Santa Cruz Community Counseling Center

2010-2011 Annual Report

Head Start – Early Head Start
Santa Cruz County, CA
Dear Friends,

One of our primary goals is to provide integrated services for low-income children and families by building organizational partnerships and community collaborations. During this year we have been able to see the culmination of the hard work, dedication, and commitment that has truly made this goal a reality.

We have created a new space in Watsonville where our community partners are welcomed, the staff can access resources, children can play and parents can find help and support. Our new Westridge Building has provided space for trainings, parent education programs, community events, partner meetings and a host of other activities that fill each day with the sounds of children laughing and people working together toward a common vision – healthy, happy, well educated children and families.

Head Start has sponsored a wide range of activities this year including the “Week of the Child” parade and fair; Financial Stability Fair; Supporting Fathers Groups, English as a Second Language (ESL) classes; Child Care Center Education; Positive Parenting Program (Triple P) workshops, and Health Education Classes. We have worked closely with our community partners to increase visibility around the importance of early childhood education and quality child care. Through small grants we have been able to build and improve our playgrounds and promote movement, nutrition, and regular exercise. We have implemented the principles of Head Start Body Start for children, staff and parents.

This year has been full of changes and challenges as we have navigated major growth and high expectations. We adapted to these changes with a positive attitude and sense of anticipation. It is our intention to continue to advocate for children, to promote practices that support healthy families and to honor and collaborate with our community partners. It is only together that we can build on a collective vision that values children and supports their health, education, and unlimited potential.

With Warm Regards,

Cynthia M. Sloane

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Policy Council Executive Committee

Chair – Martha Espinoza
Vice Chair – Avis Williams
Secretary – Rosario Aguilar
Treasurer – Grisel Vaca

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Health and Dental Snapshot

**Head Start Program:** The SCCCC Head Start Program continues to meet or exceed Program Improvement Report (PIR) performance indicators in several major health and dental areas.

- 100% of children needing medical treatment received it.
- Over the course of the year, 101.07% of children enrolled in the program were up to date on all immunizations.
- 100% of children needing dental treatment received it.

**Early Head Start Program:** The SCCCC Early Head Start program has ensured that children are on a well baby schedule and continue to be up to date on all immunizations. The Program Improvement Report (PIR) results met or exceeded EHS performance indicator thresholds.

- 100% of children needing medical treatment received it.
- 98.67% of children were up to date on all immunizations.

**Health Highlights**

Our program expanded its partnership with Dientes Community Dental Clinic. Dientes provided on-site service to Head Start and Early Head Start families at the Branciforte site. Dientes also participated in several agency outreach events and conducted dental health presentations to Head Start parents.

Head Start received two Head Start Body Start Play Space grants to improve the outdoor play areas at the Farm and Natural Bridges. The Head Start Body Start website featured the Farm as a model site.

The program successfully completed a CACFP (food program) review.

Staff continue to work closely with all families to ensure children receive well child care and any needed medical and dental services.
Research and best practice tells us that parent/family involvement is one of the strongest predictors of children’s success in school. Parent/Family involvement begins with the first contact a family has with the program. Partnership with parents has always been a cornerstone of Head Start/Early Head Start programs.

We believe parents are their child’s first and most important teachers. Head Start/Early Head Start programs provide parents many opportunities to work with the staff and the community in their particular areas of interest; enhance their parenting skills; and gain knowledge that promotes their child’s physical and social/emotional needs.

Parent involvement is an ongoing process, and it takes many forms. How parents choose to become involved may vary from family to family. Staff’s role is to find out how parents can be engaged within the scope of their everyday lives. Some involvement is formal and occurs in planned activities, while other involvement is informal and occurs in the home.

Today, the person who parents a child in Head Start/Early Head Start programs may be a teenager, a single father, a recent immigrant, a grandmother, a foster parent, an aunt or a great-aunt. Fewer parents are at home full-time with their children. More parents are working two or more jobs or are in school or training full-time. Therefore individualizing parent involvement is a task staff face each year as families are working hard to support and raise their children.

