

Report to the Community

FY: 2009-2010

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Lorraine Ausley
Chair of Whole
Child Leon

Leon County made a commitment in 2004 to *build a community where everyone works together to make sure all children thrive*. When I was asked to chair this initiative, I never dreamed we would be able to accomplish so much in such a short period of time.

Because of the dedication of so many, and the determination that this effort was going to be something different, our community has truly come together in support of our children.

With the help of the United Way of the Big Bend, Leon County Schools, county and city government, the *Tallahassee Democrat*, community leaders, children's advocates and a host of health and human service providers, we are fulfilling this commitment. We have embraced cutting edge technology that is connecting families to resources, and our collaborative effort is truly a model for the entire State of Florida.

A quick look at specific results over the past two years:

- 500 more kids have access to health insurance
- 200 more children screened for developmental delay
- 200 children referred to services through Whole Child
- 25 children under the age of 5 have dental care, who otherwise would go without
- Leon County parents have more information when choosing child care

The sustained participation of partners over the last five years has enabled Whole Child Leon to:

- Develop broad-based community engagement in supporting children 0-5 years of age
- Enhance the ability of parents to identify the needs of their children and receive services that address these needs
- Build collaborative networks among services providers that can more effectively respond to all of the needs of children 0-5 and their parents

Please take a moment to read this report and join us in our efforts to make sure all children thrive.



PARENTS: Get connected to community resources that can assist you and your family at the Whole Child Connection available at

www.WholeChildLeon.com

Contact a Whole Child Leon Advisor today, at **850.414.8344**

Why Whole Child Is Successful

1. Whole Child Leon encourages the community to look into the future and pursue strategies that will create the conditions that will enable all children to thrive.
2. Whole Child Leon supports and connects existing service providers by finding ways to combine the best of what computers can do with the best of what humans can do.
3. Whole Child Leon forges partnerships between diverse stakeholders — business, government, non-profits, individual contributors, and advocates that might not otherwise work together.
4. Whole Child Leon harnesses the collective power of individual community resources, knowledge bases, and technology systems.

Leon County— A Leader in the State!

The Whole Child philosophy has been adopted in 9 counties across the state of Florida under the leadership of the Lawton Chiles Foundation, with more counties in the process of coming on board. In Leon County, Whole Child is championed by United Way of the Big Bend as one of two strategic initiatives that help bring about sustainable change in community conditions.

Recognizing the value of the Whole Child approach, the Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection has established the goal of encouraging communities throughout the State to become Whole Child Communities with the assistance of the Lawton Chiles Foundation. This goal is included in the Florida Child Abuse Prevention and Permanency Plan (CAPP Plan) pursuant to Section 39.001, Florida Statutes and adopted on May 4, 2010.



6 Dimensions of a Whole Child

Whole Child Leon unites the efforts of service providers to provide a holistic service delivery network that enhances all six dimensions of a Whole Child:

1. **quality health care** for all children
2. **safe and nurturing environments** for children and families
3. **economic stability** for families with small children
4. **quality early education**
5. **social interaction and competence**
6. **spiritual foundation and strength**

Whole Child Leon is truly a collaborative effort of agencies, businesses, and individuals throughout the community. Major partners include:



Highlights



Collectively Determining Vital Needs In The Community

The first few years of developing Whole Child Leon were about forming relationships, partnerships, and action plans. In November 2008, community stakeholders (public and private, large and small) came together at a "Community Summit" and adopted 3 key areas that would be its focus for FY: 2009-2010 and subsequent years:

- 1 Children Are Healthy At Age 1
- 2 Children Are Making Appropriate Progress
- 3 Children Are Entering Kindergarten Ready To Succeed

Taking Action

The following are some of the highlights of what has been accomplished within one year of the Summit with indicators as to how each relates to the 3 key areas.



Healthy Infant Coalition



The Whole Child Leon Healthy Infant Coalition (WCL/HIC) was created to engage agencies, organizations, civic groups and individuals in a cooperative enterprise to implement strategies that relate to increasing the number of babies healthy at age one.

The Coalition began its work on January 27, 2009, by convening individuals and organizations identified in the Health Care Advisory Board's Report to participate in the implementation process.

The Healthy Futures Team from the Chiles Center at the University of South Florida (with support from the Agency for Healthcare Administration) has provided staff assistance to Leon County in implementing a comprehensive perinatal care system

Twenty-eight teams are implementing 57 high-priority strategies that will improve birth outcomes by strengthening the following four components of a comprehensive perinatal system:

1. Service delivery practices that exhibit respect, empathy and compassion for women and families
2. Health education for women and men of reproductive age involving institutions that influence cultural norms and behavior such as schools, churches, social clubs, civic organizations and popular media
3. Comprehensive, holistic primary and prenatal care which includes medical care plus attention to economic, social, cultural, emotional, behavioral, and nutritional conditions that influence the health of the mother before, during, and after pregnancy
4. Comprehensive health insurance for all children and all women of reproductive age utilizing all available options within the federal Medicaid program

Team leaders represent Healthy Start, local clinics, FAMU, United Way of the Big Bend, Brehon Institute, Catholic Charities, Departments of Children and Families and Health, Leon County Schools, physicians, dentists, business owners and a retiree.

