



Queen Anne's/Talbot



A Community Partnership

Results Based Accountability Report  
Queen Anne's Community Partnerships for Children and Families  
July, 2008

Target Population

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 for poor parenting outcomes 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.

Program Summary

The first objective of Healthy Families is to reduce the occurrence of child abuse and neglect in families at high risk for poor parenting. The second objective is to support and prepare first time parents to succeed in the challenges of raising an infant and young child to have the social capacity and developmental, cognitive, language, and motor abilities to be "ready to learn" when they reach kindergarten age. Brain development in the early years affects learning for a lifetime.

In Healthy 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)    \$ 520,350 (Combined)

Sources

- |  |            |
|--|------------|
| (1) Maryland State Department of Education, Healthy Families QA/T Combined Grant   | \$ 296,372 |
| Granted <i>through</i> QACPC to QACHD 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      |

(5) Both QACDH and TCHD provide in-kind materials, space and other support

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 \*

*With Thanks to QA Community Partnerships for Children and Families & Talbot Family Network  
Mid-Shore Community Foundation, Foundation for Community Partnerships*

## Healthy Families Queen Anne's Site



### What and How Much We Did in Fiscal Year 2008:

- ✿ Served 55 first time parents at significant risk for child abuse or neglect
  - 29% were African-American
  - 44% were Caucasian
  - 2% were Multi-racial
  - 25% were Spanish-speaking
  - 91 % were unmarried
  - 42 % did not graduate from high school
  - 26 % had symptoms of depression
- ✿ Served a total of 51 infants and children under 5
- ✿ Made 414 home visits and shared exciting information about how children's brains develop
- ✿ Conducted 85 developmental screens to make sure child development is on target
- ✿ Made 64 referrals to other community services including one for developmental delay

### How Well We Do It

- ✿ 100% of respondents to our annual Participant Satisfaction Survey reported that they are "Very Satisfied" (96%) or "Satisfied" (4%) with Healthy Families services.
- ✿ 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 185 families in Queen Anne's County.
- ✿ Staff are fully trained according to Healthy Families America's exacting standards
- ✿ In FY 2009 Healthy Families America will review us for our next 4-year accreditation.

### Families and Children are Better Off

- ✿ As of June 30, 2007, 97% 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 good or excellent parenting skills with their children, fostering healthy brain development that supports school readiness.
- ✿ The number of FY 2008 child abuse and neglect reports (2) and findings (1) contrasts with the predicted number possible (24) for the high-risk population we served.

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

- ✿ Research shows that 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).
- ✿ Economic analyses show that quality early childhood programs not only save on future costs like criminal justice services, but also generate additional employment earnings and taxes paid by the adults who are able to achieve more of their potential. (See, e.g., Exceptional Returns, Economic Policy Institute, Robert Lynch, Ph. D., October 2004).
- ✿ Research indicates that young children who are emotionally well adjusted have a significantly greater chance of early school success. (Raver, C.C., 2003)

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