• **Major activities and accomplishments during previous budget period:**
From October 1, 2007 through March 31, 2008, the project provided a wide range of services to 63 index children in 62 families, bringing the total to 109 index children in 108 families. An additional 27 children living in these families also benefited from these services. Families received a variety of services including home-based infant mental health and family intervention, home-based substance abuse treatment, child development screening, assessment and referral, case management, parenting information, group services, peer consultant services and other referral activities. In addition, direct discretionary assistance was provided to 17 families. This assistance was used primarily to meet basic needs including housing, food, transportation, other household needs, holiday gifts for the children and respite support.

Mission Inn is making progress toward their goals. The following is a summary of some of that progress:

- 94% of clients responding to a client satisfaction survey, reported that the services they received were helpful (n=16)
- 100% of clients responding to a client satisfaction survey reported overall satisfaction with the agency and it’s services (n=16)
- 94% of clients responding to a client satisfaction survey reported that program staff were respectful of culture (n=16)
- 72% of caregivers were available for their scheduled appointments
- 100% of children had fewer than 3 moves.
- 74% of children are scoring within normal range at Time 2 on the Ages and Stages Questionnaire Social-Emotional (n=23)

Clients have expressed their satisfaction with services. Some of the comments that clients have made include the following:

- “Everyone I have worked with at Mission Inn have saved my life and I thank them all to the fullest.”
- “I enjoyed every moment with the program and all the information they gave me and my family.”
- “My worker was incredible she helped me so much.”
- “Please keep Mission Inn and flip the script going. These are sensational and help people in ways that they could never understand.”
- “The Mission Inn Program is an excellent support program for women and children. The workers are very respectful and courteous; well I know mine is. She has been a blessing to my family.”
- “They were so helpful with my needs. They gave me a second choice at life with my family and my husband by being clean.”

The peer consultant continues to integrate with the Mission Inn therapists. The peer consultant and Mission Inn staff have co-led a series of groups through the Lies That Bind (formerly known as FlipTheScript) program. This model challenges unconscious belief systems of individuals which affect relapse prevention, healthy relationships with their children, and having healthy
relationships with others. Five women completed the Phase II group this Fall which was intended to enhance women’s understanding of their unconscious belief systems. Recently one of the Mission Inn mothers has completed the first group series which included a 2 week introduction to the model and a 12 week series complete with full assessments and card development (an aid to parents for recovery.) Mission Inn staff continue to use this model as a tool in helping clients with recovery through individual home visits addressing the unconscious belief systems and preventing erroneous beliefs from being passed down to their children.

- **Problems:**
  No significant problems have occurred during this reporting period.

- **Significant findings and events:**
  The community continues to struggle with the infant mortality rate, particularly as it relates to the disparity between African-American infant deaths and Caucasian infant deaths. Infant deaths are contributed to safe sleep practices, lack of family planning and pre-mature/low birth weight babies that are due to a variety of factors that include substance abuse. The community has received funding to continue to address the disparity. The areas being addressed this year include: pre-conceptual/inter-conceptual pregnancy planning, family planning and pregnancy kit development, community based outreach on safe sleep practices, and developing protocols for dealing with racial encounters in health services.

- **Dissemination activities:**
  Dissemination of information about the project and the needs of the target population to a variety of audiences continued as an outreach goal this reporting period. The participation on the various committees has resulted in widening the audience and referral network for the service and educating a greater number of service providers about the special needs of children affected by substance abuse or HIV. Discussions about the impact substance use by parents and caregivers have on their babies and children are taking place in these community collaborative initiatives. Staff use the opportunity to advocate for and share information relevant to the Mission Inn target population.

Staff have participated on the following initiatives/committees:

- Healthy Kent 2010: Program Manager participates as an executive member to the initiative’s Infant Health Implementation Team. This committee has been involved in the previously mentioned activities in an effort to reduce infant mortality and improve birth outcomes and health of infants;
- Strong Beginnings: addresses disparity in infant mortality rates in the African-American population;
- HIV/AIDS Services: addresses various issues related to HIV/AIDS;
- Michigan Hepatitis C Foundation (MCHF): focuses on education and awareness regarding Hepatitis C;
- Michigan Association of Infant Mental Health: focuses on social-emotional health of infants and young children within an infant mental health model. One staff member sits on the state board;
- Early On Local Interagency Community Council: focuses on services and needs of children with identified delays and/or health concerns;
- Early Head Start Advisory Board: focuses on early care standards and school readiness for Head Start families;
- Drug Exposed Infants group: addresses the need for infant drug screening at birth and other needs of this population. The group has completed and is disseminating a brochure
educating pregnant women about the risks of substance use during pregnancy. They also have advocated for universal testing of infants for prenatal substance exposure; and

- Children’s Commission: Working on building a comprehensive system of health, parent education/family support, and early care and education.

Information on the project was also accessible at several resource fairs and presentations to other community providers.

- **Other activities:**
  1. Project staff are currently attending or have attended a series of 4 Infant Mental Health trainings. These training began in January and end in June. The trainings focus on promoting healthy parent-child relationships, including the impact of substance abuse.
  2. Staff are beginning to participate in the AIA National Resource Center 2008 Teleconference Series.

- **Activities Planned for the Next Reporting Period:**
  1. Continue to coordinate and participate in community efforts that support families with young children,
  2. Continue to coordinate and implement Lies that Bind group series,
  3. Evaluators to hold a discussion group with randomly selected number of clients to discuss the service.
  4. Attend the Annual AIA Conference in Washington D.C. this summer.
  5. Staff to consider furthering their credentials in either substance abuse and/or infant mental health.

Respectfully Submitted,