



WILLIAM M. HABERMEHL
County Superintendent of Schools

Orange County Superintendent of Schools
2006 Report
County Service Coordination Plan Annual Review
California School Age Families Education
(Cal-SAFE)

Date: November 20, 2006

County: Orange

Authorized Signature:

John L. Nelson, Ed.D.
Associate Superintendent
Orange County Department of Education

1. Review Process

The Orange County Superintendent of Schools (Superintendent), on behalf of the Orange County Child Care and Development Planning Council (Council), solicited input from teen parent advocates and service providers to assist in the Cal-SAFE Plan Annual Review. A meeting was convened on November 15, 2006 for school district and community representatives to review the Plan. (See Attachment 4 for invitees.) E-mail feedback was accepted for interested parties who could not attend the meeting.

The meeting engaged 45 participants in group discussion of Plan items #4 - #8, which included educational alternatives, child care and development services for children of teen parents, service gaps and overlaps, and solutions to providing adequate support services for teen parents. Participants compared past reviews and offered new ideas for the current review. Recommendations were recorded and shared with the entire group.

Presentations were given at the meeting to provide updated local resources for teen parents.

- Children's Home Society of California – Karen Wunderlich, Program Administrator
- Safely Surrendered Baby Law – Maureen Gautschi, Orange County Child Abuse Registry

2. Updates/Modified Components of the Original Plan – *shown in bold*

Attachment 1: **Number of Births to Teenage Orange County Residents by City 2004 & 2005 (Ages 10 -18 Years)**

Attachment 2: **Number of Low Birth Weight Births Among Teenage Orange County Residents by City 2004 & 2005 (Ages 10 - 18 Years; <2,500 g)**

Attachment 3: **Selected Statistics Related to Children, Teens and Families in Orange County By County based on 2005 American Century Survey Data, U.S. Census**

2. Updates/Modified Components of the Original Plan (continued)

The following information was discussed as relevant to updating the Plan.

QUESTION 4: Educational Alternatives for Pregnant and Parenting Teens

The following are additional barriers and limiting factors of concern.

- **Students must drop out of regular high schools to attend CalSAFE programs.**
- **School districts disbanding or reducing teen parent programs which forces students to go to local community colleges for educational options coupled with child care services.**
- **Lack of transportation resources** for teen parents and their children (i.e. bus passes, no license, vehicles) to get to educational alternatives, comprehensive school **and appointments creates major problems and contributes to lengthy absences from school.**
- **Bus routes which are not well coordinated with school site locations and instructional hours.**
- **Lack of legal aid and mental health services.**
- **Language and cultural barriers cause major problems for teen parents.**
- **Role of the father is not addressed.**
- **Job opportunities and related salary information is not available to assist teens.**
- **Setting 5-10 year post high school goals not addressed.**
- **Education/training on maintaining healthy relationships and prevention of domestic violence needs to be added to curriculum.**
- Lack of finances; often unaware of career opportunities at community colleges or CCROP
- Parent education/child development classes needed at comprehensive high school for all students.
- Lack of emotional support for teen parents who must deal with the stigma of being a young parent, leading them to drop out of school
- Choice to stay in comprehensive school is not emphasized
- Comprehensive school can be rigid and archaic in structure for teen parents, not making accommodations for child care needs or privacy for lactation. Comprehensive school needs to not penalize pregnant teens for going to the doctor or social services – missed time often puts the teen behind academically, need tutoring services.
- Lack of programs focusing on early identification of teenagers or children at risk of becoming teen parents and no outreach for early intervention
- Lack of programs providing educational support to parents of pregnant and parenting teenagers

QUESTION 5: Child Care and Development Resources for the Child(ren) of Teen Parent

- **Early Head Start** – O.C. Head Start Association
- **Children’s Home Society of California** – Alternative Payment Program and CEL
- **RIO – Rehabilitation Institute of Orange** – Special Ed students and children
- **Casa Teresa** – Residential education for homeless pregnant girls, includes services of clinical psychologists.
- **Mary Shelter** – Residential program for homeless pregnant girls
- **Bridges for Newborns** – St. Jude Hospital, Saddleback Hospital
- **Cal Optima** – list of physicians receptive to working with teen parents

2. Updates/Modified Components of the Original Plan (continued)

QUESTION 5: Child Care and Development Resources for the Child(ren) of Teen Parent

- School readiness nurses in every school district who work with families and children birth to 5 years – find listing on web at www.occhildrenandfamilies.org, “grantees”
- CHOC (Children’s Hospital of Orange County) and BGCGG (Boys and Girls Clubs of Garden Grove) have medical and dental services. A shuttle is available from Santa Ana to Garden Grove clinic
- Concurrent enrollment in high school and community college available, health fee covers health issues (see doctor or nurse), child care is often available
- Family Net program – Anaheim and Fullerton
- County sponsored low-cost or no cost health clinics and mental health resources
- Qualified licensed and or available child care programs
- Nurse-Family Partnership – a program following young mother and child throughout the first three years of child’s life
- Peer Volunteer Tutors
- **Possible overlap of services between Bridges Lactation Program, Health Care Agency, and MOMS.**

QUESTION 6: Public and Private Resources Providing Support for Pregnant and Parenting Teens

