Jacksonville Children's Commission

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Jacksonville Children's Commission

Annual Report

FY 2007-2008



Helping Jacksonville Grow Great Kids

To: The Honorable John Peyton,
Mayor, City of Jacksonville

The Honorable Ronnie Fussell,
President, Jacksonville City Council

Honorable Members of the
Jacksonville City Council

Friends



Letter from our Leaders

Dear Sirs and Madams,

We are pleased to present the annual report for the Jacksonville Children's Commission highlighting services provided for children and their families during fiscal year 2007-2008.

As we look across the country, we find that the most successful communities invent their futures and embrace opportunities in a deliberate and consistent way. Becoming a first-tier city doesn't happen by accident or blind luck. In Jacksonville, our greatest opportunity has always been the positive development of our youngest citizens, and since children cannot wait, we must seize that opportunity today and every day.

The Jacksonville Children's Commission is highly accountable not only to the children and families we serve, but also to the taxpayers, other funding partners and community stakeholders. Our goal is to support programs that produce measurable outcomes proven to contribute to the development of healthy and productive adults; in other words, what did we do? How well did we do it? Was anyone any better off?

The Children's Commission is also a mirror of our city's economic and social environments. Just like a family, we constantly search for ways to reduce costs and do more with less. In concert with the *Jacksonville Journey,* we also respond to our community's call for greater prevention and early intervention strategies to reduce juvenile crime and keep children safe.

We cannot meet the total demand for quality services provided to children in Jacksonville without the help of citizens, businesses and stakeholders. We join you in our mutual concern for our children and their well-being and welcome your involvement in our work.

Sincerely,

Anne Egan, M.D., Board Chair

Linda M. Lanier, Executive Director

About Us

Since 1994, the Jacksonville Children's Commission has been charged by city ordinance to assess the needs of our city's most vulnerable children and to invest in prevention and early intervention strategies for their benefit and that of the community.

During the fiscal year 2007-2008, with funding from the city and guidance by a volunteer board of directors, the Commission provided funding for:

- home visitation programs for new parents and their infants
- high-quality after-school and summer programs
- services for children with special needs and homeless children
- behavioral health and case management services
- mentoring programs
- a program to improve the quality of care and instruction in early learning centers
- nutritious after-school snacks and meals and a summer lunch program

Highlights

Family Services

- 12,844 children, from newborns to nine year olds, received child care tuition assistance
- 80 children received child care assistance through matching funds provided by their parents' employers through the Child Care Executive Partnership (CCEP)
- 49 children of refugee families received child care tuition assistance

Developmental Screening

- 1,333 children had their vision screened - 55 needed additional screening
- 321 children were screened by Inclusion staff for special needs

Healthy Families Jacksonville

- 1,073 families with infants received the on-going services of an in-home visitor
- 100 percent of children were linked to a medical provider
- 87 percent of children were up-to-date on immunizations
- 88 percent were up-to-date on well-baby checkups at 24 months
- 94 percent of children tracked did not experience abuse, neglect or abandonment more than one year after completion of the program

School Readiness

- 138 early learning centers received coaching and technical assistance and professional development scholarships through a partnership with the Early Learning Coalition of Duval, Episcopal Children's Services and the Florida Institute for Education at the University of North Florida
- 25 centers were the first graduates of the program, earning quality star ratings through the *Guiding Stars of Duval* initiative; 96 percent earned three or more quality stars out of five.

RALLY Jacksonville!

Mayor Peyton's Book Club

- 8,900 four-year-olds became members of Mayor Peyton's Book Club
- 97,900 books were distributed to members
- 25 groups of volunteers and benefactors partnered with child care centers to read to children, purchase supplies and provide other supports





In concert with the Jacksonville Journey, we also respond to our community's call for greater prevention and early intervention strategies to reduce juvenile crime and keep children safe.

After-school Programs

School-based – TEAM UP in partnership with Duval County Public Schools:

- 4,722 children participated in after-school programs at 27 TEAM UP sites for 30 days or more
- Almost 75 percent of children attending TEAM UP programs were academically challenged
- 71.7 percent of children in TEAM UP after-school programs had better attendance
- 92.5 percent had a higher promotion rate than children at the same schools who did not participate in the programs
- Programs maintained at least 90 percent of their projected average daily attendance
- The percentage of students who scored Level 3 and above on the FCAT math and reading tests was above the school baseline

Community-based:

