



Dakota Healthy Families (DHF) 2007 Annual Report

DHF Vision

The growth and development of Dakota County families are supported through community collaboration so that infants are nurtured and children arrive at school ready to learn.

Steering Team Members

Pat Moylan, Chair, Community Member

Corrie Lapinsky, Vice Chair, Legal Services Director, Wilsons Leather Company

Bonnie Brueshoff, Dakota County Public Health Director

Sharon Gagner, ISD 197 Coord., Early Learning

Jennifer Houston Quintilla, West Side Community Health Services

Cheryl Kirchner, United Hospital Birth Center

Don Kramlinger, ISD 200 Community Ed. Dir.

Jeff Mortensen, Community Action Council

Pamela Richards, Park Nicollet Clinic

Laurie Ridgely, Fairview Ridges Hospital

Pam Rooke, DHF Parent Representative

Hillary Ahlers, DHF Parent Representative

Tom Schoepf, ISD 197

DHF Community Partnerships

Fairview Ridges Hospital

Fairview Eagan Clinic

Fairview Cedar Ridge Clinic

Fairview Lakeville Clinic

Fairview Ridges Clinic

Health Partners Clinic Apple Valley

Park Nicollet Clinics Burnsville/Eagan

Regina Medical Center Hastings

United Hospital, St. Paul

CAP Agency HeadStart

Community Action Council

Dakota County Family Services Collaborative

Dakota County Public Health and WIC

Inver Grove Heights School District (199)

South St. Paul School District (6)

West St. Paul/Mendota Hts. School District (197)

2007 Accomplishments

- Added two parents to the DHF Steering Team.
- Received a three-year Children Trust Fund grant to increase service capacity for Spanish-speaking families, to improve early learning program connections and to hold monthly parent groups.
- Formalized the hospital-based participant outreach process at United Hospital of St. Paul and Fairview Ridges Hospital of Burnsville.
- Provided assistance to the Metro Alliance for Healthy Families brochure, database system design and policies and procedures.
- Revised the DHF Policy and Procedure Manual
- Started Peer Consultation Group
- Provided staff training on infant/parent attachment, children and trauma, addiction, poverty, early childhood mental health, cultural competency, and teen pregnancy and prevention.

HOW TO REACH DAKOTA HEALTHY FAMILIES

651-554-6219

Webpage:

www.co.dakota.mn.us/HealthFamily/HealthyLiving/HealthyCommunities/DHF.htm

Participating partners include:

Dakota County Public Health

CAP Agency

Community Action Council

United Hospital

Fairview Ridges Hospital

Stories from DHF Parents

Dakota Healthy Families has been involved with my family since October 2005. At the beginning I was apprehensive about letting a stranger into my house and letting her know the intimate details of my family's struggles. My home visitor stuck through the trials and tribulations of hospital stays, domestic violence shelters, and family court. She was also there for my child's first steps, first words, and my own personal triumphs. We have laughed together and cried together, I now consider her a special part of my family.

Through Dakota Healthy Families I have learned how to be a good mother, and how to use resources to succeed in the community. Also because of the great curriculum and the early childhood screening we were able to recognize my child's disability at an early age and get him the treatment and therapy he needs.

I am truly thankful for everything DHF has done for my family, they gave me wings, and I am flying high!

DHF has been a very good help for me and my family. Many opportunities have been given to us. DHF has been a great help to us in getting my son connected to ECSE and he now attends school three days a week. If it wasn't for DHF I wouldn't be where I am today. Thanks to DHF, we love you all!

Our home visitor is very good at telling us we're doing a great job; she compliments us on what we're doing right. I like that she was there before my baby was even born and that we still have two more years with her! She's done videotaping from when my baby was born to now. We watch the old videotape with my baby and she pays attention to it and she laughs!

Recently our home visitor had me do the ECI with my baby; it was hard for her to wait for the toys while we set up. My baby was talking a lot more and the interaction was being taped. Afterwards our home visitor said how she loves the way we (my fiancé and I) interact with her.

