Major activities and accomplishments during previous budget period:
From April 1, 2008 through September 30, 2008, the project provided a wide range of services to 69 index children in 68 families, bringing the total to 118 index children in 117 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, alumni group services, peer consultant services and other referral activities. In addition, direct discretionary assistance was provided to 15 families. This assistance was used primarily to meet basic needs including housing, food, transportation, other household needs, back to school assistance, therapeutic workbooks for clients and respite support.

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

- 100% of clients responding to a client satisfaction survey, reported that the services they received were helpful (n=8)
- 100% of clients responding to a client satisfaction survey, reported that the services they received met their families’ needs. (n=8)
- 100% of clients responding to a client satisfaction survey reported that program staff were respectful of culture (n=8)
- 71% of caregivers were available for their scheduled appointments
- 100% of children had fewer than 3 moves.
- 77% of children are scoring within normal range at Time 2 on the Ages and Stages Questionnaire Social-Emotional (n=36)

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

- “I enjoy my worker, she shows me respect always. She is a great person to talk to. She never judges or pushes her beliefs on me, just helps me look at things in a different way. Thank-you.”
- “I want to thank everyone for working with me while I was pregnant, also for not leaving and helping me through the reunification with my kids.”
- “I have been a client with the agency before, learn a lot. My worker is a very good person and respects me and things I go through as I say on the other side. Been through this before and didn’t like it but now I love it.”
- “(Therapist) is a credit to Arbor Circle and the profession of helping people (clients). She was tailor-made to help others”
The peer consultant continues to integrate with the Mission Inn therapists. This time period was spent reevaluating the Lies That Bind program integration into the Mission Inn program. Therefore, a group series was not held during this time period. Instead, attention was given to creating better communication methods between the therapist and peer consultant, which included developing progress notes for the peer consultant, reevaluating the therapists’ roles versus the peer consultant’s role and implementing a case consultation model for team meetings. 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 most significant event this time period is the implementation of an evidenced-based program called the Parent-Child Assistance Program (PCAP) at Arbor Circle. This case management model works with women who are pregnant or up to 6 months post partum who drank alcohol during their pregnancy. Families are allowed to stay in the program up to 3 years. The primary goal is to prevent future pregnancies from being alcohol exposed by either increasing family planning methods or decreasing alcohol and other substance abuse. Since Mission Inn management staff is also involved in the implementation of this program, seamless coordination between the two programs is anticipated.

• **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 activities in an effort to reduce infant mortality and improve birth outcomes and health of infants. The committee has several sub-committees that are addressing such issues as post-partum depression; universal psychosocial screening for all infants, creation and implementation of an infant resource guide and creating a reporting system when racism/discrimination is experienced in the health care system.
  • 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. The local chapter arranged for the Infant Mental Health training series this year;
• 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: A sub-committee of the Infant Implementation team, it is addressing the need for infant drug screening at birth and other needs of this population. The group recently surveyed several medical practices regarding their practice of screening all pregnant women for substance use; and
• Great Start Collaborative of Kent County (formerly 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 completed a series of 4 Infant Mental Health trainings. These trainings began in January and ended in June. The trainings focused on promoting healthy parent-child relationships, including the impact of substance abuse.
  2. Staff participated in the AIA National Resource Center 2008 Teleconference Series.
  3. Project Director and Principal Evaluators attended the annual AIA Conference in Washington D.C. in August.
  4. Project Staff received their Michigan credential as Certified Advanced Addictions Counselors.

• Activities Planned for the Next Reporting Period:
  1. Implement Lies that Bind group series.
  2. Evaluators to hold a discussion group with randomly selected number of clients to discuss the service.
  3. Prepare for end of grant cycle and proposal for next released AIA grant.
  4. Staff to consider furthering their credentials in infant mental health.
  5. Explore and implement a revised project dissemination strategy.

Respectfully Submitted,

Emmy Ellis, Program Manager