney
Program Manager Community Conferencing Initiative Conflict Resolution Center of Montgomery County, Inc.

Jackie Ogg
Montgomery County Community Foundation

Ida Louise Polcari
Acting Director of Consortia Initiatives Montgomery County Public Schools

Anthony Potts
Program Coordinator, Montgomery County Housing Opportunities Commission

Sara Pullen
Coordinator, Sharp Suspension Program

Allison Stearns
Executive Director Kensington/Wheaton Youth Services Mental Health Association

Zrinka Tomic
Director, Child and Adolescent Services Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services

Arthur Williams
Assistant Principal, Mark Twain School Montgomery County Public Schools

Collaboration Council Staff Support:

- Carol Walsh, *Senior Associate*
- Tracey Webb, *Program Monitor*
- Cheryl Lynn Jenkins, *Project Coordinator*

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



Funding Direct Services

Initiatives and programs are strategically funded through the Collaboration Council based on local planning, using demographic and needs assessment data, with collaborative partners.

Community Development and Linkages

Program Goals and Activities: To increase the number and cultural diversity of community members who participate in planning and implementation; to identify the assets of each community; to develop linkages between services for increased access for families; and to identify and advocate for effective resources to meet public safety and child and family well-being goals. Merging the worlds of public health and public safety, the Collaboration Council funded two community organizers to support the work of the Mid-County Neighborhood Initiative, and the work of the Wheaton's and International Corridor's Collaborative Supervision and Focused Enforcement (CSAFE).

Outcomes: Children Safe in Their Home, School and Community; Communities that Support Family Life

Providers: City of Takoma Park; Kensington Wheaton Youth Services of the Mental Health Association; and Pro Health Solutions, Inc.

Funding: \$77,317 from the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention

Program Measures

Wheaton CSAFE Mid-County Neighborhood Initiative's Community Policing and Maintenance Workgroup

- Recognized with a County Partnership award from Montgomery's Best Awards and the Wheaton/Kensington Chamber of Commerce
- Organized the Second National Night Out Event with over 400 community members, elected officials and law enforcement in attendance
- Organized the second annual Community Wellness and Safety Event held at Peppertree Farms Apartment community with the help of volunteers and apartment managers. Over 100 people participated

International Corridor, CSAFE community organizer

- Assisted the Hillwood Manor Residents Association in forming their goals and objectives so that they could be recognized as an official civic association by the City of Takoma Park
- Reached out to residents in the Long Branch/Takoma Park target community to encourage participation in community-building activities
- Built partnerships together with the CASA de Maryland Community Organizer between the Parents' Council of the YMCA, Carroll Avenue Apartments and the New Hampshire Estates Civic Association to address the needs of the residents

After School Activities Program (ASAP)

Program Goals and Activities: To create an array of collaborative, culturally responsive after school activities that will lead to increased academic achievement, smart decision-making skills, and students who are prepared for the workplace and higher education. Targeting at-risk students, kindergarten through grade 12, this collaborative after school effort focused on academic enrichment, recreation, workforce development, arts and cultural activities, leadership development, and service learning.

Outcomes: Children Safe in Their Home, School and Community; Healthy Children; Success for Every Student; Young People Prepared for the Workplace

Funding: \$555,377 from the Governor's Subcabinet Fund

Program Measures

- 3,488 students in at-risk communities participated in after school programs funded through the Collaboration Council at a cost of \$160.64 per student
- 2,209 of the youth enrolled in ASAP indicated an increase in positive behavior as evidenced from teacher reports and pre and post surveys (not all after school programs participated in this survey)
- All 22 agencies combined served 3,488 students, exceeding the anticipated goal of 1,200.