Legislation expanding Medicaid post-natal coverage for women experiencing poor birth outcomes was filed by Representative Alan Williams and Senator Al Lawson during the 2010 Legislative Session. Budgetary constraints prevented this bill from being considered, but it will be revisited next Session.



Redesigned Whole Child Connection

Whole Child Leon partnered with Well Family Systems and Think Creative, Inc. to design an enhanced version of the Whole Child Connection that is attractive to parents and easily adaptable as web-based technology changes.

The Enhanced Connection includes:

1. A redesigned profile organized around the 6 dimensions of a Whole Child that asks questions in a friendly, interview-style format
2. A redesigned service-referral system that is simple for providers to use
3. A clear distinction between services and resources—offering parents opportunities to receive information about area resources as well as the ability to be directly connected to service providers who can assist them with their needs for their children



Whole Child Internship Program

Whole Child believes it is imperative to help inspire the next generation of Florida's leaders and workforce serving children and families.

Through a partnership with FSU College of Social Work and College of Business, Whole Child Leon established an internship program in 2009. Through this mutually beneficial program:

- Students gain invaluable hands-on experience in their chosen field and are empowered to work for change
- Whole Child Leon utilizes creative energies and youthful perspectives to further their mission

Interns are trained to be Whole Child Advisors and assist parents in completing profiles in order to identify family needs and connect them to available community resources. They provide invaluable outreach and assistance to service providers that embrace the Whole Child philosophy.

The internship program is expected to expand to FAMU and TCC in 2010.



Whole Child/KidCare Outreach Program

In 2007, 1712 uninsured children visited the ER (TMH and CRMC combined), with an average cost of \$811.80 per visit. This was a total cost to the community of \$1,389,801.60

When children have insurance:

- they do better in school
- other family needs are identified and appropriate referrals to community resources are made
- parents no longer use local Emergency Departments as their child's medical home



Through a partnership with Capital Health Plan and Leon County Schools, Whole Child Leon created the full-time position of Whole Child/KidCare Outreach Specialist.

This specialist identifies uninsured children in Leon County Schools and reaches out to each family to assist them in the application process of Medicaid/KidCare.

Additionally, the specialist follows up with all parties involved, including: Florida Healthy Kids Corporation, Department of Children and Families, Leon County Health Department, school social workers until the student successfully acquires health insurance.

This program was considered a Whole Child "Best Practice" and adopted by the Hillsborough County School System.

Outreach Efforts	2008	2009
Information Distributed to LCS Parents	34,000	33,000
Identified as Uninsured (elementary school data)	3300	938
Parents Contacted	650	938
Obtained Insurance	375	75
Cases in application procedure		37

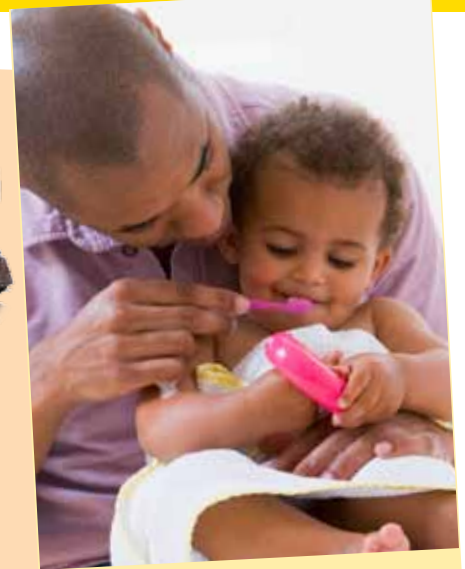
Community-Wide Screening Days

Children with developmental delays are at high risk of lifelong disabilities which may compromise their ability to fully participate in their community and to realize their full potential. If developmental delays are identified early in a child's life, there is a high probability that appropriate interventions can enable the child to overcome the delay completely or significantly mitigate its impact on the child's life. Unfortunately many children are not screened early enough to detect possible delays before they progress to a much more serious and often irreversible condition. "Nationally, about 16% to 18% of children have disabilities such as speech-language impairments, mental retardation, learning disabilities, and emotional/behavioral disturbance. Although such children are twice as likely to seek health care as children without disabilities, only 20% to 30% of these children are detected prior to school entrance. Under-enrollment rates in early intervention programs (of roughly 80%) confirm the need to improve early detection in primary care." (Glascoe and Shapiro, 2007)



The Whole Child Social and Emotional Action Team executed Leon County's first two Community-wide Infant Toddler and Preschool Developmental Comprehensive Screening Days hosted at Children's Medical Services. Successful outcomes included:

- 79 children screened
- 100 more children scheduled screenings
- More than 200 families were indentified as needing further resources and all of them were connected to these resources
- More than 25 organizations participated, including Apalachee Mental Health Center, Brehon Institute, Capital Area Community Action Agency (Head Start), Capital Area Healthy Start Coalition, Children's Medical Services, Children's Home Society, Department of Children and Families, Early Learning Coalition, Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System, FSU, Leon County Health Department, Leon County Schools, TCC
- Collaborators agreed to semi-annual Screening Days



Dental Health for Young Children



Many indicators found that Leon County lacked accessible pediatric dental health providers.

