NORTH CAROLINA

Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention
2009 State Profile

North Carolina Division of Social Services
325 N. Salisbury Street, MSC #2410
Raleigh, NC 27699
(919) 334-1148

POSITION IN STATE GOVERNMENT

The CBCAP program is within the NC Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services (DSS). DSS is the state's child welfare agency. The Child Welfare Services Section CBCAP Team within the Division coordinates child abuse prevention resources and activities across the state and works with private and public agencies, non-profit organizations, local communities, advocacy groups and other stakeholders.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Core Services** NC's service array in 2008 included Family Resource Centers (FRC), Respite Programs, and Faith Based, Fatherhood, and Healthy Marriage Initiatives. A Request for Application (RFA) process is used to distribute funds with TA workshops offered to all agencies interested in pursuing funding. Applicants must use evidenced-based or promising practice program models which include qualitative and quantitative evaluation plans.
- **Policy achievements** The state's second Program Improvement Plan (PIP) was approved in April 2008 with a focus on domestic violence issues. The Division participates in a quarterly Child Welfare Domestic Violence Committee comprised of community and state agency representatives. The Committee is conducting work in several areas including a survey of county DSS agencies and abuser treatment programs. Survey results were shared with all county directors.

  DSS plays a major role in the NC Task Force on Child Abuse Prevention. A success partially resulting from some of the groups work has been that the NC General Assembly continues to allocate funding to support the staff to facilitate the Leadership Team's activities.
- **Outreach to Special Populations/Cultural Competence** All child welfare policy manuals were revised to include System of Care values in 2008. Cultural competence was emphasized particularly in the child and family team manual. The RFA for local programs issued in 2009 mandated all applicants to use a decision-making process that reflects the racial and socio-economic diversity of the community to be served. Family members are to be a part of the local board, committees, workgroups, etc. These families significantly impact how decisions are made and what services are implemented in their communities.
- **Parent involvement/leadership** A stakeholder group over half of whom identified themselves as parent/family leaders met semi-annually for 20 months through May 2008. The group issued recommendations including: increase the number and skill level of parent/family leaders; strengthen the capacity of agencies to effectively partner with parents; identify and support a cross disciplinary network of parents, practitioners, and policy makers to promote the full implementation of current policies and best practices; and reach out to populations not adequately represented such as incarcerated parents, Latino families, and families whose children are in foster care. These recommendations are currently being addressed.

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- **Evaluation** Almost 500 participants representing 15 FRC, Respite, and Special Initiatives contracts completed the Client Satisfaction survey. Very positive outcomes were demonstrated in client satisfaction and in the clients' perceptions of increased knowledge of resources and increased self-esteem, communication skills, self-control, and decision-making skills.

  A peer review process was used with all programs utilizing the Massachusetts Program Self-Assessment Tool. Programs identified their strengths, program needs, and barriers to providing quality services.

  The NC Family Support Outcome Scale (NCFSOS) is used by all FRC and Respite programs to measure outcomes across the wide range of services. Within four domains (overall child functioning, overall parent functioning, overall family function, and family's relationship to the community) several broad areas are measured through subscales. All domains showed that participants enhanced their functioning or regained previously effective levels with very few participants experiencing an overall decrease.

- **Support, Training, Technical Assistance, and Evaluation Assistance** DSS provides extensive training and technical assistance (TA) to local programs using a variety of methods. An onsite consultation is provided annually with conference calls, state meetings, trainings, e-mail and other contact occurring between these visits. During 2008-2009, four evidenced -based (EB) and promising practices program trainings were offered (2 Incredible Years, 1 Strengthening Families Facilitator Training, and 1 Circle of Parents Facilitator Training). Through a contract with Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina (PCANC), Recognizing and Reporting, and Prevention Basics Trainings were offered in 2008-2009.

  The Division places an emphasis on model fidelity and implementation support.