ASAP PROVIDERS

- Arts and Humanities Council: A multi-disciplinary arts program. Served 73
- Best Buddies: Youth development for students with disabilities. Served 652
- Boys and Girls Club: Academic and recreational program. Served 180
- YMCA Bethesda: Academic, recreational and family activities. Served 36
- City of Rockville: Girlz Club—Academic, recreational and career activities for young girls. Served 24
- City of Rockville: R.I.S.E. Program—Career development and leadership. Served 16
- Community Bridges: Jump Start Girls Program—A leadership and empowerment program for young girls. Served 37
- Education 2000: An academic and SAT Preparation program for Latino high school age youth. Served 62
- Family Learning Solutions: Youth leadership. Served 53
- Family Support Center: A comprehensive outreach, mentoring and education program for pre and adolescent females. Served 69
- Gapbusters Learning Center: Academic support and youth leadership. Served 199
- GUIDE Program, Inc.: Academic, recreation and leisure activities. Served 22
- Hands on Science Outreach: Academic enrichment. Served 407
- MCPS: Summer Early Learning Opportunity Program. Served 134
- Mental Health Association: Voices vs. Violence Program. Served 27
- Montgomery County Recreation Department: Youth Advisory Council. Served 875
- Montgomery County Volunteer Center: Service and leadership activities. Served 339
- Montgomery Youth Works: Arts on the Block and Construction Industry Internship Programs. Served 17
- St. Luke's House: For students with severe emotional disabilities. Served 21
- The Upper Montgomery County YMCA: Middle after school program and summer camp. Served 16
- YMCA Silver Spring: Recreation activities. Served 229

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



Interagency Support to Youth and Families

Program Goals and Activities: To serve at-risk youth and their families by identifying resources and activities available in their community through a Community Resource Coordinator and by providing follow-up case management with families involved in low-end adjudication through gang prevention activities, after school group for ESOL males at risk of gang involvement and monthly parent meetings. The resources that the Community Resource Coordinator identified were used to facilitate linkages for youth and parents.

Outcomes: Children Safe in Their Home, School and Community; Success for Every Student

Provider: Kensington Wheaton Youth Services of the Mental Health Association

Funding: \$87,853 from the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention

Program Measures

- 43 youth and 24 parents received services
- Despite struggling academically throughout most of the school year, many students were able to develop more effective study habits and improve their grades.
- All students in attendance reported that their relationships with their teachers and other school staff had improved.

- One student expressed that he had been disconnected at the beginning of the school year and experienced multiple suspensions, but was able to improve his behavior and grades. He will be moving on to high school in September.

Gang Prevention and Intervention

Program Goals and Activities: To focus on gang prevention through programs which provide skill building services that include structured parent skills training, youth social skills and parent-youth activities.

Identity, Inc. provided parent training sessions on drug abuse prevention, parenting skills and strengthening family bonds. Sessions for parents and their children focused on communication around avoiding violence and gangs. Parents were recruited at Montgomery Village Middle School with the support of the Principal and the ESOL Parent Outreach Worker. Parents participated in five two-hour training sessions, from the *Guiding Good Choices* curriculum, with the addition of pre and post sessions which included the parent and their youth.

Edgewood Community Services, Inc. (ECS), provided social service programs to low-income and immigrant populations living in or near 20 Edgewood Management Corporation apartment communities. Funding enabled ECS to re-implement the *Strengthening Family Program (SFP)* for low-income families and youth ages 8 to 14 residing at Rock Creek Terrace

Apartments and the surrounding Lincoln Park and Twinbrook areas of the County. The program, presented in 20 consecutive weekly sessions, helped youth and their families make choices that will deter their involvement in gangs.

Outcomes: Stable and Economically Secure Families; Children Safe in Their Home, School and Community; Young People Making Smart Choices

Providers: Identity, Inc, and Edgewood Community Services, Inc.

Funding: \$41,342 from the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention

Program Measures

Identity, Inc.

- 20 Hispanic parents and 22 youth were served
- 14 sessions were held
- 85.7 percent of the parents felt that as a result of Identity's program, their children listen to them more frequently
- 92.9 percent of the parents reported that they dedicate more time to listen to their children
- 92.9 percent of the parents reported that the relationship with their children improved as result of the program
- 92.3 percent of the parents reported that during this program year they had gone to their child's school more often than in the year prior to participation in this program. At pre-test, 61.5 percent of parents felt comfortable approaching their child's school.

