SMILE

Annual Report • 2014-2015
St. Martin • Iberia • Lafayette Community Action Agency
Your house is your home, and that is also the case here at SMILE Community Action Agency. Across three parishes – St. Martin, Iberia and Lafayette – we open the doors to our home Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

And in theory, we beckon to the public with words from Lady Liberty:

“Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!”

In reality, we’re not always able to do so. We lack the funding to eliminate all of the woes we see everyday. That is why President Lyndon B. Johnson’s War on Poverty is still ongoing.

But many times, we are able to outstretch our arms, and embrace those in need with the resources and support to help them to succeed. Our successes may not always seem huge. They may seem insignificant, simplistic – like taking a moment to stop and chat with the young adolescents we see hanging on the corners because we want to steer them on the right path. Yet sometimes, it’s the little things we do that have the biggest impact of all.

SMILE is not here to set any records, but we are here to make a difference. That is why we like to open our doors and say thank you to the community, which has supported us for decades. And we were able to do that this past fiscal year in May 2015 during our “Open House.”

When we opened our home as part of our celebration of National Community Action Month, it felt great! It was a wonderful opportunity to share goodwill with our clients, our elected officials and candidates, our supporters, our partners, our governing bodies, and even our staff.

We’re here because we are committed – Commited to the Community! We’re here because our house is your house. Our home is your home. And that’s the way we roll!

Sincerely,

Brenda Foulcard
Interim Chief Executive Officer

Mission Statement

SMILE Community Action Agency serves as a clearinghouse for community needs, with a focus on health, education, economic stability, and the betterment of all disadvantaged individuals, children and families that we encounter.

* Current Staff Members
About SMILE

The St. Martin, Iberia, Lafayette Community Action Agency, or SMILE (as it is widely known by its popular acronym), serves as the primary provider of social services in a tri-parish region. Chartered as a 501 (c)(3), tax-exempt corporation in 1968, the Agency is headquartered in Lafayette. This fiscal year – June 1, 2014 – May 31, 2015 – marked 47 years of service by SMILE.

The Agency’s motto, “People Helping People,” stems from the Economic Opportunity Act’s goal to uplift the nation’s disadvantaged, and to assist them in obtaining self-sufficiency.

SMILE’s programs included Head Start/Early Head Start, comprehensive housing counseling, emergency assistance, life skills, computer technology, family transitional shelters, utility and rent/mortgage assistance, prescription assistance, health and wellness, senior volunteers/expo, youth mentoring/tutoring, tax assistance, parenting education, job placement/referrals, and the distribution of clothing, food and hygiene products.

AGENCY MANAGEMENT

SMILE currently operates under the administration of Interim Chief Executive Officer Brenda Foulcard. She oversees a managerial staff that includes the Interim Chief Financial Officer, Director of Field Operations, Director of Human Resources, Director of Head Start/Early Head Start, Director of Grants/Communications, Equal Opportunity Officer, and Resource Program Developer. Most of these supervisors, in turn, have staff members who oversee their various departments.

In-service training is a vital part of the Agency’s operations. The Agency also has an accounting system in place, and conducts an annual audit. It also practices non-discrimination.

SMILE is governed by an 18-member Board of Directors, representing a cross-section of the public, private and low-income sectors of St. Martin, Iberia and Lafayette Parishes. The volunteer Board serves as the legal entity of the organization.

NETWORKING WITH AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS

Collaboration has always been an integral part of the Agency. Not only does the Agency collaborate, but it has also been instrumental in the development of important programs in the region, including the Council on Aging and Meals-on-Wheels. SMILE has also assisted agencies in their start-up efforts, including 232-HELP. The Agency was also instrumental in the creation of ARCH (Acadiana Regional Coalition on Homelessness and Housing), and served as a founding member. The Agency also collaborates with the La. Workforce Commission.

History of SMILE

People Helping People is a noble phrase, one that almost assumes a spiritual connotation by an American public influenced by Judeo-Christian principles and practices. But without a concerted effort of vital resources and funding, the concept lacks the means to significantly change the lives of poor people. The federal government acknowledged this fact with the enactment of the Economic Opportunity Act in August 1964.

The Act provided for the establishment and funding of Community Action agencies and programs. Its purpose was to focus all available local, state, private and federal resources so that low-income individuals and families could attain the skills, knowledge, motivation and opportunities needed to become self-sufficient. Its primary mission was to make the entire community more responsive to the needs and interests of the poor.

