

— **Community Drug & Alcohol Council (Leashia Scrivner, executive Director: 850-434-2724)**

CDAC is the primary substance-abuse and violence-prevention community resource in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties.

CDAC offers programs, community support and collaboration to address drug and alcohol abuse, tobacco, mental health issues and violence both in schools and communities.

CDAC's Project Boost serves children and some parents in Oakwood Terrace and Forest Creek apartments and Ebonwood Community Center.

Programs under Project Boost include:

° **Incredible Years**

Designed to increase school readiness for children ages 3 to 4 years old by reducing challenging behaviors and increasing social, emotional learning and self-controls. At Forest Creek and Oakwood Terrace, eight to 10 children and their parents meet in 10-to-12 week sessions in each site location.

° **Early Risers**

Serves up to 15 youths in after-school and summer programs at Oakwood Terrace and offers home visits and school collaborations, focusing on social and reading skills as well as readiness in school.

° **PATTS (Peaceful Alternatives for Tough Situations)**

PATTS is an evidence-based program for up to 40 children from kindergarten to 5th grade. The primary goal is to increase learning skills, reduce aggressive behavior and increase positive conflict resolution. CDAC also offers parent/child support through Prevention Education.

Programs include:

° **Incredible Years Baby Program:**

The evidence-based program is offered to parents and their infants (0 to 12 months) in eight 2-hour sessions. Parents learn about, among other things, brain development and attachment, developmental milestones, providing appropriate stimulation,

safety and support systems. Each session has space for up to 10 parents and their infants.

° **Incredible Years Basic Program:**

For parents of children 2 to 8 years old, this program strengthens parent-child interactions and attachment to help reduce harsh discipline while fostering parent's ability to promote children's social, emotional and language development. Up to 12 parents attend 10 weekly sessions.

CDAC contracts with a behavioral health management entity, BBCBC, for prevention services, using a combination of state and federal block grants.

— **Children's Home Society (Tim Putman, executive director: 850-266-2701)**

CHS provides a comprehensive range of services to create healthy children and strong families, including adoption, early learning, child and family counseling, foster care, family stabilization and support, parent education and advocacy. The prevention programs use research-based methods to break the cycle of abuse and neglect of children.

For families participating actively in the Perinatal Program until their child turns 3 years old, CHS reports a 100 percent success rate for abuse-free homes even a year after they graduate from the program.

Another program, Healthy Families, provides voluntary in-home services to parents with young children. Of children in families that complete the program, the goal is for 95 percent to be free from any findings of maltreatment during the 12 months following completion.

And in partnership with Healthy Start, they work with expectant mothers to ensure they receive prenatal care and education to safely raise their children; the goal is that 85 percent of pregnant women participating prenatally will give

birth to a healthy baby as defined by birth weight of 5.5 pounds.

Services provided include:

***Adoption Support Team** provides visitation and other services for parents and siblings who are separated through foster care as well as family therapy and case management for adoptive families (204 served in Escambia County).

***Teenspace** provides group instruction for pregnant and parenting students. Children participating in the Teenage Parenting Program receive home-visiting services with a focus on literacy and child development. (107 served).

Family Visitation Center provides a safe, neutral environment where children and families build positive relationships. (67 served).

***Community School** offers extended service school at Weis Elementary in Pensacola. The comprehensive service includes parent and community engagement, after-school activities and health. (518 served; 100 served in After-School program, with a capacity of 120).

***Healthy Families** provide home-visiting services that strengthen families, promote positive parent-child relationships and improve the health and development of children. Service is available for low-income pregnant mothers and their children up to 5 years old. (Serves up to 175 families a year. It has two family assessment workers who make the initial contact, and eight family support workers who perform the home visits.

— Community Action Program's Head Start/Early Head Start (Doug Brown, executive director: 850-438-4021, Ext. 114)

***Head Start** supports young children of low-income families by providing a range of developmental and educational

services.

Children may apply for Head Start at any time during the school year on or after their third birthday. Before this age, children may be eligible for Early Head Start.

The Head Start and Early Head Start programs are funded through the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services. It's free for children from families who meet federal income guidelines or other qualifications. For example, a family of three with annual income of \$20,160 would qualify.

Head Start is funded to provide services for 935 children, and 80 participate in Early Head Start, including pregnant mothers. Head Start sites in Escambia are: Bratt; Century, Ensley (Title I); Ferry Pass, Gibson (Headquarters); Gonzalez Court, Langley, Lincoln Park, Molino; Montclair (Title I); Moreno Court; Myrtle Grove; O.J. Semmes (Title I); Oakcrest; Pine Meadow; Pleasant Grove; and Sherwood.

***Early Head Start** provides comprehensive child development services for eligible infants, toddlers up to age 3 and expectant mothers. Early Head Start offers home-based and center-based services. Once a child reaches 3 years old, parents and guardians may apply for their child to attend Head Start.