- 50 percent of the parents reported knowing their child's friends versus 30.4 percent at the beginning of the program
- Communication with their children regarding gangs went from 56.6 percent at baseline to 84.6 percent at exit.
- 85 percent of parents reported improving their anger management skills
- 90 percent of youth remained in school
- 80 percent of youth were not involved in illegal activities (inclusive of juvenile violence and nonviolent arrest rates)
- 75 percent of youth were not engaged in alcohol or drug abuse
- 100 percent of youth were not suspended from school while enrolled in the program
- 70 percent of parents regularly participated in monthly parent meetings
- Of the parents who participated in the SFP, 85 percent reported learning skills to make them more effective parents.

Edgewood Community Services, Inc.

- 20 young people ages 8 to 14 years old and 34 parents were enrolled in the program
- 95 percent of youth remained with the program throughout the program period



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



Youth Career and Workforce Development

Program Goals and Activities: To increase youth's readiness to obtain a job; increase their ability to apply job skills in the construction and health sciences industries; increase their ability to articulate specific academic and career goals. Funding was provided for two programs, one countywide program and one targeting the Long Branch/International Corridor CSAFE community.

The Construction Industry Internship Program (CIIP) is an internship program for 9th and 10th grade students offered countywide. During the year, construction professionals facilitated after school sessions about safety, higher education/advanced training, roofing, product sales, heating-ventilation-air conditioning training, exterior wall systems, and project management. Participants learned about exciting technological innovations in the industry. Twelve youth participated in the program.

In the Long Branch area, 18 youth who resided in the Long Branch or International Corridor CSAFE sections of the County and who were receiving services including special education, child welfare, mental health, social services, and juvenile services or were in populations over represented in these child serving agencies received career and job readiness training featuring resume writing,

conflict resolution, interviewing skills and oral communication. Each youth prepared a resume and researched their careers of choice.

Outcomes: Young People Prepared for the Workplace

Providers: Partners for the Long Branch Job Skills Program were Juvenile Justice Family Advocacy Initiative and Resources (JJFAIR), Long Branch Weed and Seed, and International Corridor CSAFE

Funding: \$77,964 from the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention

Program Measures

- 30 total youth were served
 - 22 youth, 13 to 15 years old
 - 8 youth, 16 to 18 years old
- The participants created their resumes and received career readiness training in effective communication, conflict resolution, work ethic, time management, teamwork, money management, public speaking and diversity awareness.
- Pre and post surveys were administered to assess participants' knowledge of employability skills. Stipend forms were collected and used as an indicator to assess behavior with the supervisor, individual responsibility and teamwork. By comparing the results of the pre and post tests, the staff noted an increase in knowledge and confidence in job readiness topics.

Youth Service Bureaus

Program Goals and Activities: To provide short-term intervention and prevention counseling services to referred youth and families through short-term counseling, tutoring, educational programs, mentoring and drug and alcohol prevention services. Each YSB provides the following core services:

- Formal and Informal Counseling (Individual, family and group);
- Information and Referral Services;
- Crisis Intervention; and,
- Substance Abuse Assessment and Referral.

In addition to providing core services, each YSB identifies and provides non-core services to their community.

Outcomes: Children Safe in Their Home, School and Community; Success for Every Student; Young People Prepared for the Workplace

Providers: Three local Youth Service Bureaus—City of Rockville; GUIDE Programs, Inc.; YMCA Youth and Family Services, Bethesda.

Funding: \$125,242 from the Governor’s Subcabinet Fund

Program Measures (*for Core Services Only*)

- 195 youth and adults received formal counseling
- 175 youth and adults received informal counseling
- 1,555 individuals received information and referral services
- 194 individuals received substance abuse assessment and referral
- 38 individuals received crisis intervention

Interagency Coalition on Adolescent Pregnancy

Program Goals and Activities: To maximize resources for pregnant and parent teens, parent skills education and prevention of school drop-out through coordination of public and private efforts.