In an effort to help fill that gap, Whole Child Leon sought and received a \$5000 grant to provide dental services for one year to 25 children under age 5. These services are provided in partnership with Children's Medical Services, Dr. Ed Zapert and Dr. Deborah Strand.

Quality Rating System

Most infants, toddlers and pre-school children are in families where their parents work. These children must have quality child care if they are to develop the social, physical and cognitive skills they will need to be successful in school. Brain science has proven over the last 10 years that 70-90% of brain development happens during the first 3 to 5 years of life, beginning before birth. Unfortunately, there is a huge disparity in the quality of child care available to these children which means that many children (estimated to be from 25% to 40% of all children in child care) do not receive the nurturing and support they need from their child-care provider. As a result, these children will have a much more difficult time in school with serious long-term negative consequences for many of them and for our society as a whole.

As a first step in correcting this situation, parents need to know what constitutes a quality child care center and which centers offer a quality service so they can make an informed choice about where to place their children. Through a partnership between Whole Child Leon and the Early Learning Coalition, a Quality Rating System (QRS) for child care centers was initiated. This important initiative will enable parents to have important information about the ability of child care centers to provide quality child care for their children.

QRS Workgroup Initiative includes:

- Formulating an evaluation system for providers and educating child-care providers about the process
- Providing support for improvement based on needs identified by pre-monitoring activities
- Conducting a campaign to educate our community on the new QRS using the slogan, "Quality Counts"



Looking Ahead ...

We're proud of the on-going commitments and many accomplishments made by our 90+ Whole Child partners, but there is still more work to be done!

When it comes to our children's well-being we know from statewide advocacy organizations, like *Worst to First* (worsttofirst.org), that Florida is at or near the bottom of the national rankings for health, education and social and economic stability.

Leon County is no exception ... At the February 2010 WCL Agency Head Summit, area experts gathered to assess the status of services for our children and families and to identify current gaps and needs of our community. Three key issues were identified as affecting the health of our children and as important areas for our community to focus: 1) infant mortality and low birth weight, 2) quality child care and school readiness, and 3) at-risk families.

1. Infant Mortality and Low Birth Weight

Despite the wide range of expertise applied to the problems of low birth weight and infant mortality, 2008 data for Leon County shows the infant mortality rate as more than one point greater than Florida's 8.3 per 1,000 live births.

- The black infant mortality rate in Leon County was 11.3—more than twice the white rate.
- 312 infants in Leon County were born below normal birth weight. More than half of these newborns (175) were black.

2. Quality Child Care and School Readiness for All Children

We know that providing quality child care is critical for children to be successful in school and in life. Children enrolled in high-quality early childhood education programs are more likely to complete higher levels of education, have higher earnings, be in better health and be in stable relationships, and are less likely to commit a crime or be incarcerated. Too many children in our community do not have access to quality childcare centers.

- More than 1,700 children are on waiting list for child-care centers
- Less than 25% of child-care centers in the Big Bend region are nationally accredited child-care programs

3. At-Risk Families

- Healthy Families Leon screens approximately 51% of families with newborns in seven targeted ZIP codes in Leon County. Of those families, 75% (approximately 1,750) are found to be at risk of abusing and/or neglecting their child(ren) and are in need of intensive intervention services.
- Currently, Healthy Families Leon can only serve 98 families. Due to the significant reduction in funding by the Florida legislature for fiscal year 2010-11, the number of families to be served in Leon will be reduced to 67.

With this report, we issue a challenge. Please make giving children a good start in life a priority in the decisions you make, the issues you champion, and the programs you support.

Join Whole Child Leon in building a community where everyone works together to make sure children thrive!

Whole Child Leon extends special thanks to Ed Feaver, Lori Danello Roberts and LDR Design, Inc. for their contributions to the 2010 Annual Report.

The Whole Child Leon Steering Committee is comprised of various leaders within our community who work in collaboration with WCL staff to set direction, maintain focus of our mission, and encourage our community to embody the concepts of Whole Child.



Loranne Ausley
(CHAIR)



Angel Trejo
Consultant, (Co-CHAIR)



Ken Armstrong
President, United Way of the Big Bend



Nina Ashenafi
Leon County Judge



Courtney Brogan
Pro Bono Attorney



Kristin Dozier
Mad Dog Design & Construction Co



Laurie Dozier
Mad Dog Design & Construction Co



Chris Duggan
Executive Director, Early Learning Coalition



Bob Gabordi
Executive Editor of Tallahassee Democrat



Ed Feaver
Lawton Chiles Foundation



Robin Johnston
VP for Institutional Advancement, TCC



Serena Moyle
Web Manager, MomsLikeMe.com



Bev Owens
Divisional Director of Special Prog., Leon County Schools



Lori Roberts
LDR Design



Courtney Atkins
WCL Executive Director



Heather Telfer
WCL Connection & Partner Outreach Coordinator



Gladys Medrano
WCL KidCare Outreach Specialist



Amanda Clements
VP of Strategic Initiatives, UWBB