

LAFOURCHE PARISH HEAD START Annual Report to the Public, 2011

LPHS Mission Statement: We produce self-sufficiency and self-esteem by educating children and families today for a better tomorrow.

Head Start is a national preschool program which provides educational and social opportunities to nurture the healthy development of children. Under provisions contained in the *Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007*, Head Start programs are now required to make available to the public a report published at least once in each fiscal year that discloses the following information from the most recently concluded fiscal year, except that reporting such information shall not reveal personally identifiable information about an individual child or parent:

FUNDING:

Budget Period: January 1-December 31

Program (school) Year: August 2010-May 2011

FY11: Lafourche Parish Head Start received a total of \$2,584,404 allocated as follows:

Head Start Program Operations:	2, 555,972
Head Start Training and Technical Assistance:	28,432

BUDGETARY EXPENDITURES FOR FY 2011:

PERSONNEL	\$1,637,725
FRINGE	\$ 552,166
TRAVEL	\$ 7520
EQUIPMENT	\$ 0
SUPPLIES	\$ 35,800
CONTRACTUAL	\$ 100,000
CONSTRUCTION	\$ 0
OTHER	\$ 230,281

**TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVED,
2010-11 SCHOOL YEAR:**

LPHS is funded to serve 292 children. Actual number of children served was 330.

ENROLLMENT, 2010-2011:

Average monthly enrollment was 99.25 %

Percentage of eligible children served:

- 80 % at or below poverty guidelines
- 11.21 % 101% to 130% above poverty guidelines
- 7.57 % above 130% of poverty guidelines

RESULTS OF THE MOST RECENT FEDERAL REVIEW:

All Head Start programs undergo an extensive Federal Review once every three years. The review focuses primarily on the program's compliance with all applicable federal, state and local requirements. During the month of January 2010, LPHS went through the most recent triennial Federal review. The review determined that this was a strong program with no deficiencies. Two changes were required: (1) the Policy Council will review the financial audit for the parish when it is finalized, and (2) a statement will be added to the Personnel Manual specifically referring to the compensation and termination of the Head Start Director being approved by the Lafourche Parish Council. These two changes have been implemented.

RESULTS OF THE MOST RECENT FINANCIAL AUDIT:

The most recent financial audit for Lafourche Parish Government contained no findings or non-compliances.

**PERCENTAGE OF ENROLLED CHILDREN THAT RECEIVED
MEDICAL AND DENTAL EXAMS IN THE 2010-2011 SCHOOL
YEAR:**

111 % of enrolled children received medical exams

110 % of enrolled children received dental exams

INFORMATION ABOUT PARENT INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES, 2010-2011:

Parents are the most important people in their child's world. Thus, LPHS takes an active role in the fostering of parent education and involvement. Our program provides a variety of opportunities for parents to become involved throughout the program year.

Parents are engaged in a parent night orientation where they are introduced to the many opportunities to learn and participate in the program. During orientation, parents are presented with extensive resources provided in our parent handbook to begin the process of helping families connect with what they need to aid them in the health, safety, education, and empowerment of their family. These resources are updated annually with the input of the Family Services Specialists.

Parent involvement occurs most commonly through home visits or as parents spend time in Head Start classrooms. Parents also have the opportunity to be involved in activities such as:

- Parent Committee meetings;
- Parent-teacher conferences;
- Open House;
- Fall Family Fest;
- Parent Orientation activities;
- Let's Get Acquainted Days;
- Program quarterly committees such as (1) Education/Transition, (2) Health Advisory, (3) Family Involvement, (4) Facilities/Licensing, (5) Program Governance/Fiscal, and (6) ERSEA;
- Policy Council meetings;
- Volunteering in various program activities;
- Interview teams to hire new staff;
- The LPHS Self-Assessment process;
- Male Involvement activities.
- Selection Criteria Committee

LAFOURCHE PARISH HEAD START'S EFFORTS TO PREPARE CHILDREN FOR KINDERGARTEN, 2010-2011:

The LPHS program utilizes Creative Curriculum, a research-based, nationally recognized curriculum, which outlines goals in the eight domains of learning including:

- social emotional development,
- approaches to learning,
- literacy,
- language development,
- math,
- science,
- creative arts,
- physical health/ development,

and guides staff in the provision of materials and activities to support these goals in preparing children for kindergarten. Experiences are provided in classrooms and homes to meet the child's individual needs and stimulate learning in all developmental areas, with strong emphasis on language/cognitive skills, early literacy skills, and the development of positive social and learning skills. Health educational activities in the curriculum include daily tooth brushing, monthly nutrition activities, and other activities designed to encourage development of healthy habits and reduce fear and anxiety related to preventive care exams.

LPHS staff utilize an individualized observation and planning process for each child/family. Staff assess, with the parent, the child's developmental strengths and needs across the eight domains of learning. Information is obtained through informal interviews with the parent, on-going CC.Net Assessment tools, and, if applicable, information from a child's Individual Family Services Plan or Individualized Education Plan. Information from these sources is then used to individualize experiences and services for children and families, and to create ongoing plans to address the child's developmental objectives and goals. LPHS also provides information to parents of children with special needs, such as parent-friendly articles describing the special education process, individualized education plans, parents' rights in special education, and community resources.

LPHS staff, parents and collaborating agencies plan activities to support children's transition to kindergarten. Such opportunities may include

attending school functions or libraries, going on classroom visits, and meeting with kindergarten teachers, principals, and special educators. Lafourche Parish Head Start has a collaborative agreement with Lafourche Parish Public Schools that promotes a seamless transition from Head Start to kindergarten.