Outcomes: Healthy Children, Success for Every Student

Provider: Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services

Funding: \$4,956 from the Governor’s Subcabinet Fund

Program Measures

- 92 pregnant and parenting teens attended the Teen Parents Conference in April
- 45 of those youth attending were recognized for graduating or getting their GED
- 104 adults attended the Professional Summit

School Based Health Centers

Program Goals and Activities: To provide comprehensive health care, case management, and health education services to two elementary schools in high need communities: Harmony Hills and Broad Acres.

Outcomes: Healthy Children

Provider: Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services

Funding: \$271,048 from the Governor’s Subcabinet Fund

Program Measures

Broad Acres

- 677 clients enrolled
- 802 visits occurred
- 202 children received follow-up care
- 305 children received sick care
- 116 children received physical exams
- 155 immunizations were given
- 155 children received dental visits
- 235 students enrolled in SBHC received oral health education

Harmony Hills

- 567 clients enrolled
- 655 visits occurred
- 132 children received follow-up care
- 290 children received sick care
- 97 children received physical exams
- 167 immunizations were given
- 107 children received dental visits
- 177 students enrolled in SBHC received oral health education



CHILDREN WITH INTENSIVE NEEDS

Convening Stakeholders

The Collaboration Council's Children With Intensive Needs Workgroup, Local Coordinating Council, and Emergency Fund Committee allow stakeholders to oversee funded programs, and monitor the outcomes and indicators of well-being associated with children with intensive needs.

Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families by becoming familiar with services and by participating in the selection of new vendors to deliver services to children and families;

- developing a plan to create a local access mechanism in response to the State mandate for House Bill 1386 (see page 22, Local Access Mechanism Plan); and,
- contributing to the development of a community strategic plan by becoming familiar with the needs and services related to children with intensive needs through exchanging information and identifying various resources in the community.

Children With Intensive Needs Workgroup

Under the direction of the Child Well-being Committee, the Children With Intensive Needs Workgroup's accomplishments included:

- ensuring accountability of programs funded by the

Children Safe in Their Home, School and Community



Success for Every Student



Communities That Support Family Life



Stable and Economically Secure Families

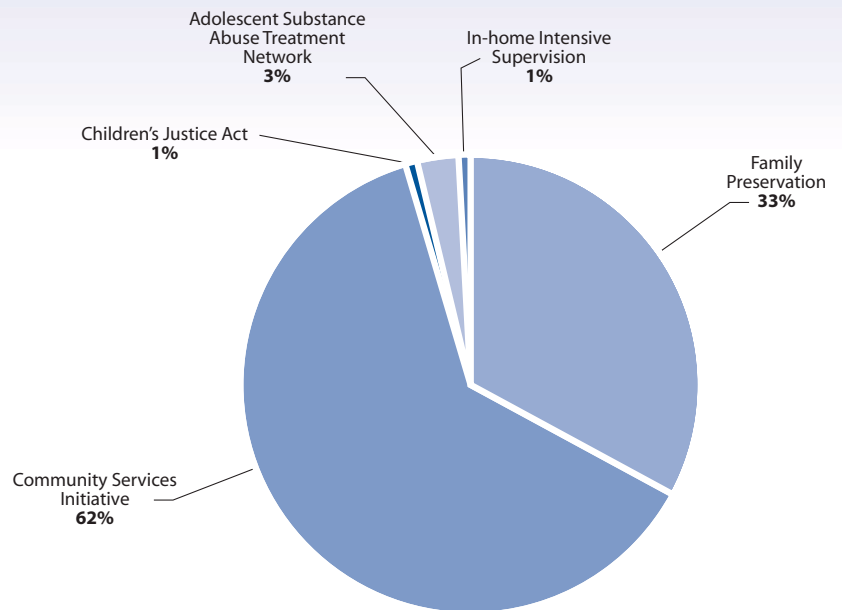


Young People Making Smart Choices



Children With Intensive Needs—Fiscal Year 2005

Total Expenditures \$3,684,618



Local Coordinating Council (LCC)

Supported by the Collaboration Council, the LCC is a state created interagency entity consisting of all the child-serving agencies and a family advocate. The LCC is a vehicle that refers children to the Community Services Initiative, a wraparound approach to comprehensive community based services for children with intensive needs. It also monitors out-of-home and out-of-state placements with a clear goal of trying to maintain children in the least restrictive level of care possible.

