

Monroe County Public Schools Head Start Program

MCS D Board Grant Presentation

2008- 2009

Director's Annual Report

Grant # 04CH0391

Type of Program: School System

Funded Enrollment: 180

Program Option: Center Based/Part Day

Director: Angela Whidden

Board Chair: Andy Griffith

The Head Start Program is located at 5 elementary schools, Glynn Archer Elementary/Reynolds School, Gerald Adams Elementary, Sugarloaf School, Stanley Switlik School and Key Largo School. The program serves 180 children and their families that meet the Head Start eligibility requirement. Two managers assist the program director with the program's goals and objectives. The Education and Disability Manager is responsible for curriculum implementation and to provide technical assistance to the classroom teachers, teacher assistants and administrators. This manager also tracks the educational gains of the students and generated reports (Galileo) are shared with the MCS D Board, the Head Start Policy Council, teachers and administrators. The Health and Family Services Manager provides support, information and resources to the site coordinators and families. Six site coordinators are employed to provide parent support and to meet the enrollment requirements. The site coordinators track the health and other services necessary to meet the needs of the families and the program standards. The site coordinators also provide parent education, family support and referral.

The classrooms are staffed by ten Head Start teachers and ten assistants to provide a safe and rich developmentally appropriate educational environment to the children enrolled in Head Start. Parent involvement activities are provided in a family friendly way. The

teachers complete two home visits and two parent conferences during the school year at various intervals.

Primary Areas of Focus

1. Adoption of additional curriculum the Early Literacy and Learning Model /Plus (ELLM Plus) to increase the achievement level of 3 and 4 year olds, with special attention to at risk children. This literacy-focused curriculum builds children's cognitive development through literacy, mathematics, science, social studies, the arts, motor experiences, and physical health.
2. Participate in the Florida English Language Learners Attending Head Start Study (FELLA) research project on English Language Learners (ELL) development of readiness skills with the University of South Florida. The results of the research will be implemented in our program to better serve the increasing number of ELL children in our program.
3. Improve transition into Kindergarten by including program specialists and K teachers in the Head Start Education Committee.
4. Participate in the research Project on Science with the University of Miami under the direction of Dr. Daryl Greenfield, who has extensive experience with Head Start research.
5. Parenting Education/ Involvement, Positive Solutions and Literacy Program-based on the SCEFEL model.
6. Participate in the district's Math and Science initiative SUMS

Program Strengths

1. Administrative support- Superintendent's Executive Team and Board.
2. Active Policy Council
3. Head Start involvement in the District Strategic planning process and development of a district plan
4. Head Start Director attends Instructional Services meeting and District Level Planning Meetings as well as Principal's Meetings to share information and program updates as well as staying current in changes in the K-12 programs.
5. Technology- access and support to technology rich program and Policy Council videoconferencing capability.
6. Network and active involvement with other agencies in the community- formal agreement with early childhood community (Early Learning Coalition (ELC) and Resource and Referral, Children's group. Healthy Start, Early Steps and Lower Keys Interagency Council)
7. Excellent Communication with Board, Policy Council and the local community
8. Interagency collaboration and transition agreements with the Early Childhood community
9. Membership in the Florida Head Start Research Committee
10. Director participates as vice-chair of the Florida Director's Group
11. Collaborate with the Positive Behavior Support Model from CSEFEL-Center for Social Emotional Foundation of Early Learning-Education Manager

Program Improvement Plan for 2009-2010

1. Parenting Education/ Involvement- continue Positive Solutions and Literacy Program- based on the SCEFEL model.
2. Strengthen parent involvement in the classroom and program activities
3. Continue with part 2 of the SUMS and ELLM Plus training for new teachers' professional development
4. Provide in-house training on Outlook for support staff
5. Continue to update Head Start Service Area Plans as needed to meet the changes to the Head Start Act
6. Improve data and record keeping techniques to meet program requirements
7. Improve tracking and monitoring of family and children services

Support from Regional Office- Program Specialist

- Continue visits and support from Program Specialist
- High level of commitment and trust-Program Specialist
- Excellent Communication/Information sharing

