



WILLIAM M. HABERMEHL
County Superintendent of Schools

Orange County Superintendent of Schools
2004 Report
County Service Coordination Plan Annual Review
California School Age Families Education
(Cal-SAFE)

Date: October 29, 2004

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. Homeless Prevention Coordinators were added to this year's list of invitees. A meeting was convened on September 24, 2004 for school district and community representatives to review the Plan. (See Attachment 3 for attendees.) E-mail feedback was accepted for interested parties who could not attend the meeting.

The meeting engaged 17 participants in small 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.

A panel was present at the meeting to provide updated local resources for teen parents. Representatives from the Social Services Agency, Cal-LEARN program and from Santa Ana College's Tech Prep Program provided helpful tips on how to navigate the Cal-LEARN system and also ideas on how to create a bridge for teen parents from high school to higher education. The County of Orange Health Care Agency provided pertinent data concerning teen parent incidence of live births. The participants had a strong interest in resources for teen parents. A stronger collaboration between this group and the Teen Parent Collaborative, facilitated by Gail Dratch of Cal LEARN was suggested as a means to continue networking and sharing resources to provide an integrated system for teen parents.

2. Updates/Modified Components of the Original Plan

Attachment 1: Number of Births to Teenage Orange County Residents by City 2002 & 2003 (Ages 10 -18 Years)

Attachment 2: Number of Low Birth Weight Births Among Teenage Orange County Residents by City 2002 & 2003 (Ages 10 - 18 Years; <2,500 g)

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.

- Lack of research and information on the causes for teenage parents dropping out of school
- Lack of transportation for teen parents and their children (i.e. bus passes, no license, vehicles) to get to educational alternatives or comprehensive school
- 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
- 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 Parents

- County sponsored low-cost or no cost health and mental health resources for mental development
- Nurse-Family Partnership – a program following young mother and child throughout the first three years of child’s life

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

- Mentors
- Teen parenting programs for fathers
- Teen Voices, Teen Choices Program
- 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 with special needs

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

QUESTION 7: Gaps and Overlaps in Education and Support Services

Overlap

- 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

- 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
- Cal-SAFE funding available to new agencies and lack of increased funding for continuing programs
- Resources for teen fathers to encourage them to participate in their child(ren)'s upbringing
- Willingness from the general public to have prevention programs for children at risk of becoming parents in schools
- 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

- 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
- Ensuring 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
- Cultivate a database of scholarships specifically for teenage parents who wish to continue education
- Emphasize the need to continue onto higher education
- Find an agency who already has or has the capacity to put together a resource directory, list serve and website for teen parents focusing on Orange County's teen parent population
- 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

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

Attachment 3: Mailing List of Invitees

Attachment 4: Letter of Invitation to September 24, 2004 Meeting

Attachment 5: Attendee Sign-in Sheet of September 24, 2004 Meeting

4. Contact Information

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