



Metropolitan Human Services Commission

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Highlights of MHSC Work Program for 2006

MHSC's major priorities focus on impacting policies, funding, and system improvements for improving school readiness, preventing child abuse and neglect, improving education outcomes through collaboration of school, family, and community resources, and improving state/local coordinated decision making addressing health and human service needs. In addressing these priorities MHSC's roles include developing information to guide policy and resource decisions, advocating at the state legislature, researching best practice approaches, and maintaining formal communications with major state agency leaders on MHSC priorities and engaging their support.

In 2006, major efforts are focused on the following outcomes:

Early Childhood:

- Maintain \$2M state appropriation to support new Oklahoma State Partnership for Early Childhood Success in support of 16 local community partnerships across the state.
- Obtain \$150,000-\$180,000 in state funding for Tulsa Partnership for Early Childhood Success and JumpStart community engagement campaign (funds mainly used for improving prenatal care, enhancing quality child care, improving early literacy skills, and parent education).
- Obtain \$15M in new state appropriation for child care subsidy to ensure access and improved quality.

Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect:

- In conjunction with the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, obtain state funding commitment for construction of new children's shelter for Tulsa County.
- Process for addressing shelter needs will include an updated assessment of demand for shelter services and opportunities for reducing demand over long term.
- Maintain level state funding for Children First Program (model nurse home visitation) of approximately \$11M, and maintain state funding of \$2.7M to Child Abuse Prevention Fund.

School, Family, Neighborhood Collaboration:

- Building on MHSC initiated Tulsa Alliance for Families model approach at Mark Twain and Eugene Field Elementary Schools and the initial Bedlam school based clinics, develop a community plan for implementing the "community schools" concept at several elementary school sites in both Tulsa and Union Public Schools. This plan also will build on the early childhood education programs associated with each site.

State/Local Collaborative Decision Making:

- Update 2005 report on DHS comparing funding for services in Tulsa County vs. Oklahoma County, and request consideration by DHS for needed adjustments.
- Complete assessment, in conjunction with Tulsa Health Department's research, on public health funding in Oklahoma and its impact on needs in Tulsa County.