

## Regular Meeting 5/8/03

TO: Juvenile Welfare Board Members

FROM: James E. Mills, Executive Director   
Browning Spence, Director of Strategic and Community Planning   
Judith Simpson, Program Manager 

### Pinellas Safe Start Semi-Annual Update

Pinellas Safe Start, with JWB as the lead agency, is one of eleven demonstration sites to be awarded continuation funding for Phase III (November 1, 2002-October 31, 2003) of the national Safe Start Initiative, funded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). The overall purpose of this initiative is to increase community capacity to prevent and reduce the impact of violence on young children and their families through changes in systems, policy and practice. Continued funding through October, 2005 is anticipated.

Here are highlights to date for FY 02-03, and planned activities for the next period:

#### Accomplishments

- First anniversary of the Safe Start Partnership Center celebrated in April.
- Training and outreach provided by the Safe Start Partnership Center
  - 456 provider staff and volunteers from multiple agencies and community organizations received an orientation to issues of children exposed to violence, and services available.
  - 95 provider staff completed a three hour training about working with children exposed to violence and their families.
  - [www.pinellassafestart.org](http://www.pinellassafestart.org) - Web site launched – 274 contacts during first three months.
- Services to children and families provided by the Safe Start Partnership Center
  - 652 children exposed to violence identified through enhanced screening, and information provided to families
  - 18 families (18 adults, 38 children) received intensive, individualized assessment, crisis counseling, and assistance to access other community services
  - Case consultation regarding intervention plans for 17 children was provided to other community agencies.
  - 93 calls for information about children exposed to violence were handled by 211Tampa Bay Cares.
  - Safe Start coordinated with Neighborhood Family Centers to reach parents and caregivers of young children in selected neighborhoods with information about the developmental impact of violence on young children.
- The Safe Start Leadership Council and the Community Alliance began joint meetings for increased coordination and planning.
- Recommendations from Social Marketing study are being utilized to plan a public awareness campaign that is about to begin.
- Activities have been initiated with *Heal the Hurt* (National Child Traumatic Stress Network) and Pinellas Early Childhood Collaborative to increase awareness of effective treatment of trauma in young children.

## Activities planned for the next six months:

- The next semi-annual meeting of the national Safe Start initiative will take place May 14-16 at the Tradewinds Sirata, St. Pete Beach. Over 60 representatives of the other demonstration sites and the national team are expected to attend. A program highlighting JWB, the Safe Start Partnership Center and other community partners will be presented in the morning on May 14. A reception for local partners and national project representatives is scheduled for the evening of May 15. JWB Board members are invited to attend.
- Protocols to identify, assess and refer children impacted by violence will be further developed.
- Community engagement activities will be expanded during the summer
- Planning will begin for neighborhood based program enhancements that promote child safety and well-being.
- Recommendations from the information system study will be implemented.
- An updated strategic plan and application for continuation funding will be submitted to OJJDP in July for Safe Start year IV (11/1/03-10/31/04).

A semi-annual progress report was submitted to OJJDP in January 2003. Copies of this report are available upon request.

Staff Resource Person: Judith Simpson