Montgomery County Local Coordinating Council

Teresa Bennett and Barbara Sobol
Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services Mental Health Core Service Agency

Juliana Fernandez
Developmental Disabilities Administration Regional Office-Southern Maryland

James Mable
Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services Child Welfare Services

Doug Powell
Department of Juvenile Services

Celia Serkin and Denise Fay-Guthrie
Montgomery County Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health

Rita Sheare
Montgomery County Public Schools

Collaboration Council Staff Support:

Kiran Dixit, Chair
Kathy Boland, LCC Coordinator

Children With Intensive Needs Workgroup

Workgroup Chairs:

David T. Jones
Core Service Agency Representative Board, Collaboration Council

Debbie Van Brunt
Parent Representative Board, Collaboration Council

Members:

Teresa Bennett
Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services Mental Health Core Service Agency

Claudia Remington Conroy
Mediator/Attorney/CASA Volunteer

Jenny Crawford
Project Director, Community Kids

David Cross
Autism Waiver Coordinator
Montgomery County Public Schools

Francha Davis
Executive Director
CASA of Montgomery County

Ann Dodelin
Vice President, Adventist Health Care

Denise Fay-Guthrie
Montgomery County Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health

Paul Homon
Social Worker
Montgomery County Public Schools

Susan Ingram
Executive Director
Community Support Services

Diana Jamieson
Team Leader
John L. Gildner Regional Institute for Children and Adolescents (JLG, RICA)

Madeline Jones
Montgomery County Juvenile Court

Shawn Lattanzio
Program Specialist, Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services Aging and Disability Services

Jill Lyons
Community Advocate
Autism Waiver Service Provider

Jason Martin
Program Coordinator
Hearts and Homes for Youth

Monica Martin
Director, GUIDE Program, Inc.

Amy Morantes
Social Worker
Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services Child Welfare Services

Douglas Powell
Department of Juvenile Services

Bynia Reed
Therapist, Reginald S. Lourie Center

Debbie Riley
Executive Director
Center for Adoption Support and Education

Ron Rivlin
Manager
Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services Juvenile Justice Services

Marcie Roth
Chair, Montgomery County Parent's Coalition

Pamela Saunders
Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services Child Welfare Services

Celia Serkin
Executive Director
Montgomery County Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health

Cynthia Ruiz/Dennis Nial
Resource Coordinator/Assistant Area Director
Department of Juvenile Services

Collaboration Council Staff Support:

Kathy Lally, Executive Director

Carol Walsh, Senior Associate

Kiran Dixit, Senior Associate

Cheryl Lynn Jenkins, Project Coordinator

Patricia Arriaza, Program Monitor

CHILDREN WITH INTENSIVE NEEDS



Examples of Emergency Fund Resources to Families Included:

- Chair lift for home for disabled child
- Child Care
- Summer Camp
- Respite
- Prescriptions
- Rent to prevent eviction
- Voice activated cell phone for child with Muscular Dystrophy
- Small home modifications

Emergency Fund Committee

The Emergency Fund Committee is an interagency body with representation from all of the public child-serving agencies that reviews and provides one-time only emergency resources to a family. The fund makes a concerted effort to provide emergency resources for those children with disabilities in the child welfare system. The committee has made a commitment to exhaust already existing agency resources before utilizing this Emergency Fund.

Overview: Local Access Mechanism Plan for Services for Children With Intensive Needs

Directed by the Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families the Collaboration Council led a process to develop a Local Access Mechanism Plan for services for children with intensive needs. This plan aims to create more understanding and linkages between the child serving systems—both public and private about what services exist and also create a place for those families who cannot access services because they do not qualify for Medicaid or their child does not meet the strict eligibility criteria of the programs available. Next steps include working with the new Governor's Office for Children to identify resources to implement this plan.