Participants receiving direct services	**# individuals**	**6178**	**# families**	**3701**
	# participants with disabilities	**826***	**# Caretakers with disabilities**	**91**
Reach	**# local grantees**	**21**		
Spread	**# training sessions on evidence-based and best practices**	**4**	**# professionals participating in training**	**87**

NC reported on 11 disability or special needs areas and how many clients with each special need were served.

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ESSENTIAL PARTNERSHIPS

Alliance for Evidenced-Based Family Strengthening Programs: Composed of several state agencies that fund child abuse prevention initiatives, the Duke Endowment, and Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust

Prevent Child Abuse NC Prevention Network: Through the Prevention Network, NC promotes agency and community capacity for effective child maltreatment prevention and family strengthening efforts. These 240 plus agencies include local DSS offices, FRCs, health departments, pediatric offices, family-serving nonprofits, child care centers, and afterschool programs.

Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina

Key partners:

Public Sector

- Child welfare
- Differential or alternative response
- Public health/ maternal and child health
- Education and special education
- Early childhood
- Home visiting
- Substance abuse
- Mental health
- Head Start/ Early Head Start
- Child care
- TANF or cash assistance
- Fatherhood programs

Private Sector

- Advocacy organizations
- Foundations
- Faith community

SYSTEM CHANGE EFFORTS

- **Early Childhood** NC uses state appropriated funds for the NC Smart Start: Early Care and Education Family Support Programs. These funds are reported as funds to leverage federal dollars and are directed through NC's DSS.

- **Child and Family Service Reviews/Program Improvement Plan (CFRS/PIP)** During this reporting period, DSS implemented statewide systemic change efforts resulting from the federal CFSR held in March 2007. The Division's second PIP was approved in April 2008 around five themes including Child, Youth, and Family Involvement; Interagency Collaboration; Cultural Competence; and Court Involvement and Accountability.

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- **Home Visiting** Within the state a variety of home visiting programs are offered – Parents as Teachers, Healthy Families America, Nurse Family Partnerships, Nurturing Parenting, and Parent Child Interactive Therapy (PCIT).

- **State Interagency Coordinating Council for Part C** The Division will participate to improve outcomes for children with developmental needs. CBCAP funding will be used to strengthen communities by supporting family support intervention models. The CW Services Section of DSS supports the Division of Public Health by serving on the Project LAUNCH advisory council.

- **Evidence-Based Programs** NC funds several evidenced-based family strengthening programs for parents that have demonstrated impact on promoting positive family outcomes such as increased family cohesion and decreased use of physical discipline. Support from DSS in NC will be used for facilitator training and peer network meetings.

FUNDING AND FISCAL LEVERAGING

Fiscal Leveraging

Innovative funding mechanisms:

- **NC's Smart Start:** Early Care and Education Family Support Program- The state legislature appropriated $5,126, 839 in the 2008-2009 budget for this program.

State Allowable Claims	**3,926,272**
Population-based Allocations	**748,742**
Leveraged-Funds-Based Allocations	**134,930**
Final FY 08 Federal Grant Amount	**1,041,985**

EVIDENCE-BASED AND EVIDENCE-INFORMED PRACTICES

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Level per Program Assessment Rating Tool	CBCAP Funding
Programs Lacking Support or Positive Evidence/Undetermined/Harmful	-0-
Emerging and Evidence-informed Programs and Practices	$317,895
Promising Programs and Practices	$370,000
Supported Programs and Practices	-0-
Well Supported Programs and Practices	$653,495

TRAINING TOPICS

Administrative and Management Topics

- collaboration and partnerships for prevention
- fiscal leveraging
- evaluation and data management
- program monitoring and continuous quality improvement
- grant reporting requirements
- strategic planning

Programmatic and Service Topics

- cultural competence
- research on prevention and child maltreatment
- evidence-based and evidence-informed programs and practices
- home visiting
- prevention programs and family support
- promoting protective factors and reducing risk factors
- marketing, messaging and public awareness

RESOURCES

- http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dss/community/index.htm
- Annual State Profiles: www.friendsnrc.org/...