



Thank you for 15 wonderful years!!



Children's Coalition for Northeast Louisiana
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Annual Meeting Report March 27, 2014 Program Highlights



"Creating communities where children and families thrive..."
for more than 15 years.

Early Care and Education

NELA Child Care Connections:

- 2,249 units of child care provider trainings were delivered for a total of 6,747 hours of training provided within the northeast region.
- 335 child care centers and family child care providers were supported through technical assistance.
- 58 Class A licensed centers were supported in pursuing star ratings under the Quality Start rating system--51% of the centers in our region are participating in this voluntary rating system.
- 3 centers were supported in obtaining their Class A License.
- 11 child care providers received their CDA credential with the guidance of our staff.
- 57 families were referred to child care centers that met their needs.
- Funds from school readiness tax credits created grants for Quality Start Child Care Centers, parenting classes in child care, AI's Pals, speakers, training and technical assistance for child care professionals and technology for centers.
- The Early Development Instrument is being piloted in partnership with Union and Morehouse Parishes to map community resources for early childhood as a planning tool for future efforts. These parishes are 2 of the 4 pilot sites for this effort of BrightStart.

Funding provided from Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services, School Readiness Tax Credits, Tulane Institute for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health, Louisiana Department of Education

OPENetwork:

Ouachita Parish Early Childhood Network: A Louisiana Department of Education Early Childhood Community Network Pilot

- OPENetwork was selected by LDE in the first cohort of pilots to begin implementing Act 3, the Louisiana Early Childhood Education Act. OPENetwork has been charged with beginning the navigation of the new system, providing feedback to LDE, and serving as a model and resource for other communities in the state.
- The Children's Coalition for Northeast Louisiana was selected as the Coordinating Partner.
- 187 early childhood teachers have completed 30 hours of professional development in Foundations courses. These courses include Connect: Standards, Instruction and Assessment, Teaching Strategies GOLD, the child assessment tool, and CLASS, the program assessment tool.
- A computer lab was installed at the Children's Coalition to provide professional development training through a web-based format.

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Tammy Washington, Early Childhood Life Skills Coordinator

Youth Development

SOS-Signs of Suicide

Organizational suicide efforts have transitioned this year from Teen Screen to Signs of Suicide. The goal of SOS is to help students identify signs of depression, self-injury, and suicide in themselves and others and to respond effectively. The main message of the program is to ACT: Acknowledge, Care and Tell.

- During the current school year, 200 students have been trained and screened through the SOS program. More screenings are scheduled for the upcoming school year.

Louisiana Partnership for Youth Suicide Prevention for Region 8:

The Suicide Prevention Coalitions of Ouachita Parish and Morehouse Parish have met monthly for the past year.

- 5 Assist trainings have been provided in Ouachita and Morehouse Parishes involving 150 people in evidence based suicide first-aid training designed to intervene and reduce the risk of suicide.
- 2 Safe Talk Trainings have been conducted in Ouachita and Morehouse Parishes which teach students to recognize risks of suicide while providing communication tools and resources.

Funding provided by LA Department of Behavioral Health

Juvenile Justice Reform: Louisiana Models for Change:

A Regional Advisory Committee was formed comprised of the region's behavioral health service providers that utilize best practices; facilitated a one-day retreat of these providers along with national experts to begin the process of creating a plan to address gaps in services within Northeast Louisiana.

- The Strategic Plan for Implementing and Sustaining Evidence Based Programs in prioritized areas was completed, with gaps in services identified for this area.

In partnership with the Louisiana State University's Institute for Public Health and Justice through a contract with the Baton Rouge Area Foundation



ModelsforChange
Systems Reform in Juvenile Justice

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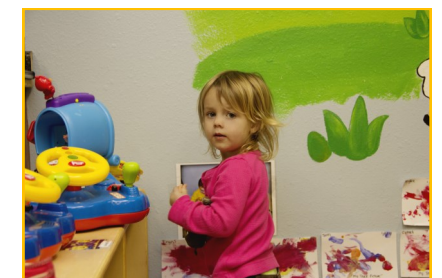
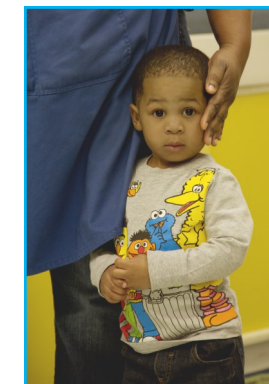
Early Care and Education

