Major activities and accomplishments during previous budget period:
From September 30, 2008 through March 31, 2009, the project provided a wide range of services to 63 index children in 63 families, bringing the total to 131 index children in 130 families. An additional 19 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, Christmas gifts, permanency planning and respite support.

Mission Inn is making progress toward their goals. The following is a summary of some of that progress:
• 92% of clients responding to a client satisfaction survey, reported that the services they received were helpful (n=26)
• 96% of clients responding to a client satisfaction survey, reported that the services they received met their families’ needs (n=26)
• 92% of clients responding to a client satisfaction survey reported that program staff were respectful of culture (n=26)
• 72% of caregivers were available for their scheduled appointments
• 67% of children are scoring within normal range at Time 2 on the Ages and Stages Questionnaire Social-Emotional (n=36) (Time 2 takes place at 6 months of service)

Clients have expressed their satisfaction with services. The following is a comment that a client made this reporting period:
➢ “This program and this therapist saved (child) and I (had) many, many minutes, hours, days and months of living of fear of being in the dark of how to deal with what’s coming for waiting for around life’s next corner. For us the program is a God send for us and others who positively take advantage of all available.”

The peer consultant continues to integrate with the Mission Inn therapists. Mission Inn has continued its relationship with the Lies That Bind program. A group series took place this fall and an advanced group series for previous graduates of the program was held this winter. 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 increase in referrals to the program. It is believed that the seamless coordination efforts that have taken place with other Women’s Services programs at the agency have created an increase in referrals to the program. With funding uncertain in the next fiscal year, the program is carefully evaluating its plan to manage the referrals.

- **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 psycho-social 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.
- **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;
- **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 monthly discussion groups 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; 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. Currently, the collaborative is working on a county-wide referrals system for all new parents called Welcome Home Baby. All new parents will receive a home visit by a nurse that will help families get connected to appropriate services, including Mission Inn

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

• **Other activities:**
  1. Project staff participated in the planning of and presented at a local conference entitled “Developing a Recovery Oriented System of Care”.

• **Activities Planned for the Next Reporting Period:**
  1. Implement Lies that Bind group series.
  2. Project Director and Principal Evaluator to attend the annual AIA conference in Washington D.C. in April
  3. Staff to attend the Biennial Michigan Infant Mental Health Conference entitled “Healing Relationships: Preventing the Intergenerational Transmission of Trauma. Staff continue to consider furthering their credentials in infant mental health.
  4. Evaluators to hold a discussion group with randomly selected number of clients to discuss the service.
  5. Prepare for end of current grant cycle and proposal for newly released AIA grant RFP, due May 11.
  6. Continue to explore and implement a revised project dissemination strategy.

Respectfully Submitted,

Emmy Ellis, Program Manager