Parents as Teachers
Child Care Training
Child Care Scholarships

Annual Report
2016-17

OUR VISION:
Every South Carolina child will arrive at kindergarten ready to succeed.
Marlboro County First Steps
Randall S. Johnson
Executive Director

The Marlboro County First Steps (MCFS) Partnership continues to be a quality contributor to the Marlboro Community. This can especially be noticed in terms of childcare and parenting. This past year, we worked with 19 families who may not receive other parenting services. MCFS continues to be the lead county agency that works with childcare facilities throughout the community. We stress quality and efficient learning centers as opposed to babysitting services.

Marlboro County First Steps increases the quality of services for children 0-5 and their families

We collaborated with the Marlboro County School District Family Literacy for our Parents As Teachers parenting program. Through this program as well as our childcare scholarship program, we have been able to assure that some of the families with the greatest needs in Marlboro County receive help that they may otherwise not get. Also parents are required to be actively involved with their children.

By The Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>SC</th>
<th>Marlboro County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children Under Five</td>
<td>293,134</td>
<td>1,498</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children In Poverty</td>
<td>24.4%</td>
<td>40.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Graders Scoring “Does Not Meet” Standard in Reading</td>
<td>22.2%</td>
<td>35.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma</td>
<td>15.0%</td>
<td>29.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Since inception, Marlboro County First Steps has leveraged $867,280 from sources outside state government. That’s $.29 for every dollar received.

373 hours of support and guidance were provided to 19 families in our Parents As Teachers Program.

MCFS collaborated with S.C. Child Care Resource & Referral Network to provide 4 quality trainings for our Early Education providers

Total Children Served in FY17: 97
Each of the six color blocks of the First Steps logo represents a core area of service, outlining our comprehensive strategy to prepare children for long-term school success.

With measurable outcomes across each of its six school readiness strategy areas, First Steps is getting results.

**Healthy Start**
We begin with a focus on providing a healthy start to life. This includes prenatal and post-partum services for both mother and baby. In 2007, First Steps collaborated with key philanthropic and agency partners to bring Nurse-Family Partnership to SC having a significant impact on reducing premature births and Medicaid costs.

**Family Strengthening**
Our home visitation strategies, such as Parents as Teachers, Parent-Child Home and Early Steps to School Success, are helping parents understand their responsibilities to care for and be positive models for their children. As a result of First Steps’ intervention and parenting support, 66% of clients initially assessed at “low” levels of parenting have achieved moderate or high levels of parenting skill.

**Early Intervention**
According to recent federal evaluations, outcomes for clients participating in Baby Net early intervention programs are above national averages. Baby Net matches the special needs of infants and toddlers who have disabilities and/or developmental delays with customized, community-based resources.

**Quality Childcare**
Quality childcare starts with quality childcare providers. Our quality enhancement and training strategies lead to improved teacher-student interaction, which research shows has a significant impact on a child’s development and success in school.

**Early Education**
Private-public partnerships through First Steps 4K have led to significant cost efficiencies in the delivery of publicly funded 4K. One recent analysis suggests First Steps is achieving comparable results, without the need for costly capital construction, for 80 cents on the dollar.

**School Transition**
Each of the corresponding blocks of services leads ultimately to the goal of transitioning children successfully to school. Programs like Countdown to Kindergarten and From Day One to Grade One are ultimately preparing children for school success.

Based on the needs of our community, Marlboro County First Steps focuses its investments in Family Strengthening and Quality Childcare.
Parents play a critical role in their child’s development.

Program Description
Parents as Teachers (PAT) is an evidence-based home visiting program designed to build strong communities, thriving families and children who are healthy, safe and ready to succeed. PAT services include:

1. **Personal Visits** at least twice monthly
2. **Monthly Group Connections** with other PAT families
3. **Screenings and Assessments** to identify developmental concerns
4. **Connections to Outside Resources** that families may need to succeed

Marlboro County First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among our PAT families:

- 91% ... live in poverty
- 1% ... didn't graduate from high school

“Since I was pregnant, I have been involved in the Marlboro County First Steps PAT program. It really helped me because I was a first time mother.”