- **211**
- **D.A.’s office**
- **O.C. Bar Association**
- **Planned Parenthood**
- **Children’s Bureau**
- **Catholic Charities - Adoption Services**
- **Western Youth Services**
- **Mariposa Women’s Center**
- **La Leche League**
- **Community Action Partnership** – Food and housing resources
- **Girls, Inc.**
- **Campfire Girls**
- **Shelters: WTLC, Laura’s House, Interval House, Human Options, Florence Critton, Precious Life, Hannah’s House**
- **Teen Resources Round Table** – for service providers
- Children’s Home Society of California – child care referrals and eligibility list for subsidized child care
- Community Colleges
- Adolescent Family Life Program
- Cal Learn
- Maternal Child Adolescent Health
- Teen parenting programs for fathers – call Adolescent and Family Life Program at Orange County Healthcare Agency
- Orange County Child Protective Services
- Teen Voices, Teen Choices

2. Updates/Modified Components of the Original Plan (continued)

QUESTION 6: Public and Private Resources Providing Support for Pregnant and Parenting Teens

- Welcome Baby
- School Readiness Nurses
- “Baby, Think it Over” Program
- Family Support Network
- MOMS- breastfeeding support
- Bridges
- WIC
- EDAC
- YMCA
- UCI/CHOC CUIDAR – provides parent education for children who might have ADHD
- Mentors

QUESTION 7: Gaps and Overlaps in Education and Support Services

Overlap

- **Adolescent Family Life Program and Cal WORKs/Cal LEARN need more coordination**
- Adolescent Family Life Program and Cal WORKs/Cal LEARN have the same social workers
- Teenage parents bound for college can use work experience as college credit in some cases

Gaps

- **Responsibility for placement of pregnant students varies from school to school – principal or school nurse; no systematic approach.**
- **Medical support services and information on STDs**
- **Middle school age girls (6th & 7th graders) not receiving services because middle schools are not identified or receiving services**
- **Lack of curriculum for sex education in middle schools – school nurses not allowed to teach sex ed – parents feel it promotes “sex”**
- **Students (particularly Hispanic) coming into our schools already pregnant**
- **Lack of parent education in Hispanic culture regarding adoption services and benefits of continuing formal education**
- **Can’t teach pre and post natal care because students are mainstreamed**
- **Lack of information on signs of domestic violence**
- **Mildly ill child care services**
- Services and resources for undocumented students
- Resources provided for teen parents or their children who may have English Language Difficulties (ELD) or special needs
- Knowledge on how to access low-cost or no cost mental health services or how to raise awareness of mental health services for teen parents
- Services for a teenage parent’s transition to college; **none available for students entering universities**
- Cal-SAFE funding available to new agencies and lack of increased funding for continuing programs

2. Updates/Modified Components of the Original Plan (continued)

QUESTION 7: Gaps and Overlaps in Education and Support Services

- Resources for teen fathers to encourage them to participate in their child(ren)'s upbringing
- Openness for prevention programs for children at risk of becoming parents
- Knowledge of child care and development services that might be able to serve the teen parent population

QUESTION 8: Proposed Strategies to Address Gaps and Overlaps in Educational and Support Services

- **Increase support services, especially in middle schools**
- **Collaborate with Health Care Agencies and the HCA – Family Nurse Partnership to provide more information on sex education, medical support services and STDs**
- **Advocate for educational services to middle school age girls (6th & 7th graders) via public and private sectors**
- **Promote the need for development of curriculum for sex education in middle schools**
- **Provide more parent education materials in Spanish regarding teen pregnancy, adoption, and educational options**
- **Hold a Teen Mom Forum jointly with OCDE**
- **Invite ENABL (Education Now and Babies Later) national group to speak in Orange County**
- **Provide more information on signs of domestic violence and how to identify kids at risk**
- **Promote parents are our “first line” of defense and education for children**
- **Develop more mentoring and parenting mom support groups for teens**
- **Develop more mildly ill child care services**
- March of Dimes along with Teen Parent Collaborative has developed a resource directory
- Formalize a collaboration between Cal LEARN social workers and social workers for Adolescent Family Life Program so that there is more opportunity to maximize resources for teenage parents
- Ensure that the activities teenage parents already have to participate in such as work, are looked at as resources to further their education, not hinder it
- Farm for scholarships for teenage parents who wish to continue education
- Emphasize the need to continue onto higher education
- Encourage teenage parent involvement in certificate programs where they can learn a specific trade and further their careers while going to classes suited to their schedules.
- Encourage teen parents to enroll in inexpensive and accessible ROP programs

Additional Notes for future consideration:

- **Increased incidence of teen pregnancies among elementary and middle school girls (ages 11-14) was noted. Participants stated that they are seeing higher rates of pregnancies in middle school age girls than in high school age girls. One district reported that the rate had doubled from 20 students per year to 42 students per year at the middle school level.**
- **The lack of services and the inability of school nurses to deliver education and services to middle school age students due to lack of acknowledgement and school/district restraints was considered a critical problem.**
- **The rate of pregnancy was reported to be higher among Hispanic girls than any other race or ethnicity. The higher rate was attributed to gang activity.**

3. Attached Documentation of Agencies and/or Programs Participating in the Review

Attachment 4: Emailing/Mailing List of Invitees

Attachment 5: Letter of Invitation to November 15, 2006 Meeting

Attachment 6: Attendee Sign-in Sheet from November 15, 2006 Meeting

4. Contact Information

Jan Peterson

Program Coordinator

Orange County Child Care and Development Planning Council

200 Kalmus Drive

PO Box 9050 – Esplanade 5-108

Costa Mesa, CA 92628-9050

Phone: (714) 708-4992

Fax: (714) 708-2907

Ellin Chariton

Executive Director

Division of School and Community Services

Orange County Department of Education

200 Kalmus Drive, PO Box 9050

Costa Mesa, CA 92628-9050

Phone: (714) 966-4312

Fax: (714) 549-2657