It used to be hard for me to read with a child who was moving all over. Our home visitor has helped me learn to read with my baby. She explained that I can let her flip through the pages and that we don't have to go through the whole book. Our home visitor can tell how I really enjoy reading books with my baby now. Now she flips through the pages and she can sit still to read the whole book!

I have pressure from my mom to get her potty trained. I keep feeling that my baby needs to be potty-trained right now, but our home visitor keeps telling me we have to wait until she is ready. Our home visitor has done a lot of talking about where my baby is supposed to be (developmentally), what's normal at this age and how we can help her get to that level. She helps us find resources and she supports us when we're applying for resources. We once had our car towed and she helped us find a church to help us pay for that. She has helped connect us to the food shelf.

DHF Families 2007 Parent Exit Survey At Program Completion

Results are from six graduating families in 2007:

Have the home visits helped you?

They've helped a great deal ((80%)

They've helped a little (20%)

They haven't helped that much

Would you recommend DHF to others if they needed support?

Definitely (100%)

Probably

Probably Not

Definitely Not

Comments:

Our home visitor helped us a lot during pregnancy and after our daughter was born. She provided us useful information on parenting, child education, self-care as well as other available community resources which we appreciated much since we were from another state, therefore not familiar with what's available in the community. She was always on time, willing to help, and very friendly and nice to all of us. We enjoyed each and every visit. We strongly feel this is such a valuable program and thank you very much for all the time, resources and care you provided.

Our home visitor was excellent with my son and me. She was a great listener and helped me with questions or problems I was having. I am really sad I moved out of Dakota County so I don't get to see her any more. I almost wanted to stay because of her, again she was fantastic!

I just wanted to thank our home visitor for helping me out anyway possible!

Outcome Measures

Home safety: 96.8% of families achieved an acceptable home safety rating. This is down slightly from 98.4% in 2006.

Social Emotional Development: Sixty four DHF children participated in the ASQ-SE screen in 2007, with a total of 92 screens (indicating multiple screens for some children). The pass rate for the screenings was 90%. This is slightly below the Public Health Family Health participant passing rate of 93% which is surprisingly positive for DHF given the higher needs of DHF families.

Early Communication Indicator: DHF monitors early communication skills for participating infants, toddlers and preschoolers. DHF 2007 data shows that 90% of infants, toddlers and preschoolers were on target for early language growth and development and another 7% were slightly below target (≥ -1.0 SD). (N=158) This compares favorably to the expectations in the normal population, and is remarkable, given that these parents experience significant stress.

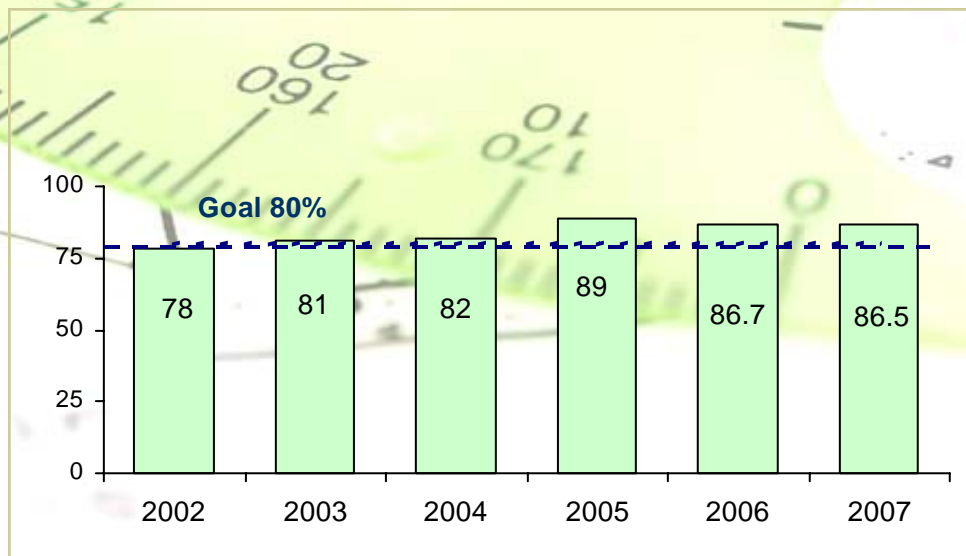
Early Childhood Screening: Nine DHF preschoolers (age 40 months or older) graduated from DHF in 2007. Of these, four had completed Early Childhood Screening. This is considerably below the target that 85% of graduates complete screening before discharge from service. DHF received grant funds for a Parent Connector position in 2008 to improve early learning connections with the County's nine school districts.