Parents have shown their commitment to Head Start/Early Head Start programs by helping staff build gardens at their child’s centers. Many fathers came to school for the “Bring Your Father/Father Figure to school day” event. Many families were seen marching with their children in the Day of the Child parade. Splash Zone field trips were fun events for parents and children to learn together about ocean animals and conservation concepts. Parents read to their children on a weekly basis using books from the Raising a Reader bags. Parents modeled the importance of reading while spending quality time with their children. Parents also completed weekly literacy home activities with their children.

Parents do more than simply teach their children. The greater truth is that parents are a child's first and most important adult.

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The PAPÁS, Supporting Father Involvement project has worked closely within the Head Start program to increase father involvement, nurture father-child relationships and promote a father friendly environment within the organization. Our Father Friendly Initiative (FFI) committee is composed of Teachers, Family Service Workers, Home Visitors, Managers and Administrative Staff. They work to promote father involvement in all program areas.

**Educational and awareness activities**

The FFI committee has used orientation week to recruit fathers and father-figures and to engage them in their child’s education. The FFI committee in collaboration with PAPÁS has put on educational workshops for parents on topics of father involvement and the impact it has on educational outcomes for children.

We have designed and implemented the Head Start Fathers in Action monthly group to bring together fathers and to encourage them in their role as an educator for their child. In addition, the program focuses five key areas (affection, play, learning, connection and building last relationship) to promote emotional and social development of their children.

Head Start and PAPÁS collaboratively offer all Head Start families PAPÁS evidence based parenting education to promote father involvement and co-parenting. We have piloted a new program this year “Bring Father or Father-figure to School Day” that has brought father and father-figures into the classroom to give them opportunities to engage children in the classroom environment. The goal of the program is to give fathers exposure to their

*continued page 8*
The first annual **Children’s Parade and Family Fun Fair** took place on Saturday, April 9th in downtown Santa Cruz to celebrate the Week of the Young Child and help raise awareness about the importance of early education. Over one hundred colorfully costumed parade participants, consisting of families, children and community group members, marched with lively music, balloons, banners and bubbles.

The parade was followed by the Family Fair. Several hundred children and families enjoyed a sunny, relaxed afternoon in the park with a variety of free hands-on fun and games, live entertainment, community tables and healthy snacks. Over forty nonprofit and community organizations set up free booths and activities for the guests. The fun continued into the evening with a live music performance by the band "Roadrunner". It was a successful and enjoyable celebration for all!
Several hundred children and families enjoyed a sunny, relaxed afternoon in the park. Groups set up interactive booths with resource information and children’s activities. Student volunteers from UCSC roamed the crowd, giving out mini beach balls and beanbag animals. The children’s parade and fun fair were successful and well-attended community events designed to support families and advocate for children in Santa Cruz County.
past and current efforts, identifying process gaps and planning for future activities. Based on the assessment outcomes we have designed and implemented several key activities throughout the year to increase father friendliness within the agency.

Material, training and technical support
The FFI committee annually conducts a self-assessment to better gauge outcomes of our fatherhood program efforts. The assessment looks at the agency’s organizational support, reputation in the community, policies/procedures, human resources, program services and physical environment. The assessment is distributed to all Head Start staff to gather a complete and comprehensive perspective in regards to

How We Make Sure To Include Fathers

• Orientation for new staff on Father Involvement.
• Providing books, brochures and posters that promote Father Involvement in both classrooms and the administrative office.
• “Fathers Are Welcome” signs in both the classroom and administrative office.
• Training for staff on the importance of promoting father involvement in classroom.
• Agency forms have been updated to include the father’s information.
• Intake processes have been modified.

child’s educational activities within the Head Start program.

Fathers continued from page 5
CCCC Head Start uses the Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP) system to assess children's progress in meeting Head Start Outcome goals. Teachers observe children and document these observations three times a year. The chart below shows where the children in our program scored in the fall, winter, and spring in seven DRDP domains. It measures how many children scored in the top two developmental levels: building and integrating.