Although the undertaking of such a mission was monumental, concerned local citizens were determined to set into place the mechanism to assist the area’s poor. In 1965, a non-profit organization called Acadia Neuf was founded to serve the needs of the poor; it was the forerunner of SMILE Community Action Agency. The consortium of nine parishes included St. Martin, Iberia and Lafayette; as well as Acadia, Avoyelles, Evangeline, Pointe Coupee, St. Landry and Vermilion.

While representatives struggled to define the organization, three of the parishes – Avoyelles, Evangeline and Pointe Coupee – withdrew. The remaining six parishes persevered against odds and even achieved a measure of success. The organization selected Mr. Gordain Sibille as its first executive director, and was awarded an initial grant of slightly over $40,000 to serve the needs of school dropouts through education, training and counseling. This was later followed by grants for Head Start, remedial reading and other projects that were consistent with the organization’s mission.

In as much as the Economic Opportunity Act made provisions for the delegation of activities, Acadia Neuf entered into contractual arrangements for many of its services. Organizations as the St. Martin Parish School Board, St. Landry Parish School Board and the Southern Consumer Education Foundation were engaged to administer pilot programs such as Head Start. Acadia Neuf was also successful in securing funding for programs such as Medicare Alert, Neighborhood Referral Workers Program and Neighborhood Service Centers.

Even while achieving moderate success in these initial endeavors, the young organization still did not have the internal stability required to be truly effective. Instead, sectionalism and personality clashes eventually led to Acadia Neuf being phased out in April 1967.

In its aftermath, individual parishes opted for autonomy, having become disillusioned by the consortium concept. Iberia Parish formed a single-parish agency; Lafayette attempted a limited agency for sponsoring Head Start, which had emerged as a highly effective vehicle for realizing social competency among mostly lower income families. While acknowledging that these single-parish organizations were serving a useful purpose, the general consensus was that they were much too limited in scope to truly serve the needs of the area.

Movement toward a multi-parish agency was started by such visionaries as the Rev. Stovall and State Sen. Edgar Mouton. The concept of a tri-parish agency – serving St. Martin, Iberia and Lafayette Parishes – was developed through the efforts of pioneers such as Dr. James Oliver, Mr. Dennis David and Mr. Carlton James, who were formerly associated with Acadia Neuf as well as newcomers such as Mr. Charles Finley, Mr. L.L. Broussard, Mr. William Prade and Mrs. Jessie Taylor. These concerned citizens became the principal architects of what is now known as the St. Martin, Iberia, Lafayette Community Action Agency – SMILE.

As the Agency looks to the future, painstaking efforts are taken to ensure that SMILE remains true to its primary mission – serving the needs of the impoverished. The founding fathers would indeed be pleased to know that the torch has been passed without cessation or deviation these many years. While challenges are ahead, the concept of People Helping People remains the guiding force – interwoven in SMILE’s history.
### Resources (Funds/Match) Received

- Federal Funding: $16,729,782.00 (84%)
- State Funding: $375,214.00 (2%)
- Local Funding: $2,871,634.00 (14%)
- Unrestricted Funding: $48,705.00 (<1%)

**TOTAL**: $20,025,335.00 (100%)

### Resources Allocated by Major Units

- Early Childhood Development Programs (Head Start/Early Head Start/USDA)..............$15,469,768.00
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).................................................$2,844,148.00
- Transportation (Elderly, General, STEP)...............................................................................$375,214.00
- Community Services (Rent/Mortgage, Utilities, Shelters, Food, Medication)...............$1,277,530.00
- Elderly (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program–RSVP)..................................................$58,675.00

**TOTAL**: $20,025,335.00
## Services Provided 2014-2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service/Source</th>
<th>Households</th>
<th>Household Members Benefiting</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CSBG Services</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>873</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEMA</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIHEAP - Non-Crisis</td>
<td>6,707</td>
<td>13,455</td>
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<tr>
<td>LIHEAP Crisis</td>
<td>673</td>
<td>1,792</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toys for Tots</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>586</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Pantry (St. Martin)</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>319</td>
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<tr>
<td>VITA Income Tax</td>
<td>652</td>
<td>1,956</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Way of Iberia – Medication</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>123</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Way of Iberia – Homelessness</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>81</td>
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<tr>
<td>ATMOS - Share the Warmth</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>411</td>
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<tr>
<td>Job Placement/Development</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>28</td>
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<tr>
<td>Job Referral</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>101</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>8,761</strong></td>
<td><strong>19,746</strong></td>
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## Transportation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Provided</th>
<th>Unduplicated Number Served</th>
<th>Services Provided</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transportation (NEMT)</td>
<td>13,852</td>
<td>15,462</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transportation (General)</td>
<td>1,310</td>
<td>2,620</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>15,162</strong></td>
<td><strong>18,082</strong></td>
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</table>

## Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)

- Number of Volunteers: 516
- 235 Volunteers Served
- 30,212 Hours Donated

## Housing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Provided</th>
<th>Households</th>
<th>Services</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shelter Residents</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>39</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homeless Prevention</td>
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<td>51</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rapid Re-housing</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>78</td>
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<tr>
<td>Affordable Housing Program</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>188</strong></td>
<td><strong>295</strong></td>
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</table>
**SMILE Programs**

*The following are brief summaries of SMILE Community Action Agency’s programs, which cover the parishes of St. Martin, Iberia and Lafayette*

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**HEAD START**
Provides comprehensive child development and family support services to families with children, ages 3-5, to enhance children’s physical, social, emotional and intellectual development. Supports parents’ efforts to fulfill their parental roles and to achieve more self-sufficiency. Ten percent of enrollment is designated for children with disabling conditions. Also provides training and technical assistance, including workshops and post-secondary education, to staff and parents to better prepare them to achieve program goals and objectives.

**EARLY HEAD START**
Provides comprehensive child development and family support services to families with children, under age three, and pregnant women in order to enhance children’s physical, social, emotional and intellectual development. Supports parents’ efforts to fulfill their parental roles and to achieve more self-sufficiency. Ten percent of enrollment is designated for children with disabling conditions. Provides training and technical assistance.

**CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM (CACFP)**
Provides funding for food service costs for the Head Start and Early Head Start Programs.

**COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (CSBG)**
Provides support services for community-based programs and projects, including job readiness, emergency assistance, education, transportation, housing and health and wellness.

**LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP)**
Provides utility assistance payments to home energy suppliers on behalf of eligible households, particularly the elderly, handicapped and families with young children.

**GENERAL TRANSPORTATION**
Provides transportation.

**EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER NATIONAL BOARD PROGRAM – FEMA**
Provides emergency food and shelter, including assistance with rent or mortgage payments.

**EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**
Provides a one-time emergency assistance of food, clothes, shelter and/or prescriptions.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT PROGRAMS**
Provides supplementary assistance/matching requirements.

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**COUNSELING AND REFERRALS**
Provides alternative and additional services that may be available to clients. Also provides services to clients who have been referred by other social agencies.

**HOMELESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**
Provides social and maintenance assistance to transition homeless into independent living.

**HUD COMPREHENSIVE HOUSING COUNSELING**
Provides housing counseling assistance, including mortgage default, pre-purchase activities, consumer education, preoccupation rental, rental delinquency, home ownership and relocation assistance.

**RETIRED AND SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM (RSVP)**
Provides retired and senior volunteers for community service.

**STEP – TRANSPORTATION**
Provides transportation for persons participating in STEP (formerly known as FIND Works).

**5311 RURAL TRANSIT – TRANSPORTATION**
Provides transportation, including operations and capital equipment, in Iberia Parish.

**FOOD BANK**
Provides food distribution in St. Martin Parish.

**EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANTS (ESG) PROGRAM**
Provides transitional housing and/or support for homeless families, as well as families at risk of becoming homeless.

**MEDICAID & LACHIP APPLICATION CENTERS**
Accepts applications for persons wishing to enroll in the Medicaid Program and CHIP. Actual eligibility determinations made by the state.

**FAMILY RESOURCE/PARENTING CENTER**
Provides community education for parents and families in St. Martin Parish.

**HEALTH AND WELLNESS PROGRAM**
Provides health and fitness, including physical and mental.

**TAX ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**
Provides free electronic filing services for federal income tax.

**EQUAL OPPORTUNITY SERVICES**
Provides equal opportunity information and support for the public. Also assists the public in filing discrimination complaints with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and other federal entities.
47 Years of SMILE
Open House: Come On Over to Our Place!

On May 28, 2015, SMILE welcomed the community into its home during Open House at the SMILE Central Office in Lafayette. It was a wonderful evening, providing an opportunity for everyone to celebrate SMILE’s commitment to the community.
Believing in Yourself:

Everyone Rules the World, Especially Our Nerds!
The Louisiana Early Childhood Education Act – Act 3*
To create a comprehensive and integrated delivery system for early childhood care and education to ensure that every child enters kindergarten healthy and ready to learn.