- 2,507 children participated in after-school programs at 22 community-based sites for 30 days or more
- 67.2 percent of children attending these programs were academically challenged
- 90 percent of projected average daily attendance was maintained
- 85 percent of participating youth who attended the after-school program for at least 60 days were promoted to the next grade
- 85 percent of participating youth who attended the after-school programs for at least 60 days had fewer than 21 days of school absences

After-school Nutrition Program

- 28 sites: 26 school-based and two community-based after-school programs
- 430,843 snacks served
- 293,810 suppers served

Family Involvement and Fatherhood Project

- 2,734 parents attended family involvement workshops
- 710 dads, caregivers and children participated in the second *Fathers Make a Difference Fun Day*
- 437 men participated in fatherhood education programs

Summer Camp

- 3,524 children and youth enjoyed a full-time, six-week camp experience because of funds provided by the city and donations from local businesses and individuals

Summer Lunch

- 201 sites located throughout the city in areas where many children qualify for free and reduced-price lunch
- 340,838 nutritious lunches served
- 299,416 healthy snacks served

Mentoring

- 1,132 children were linked with a caring adult
- 95 percent of all youth matched for at least six months demonstrated improvement in school and/or behavior performance
- 95 percent of youth, once matched, did not have any in-school or out-of-school suspensions in FY 2007-2008
- 85 percent of mentees decreased their tardiness and/or unexcused absence rate
- 95 percent of students matched to a mentor for at least one year achieved on-time grade promotion

Special Needs

- 436 children and youth with special needs received therapy, behavioral health services, self-help skills training and normalized activities through in-home and after-school programs
- 100 percent of after-school program participants had Individualized Treatment Plans (IEPs)
- 90 percent of students demonstrated an increase in school performance in at least three areas of their IEP
- 95 percent of parents reported satisfaction with the program
- Average daily attendance represented 90 percent of capacity

Homeless Children

- 110 homeless children received case management services
- 90 percent of students enrolled in the program remained in school
- 90 percent of students enrolled in the program did not have excessive absences of 21 days or more

Behavioral Health and Education

- 1,275 children received behavioral health services and access to family services in their neighborhoods through Full Service Schools
- 1,829 children and youth received outpatient mental health services
- 519 youth received behavioral and education intervention
- 80 percent of clients who completed treatment increased the Children's Global Assessment Scale (CGAS) score by 10 points during the year ending June 30
- 95 percent of parents or guardians reported overall satisfaction with the services their children received

Full Service Schools Mental Health

- 85 percent of surveys collected from the parents of students enrolled in Full Service School mental health services reported the mental health services were beneficial
- At the completion of treatment, 90 percent of Full Service School mental health clients achieved at least 70 percent of their treatment goals
- At the completion of treatment, 90 percent of Full Service School mental health clients had fewer behavioral barriers to learning



The family strengthening approach is rooted in the following principle – family is the most fundamental factor influencing the lives and outcomes of children.



Case Management

- 100 percent of successfully discharged youth maintained housing and employment stability for at least four months prior to discharge
- 100 percent of youth made progress toward educational goals as evidenced by diplomas, certificates, degrees, etc.
- 100 percent of youth did not become homeless for one year following the service period as evidenced by housing and employment stability

Jacksonville Network for Strengthening Families

- 1,351 parents, caregivers and children attended Strengthening Families workshops
  - **Implementation report prepared by Research Triangle Institute concluded:** "Despite low wages, the average participant experienced considerable growth in employment and wages over the seven quarters between 2005 and 2006."
  - **Data analysis by the Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida concluded:** 86 percent of respondents indicate learning the *7 Habits* has made a positive difference in their life; this increased to 87 percent of respondents at six months and 96 percent of respondents one year later
  - **In partnership with the State of Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Partnership, a review by the Office of Program Policy Analysis & Government Accountability concluded:** Program participants who had been placed in detention had lower rates of recidivism within six months of release than did juveniles where parents did not participate in the program

Teen Pregnancy Prevention

- 100 percent of youth participants did not become teenage parents
- 90 percent of active youth participants were promoted to the next grade

Training Institute and Workforce Development

- 3,713 parents and professionals attended classes and training to learn best practices and enhance their skills
- 800 summer camp directors and staff attended the annual camp summit



Program Changes

New Town Success Zone

In April 2007, Mayor John Peyton and 17 other community leaders and members of the Commission's board traveled to Harlem, New York, to learn more about the Harlem Children's Zone (HCZ), and its HCZ Project. The HCZ Project is a "multi-year comprehensive community building initiative of the Harlem Children's Zone." It assists parents, residents, teachers, and other stakeholders in creating a safe learning environment for youth who reside in a 97-block area of Central Harlem.