Funding Direct Services

Initiatives and programs are strategically funded through the Collaboration Council based on local planning, using demographic and needs assessment data, with collaborative partners.

Community Services Initiative (CSI)

Program Goals and Activities: CSI (formerly known as System Reform Initiative and Return/Diversion) provides alternative services to a child who otherwise would require placement in a residential treatment center or similar program. The children in the program have developmental delays and/or serious emotional disturbance and require intensive services. One of the primary goals of the program is to keep the child in the least restrictive level of care possible.

Each child in the program has a plan of care that is parent-driven and tailored to the child's individual needs. The plan includes a wide variety of supportive services (see box) in residential, community and

CSI Services May Include:

- therapy for child and family;
- in-home wraparound services including in-home behavioral aides and other in-home staff assistance;
- respite care;
- special recreational services;
- special equipment and physical modifications to residence and vehicles;
- placement in a group home or other residential program; and,
- therapeutic or family foster care.

home settings. Comprehensive care coordination and case management is a key element of the service. CSI services are intended to supplement services to which a child may be eligible through other agencies.

Outcomes: Children Safe in Their Home, School and Community; Success for Every Student; Communities that Support Family Life; Stable and Economically Secure Families

Funding: \$2,318,440 from the Governor's Subcabinet Fund

Program Measures

- 44 youth were served
- 37 youth maintained in the least restrictive environment, preventing out-of-home placement

Without CSI, many of these children would be in Residential Treatment Centers (RTCs) and far away from their home and community. If we use the average cost of RTCs of \$120,000 per year per youth for the 37 youth who have been maintained in their homes, the total cost of care had these children been in residential placement would have been \$4,440,000. With the flexible resources from the Subcabinet Fund, the Collaboration Council and its partners were able to serve these children with a cost savings of \$2,121,560.

Family Preservation

Program Goals and Activities: To prevent or reduce the out-of-home placements of children at imminent risk of abuse or neglect with an intensive six-month intervention effort by providing services for families in their homes and community and by linking families with community resources.

Outcomes: Children Safe in Their Home, School and Community; Stable and Economically Secure Families

Providers: Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, Children, Youth and Family Services

Funding: \$1,211,808 from the Governor's Subcabinet Fund

Program Measures

- 110 families were served
- There was a decrease in the percentage of children with mild to serious problems from intake to termination across all domains (environment, child well being, family interactions and family safety).
- 24.5 percent of families showed an improvement in Environment
- 40.8 percent of families showed an improvement in Family Interactions
- 35.7 percent of families showed an improvement in Child Well-being
- 25.5 percent of families showed an improvement in Parental Capabilities
- 35.7 percent of families showed an improvement in Family Safety

CSI PROVIDERS

- Benedictine School for Exceptional Children
- Capital City Nurses
- Change Health Systems, Inc.
- Community Support Services, Inc.
- David Band, MD
- Esther Rosen-Bernays
- Grafton School
- The Institute for Family Centered Services, Inc.
- Jarvis and Associates, Inc.
- Lance Clawson, MD
- Michelle Hollander, PsyD
- Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, Children, Youth and Families Services
- Pride Youth Services
- REM Maryland
- Sabine Himmelfarb, PhD

**Other providers are involved, but for purposes of this report only those with formal contracts with the Collaboration Council are listed.*

CHILDREN WITH INTENSIVE NEEDS



In-home Intensive Supervision

Program Goals and Activities: To provide intensive community supervision for adjudicated youth ages 13 to 17 years old as an alternative to residential placement through in-home/in-school individual interventions by a professional youth worker at least four to six days a week for a minimum of four months; develop decision making competencies through teen empowerment and job readiness group sessions; provide alcohol and drug monitoring, parent support and training sessions, crisis intervention; ensure community protection through curfew monitoring; and provide case management services to enable collaboration with other services and agencies. Referrals for the program are from the Department of Juvenile Services.