In-home visits are for non-working parents with children ages 0 to 3. The program serves 38 infants and toddlers in Escambia County. Home visit workers make a house call once a week to non-working parents. Twice a month, the program brings parents to a center with their child in a Parent Socialization Program to help parents acquire skills, get training and support in child-rearing. From seven to 14 parents participate in the Parent Socialization program at A.A. Dixon Early Head Start. Early Head Start identifies goals for school readiness and set goals for learning for each child, working with families in their homes and through daily routines to prepare children for

school.

Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten program. (Bruce Watson, executive director: 850-607-7620)

A constitutional amendment passed by Florida voters in 2002 required a voluntary prekindergarten program for all 4-year-olds by 2005 to help prepare them for kindergarten and build the foundation for success in school.

Parents can enroll eligible children (age 4 by Sept. 1) in a free VPK program. Public, private and faith-based providers may be eligible to deliver the program if they meet the minimum standards required by law.

The Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County contracts with childcare providers to offer VPK services. In the 2016-17 school year, 2,119 children are enrolled in VPK programs in Escambia County. The majority of children who attend VPK in the county do so through private childcare centers or centers affiliated with faith-based providers.

Altogether, there are 87 VPK providers in Escambia County this school year.

The Escambia County School District hosts VPK classes at 14 sites, some run in cooperation with Community Action Program's Head Start sites. About 500 of the 2,119 children in VPK are enrolled in the School District's VPK sites.

VPK is divided into two programs — a school-year program that is typically funded for three hours a day of instruction time, and a summer program that is funded for 7 ½ hours a day.

To attend a public-school based VPK a child must live in the attendance zone of a school that offers VPK. Those sites include: Jim Allen, Bratt (a Head Start partnership), Ensley (head start), Global Learning Academy, Lincoln Park Primary

School, Molino Park, Montclair (Head Start), McMillan Pre-K Center, Navy Point, Semmes (Head Start), Sherwood, Warrington (Head Start), Weis (Head Start), and West Pensacola elementary schools.

— **Early Steps (Deborah Goldberg, executive director, 850-416-7656)**

Early Steps serves families with infants and toddlers from birth to 3 years old, who have developmental delays or an established condition likely to result in a developmental delay. The goal is to connect families and caregivers with services to enhance their child's development so that children will be ready to succeed when they start school. Services are provided at no cost to families.

Each child gets an Individualized Family Support Plans that meets his or he needs. Families and caregivers also receive support to develop the skills and confidence they need to help their children learn and develop.

In Escambia County, a staff of 20 serves more than 600 children. Eligibility is determined through a screening process. Early Steps coordinate with community agencies and other providers for the delivery of needed supports and services.

— **Escambia County Healthy Start Coalition (Theresa Chmiel, executive director: 850-696-2291)**

Healthy Start was enacted by state legislation in 1991 with the goals of reducing infant mortality, reducing the number of low birth weight babies, and improving health and developmental outcomes for all Florida's babies.

Healthy Start is dedicated to improving the health of pregnant women and babies. It relies on local community input to plan, implement, and evaluate a wide-ranging system of care for pregnant women and children, up to age 3, who might be at

risk for a poor pregnancy or birth outcome.

In 2016, Healthy Start served 2,962 infants, children and mothers. A staff of 14 nurses, or care coordinators, makes home visits to mothers and their children, ranging from twice monthly to every two months, based on needs assessments. Eligibility is based on screening scores and other identified risk factors. Services include parenting education, counseling, referrals for nutrition counseling, among other things.

90Works (formerly Families Count) (Cate Jordan, executive director: 855-909-6757)

90Works is a home-visiting program designed to assist parents in raising healthy, well-rounded, academically successful children.

The goal is to prevent child abuse and neglect by providing services to pregnant mothers or in the first three months of a child's birth through home visits.

Healthy Families is an evidence-based home-visiting model that started under the umbrella of Healthy Families Florida in Tallahassee in 1991.

90Works offers benefits related to Affordable Health Care, Medicaid, medical foster care for children in medical foster homes. Social workers and nurses work with foster families and biological family to help meet medical needs and enable them to get their child back.

Large majority of referrals come from Healthy Start and in recent years from Baptist Hospital. Participation also comes from self-referrals and community agencies and organizations. Screened by Healthy Start or get contacted from an agency Resource coordinators perform assessment looking for Mental health, domestic violence, history of parents, prenatal care, education, parenting skills.

Participation is voluntary and free. Children can remain in the

in program until the age of 5. They can graduate between ages 3 to 5 years old.

It serves 130 families with three resource coordinators and seven family support workers. Each family support worker serves a minimum of 15 and up to 25 families

Family visits are one hour a week for the first six months after birth. The visits decrease to one hour every other week to one hour a month to once a quarter until graduation, depending on assessed need.

Home visits focus on safety, coping with crying, bonding, parent-child interaction, using Growing Great Kids curriculum. Besides preventing abuse, the goal is to get young children ready for preschool and kindergarten.