Parent, Kennita Graham

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**PAT by the Numbers 2016-17**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Families Served</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children Served</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Home Visits</td>
<td>256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours Spent Serving Families</td>
<td>373</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average gain, Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale (pre-to-post):</td>
<td>3.84/2.56 3.8/2.60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

- ✔ Averaged 2 home visits per family
- ✔ Parent Educators conducted 256 Home visits to families in the program
- ✔ Improved parenting practices with a .4 change in pre – post KIPS scores
- ✔ Improved literacy skills by providing over 100 books to children enrolled in our program

Thank you to our partners!

Marlboro County DSS
State ABC Child Care
Marian Wright Edelman Library

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Marlboro County First Steps
301 Jefferson Street, Room 105
Bennettsville, SC 29512
Those who care for young children need high-quality, accessible, and affordable professional development.

Program Description
High-quality child care hinges on high-quality professional development that meets the needs of the local child care workforce.

First Steps-sponsored training is certified through the SC Center for Child Care Career Development and includes topics in the areas of nutrition, health and safety, curriculum, child guidance, professional development and program administration. Best practices in training include not only the training itself, but follow-up in the classroom.

Child Care Training Sponsored by Marlboro County First Steps, 2016-17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Sessions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Childhood Building Blocks</td>
<td>One Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taking Anecdotal Notes</td>
<td>One Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caring Classroom</td>
<td>One session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adventures in Learning Center Play</td>
<td>One Session</td>
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Training by the Numbers, 2016-17

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Training Attendance</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Teachers and Directors Served</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Training Sessions Offered</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This year, our Training program provided:

✓ 13 early childhood staff with high quality training
✓ 10 hours of certified training hours for staff to meet annual re-certification requirements
✓ 8 follow-up visits with training participants to help put training into practice

Thank you to our partners!

Marlboro County School District
South Carolina Child Care Resource and Referral (SC-CCRR)
SC-CCCCD
Marian Wright Edelman Library

“As a family home child care provider inexpensive quality trainings really helps us to get hours”
Sharon Morrison, Morrison’s Footprints

Childcare training, April 2017
Too many families in Marlboro County cannot afford quality care for their children.

**Program Description**

Access to quality child care is essential for children while away from their primary caregivers. Yet, of those families income-eligible for child care assistance in South Carolina, only a small fraction receive it due to lack of funds. In the absence of nurturing and consistently available family, friends or neighbors, parents are faced with few - or no – affordable care options.

Marlboro County First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among our scholarship families:

- 95% ... live in poverty
- 1% ... didn't graduate from high school
- 1% ... were teen parents
- 2% ... had developmental delays

In addition to regular monitoring of child care providers that receive First Steps scholarships, First Steps conducts at least one developmental screening each year with scholarship children and connects families to needed services within the community.

1. Each one of the participants in our program who receive a scholarship must also participate in the parenting program.
2. Every child who receives a scholarship also receives books

**Scholarships by the Numbers, 2016-17**

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children Served</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providers Served</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This year, our Scholarship program:

- Provided 12 children with scholarship assistance so their parents could work or attend school
- Identified and addressed 1 potential developmental delay among scholarship children
- All families who received childcare scholarships were also participants in the Parenting Program

**Thank you to our partners!**

- State Advocacy for Better Childcare (ABC)
- Marian Wright Edelman Library

“I’ve been blessed to receive a voucher through Marlboro County First Steps, this has allowed me to receive quality care at a reasonable cost”

Kay Emanuel, Parent
Total 2016-17 Expenditures: $239,696

State Funds Leveraged in 2016-17*: 27%

*Percentage of state dollars matched by additional federal, private, and/or in-kind funds