Outcomes: Children Safe in Their Home, School and Community

Provider: Bureau of Rehabilitation, Inc.

Funding: \$31,007 from the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention

Performance Measures

- 67 youth were served: 32 African American, 22 Hispanic, 9 White, 4 Asian
- 2,450 daily contacts, 10,893 curfew contacts and 961 contacts with parents and schools to ensure youth are actively enrolled in school and/or seeking a GED
- 48 life/social skills group sessions were conducted for youth, focusing on topics such as anger management, life management, job

readiness, coping skills, goal planning and drug education

- 86 parents participated in the parent networking sessions focused on topics such as modeling as parents, anger management and preventing criminal behavior in children
- 50 percent of the youth successfully completed the program
- 92 percent of the youth, at the end of the fourth quarter, had no further involvement with DJS and did not relapse during the reporting period

Adolescent Substance Abuse Treatment Network

Program Goals and Activities: To deliver services to substance abusing youth in specific regions of the County who are primarily referred by the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services after an assessment via Substance Abuse Screening for Children and Adolescents at the Juvenile Assessment Center. Third-party fees were collected. Second Genesis provided substance abuse treatment, peer groups, drug abuse education, and family relapse prevention and continuing care. Suburban Hospital provided counseling, education and guidance for adolescents and their families who were experiencing substance abuse problems.

Outcomes: Young People Making Smart Choices; Success for Every Student; Healthy Children

Providers: Private providers, Second Genesis and Suburban Hospital, who have subcontracts with the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services

Funding: \$104,218 from the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention

Performance Measures

Second Genesis

- 72 youth were served
 - 44 percent completed the program
 - 55 percent were unsuccessful in completing the program due to client leaving before completing the program, terminating due to non-compliance or incarceration
- Second Genesis administered a satisfaction survey
 - 88 percent of youth were satisfied with the admission process
 - 100 percent of youth reported that staff treated them with respect
 - 94 percent of youth reported that treatment had been helpful

Suburban Hospital

- 101 youth were served through weekly group therapy, multi-family group, individual treatment planning and urinalysis
- 152 youth who briefly experimented with alcohol and drugs received the Drug Abuse Education program to educate them about the consequences of substance abuse
- 84 males and 17 females were served
- 22 percent of the youth successfully completed the program

Children's Justice Act

Program Goals and Activities: To establish a tracking database for the Montgomery County's Child Assessment Center (CAC) for the improvement of the handling of child maltreatment through a better understanding of the population served, what services are needed, and how cases are managed.

Outcomes: Children Safe in Their Home, School and Community

Provider: Primary Care Coalition of Montgomery County, MD, Inc.

Funding: \$19,145 of federal funds distributed by the Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families. The funding is extended through FY06 to complete the database and reporting capabilities.

Performance Measures

- The CAC was selected as a pilot site for the use of the *NCAtrak* system, a web-based tracking system developed by the National Children's Alliance for the purpose of tracking case specific information.
- All children who have been the subject of Multi-Disciplinary Team meetings with police, prosecutors and child welfare services since January 2005 have been entered in the database.
- Data on over 250 children who have received services from the CAC physician, mental health screener, mental health therapist, or family advocate (victim assistance specialist) between January 1 and June 30 of 2005 have been collected.



INCOME STATEMENT



For a copy of our complete audited financial report for fiscal year 2005, please contact our office at 301-610-0147.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Unaudited (In Whole Dollar)

Revenues

Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families/Subcabinet Fund	\$5,605,862
Governor's Office for Crime Control and Prevention	\$635,837
Other Revenue	\$155,274
Total Revenues	\$6,396,973