Former sheriff Nathaniel Glover and local child advocate Pamela Y. Paul serve as co-chairs of this initiative and have worked alongside 20 community stakeholders since April 2007 to frame our local replication – the *New Town Success Zone.* Since the committee's trip to Harlem, they have accomplished the following selected highlights:

- Using a detailed needs assessment of 12 neighborhoods, selected the New Town neighborhood as the intended location of Jacksonville's new program.
- Met with approximately 15 New Town/Grand Park leaders to learn more about the neighborhood.
- Supported the Children's Commission Family Involvement team in a door-to-door survey of families residing within the New Town neighborhood. Families indicated that they want more after-school programming and jobs skills training for their children.
- Approximately $1,200,000 has been allocated to implement Phase I. The Jacksonville Children's Commission has earmarked $700,000, and the Chartrand Foundation has invested $500,000 in the New Town neighborhood.

Mentoring

One of the most powerful forces in a child's life is the presence of a caring adult. The Children's Commission took over mentor training and background screening from Kesler Mentoring Connection on June 17, 2008, for Duval County.

Screening results are sent to our partner mentoring agencies, and matches occur through the mentoring agencies.

- Between June 17 and September 30, 2008, Commission staff screened and trained 943 new mentors

Don Brewer Early Learning and Professional Development Center

On September 30, 2008, Florida Community College at Jacksonville officially assumed the operation of the Don Brewer Center through a contractual relationship with Chappell Early Learning Centers.







Grants

Child Care Tuition Assistance

The Early Learning Coalition of Duval utilized the Jacksonville Children's Commission as the fiscal agent responsible for reimbursement of subsidized child care for 12,844 children, six weeks to nine years old. State grant dollars in the amount of $27,693,621 passed through the Commission as direct payments to child care providers with a $625,000 match from the city.

Refugee Child Care

Child care assistance in the amount of $187,920 was provided for parents who are new to the country who meet income eligibility guidelines and are seeking employment, attending school and/or learning English as a second language. The program is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Refugee Resettlement and administered by the Florida Department of Children and Families.

* 49 children of refugee families received child care tuition assistance

21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC)

The Jacksonville Children's Commission, in partnership with the Duval County Public Schools, secured continuation grant dollars for TEAM UP after-school sites. Due to award dates and initial startup, the new TEAM UP programs were not fully operational during the entire 2007 year.

* $1,044,000 – TEAM UP 21st CCLC state grant (for seven sites)
* $879,109 – TEAM UP 21st CCLC state grant (for three sites)

Note: 21st Century Community Learning Center grants provide funding for five years, and the amounts listed only reflect the funds secured for the 2007–2008 fiscal year, and not the total amount of grant dollars received by the State of Florida Department of Education. Additionally, these dollars will not match the grant allocations reflected in the Children's Commission budget, in that other partners also received funds to provide services.

Jacksonville Network for Strengthening Families (JNSF)

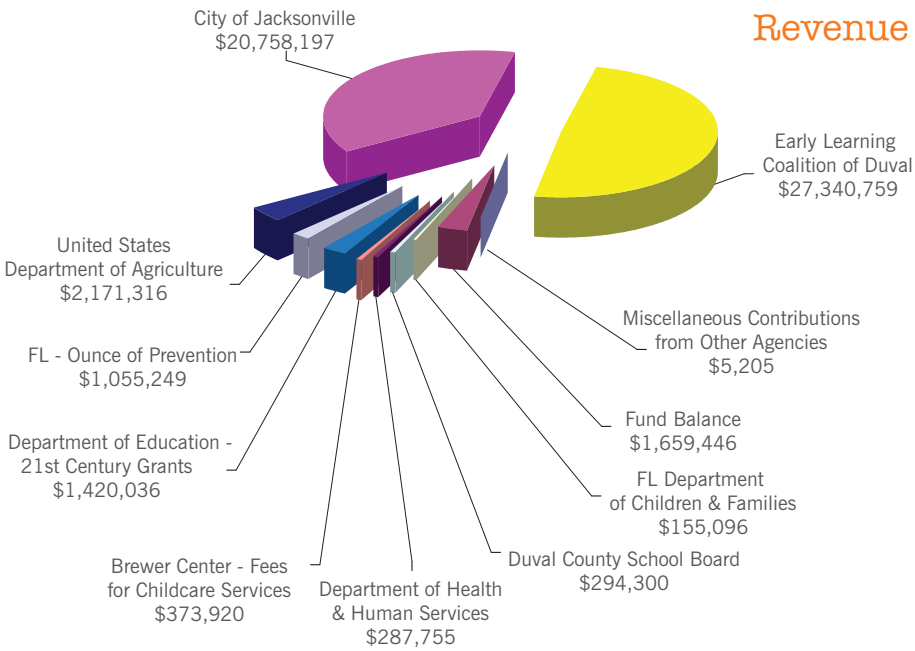
Research indicates that many social issues impacting our community stem from the deterioration of the family unit. The Jacksonville Network for Strengthening Families provides training, services and support to help families stay on target for success as they negotiate the many challenges presented by today's world.

