

Annual Reports

Fiscal Year 2001

Introduction

The Children's Services Council of Broward County ("CSC") was approved by the voters by referendum on September 5, 2000. In March 2001, based on recommendations provided by the County Commission, the Governor named five Citizen Appointees to join the five ex officio members which meant the Council was fully constituted and could therefore begin creating this new governmental agency.

Thanks to the generous support of the Broward County Board of County Commissioners, the Council was provided a \$500,000 line of credit for start-up costs, staff support and legal counsel. This assistance enabled the Council to move quickly toward analyzing the needs of the community, establishing an operational structure and developing the related goals and objectives that will enable them to enhance the lives of children and their families in Broward County. In establishing the goals and objectives, the Council drew upon the knowledge and resources of the Children's Services Board (CSB) an advisory board to the Board of County Commissioners.

The President/CEO and Chief Financial Officer were hired in July and other staff members followed in the fall. By the end of the first fiscal year, September 30, 2001, the Council issued its first Request for Proposals -- making \$4 million available for family strengthening programs based on national best practices models.

The Council is pleased to present their first Annual Report pursuant to Chapter 2000-461 of the Laws of Florida. Since the Council's first opportunity to levy taxes was October 1, 2001, no tax revenues were received during the fiscal year covered by this report. Therefore, there are no program services to report on as of September 30, 2001, however the first taxes were levied on October 1 and all systems are running to ensure a full complement of services are put in place during FY 2001-2002.

1. Effectiveness of Activities, Services and Programs including cost effectiveness

CSC did not have any contracts for services for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2001.

2. Anticipated Program Services Budget for continuation of activities, services and programs offered by the council and a list of all sources of requested funding, both public and private.

For fiscal year ended September 30, 2001, CSC was in the process of starting operations and therefore had no program services budget. Thus the "anticipated" Program Services Budget for FY 2002 is for new programs rather than a continuation of programs already being funded by the CSC. Please see exhibit A for this information. The CSC is working with State agencies, County Human Services Department / Children's Services Board, AHCA, Broward School Readiness Coalition and the United Way to maximize funding for children's services throughout the County.

3. Procedures Used for the Early Identification of At-Risk Children

Early identification of at-risk children is a major thrust of the CSC's activities. Through national research, collaboration with providers and technical assistance, CSC is working with the community to standardize tools for identifying children at risk. In addition, CSC is designing program services with a focus on prevention of abuse/neglect, juvenile delinquency and drug abuse and on children's mental and physical

health. Strengthening families and providing health services in schools are two proven ways to intervene early in the lives of at-risk children.

4. Degree to which Council Objectives and Activities are Consistent with the Goals of this Section

CSC has addressed this process on two levels:

- The development of a CSC strategic plan with identified service goals and objectives

- The development of a grants process that provides program funding to serve at-risk children

The CSC's first strategic plan was largely based on the research and needs identified in the Broward County Children's Strategic Plan. That collaborative endeavor took over two years to complete and it incorporated comprehensive information from youth, adults, key informants, and archival data. Council members were able to review this document before deciding how they could most effectively impact at-risk children.

While the service goals and objectives listed below are the goals and objectives for FY 2001-2002, they were developed during the fiscal year which ended September 30, 2001 and provided the basis for all work done during the timeframe covered by this report.

1.1 Facilitate common cultural competence definitions & standards.

2.1 Increase service capacity for diverse populations.

Obj. 1 Implement 2 culturally appropriate projects for pregnant women & children 0-3.

Obj. 2 Implement 2 neighborhood-based programs for youth ages 11 to 15.

Obj. 3 Implement mental health programs for minority population.

2.12 Reduce abuse and neglect through parent training and support.

Obj. 1 Implement parent training for behavior management and conflict resolution 2002.

Obj. 2 Case management & support for at-risk pregnant women & infants esp. teens.

Obj. 3 Respite care for families with special needs.

Obj. 4 Implement one community based child protection project.

3.1 Reduce recidivism rates for first time juvenile offenders.

Obj. 1 Increase services for youth diverted from juvenile justice system.

Obj. 2 Provide support & coordination for operations at the Juvenile Intervention Facility.

Obj. 3 Reduce gang activity.

4.1 Facilitate job training and support for parents of children adjudicated dependent.

Obj. 1 Reduce the average "length of stay" in care to nine months for neglected children.

Obj. 2 Reduce number of children removed from home during investigatory phase.

Obj. 3 Provide flexible funding for special support services.

5.1 Improve children's readiness to enter school.

Obj. 1 Support community efforts to create rated licensing of child care centers & homes.

Obj. 2 Fund training & technical assistance to improve quality of child care arrangements.

Obj. 3 Provide enhancement funding for higher rated child care centers and homes.

6.1 Promote system improvements to increase achievement of permanency for children in foster care.

7.1 Miscellaneous

Obj. 1 Aid the foster care transition to community-based care.

Obj. 2 Fund summer programs.

8.1 Ensure the full continuum of mental, behavioral and physical health services.

Obj. 1 Provide school-based health care.

These goals and objectives address the problem areas of abuse/neglect, behavioral health, delinquency, foster care, health, school readiness, and special needs. Particular emphasis will be placed on early identification of at-risk children to prevent initial problem occurrences and to mitigate the severity of existing difficulties

5. Detailed Information on the Availability and Effectiveness Various Children's Programs

There were no services offered during fiscal year ended September 30, 2001. As funding awards are made in the future, CSC will design each contract to contain performance based outcome measures, as well as actual Best Practices achievement.

6. Continuation of Programs

Each funded program will be required to document attainment of client outcomes and the results will be aggregated for next year's annual report. Future funding decisions will be partly based upon the prior year's performance.

CSC is also involved in a collaborative project called the Community Resource Inventory (CRI). This initiative involves all of the major funders in the County and First Call For Help (FCFH). The collected data is used for both information and referral (I&R) and planning. Furthermore, there have been various discussions about future joint monitoring on program effectiveness by the various funders.

I

Looking toward the Future

In the upcoming fiscal year, October 1, 2001 through September 30, 2002, CSC will have implemented programs and have baseline data to report. This first fiscal year we are proud of the accomplishments which have been made in laying a strong organizational foundation, providing solid policies and procedures as well as a research-based framework for procuring and monitoring needed children's services within our community. The Children's Services Council of Broward County is excited by the new opportunities and we look forward to improving the lives of Broward's children and their families.