Health and Wellness Outcomes: At 3, 6, 12, 24, and 36 months, nearly all DHF children were connected to primary health care providers (99, 94, 100, 100, and 100 percent) and well-child check-ups (98, 94, 100, 100, and 100 percent). This is consistent with 2006 rates.

Current with Immunizations: At 3, 6, 12, 24, and 36 months, most DHF infants, toddlers and preschoolers were on track at 99, 94, 100, 90 and 100 percent respectively.

Performance Measures

Effectiveness Indicator



Efficiency Measures: DHF continues to exceed standard for the percent of home visits at 86.5% virtually unchanged over 2006.

Retention Rates: The six year retention rate cohort average at 6, 12, 18 and 24 months remain fairly stable at 80%, 61%, 50% and 42%.

Revenues & Expenditures

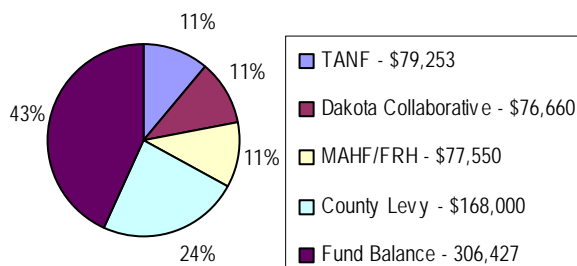
Revenues

TANF	\$	79,253
Dakota Collaborative	\$	76,660
MAHF/FRH	\$	77,550
County Levy	\$	168,000
Fund Balance	\$	<u>306,427</u>
Total	\$	<u>707,890</u>

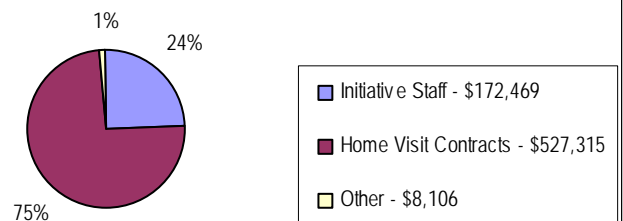
Expenses

Initiative Staff	\$	172,469
Home Visit Contracts	\$	527,315
Other	\$	<u>8,106</u>
Total	\$	<u>707,890</u>

2007 DHF Revenues



2007 DHF Expenditures



Home Visitor Accomplishments



Families Referred: 374 families were referred to DHF in 2007, up slightly from 360 in 2006. Fairview Ridges Hospital (41%), Medical Assistance (34%) and WIC (9%) remain the top three sources of referral.

Families Screened: 264 (70%) of referred families had positive screens. This positive screen rate is up from 58% in 2006 in large part reflecting an increase in Medical Assistance referrals up from 17% in 2006.

Acceptance Rates: 148 families with risks (56%) were contacted and agreed to an in home Parent Survey. 115 were program eligible of which 77 families (66%) volunteered to participate in home visiting services.

Parent Survey Scores: The average and median scores declined for the first time in several years to 36.4 and 35 from 41.2 and 40 in 2006. Program eligibility requires a Parent Survey score of ≥ 25 . Scores of 40+ indicate that families face significant stresses in multiple life domains.

DHF Families Served in 2007: 184 families received intensive home visiting services including 114 continuing families with infants, toddlers and preschoolers and 70 families with newborns.

DHF Staff Complement: The number of experienced and well-trained DHF home visitors and supervisors remained constant in 2007 at 8.3 FTEs. Staff turnover rate remained low, with the resignation of one supervisor, who left after seven years with DHF to take a leadership role with the Metro Alliance for Healthy Families.