The family strengthening approach is rooted in the following principle – family is the most fundamental factor influencing the lives and outcomes of children.

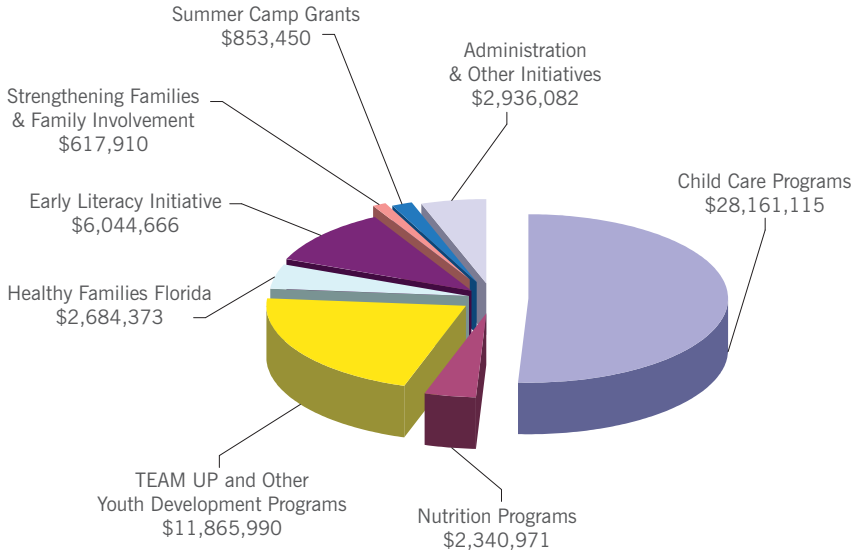
* 1,351 parents, caregivers and children attended Strengthening Families workshops

Financial

Revenue



Expenditures



Partners

Major Funding Partners

City of Jacksonville
Early Learning Coalition of Duval
Duval County Public Schools
Florida Department of Education
Florida Department of Health
Healthy Families Florida
United States Department of Agriculture
United States Department of Health and Human Services

Community and Contract Partners

AmeriCorps
ARAMARK
Bank of America
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Florida
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida
Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida
The Bridge of Northeast Florida
CCAR/Lighthouse Learning Center
The Chartrand Foundation
Child Guidance Center
Communities In Schools of Jacksonville
Community Connections
The Community Foundation of Jacksonville
CSX Corporation
daniel, Inc.
Recreation and Community Services – City of Jacksonville
DLC Nurse and Learn
Don Brewer Foundation
Duval County Health Department
Episcopal Children's Services
Family Support Services
Fidelity National Information Services
Florida Children's Services Councils
Florida Community College at Jacksonville
Florida Healthy Kids Corporation
Florida Institute of Education at UNF
Girls Incorporated
Hope Haven Children's Clinic and Family Center
Jacksonville Early Literacy Partnership
Jacksonville Greyhound Racing
Jacksonville Jaguars Foundation
Jacksonville Kids Coalition
Jacksonville Network for Strengthening Families
Jacksonville Public Libraries
Jacksonville Public Library Foundation
Jacksonville University
Jacksonville Urban League – Head Start
JEA
JM Family Enterprises
MaliVai Washington Kids Foundation
Mental Health Resource Center of Jacksonville
Nemours Brightstart! Dyslexia Initiative
New Heights of Northeast Florida
Non-Profit Center of Jacksonville
Northwest Behavioral Health
PACE Center for Girls
Police Athletic League
Ramco-Gershenson Properties Trust
Southeast Toyota Distributors, LLC
Speech and Hearing Center of Jacksonville
TV Verite
United Way of Northeast Florida, Full Service Schools
University of Florida/Duval County Extension Office
University of North Florida
Vision Is Priceless Council
Wayman Community Development Corporation
Wolfson Children's Hospital – Baptist Health
WorkSource/First Coast Workforce Development
Youth Crisis Center





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Where Florida Begins.