

## POSITION IN STATE GOVERNMENT

Mississippi Department of Human Services (MDHS), the state agency housing the Division of Family and Children's Services (DCFS) is the designated lead agency for CBCAP. The Prevention Unit within DCFS provides direct administration of Mississippi's CBCAP program.

## KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Core Services:** Through the CBCAP Grant, DFCS provided funding to two providers, Gulf Coast Women's Center for Nonviolence (GCWCFN) and Starkville School District. GCWCFN provided services to families who have experienced domestic violence, sexual assault, and/or substance abuse. Starkville School District serves all families. Services provided by grantees included respite child care, classes for parents, early childhood classes and activities for families.
- **Policy achievements:** As a result of the Olivia Y. Lawsuit, DFCS entered in to a contract with the Center for the Support of Families to develop a Practice Model for Mississippi. Mississippi began implementation of the service model, which focuses on family centered practice for children and State resource development for both the child welfare system and prevention. In July 2010, a Bureau Director was hired and another department was created and titled, 'The Resource Development Unit.' This unit is specifically designed to enhance the service array which is part of the new practice model.
- **Outreach to Special Populations/Cultural Competence:** Providers receiving CBCAP funding are required to include outreach activities to underserved groups in the service area. One grantee focuses services on families experiencing violence. DFCS also provides the community, providers, stakeholders and all staff with access to abuse prevention and general child welfare information literature written in Spanish. There are agreements with local law enforcement agencies and other community service agencies to provide interpreters (including sign language) when needed to ensure all families have access to services. The Staff Development Unit for MDHS offers training in Cultural Diversity on an ongoing basis. All DFCS staff are able to attend this free training and it is offered at different locations throughout the State.
- **Parent involvement/leadership:** The Starkville School District respite program, Project Take a Break (TAB), works very closely with the parents of the participants. The parents provide volunteer services including assisting the teacher and helping students with various activities. Parents also participate in family events that are organized by the school.
- **Evaluation:** DCFS reports that funded programs demonstrate an increase in positive parenting behaviors, problem solving, family stability and functioning and a decrease in family stress. No evaluation data was provided related to these items.

The Starkville School District surveyed 46 parents as their children exited the program. All forty-six reported the services helpful to them and the service had a positive effect on the relationship they had with their child.



All parents surveyed also reported that they would recommend the services to a friend and that they were satisfied and comfortable with the respite provider.

- Support Training, Technical Assistance, and Evaluation Assistance:** Staff from the Prevention Unit prepared presentations specific to the population requesting the training or technical assistance. Presentations were made at one of the largest social work conferences in the state as well as multiple smaller agency specific conferences. The requests for presentations and trainings were from public, private, faith-based, advocacy agencies and others. Approximately 650 participants were present during various presentations throughout the state during this reporting period.

Participants receiving direct services	# individuals	1,018	# families	385
	# children with disabilities		# parents with disabilities	16
Reach	# local grantees	2		
Spread	# training sessions on evidence-based and best practices		# professionals participating in training	

## ESSENTIAL PARTNERSHIPS

Structure for partnership:

Citizen Review Board

Significant collaboration with the Youth Courts and the Mississippi Supreme Court occurred from October 2008 through June 2011

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
- Tribal programs
- Fatherhood programs

### Private Sector

- Advocacy organizations



## SYSTEM CHANGE EFFORTS

- **Early Childhood:** DFCS collaborated with the Division of Early Childhood Care and Development (DECCD) to provide child care certificates to families in need of child care to maintain stability as a family unit. DCFS and DECCD are also working toward collaboration to provide early childhood education as a means of child abuse prevention.
- **Child and Family Service Reviews/Program Improvement Plan (CFRS/PIP):** The on-site CFRS was held in Mississippi in May 2010. Preparations leading up to that Review included conducting a comprehensive Statewide Assessment, collaboration with stakeholders, and a systematic process of engaging families for their input and participation in the Review. The Prevention Director was responsible for coordinating the participation from stakeholders for the state level portion of the Review. As a result of the findings from the CFRS, DFCS developed a PIP for the Areas Needing Improvement. DFCS invited stakeholders who participated in the Child and Family Services Plan Workshop and the CFRS on-site reviews to continue to work with DFCS throughout the development and achievement of the PIP
- **State Interagency Coordinating Council for Part C:** DFCS participates in the Mississippi Interagency Coordinating Council for Children and Youth (ICCCY) and the Interagency Systems of Care Council (ISOC). These groups provide development, implementation and oversight of a coordinated interagency system of care for youth up to age twenty-one (21) with serious emotional/behavioral disorders or mental illness.
- **Home Visiting:** DECCD received a grant for a voluntary comprehensive home visiting program, Healthy Homes Mississippi. Healthy Homes Mississippi will serve pregnant mothers or families with at least one child less than three months of age using the Healthy Families America model and the Partners for a Healthy Baby parenting curriculum. The Bureau Directors of Protection/Prevention and Resource Development are serving on the advisory board for the program, State Early Childhood Advisory Council (SECAC).
- **State Level Advisory Board:** The Citizen's Review Board (CRB) reviewed initiatives implemented within DFCS. The CRB met quarterly and developed plans for restructuring itself into three regional Citizen's Review Panels that will be supported through the three main universities' schools of social work.
- **CFSP:** A Child and Family Services Plan Conference was held with approximately 110 participants including stakeholders. Ten workgroups outlined the basis of the 5-Year Strategic Plan, as well developed goals and action plans. Strategic Planning Conferences were also held regionally in seven locations and involved local stakeholders in outlining the basis of the 5-Year Strategic Plan. Stakeholders were asked to make a commitment to work with DFCS over the next five years to bring about positive changes in the well-being of children in Mississippi. Forty agencies, judges, law enforcement or other interested persons signed the commitment.



## FUNDING AND FISCAL LEVERAGING

### ***Fiscal Leveraging***

#### **Innovative funding mechanisms:**

- Focus on blending Federal, State, local and private funds to support service delivery.

State Allowable Claims	<b>\$467,922</b>
Population-based Allocations	<b>\$259,047</b>
Leveraged-Funds-Based Allocations	<b>\$16,222</b>
<b>Final FY 10 Federal Grant Amount</b>	<b>\$258,763</b>

## EVIDENCE-BASED AND EVIDENCE-INFORMED PRACTICES

Level per Program Assessment Rating Tool	CBCAP Funding
Programs Lacking Support or Positive Evidence/Undetermined/Harmful	\$0
Emerging and Evidence-informed Programs and Practices	\$73,271
Promising Programs and Practices	\$0
Supported Programs and Practices	\$0
Well Supported Programs and Practices	\$0

## TRAINING

DFCS maintained a continuous schedule of presentations, trainings and technical assistance activities throughout the state.

### **Administrative and Management Topics**

- program monitoring and continuous quality improvement

### **Programmatic and Service Topics**

- prevention programs and family support
- promoting protective factors and reducing risk factors
- marketing, messaging, and public awareness

## RESOURCES

- Annual State Profiles: [www.friendsnrc.org/...](http://www.friendsnrc.org/)