In the fall of 2010 our Head Start children scored lowest in Letter and Word Knowledge: 30 out of 376 children scored in the top two developmental levels (8%). By the spring of 2011 the number of children rose to: 220 out of 376 scored in the top two levels (56%). The second lowest score in the fall of 2010 was in number sense of mathematical operations: 69 out of 376 children scored in the top two developmental levels (19%). In the spring of 2011 the number rose to 265 children in the top two developmental levels (68%).

Our program also uses the DRDP Parent Survey to find out if our families are satisfied with our program. This year 100% of our families were satisfied with our services.

### Satisfied Families
- 78% were very satisfied
- 22% were satisfied
- 0% were not satisfied

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### Domain Comparison

#### Domain Comparison for All Students Assessed in the Spring 2011

Percentage of Student Ratings in the Top Two Developmental Levels

#### Domain Comparison Students Assessed in all of the following assessment periods: Fall 2010 and Spring 2011

Percentage of Student Ratings in the Top Two Developmental Levels

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**About this Page:**
The top chart includes all students assessed in the Spring 2011 assessment period. The lower chart includes only those students assessed in all of the following assessment periods: Fall 2010, Winter 2011, and Spring 2011. Neither chart includes any unrated measures. As a result of this and rounding error, these charts may differ from other tables and charts in this report.
Parent involvement is a very special gift parents can give their child which lasts a lifetime. The memories that children have of when their parent participated in their school will be with them forever. Parents do more than simply teach their children. The greater truth is that parents are a child’s first and most important adult. Parents affect almost every aspect of a child’s life: self-esteem, health, attitudes, values, behavior, readiness for school and success in life.

Collaborations and partnerships have provided these very specialized populations with resources that would not have been possible a year ago. It has also brought a new level of expertise and training to the staff.

The new administrative building at Westridge has offered unlimited opportunities for shared training, community meeting space, and expanded partnerships.

Parents – continued from page 4

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Partnership with parents has always been a cornerstone of Head Start/Early Head Start programs.
Financial Snapshot

Child and Family Development Programs Enrollment

- HS Basic & Expansion: 58%
- EHS Basic & Expansion: 21%
- SITP: 6%
- State – Pre-K: 15%

Total CFDP Enrollment: 795

Child and Family Development Programs Funding Sources

- HS/EHS-Basic: 40%
- HS/EHS-Expansion: 20%
- CA – Food Program: 2%
- State – Pre-K: 5%
- SITP: 5%
- United Way: 0%
- Families Together: 8%
- Side by Side: 1%
- Papas: 4%
- In-kind: 15%

- HS/EHS-Basic: $4,006,523
- HS/EHS-Expansion: $2,062,314
- Total HS/EHS Basic & Expansion: $6,068,837
- Total CFDP Funding: $10,143,467

HS-Basic + Expansion

- HHS-Basic: 3,447,267.00
- HHS-Cola: 20,495.00
- HHS-Training: 42,196.00
- HHS-Ed Enhancement: 9,039.00
- HHS-Program Improvements: 32,000.00
- HHS-Expansion: 387,600.00
- CACFP food program: 166,065.72

Total: 4,104,662.72

EHS-Basic + Expansion

- HHS-Basic: 501,901.00
- HHS-Cola: 2,984.00
- HHS-Training: 12,548.00
- HHS-ARRA: 30,575.00
- HHS-Expansion: 1,679,453.00
- CACFP food program: 5,404.79

Total: 2,232,865.79

State Pre-K

- COE: 475,840.00
- CACFP food program: 20,616.90

Total: 496,456.90

State Pre-K Funding Sources

- Families Together: 844,095.00
- PAPAS: 412,000.00
- SITP: 500,000.00
- United Way: 7,736.22
- Side by Side: 80,000.00

Total: 1,843,831.22

Totals

- 8,677,816.63

Santa Cruz Head Start – Early Head Start
It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.

Frederick Douglas