Major activities and accomplishment during this period

The TIES Program is on schedule with objectives according to the timeline. Enrollment of families is significantly ahead of schedule. Specific activities are detailed for each objective.

Objective 1: Enhance community collaboration

- TIES Community Consortium met November 9, January 13 and March 10. Ryan White provider to be added to Consortium next period.
- TIES Advisory Council met November 9 and January 28 and will meet again April 22. An additional program alumnus became a member of the Council.

Objective 2: Partner with families to address challenges and resources

- 36 families, representing 88 children, were enrolled in the period – 23 enrolled postpartum and 13 enrolled prenatally.
- Multiple assessments completed with each family including 13 Bayley Infant Neurodevelopmental Screeners (BINS); 15 Brief Symptom Inventories (BSI); 15 Adult-Adolescent Parenting Inventories (AAPI); and 15 consumer satisfaction surveys.
- Support Specialists had 1,288 contacts with families to provide support, crisis intervention, and to promote family goal setting and problem solving.
- Support Specialists made 399 home visits to provide services in families’ natural environment.
- 18 mothers participated in alcohol and other drug treatment in the period.
- There were no subsequent births to currently enrolled mothers in the period.
- TIES Waiting to Exhale Women's Support Group met 7 times in the period with a total attendance of 41 mothers.

Objective 3: Enhance multi-agency system of care

- Individual Family Service Plans (IFSP) will be developed with each family and 11 IFSP team conferences were held to communicate family goals and coordinate services.
- Support Specialists had 301 contacts with other agency staff and participated in 60 other agency staffings including Jackson County Children’s Division and Family Court to insure coordinated care.

Objective 4: Promote child well being

- There were 10 births to prenatally enrolled women. 7 (78% of known) were negative for alcohol and illicit drugs at delivery. 2 were positive and 1 was unknown.
- Parent Resource Specialist was hired and will start April 5.
- All families have pediatric and/or prenatal care provider identified.
- 11 families have children in relative care, representing 24 children; and 2 fathers are primary caregiver to 4 children. Information and support were provided to all and concrete assistance was provided to 5 of the relatives.
**Problems**

There were no significant changes in program/project focus, scope, oversight, delivery, schedule or evaluation. As reported above, enrollment of families has been brisk with 36 families in a period we would have anticipated less than 25. Staff has done a great job assimilating all the new families so quickly.

We are behind in getting our Parent Resource Specialist on board. However, we now have an excellent candidate, she starts April 5, and we anticipate implementing the new component quickly.

Certainly, work with all kinds of families has been made more difficult in this tough economic environment. However, as with so many negatives, the effects are compounded for low-income families. Competition for scarce affordable housing is not going to be won by heads of households with drug abuse histories, and public housing is not an option if there has been a drug related conviction in the last 5 years. Employment is difficult for recovering substance abusers in any job market little less one with double digit unemployment. Food stamps are withheld in Missouri from those with drug related felonies, and while we’ve helped families face these challenges before in our 19+ years, it may never have been quite so difficult.

**Significant findings and events**

Not yet available

**Dissemination activities**

No specific dissemination activities were yet conducted.

**Other Activities**

A public event was held at the hospital on November 9 announcing the AIA award to the TIES Program. Representatives from the media and all three Congressional delegates and community partners attended. Two mothers shared their poignant stories of addiction and recovery and their involvement with the TIES Program. A copy of an article distributed at that event is attached.

**Activities planned for next reporting period**

- The activities planned for the reporting period will mirror those reported for the stated objectives above.
- The Parent Resource Specialist will assume her duties April 5 and begin seeing families as soon as possible.
- A TIES Program Support Specialist and program participant will participate on a panel in the Children’s Mercy Social Work Department highlighting the Community Services unit of the department on May 3.
- Program Manager Oneta Templeton will present at a conference in Wichita, Kansas on May 12 on the TIES Program model for intervention with families affected by substance abuse and/or HIV.