

GRANT AWARD NUMBER 90-CB-0149

Arbor Circle Corporation, Grand Rapids, Michigan
Abandoned Infants Project: Mission Inn Services

PROGRAM NARRATIVE 2009

- **Major activities and accomplishments during previous budget period:**
  From April 1, 2009 through September 29, 2009, the project provided a wide range of services to 36 index children in 36 families, bringing the total to 150 index children in 149 families. An additional 3 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 18 families. This assistance was used primarily to meet basic needs including housing (rent and utilities), food, other household needs, transportation, respite, college application fees and textbooks, and family activities to promote child development.

Mission Inn has made progress toward their goals. The following is a summary of some of that progress:
- 97% of clients responding to a client satisfaction survey, reported that the services they received were helpful (n=34)
- 97% of clients responding to a client satisfaction survey, reported that the services they received met their families’ needs (n=31)
- 97% of clients responding to a client satisfaction survey reported that program staff were respectful of culture (n=34)
- 80% of caregivers were available for their scheduled appointments
- 69% of children are scoring within normal range at Time 2 on the Ages and Stages Questionnaire Social-Emotional (n=16) (Time 2 takes place at 6 months of service)

Clients have expressed their satisfaction with services. The following are comments that clients made this reporting period:
- “Julie and Ellen are wonderful and have helped the family a lot.”
- “This program really works. Thanks for being there for the people who need it. Without Arbor Circle people wouldn’t have the help it takes to get into true recovery.”

Mission Inn has continued its relationship with the Lies That Bind program. An introductory series took place this spring and early summer. An advanced group series took place this summer and a monthly alumni group is offered to previous graduates of the program. The peer specialist also arranged a community wide Speaker Jam where Mission Inn clients had a chance to speak about their 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:**
Preparing for the conclusion of the existing Mission Inn program has been the most significant event that has occurred this period. Clients have either closed due to adequate progress toward goals, have been transferred to other programs that can meet the family needs, or continue to be served and are planning for closure or transfer.

**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;
- **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:
  2. Project Director and Principal Evaluator attended the annual AIA conference in Washington D.C. in April.
  3. Staff have begun to pursue their Michigan Infant Mental Health endorsement.
  4. Evaluator held a discussion group with randomly selected clients to discuss their satisfaction with services and obtain other feedback.
  5. AIA grant RFP was written and submitted in May. We recently received news that we are one of eight projects funded!

• Activities Planned for the Next Reporting Period:
  1. Prepare and submit final grant report.
  2. Implementation of new grant.

Respectfully Submitted,

Emmy Ellis, Program Manager