Please Note: SMILE Community Action Agency has been working diligently at national, regional, state and local levels to ensure a positive voice in the future of early childhood development education. The Agency’s Head Start/Early Head Start management, supervised by Director Mary Russell Cobb, has been active on boards and coalitions to ensure that Act 3 will benefit children and families in Louisiana. The Agency supports the following planks of the legislation:

Components of the Act

• Establish a definition of kindergarten readiness aligned with state content standards for elementary and secondary schools.

• Establish performance targets for children under the age of three and academic standards for kindergarten readiness for three- and four-year-old children to be used in publicly-funded early childhood education programs.

• Coordinate with the Department of Children and Family Services and the Department of Health and Hospitals to align the standards for the licensing of child care facilities, including the requirements for participation in the Louisiana Quality Start Child Care Rating System, with the standards established for early childhood education programs.

• Establish a timeline for the creation and implementation of the early childhood care and education network that shall be fully implemented by the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year.

*Current Staff Members

SMILE Head Start/Early Head Start Budget
for the fiscal year ended May 21, 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personnel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fringe Benefits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>$54,500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equipment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supplies</td>
<td>$133,777.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contractual</td>
<td>$38,300.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$1,447,864.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indirect Costs</td>
<td>$564,814.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START*
ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Mary Russell Cobb
Director of Head Start/Early Head Start

Shantele Jones
Executive Secretary

Gaby Modica
Secretary

Rita Landry
Secretary

SPECIALISTS/MENTOR*

Earl Dundas, Jr.
Health/Mental Wellness Specialist

Monica Anthony-Wiltz
Nutrition Services Specialist

Ruth Dugal
Parent Involvement Specialist

Tara A. Gordon
Acting Transition Specialist/Disability Services Specialist

Hermanette George
Family & Community Partnership Specialist

Savannah Lawrence
Transportation/Property Management Specialist

Katrina Dural
Education/Licensing Specialist

Kerri Joseph
Education/Licensing Specialist

Michelle Bogen, Jennifer Jones and Lisa Melancon Mentors

Claudette Lewis
Procurement Fiscal Management Specialist

*Current Staff Members

*Information from Education’s Next Horizon and Louisiana Partnership for Children & Families.
Head Start/Early Head Start Program Components

Family & Community Partnerships
Hermanette T. George, Specialist

The SMILE Head Start/Early Head Start Program served 1,492 children. The figure includes 1,228 Head Start students, ages 3-5, and 264 Early Head Start children, ages 0-3. The latter includes pregnant women. But the need remains great, and both had waiting lists. The Early Head Start waiting list had more than 200 children.

According to program demographics, more than 95% of the children and families spoke English. The remaining spoke Spanish and Vietnamese. Race included Black or African American, Asian, White, Hispanic and Biracial.

SMILE’s Common Enrollment collaborative efforts with the tri-parish Local Education Agencies, known as LEAs, ensured that the neediest families were served, and enrolled in the one of the Network’s Early Childhood programs.

Families entered into Family Partnership Agreements based upon needs, goals, and timelines. Services provided included job training, HiSET referrals, as well as financial, housing, food, utility, and emergency/crisis intervention assistance. Families also received an updated Resource Directory.

More than half of the Family & Community Partnership Associates had a degree, or had acquired a Family Services Credential through the National Head Start Association. Some possessed both.

During the program year, SMILE took pride in its collaboration with the La. Department of Children and Families. The special partnership enabled Head Start personnel to assist families in completing SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) applications and renewals online after the state program experienced budget cuts.

Health/Mental Wellness
Earl A. Dundas, Jr., LPN, Specialist

The Health/Mental Wellness content area emphasized the importance of early identification of health and mental health concerns. Every child received comprehensive health care, including medical, dental, mental health and nutrition services. Parents were assisted with followup services. The Lions Club assisted with vision screening for all children, using the latest screening technology.

The component completed 100% of all health and dental screenings, including speech, vision, hearing, hemoglobin, ages & stages, blood pressure, and a growth assessment. All children maintained up-to-date immunizations.

