

TO: Juvenile Welfare Board Members

FROM: James E. Mills, Executive Director 
Krista I. Winn, Director, Quality Management and Evaluation 

Neighborhood Family Center Outcome Study – Phase II Interim Report (FY 1999-00)

This is one of several reports being produced as part of the Neighborhood Family Center (NFC) Outcome Study. It represents the semi-annual evaluation report of Phase II of this initiative and reflects the evaluation activities conducted during October 1, 1999 to April 15, 2000. The overall purpose of the NFC Outcome Study is to design, implement, and refine an evaluation plan for the NFC Initiative that will link the measurable objectives of activities, strategies, support services, and programs to interim outcomes as well as to long-term community-based outcomes. Phase II of this study involves the implementation and refinement of the evaluation design, instrumentation, data collection, and preparation for the first year of outcome results from October 2000-2001. The multi-year evaluation is being conducted by Rowlette Research Associates.

The NFC Initiative was developed as a result of decisions following a referendum passed by Pinellas County voters in 1990. Shortly thereafter, the Juvenile Welfare Board (JWB) produced the "Neighborhood and Community Development Initiative 1991-1996" and established a plan that provided for the development of NFCs throughout Pinellas county. This Initiative was based on a nationally successful model grounded in a body of research indicating a need to address the wholeness of individuals and family through integrated, comprehensive strategies. An underlying assumption of this approach is that by strengthening families and communities, the conditions that contribute to poor youth outcomes, such as substance abuse, violence, and teen pregnancy, will be reduced, and that over time, community indicators related to youth outcomes will show improvement.

The current report, representing an interim description of Phase II of this study, provides a brief summary of the research objectives of Phase I as well as a summary of evaluation findings to date. Key evaluation activities initiated during this time period include further development of NFC program specifications, negotiation of measurable objectives, and the development of instrumentation and data collection protocols that will be used in the outcome study. To date, measurable objectives have been finalized and some instrumentation has been developed and translated in Spanish (copies of which can be found in the full report). On-going evaluation activities include the development and/or refinement and translation in Spanish of additional instrumentation that will be used in the outcome study, provision of technical assistance for program development, development of an evaluation implementation manual for each NFC, and the scheduling of meetings with each NFC to prepare for data collection, development of additional instrumentation, and procedures for on-site record keeping and documentation.

This is a multi-year study and the findings reported herein reflect evaluation activities related primarily to the refinement of the evaluation design as well as preparation by the NFCs for the first year of outcome results. Phase III of this study, beginning on October 1, 2000, will represent the implementation phase of the evaluation process. Evaluation activities during this phase will center on the collection of outcome and process measures that will be tracked through JWB's Services and Activities Management Information System (SAMIS).

This report provides useful information for NFC stakeholders, including NFC staff and boards,

participants and community members, as well as JWB staff and board members. The information contained in this report may also be useful to others engaged in implementing neighborhood development activities. Additional details about this project may be found in the attached Executive Summary. A copy of the full report is available upon request.

Staff Resource: Julie Goetz

Executive Summary

This is an interim report of Phase II of the Neighborhood Family Center outcome study. The report reflects the evaluation activities conducted during October 1999 to April 17, 2000. The outcome study is designed in two Phases. Phase I, March 23 to September 30, 1999, is centered on pre-evaluation planning and the development of an overall framework for a comprehensive evaluation design for the 9 existing Neighborhood Family Centers. Phase II, October 1, 1999 to September 30, 2000, involves the implementation and refinement of the evaluation design, instrumentation, data collection, and preparation for the first year of outcome results from October 2000-2001.

The purpose of the Neighborhood outcome study is to design, implement, and refine an evaluation plan for the Neighborhood Family Center Initiative that will link the measurable objectives of activities, strategies, support services, and programs, to interim outcomes and, over time, to community social indicators.

Section I, of the report provides a brief summary of the Neighborhood Family Center initiative and the research objectives of Phase I.

In **Section II**, evaluation questions are presented for the period. Current research activities undertaken during this period--during October 1999 to April 2000--are presented in **Table 2**, and finally projected evaluation research activities and timetables for the next five months are presented.

Appendices to the report include **Appendix A: Knowledge of Infant Development Inventory** in two versions in both English and Spanish; **Appendix B: Neighborhood Family Center governance survey**; and **Appendix C: Neighborhood Family Center Evaluation Implementation Manual for Child Development Programs** is provided as a separate manual.