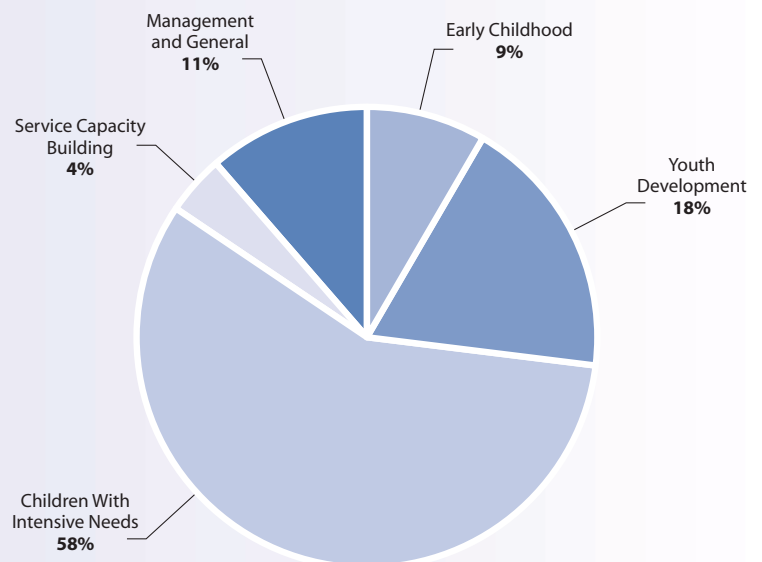
Expenses

Program Services	
Early Childhood	\$558,263
Youth Development	\$1,163,781
Children with Intensive Needs	\$3,684,618
Service Capacity Building	\$267,557
Subtotal Program Services	\$5,674,219
Management and General	\$709,993
Total Expenses	\$6,384,212

Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	\$12,761
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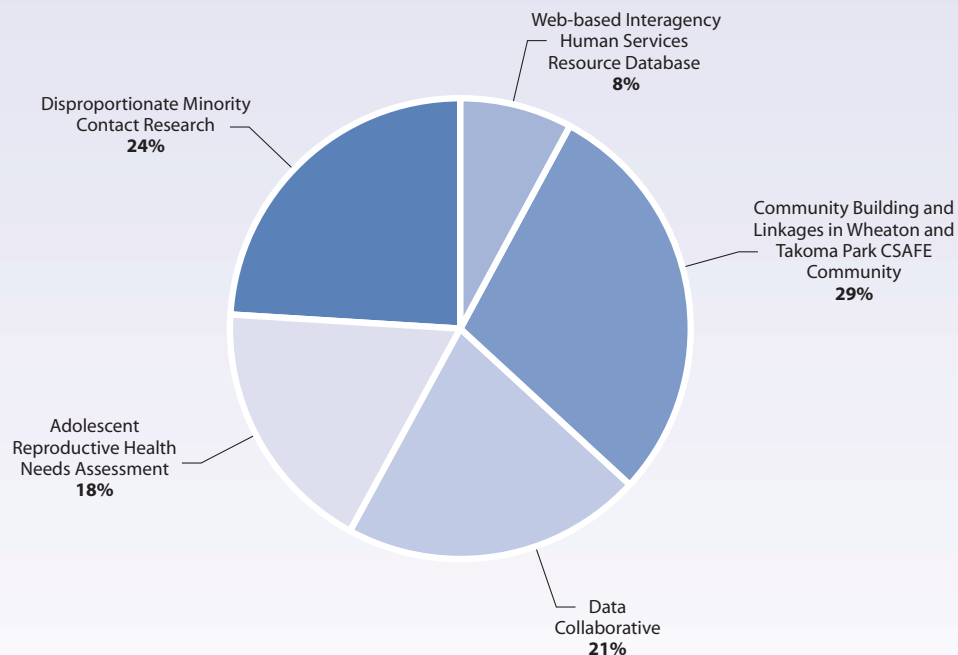
PROGRAM AREAS

Fiscal Year 2005
Total Expenditures \$6,384,212



SERVICE CAPACITY BUILDING

Fiscal Year 2005 • Total Expenditures \$267,557





Building Brighter Futures
Montgomery County Collaboration Council
for Children, Youth and Families, Inc.
2005 Annual Report

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