Screenings identified the following: 1,355 children maintained medical homes. 985 children had access to dental care, 39 children had asthma, 9 children had anemia. 15 children were referred for further vision testing, 5 children were referred for further hearing assessment, 1 child had a high lead blood level, further health consultation, 1 child had a high lead blood level, further hearing assessment, 1 child had a high lead blood level, further health assessment. 1 child had a high lead blood level, further hearing assessment, 1 child had a high lead blood level, further health assessment. 1 child had a high lead blood level, further hearing assessment, 1 child had a high lead blood level, further health assessment. 1 child had a high lead blood level, further hearing assessment.

Overall, some 1,662 children were covered by some form of insurance, including 58 children with private health insurance, 2 children with military insurance, and 323 children with no insurance.

Education/Licensing Services
Katrina Dural, Keri Joseph, Specialists

Working in collaboration with fellow employees ensured success within the component, enhancing both the program curriculum and activities.

During the program year, the Education/Licensing Services component updated center managers on new licensing regulations, provided Early Head Start teachers with website links to encourage growth and development, and attended “How to Conduct a Meeting training.”

The component also distributed supplies and equipment to classrooms, as well as diapers and wipes. Staff ordered supplies, attended disability training, and provided information for parents serving as sitters. In addition, the component inspected information at centers; completed CLASS observations for toddler and Pre-K Network Meetings and the St. Martin Parish Early Childhood Leadership Team Meetings.

The component also completed five new CDA applications for applicants, finished 10 renewal applications for CDA applicants, and shadow-coded with St. Martin Parish Pilot for Toddler CLASS. Other accomplishments included attending the Lafayette Parish Leadership Meetings, completing Teachers Learning and Collaborating sessions with Holy Rosary Head Start, and attending a meeting for Practice Based Coaching and Teachers Learning and Collaborating.

The staff also attended Teaching Strategies Gold Training, Teachers Learning and Collaborating Meeting for Facilitators, and Region VI and the Texas Head Start Association Conference.

Nutrition Services
Monica Anthony-Wiltz, Specialist

Annual report figures reflect the months of August 2014-May 2015 of the USDA Food Reimbursement Program, which the SMILE Head Start/Early Head Start Program participates in. During that time period, Nutrition Services provided 186,902 breakfasts, 186,515 lunches, and 184,246 snacks. The meals were provided for 184 days.

On a monthly basis, the program served an average of 847 participants. This figure included children dropped, added, transferred, or reinstated in the program.

The Nutrition Services provided meals based upon USDA program guidelines, which are administered through the LA Department of Education. Meal modifications were provided for children with special dietary needs whose conditions were diagnosed and confirmed by a health care provider.

The program included introducing all children to multicultural meals and activities.

Letters of concern were sent to parents of children who were overweight, underweight and/or had a hematocrit concern after being tested by staff. The parents were instructed to follow up with their family health care provider for a second opinion.

Some nutrition staff received ServSafe Certification, which is valid for five years, from the National Restaurant Association. Staff also received special training in food preparation, health & sanitation, my plate, fitness, and record keeping.

The training was conducted by Jennifer Guillory, RD, Jane Conley, RD; and Tiffany Williams, RD, LSU Ag Center, and I. As required by USDA, mandatory monitoring was also conducted at all centers.

The component celebrated National Nutrition Month in March by reminding everyone to return to the basics of healthful eating. Nutrition education was discussed with the children. Every month, Nutrition newsletters were sent home to share with the parents. Included in the newsletter were activities for parents and children to do together.

Components
Health/Mental Wellness

Earl A. Dundas, Jr., LPN, Specialist

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Parent Involvement
Ruth Dugal, Specialist

To create opportunities for parents to form partnerships and collaborations, four categories of parent participation were imperative, including participation in the decision-making process; participation in classroom as employees/volunteers; participation in parent-developed activities; and participation with children at home in cooperation with center staff.

To ensure parents were provided positive experiences in these areas, the Parent Involvement component served as the catalyst for establishing and sustaining family relationship, including entry into the program, opportunities for participation, and supporting their personal decisions as primary caregivers of their children.

Based on these objectives, the following were accomplished: Early Head Start “Fathers Are Fantastic” Day; distribution of “ASK Day” letters, encouraging families to ask about firearms in homes of friends/acquaintances, prior to allowing their children in these homes; Parent Orientation Workshop; election of Parent Center Committee Officers and Policy Council Representatives; collaboration with Training/Technical Assistance on “How to Conduct a Meeting” Training for Committee Officers and Policy Council members; collaboration with First-Time Homebuyers Program; collaboration with Family Tree Healthy Start Program to focus on lowering infant mortality rates; HiSET referrals for parents; distribution of books and participation for Literacy Week; distribution of information on proper car seat installation in collaboration with LA Passenger Safety Task Force; distribution of information on affordable health coverage, including how to apply; distribution of tips and suggestions to enhance parental in-kind and volunteer opportunities.