2016-17 Expenditures by Strategy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy</th>
<th>State $</th>
<th>Federal $</th>
<th>Private $</th>
<th>In-Kind $</th>
<th>Total $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parents as Teachers</td>
<td>$54,245</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$21,025</td>
<td>$75,270</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child Care Training</td>
<td>$23,608</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
<td>$27,108</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child Care Scholarships</td>
<td>$35,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$7,000</td>
<td>$42,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Support</td>
<td>$51,280</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$13,900</td>
<td>$65,180</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative Support</td>
<td>$24,737</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$5,400</td>
<td>$100</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</td>
<td>$188,870</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$50,825</td>
<td>$239,695</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Unaudited numbers for the period July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017

Since inception, Marlboro County First Steps has leveraged $867,280 from sources outside of state government. That’s 28.08% Leveraged for every state dollar.
Marlboro County Week of the Young Child Celebration

Marlboro County First Steps celebrated the Week of the Young Child by going out to read & deliver books to children in our childcare centers. We also hosted a few head start classes who came to our office.

Thank you to our partners!

Funding Support
State of South Carolina: $200,000
(through South Carolina First Steps)

In-Kind Support
Marlboro County School District
Marian Wright Edelman Library
Parkers Used Cars

Support Marlboro County First Steps today through a tax-deductible donation, or volunteer.
Community Impact

Marlboro County First Steps Parent Group Meeting
Marlboro County Family Day, Literacy & other events

Marlboro County First Steps, Marlboro County School District, and Marian Wright Edelman Library continue to collaborate for the children and families of Marlboro County by hosting events throughout the year.

MCFS Board Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Board Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shirley Jones, Chair</td>
<td>Bennettsville/Cheraw Area Cooperative Ministries</td>
<td>Faith Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margaret Quick, Past Chair</td>
<td>Family Literacy Coordinator, Marlboro County School</td>
<td>Family, Education, Training &amp; Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loretta Brown</td>
<td>Chesterfield-Marlboro EOC</td>
<td>Agency Designee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nidra Ellison</td>
<td>Student FDTC</td>
<td>Parent of a Young Child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kennita Graham</td>
<td>Teacher/Blenheim Head Start</td>
<td>Pre-K through Primary Educator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bobbi Jo Grooms</td>
<td>Director, Marian Wright Edelman Library</td>
<td>Library Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brenda McRae</td>
<td>Assistant Pastor, Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church</td>
<td>Faith Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nichelle Nichols</td>
<td>Musician, Trinity United Methodist Church</td>
<td>Family, Education, Training &amp; Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marlon Prince</td>
<td>Truancy, Marlboro County School District</td>
<td>School District Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elaine Purvis</td>
<td>Director, Write At Home Daycare</td>
<td>Pre-K through Primary Educator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robin Robertson</td>
<td>The Peterkin Group</td>
<td>Business Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geneice Stewart</td>
<td>Marlboro County DSS</td>
<td>Agency Designee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renata Stubbs</td>
<td>Care South Carolina</td>
<td>Health Provider</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margaret Victor</td>
<td>Early Education Teacher</td>
<td>Early Childhood Education</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Getting children ready for school.

The Goals of First Steps

(1) provide parents with access to the support they might seek and want to strengthen their families and to promote the optimal development of their preschool children;
(2) increase comprehensive services so children have reduced risk for major physical, developmental, and learning problems;
(3) promote high-quality preschool programs that provide a healthy environment that will promote normal growth and development;
(4) provide services so all children receive the protection, nutrition, and health care needed to thrive in the early years of life so they arrive at school ready to succeed; and
(5) mobilize communities to focus efforts on providing enhanced services to support families and their young children so as to enable every child to reach school healthy and ready to succeed.

Baby Net in Marlboro County:
LOCAL SPOE PHONE #843-634-6676
http://scfirststeps.org/babynet/

[I CAN] is First Steps’ public awareness campaign for school readiness, in support of the state’s Profile of the Ready Kindergartener. Includes resources for parents, providers and communities to learn what they can do to support school readiness.

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