



Queen Anne's
Queen Anne's County Department of Health

Talbot
Talbot County Health Department

Annual Report to the Community *July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008*

Target Population and Objectives

Healthy Families Queen Anne's/Talbot provides intensive prevention and early intervention services to first-time parents, residing in Queen Anne's or Talbot County, eligible for Maryland Children's Health Program (M-CHP) and at risk because of their own history of abuse as a child, current or past mental illness, substance abuse, anger control problems, inadequate support, high stress, limited knowledge about child development and other risk factors.

The first objective of Healthy Families is to reduce the occurrence of child abuse and neglect in families at risk. The second objective is to build the capacity of first time parents to raise a young child who will have the social, emotional, language and learning skills to be "ready for school" when they reach kindergarten age. Brain development in the early years affects learning for a lifetime.

Program Summary

Families' risk factors are assessed during an interview that follows a research-based set of questions. Eligible families are offered Healthy Families and voluntarily engage in an intensive, strength-based home visiting service that begins prenatally and continues until the target child starts school. Extensively trained home visitors (Family Support Workers) teach the Parents as Teachers child development curriculum, build a trusting, sustained relationship with the participants, conduct health and developmental screens, refer to other needed services, help families develop and achieve goals, and model positive parenting skills.

Fiscal Year 2008 Funding \$ 250,164 (QA Only) + \$ 270,186 (for TA Only) = \$ 520,350 (Combined)

Sources

(1) Maryland State Department of Education, Healthy Families QA/T Combined Grant	\$ 296,372
Granted <i>through</i> QACPC to QACDH for Queen Anne's and Talbot County Services	
(2) QA Community Partnerships for Children to QACHD for Queen Anne's Services	99,978
(3) Talbot Family Network to TCHD for Talbot County Services	120,000
(4) Mid-Shore Community Foundation, Mental Health Initiative, \$ 2,000 each county	4,000
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(5) Both QACDH and TCHD provide in-kind materials, space and other support	\$Thank you!\$

Investing in Children at Risk Brings Human and Economic Benefits to Our Communities

- ☼ Children who have a good start in the first three years of life also have more success in school and fewer problems later with school failure, violence, drug abuse, delinquency, and teen pregnancy. (Hawkins and Catalano, Risk and Protective Factors, 1992).
- ☼ Quality early childhood programs not only save on future costs like criminal justice services, but also generate additional employment earnings and taxes paid by adults able to achieve more of their potential. (See, e.g., Exceptional Returns, Economic Policy Institute, Robert Lynch, Ph. D., October 2004)
- ☼ Young children who are emotionally well adjusted have a significantly greater chance of early school success. (Raver, C.C., 2003)

Healthy Families Queen Anne's/Talbot



What and How Much We Did in Fiscal Year 2008

- ☼ Served 95 first time parents who requested extra support during their children's most formative years.
 - 41% were Caucasian
 - 31% were Spanish speaking
 - 27% were African American
 - 1% were Multi-Racial
 - 92 % were unmarried
 - 49 % did not graduate from high school
 - 26 % had symptoms of depression
- ☼ Served a total of 84 infants and children under 5.
- ☼ Made 817 home visits and shared exciting information about how children's brains develop.
- ☼ Conducted 159 developmental screens to make sure child development is on target.
- ☼ Made 180 referrals to other community services including two for developmental delays.

How Well We Do It

- ☼ 100% of respondents to our annual Participant Satisfaction Survey reported that they are "Very Satisfied" (93%) or "Satisfied" (7%) with Healthy Families services.
- ☼ During FY 2008, 18 participants had been in the program for over three years.
- ☼ Our FY 2008 "Mental Health Initiative" provided training for staff and services for participants.
- ☼ Participants, community members and partner agencies serve on our Advisory Board.
- ☼ Since the Program began in January 2000, we have served 339 families.
- ☼ All nine staff members meet Healthy Families America's exacting standards for training.
- ☼ In FY 2009 Healthy Families America will review us for our next 4-year credential.

Families and Children are Better Off

- ☼ As of June 30, 2008, 99% of the children in the program were current on their immunizations.
- ☼ Healthy Families parents report that they know more about children's brain development—and 11 other parenting areas-- now than they did before Healthy Families.
- ☼ 100% of Healthy Families parents demonstrate excellent (72%) or good (28%) parenting skills with their children, fostering healthy brain development that supports school readiness.
- ☼ The number of FY 2008 child abuse and neglect reports (4) and findings (1) contrasts with the predicted number possible (42) for the high-risk population we served.

Participants Say

"I like talking about our child's needs, stages and behaviors."
"I feel confident in the way I am parenting my children."
"You have someone who can relate... to what you are going through."
"Que ayuda mucho a entender a mis ninas"

Maryland Child Well-Being Result Areas Addressed

- * Babies Born Healthy * Healthy Children * Children Safe in Their Families & Communities *
- * Children Enter School Ready to Learn * Stable & Economically Independent Families *