Transportation Services/Property Management
Savannah Lawrence, Specialist

Due to the uniqueness of the SMILE Head Start Program serving both rural and urban areas, transportation has been a challenging process. It becomes necessary for the component to be prepared at all times. The program operated 14 buses in the tri-parish area. During the program year, an as-needed transportation system was installed, which enabled more drivers to become available. This ensured full services for everyone.

In the property management section, SMILE employed six maintenance workers who maintained the program’s facilities.

The maintenance workers served as full-time employees. With a wealth of experience, they were able to handle work orders, including carpentry, flooring, roofing, welding and mechanical needs. Other maintenance has included installing fencing, walkways, playground equipment, storage buildings, ramps, etc. Their action resulted in clean and safe environments for the many families served.

Transition Services/Disability Services
Effie Jones, Specialist; Tara A. Gordon, Acting Specialist

The Transition process had three phases: Before Entry, After Entry, and Before Leaving Head Start/Early Head Start. The first phase, which is considered the Before Entry phase, involved students and parents attending a pre-socialization activity in which students met their new teacher and future classmates, and parents met their child’s teacher, other parents and school staff who would assist them and their child.

The second phase, After Entry, included parents attending mini-training sessions each month prior to or after the Parent Center Committee Meeting was conducted. These trainings taught parents how to ready themselves, as well as their child, for the next phase of learning. The Before Leaving phase involved opportunities for students and parents to visit the next learning institution their child would attend before entry into Kindergarten. Additionally, parents were given literature, and attended in-service trainings, workshops and other activities that enhanced their knowledge on assisting their child and family in being lifelong learners. Students transitioned from SMILE Head Start to Kindergarten in the tri-parish area.

The component met its 10% disability mandate. This was accomplished by all staff working together to serve our children and families. Everyone in Head Start and Early Head Start participated in recruiting special needs children. The program accepted mild, moderate, and severe special needs children. All were aware that students were serviced in the least restrictive environment. The LEA and other Community Partners also assisted by referring and recruiting special needs children.

The program’s special needs children and parents received equipment and services as required by the IEP/IFSP. Disability Services purchased items to enhance services for the children and families. Some parents took advantage of attending various Autism and Special Needs Workshops conducted in the area, and underwritten by the Disability Services.
SMILE Board of Directors*

Rosella Viltz, President
*Iberia Parish, Low-Income Sector

Vacant, Vice-President
*Lafayette Parish

Vonda LeBlanc, Treasurer
*St. Martin Parish, Public Sector

Geri Brown, Secretary
*Iberia Parish, Private Sector

Thomas Guidry, Parliamentarian
*St. Martin Parish, Private Sector

Ex-Officio Members of the Board

Lise Romero, Head Start/Early Head Start Policy Council Chairperson

Sherial Conner Scott, Head Start/Early Head Start Policy Council Treasurer

St. Martin Parish

Low-Income Sector
Christopher Bourda
Scody A. Prade

Public Sector
Richard Potier

Private Sector
Zachary Landry

Iberia Parish

Low-Income Sector
Wallace Ozenne

Public Sector
Madelyn Dugas
Cassandra Watson

Private Sector
Deidre Ledbetter

Lafayette Parish

Low-Income Sector
Fernando Perez-Viart

Public Sector
John Billiot
Vacant

Private Sector
Ken Judice
Grace Mayfield

SMILE Central Office
501 St. John Street
Lafayette, LA 70501

(337) 234-3272 • www.smilecaa.org • (337) 234-3274/Fax • TDD 711

www.facebook.com/smilecommunityactionagency

St. Martin Community Action Center
2097 Terrace Rd.
St. Martinville, LA 70582
(337) 394-6013

Iberia Community Action Center
722 Walton St.
New Iberia, LA 70560
(337) 365-8151

Lafayette Community Action Center
501 St. John St.
Lafayette, LA 70501
(337) 232-6810

Head Start Central Office
306 S. Theater St.
St. Martinville, LA 70582
(337) 394-6071

RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program)
501 St. John St.
Lafayette, LA 70501
(337) 234-3272, Ext. 252

Transportation
722 Walton St.
New Iberia, LA 70560
(337) 369-9387

*Current Board of Directors

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