- Devices were provided to child care centers to assist with the demands of technology-driven child assessment requirements, to provide access to online professional development, and to encourage child care centers to communicate and do business electronically.
- A common enrollment system is being developed for all publicly funded slots. An understanding of current capacity and local need is the foundation of the enrollment system. The goals of a common enrollment system are to maximize system capacity, inform families and institute a "No Wrong Door" approach, and to connect families and programs.
- www.qualityismychoice.com This website was designed to be a resource for families about early childhood program application information, to provide information about the importance of the earliest years and choosing a quality early childhood program.
- Media campaign is under development to promote the Common Application Period for four-year-old children.

Program Partners-

- 11 Class A licensed Child Care Centers— Carol's Kids Daycare, Child's Play II, Claiborne Christian Child Care, Fair Park Baptist Church, Louisiana Delta Community College Children's Center, Little Flower Academy, Mini Scholars Child Care, Mini World Day Care, New Vision Child Development Center, Open Arms Child Care and University of Louisiana Monroe Child Development Center
- CDI Early Head Start
- EarlySteps
- 2 Public School Systems— Monroe City School System and Ouachita Parish School System
- 2 NSECD Programs— Claiborne Christian Preschool and Our Lady of Fatima, OMCAP Head Start

Funding provided by Louisiana Department of Education and School Readiness Tax Credits



Early Care and Education

Mental Health Consultation:

- Mental health consultation is provided by a licensed professional counselor in child care centers participating in Quality Start to improve the social-emotional development of children.
- Six months of consultation services are provided to a rotating group of 7-8 centers.

Funding provided by Tulane Institute for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health



AI's Pals--Kids Making Healthy Choices:

- Currently being implemented in all Pre-K classrooms in Ouachita Parish, Monroe City and Morehouse Parish Schools. AI's Pals Booster Lessons are gradually being introduced to Monroe City Schools 1st grade classrooms.
- Currently being implemented in 8 child development centers (or 21 Child Development Center Classrooms), 72 Pre-K classrooms and 26 Kindergarten classrooms.
- A total of 2,470 children will receive 46 lessons this school year.
- Evaluation of AI's Pals program for all school years to date (2008-2013) shows statistically significant improvement in both social skills and behavior.

Funding provided by Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Behavioral Health and School Readiness Tax Credits

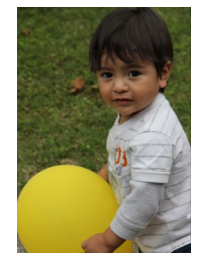


Early Care and Education

Safe and Healthy Kids

- The four focus areas of the Safe and Healthy Kids project include Safe Sleep, child passenger safety, nutrition and fitness and water safety with English and Spanish language materials.
- Distributed 91 car seats and 99 pack and plays. We also distributed 700 water watcher bracelets to parents, caregivers and child care workers as part of the water watcher campaign.
- 3rd annual Dia De La Familia: Family Fun Day was held on May 4, 2013 in partnership with Lake D'arbonne state park in Union Parish. There were 560 in attendance that day which was a 65% increase from the 2012 attendance of 340.
- Training to local clergy and leaders at our 2nd annual Safe Sleep Summit on November 8, 2013. Using an evidence based curriculum, African American Faith Based Bereavement Initiative, developed by Georgetown University, Rev. Oliver Billups pastor of Mt. Olivet Baptist church facilitated our training for over 30 pastors.

Funding provided by the Living Well Foundation and local sponsorships.



Nurturing Parenting and Triple P:

- Staff support for the Northeast Louisiana Parenting Education Network was provided in partnership with the Louisiana Parent Education Network.
- 3 local providers in the evidence-based "Triple P: Positive Parenting Program" were trained and accredited.
- Parent education services to pregnant & parenting teens was provided in Monroe City Schools.
- "Just 4 Me" support group for teen parents was fully implemented and expanded in partnership with Monroe City Schools, Volunteers of America, Our House for Teens and Nurse Family Partnership.
- Parenting education services were provided to 7 agencies, 124 sessions were conducted with 409 participants.
- New and continued partnerships: with Louisiana Assistance Employment Program (LEAP) ULM, Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, OMCAP Head Start, West Monroe High School, Family Literacy, Healthy Start and Anna Meyer Library

Funding provided by Louisiana Children's Trust Fund; Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, School Readiness Tax Credits