Exemplary practices

1. Coordination of all pre-k program- HS/VPK under the MCSD umbrella
2. Collaboration project on inclusion with the ESE Pre-K Dept
3. Interagency Transition Agreement- Early Steps, ESE, Head Start, Early Learning Coalition and Resource and Referral Agency (Wesley House)
4. Provide training space and share trainers for VPK , Pre-K ESE and Head Start
5. Collaborate and Coordinated training with other childcare providers
6. District School recognition of the value of a good quality early childhood program
7. Strong support from Principals

Self Assessment-How we used our data to plan and develop our strategic plan

1. Access to demographic information from our schools- daily updates
2. Gather data from data collection system(Galileo) and state generated reports (FLKRS)
3. Surveyed teachers and staff for professional development needs
4. Surveyed parents – program services and needs in the community
5. Follow trends in community- update Community Assessment
6. Policy Council Members to sit on Committees- Health Advisory, Education and Self-Assessment

Training and Technical Assistance

- Changes to Policies and Performance Standards- New Head Start Act

- Bringing the training to teachers and support staff
- Participate in state conferences in early childhood and family literacy
- Attend National Head Start Conferences

Challenges

- High cost of salaries
- Geographic location
- The economy and funding cuts to school districts could affect services to children
- Social Agencies services funding cuts will have an impact on services to families

Actual Enrollment - 180

- 192 Children were served during the operating year of 2008-09
(12 children withdrew during the year)
- 124 four year olds
- 68 three year olds

Type of Eligibility

- 155 children with family income below 100% of federal poverty line
- 32 children with family receiving public assistance such as TANF, SSI
- 5 over income (children with disabilities)

Of those children, 61 were second year students and one three year student

Race

- 115 White
- 34 Black or African American
- 27 Biracial/Multiracial
- 10 Other
- 6 Unspecified

Ethnicity

- 116 Hispanic or Latino origin
- 76 Non-Hispanic or Latino origin

Primary Language at home

- 84 English
- 93 Spanish
- 14 Caribbean Languages (Haitian-creole, Patois)
- 1 Middle Eastern

Transportation

- 111 Head Start children were transported by MCSD

Program Staff

- The Head Start Program has 30 grant funded employees

Contracted staff:

- 2 Mental Health Counselors (upper and lower keys)
- 2 Oral Health Providers
- 1 Medical Center

Children Services- Health

Beginning of the School Year

135 children with health insurance

99 enrolled in Medicaid

27 private health insurance

9 other

57 children with no health insurance

26 children with chronic conditions

167 children with up-to date immunizations

28 received all possible immunizations

187 children completed health screenings

End of the school year

151 children with health insurance

110 Medicaid

31 private health insurance

10 other

34 children with no insurance

12 receiving treatment

178 with up-to date immunizations

7 all possible immunizations

Dental

Beginning of the School Year

90 accessible dental care

184 received preventive care (cleaning and fluoride)

63 needed treatment

50 received or are receiving dental treatment

End of the school year

178 accessible dental care

Mental Health Services

19 children and their families received services

Special Needs/Disabilities

25 children enrolled in the program received services

- 1 health related
- 8 speech and language
- 1 orthopedic
- 15 developmental delay

Family and Community Partnerships

191 families (twins)

Of those are:

90 two -parent families

101 single-parent families

21 both parents employed

66 one parent employed

5 non-working or retired

8 parents in job training

78 receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

7 receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

Education levels of families

- 13 Advanced or BA
- 22 AA, Vocational or some college
- 80 High School
- 67 Less than High School
- 9 undisclosed

Family Services

- 1 emergency crisis
- 11 assistance with housing
- 9 mental health services
- 4 ESOL
- 8 GED
- 8 Job training
- 2 child abuse and neglect reports
- 32 health education
- 1 assistance to families with incarcerated family member
- 69 parent education
- 89 receiving WIC
- 63 fathers or father figures participated in family activities at school
- 8 homeless families

2009-2010 will be a Federal Monitoring/Review year for MCSD Head Start Program

