

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION NO. 01-115

Adopting Early Childhood Framework, and Initiating Planning for Goal 3: "Family Strengths are Supported"

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. The Early Childhood Framework was developed by Commissioner Naito, elected officials from Portland and Gresham, the Early Childhood Care and Education Council, and private foundations. The Framework is a tool for government and private organizations to coordinate planning and programs for families with very young children. The Framework identifies six goals, with outcomes and strategies for achieving the goals.
- b. The Early Childhood Care and Education Council, a committee of the Commission on Children, Families & Community, has led community input into the document, and has integrated those comments into the final document.
- c. Multnomah County is the local designated provider for health and social services, which is consistent with the goals, outcomes and strategies of Goal 3: "Family Strengths are Supported." Multnomah County wishes to sponsor this goal, together with other local governments, early childhood care and education professionals, private organizations, parents and the community.
- d. The attached document, Vision for a Voluntary System of Services for Families with Young Children, was developed as the planning tool to implement Goal 3: "Families Strengths are Supported."
- e. In July 2001 the Oregon Legislature adopted HB 3659, the Oregon Children's Plan, that will be integrated with County services to work towards a service system that will provide services to all children and families with risks so that every child can have the best possible start in life, to look forward to a bright future.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:

1. The Early Childhood Framework is adopted.
2. Multnomah County will be the sponsoring organization to plan for Goal 3 of The Early Childhood Framework and its implementation, based on the "Vision for a Voluntary System of Services for Families with Young Children."

3. Multnomah County will work collaboratively with the Commission on Children, Families & Community to implement the Oregon Children's Plan in alignment with Goal 3.

ADOPTED this 23rd day of August, 2001.

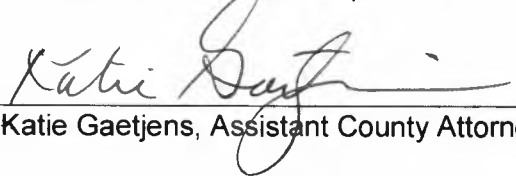


BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Diane M. Linn, Chair

REVIEWED:

THOMAS SPONSLER, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By 
Katie Gaetjens, Assistant County Attorney

Background:

Vision for a Voluntary System of Services for Families With Young Children

Multnomah County has planned for a coordinated, streamlined service system to assist families with the most risk factors. The planning has been developed from a goal of the Early Childhood Framework Plan. The Framework is meant to be a tool for government and private organizations to coordinate planning and programs related to families with very young children. The Framework identifies six goals, with outcomes and strategies for achieving the goals.

Sponsoring Goal - Families with Risk Factors

Multnomah County provides funding and staffing for social, health and behavioral health services. The County will sponsor Goal 3, on early childhood, which is: *Families with high risk have help to reduce risks and be strengthened.*

Vision for Voluntary System of Services for Families with Young Children ("Vision")

The Vision was developed by staff from the Department of Community and Family Services, Health Department, and the Libraries. A wide variety of early childhood care and education professionals, foundations and community leaders offered suggestions.

The Vision was created with the notion that when fully implemented the focus of the "highest risk" category of the chart will be approximately 20% of all births in the County, which is approximately 1,800 families a year. The Vision is based on the following principles:

- Voluntary services for families
- Two universal assessment touch-points (prenatal and at birth)
- A continuum of service that are seamless for those who participate, from prenatal through kindergarten transition
- Proven programs based on research and best practices
- Coordination with
 - Early Childhood Care and Education Council of the Multnomah Commission on Children, Families and Community
 - Oregon Children's Plan
 - Citizen's Crime Commission

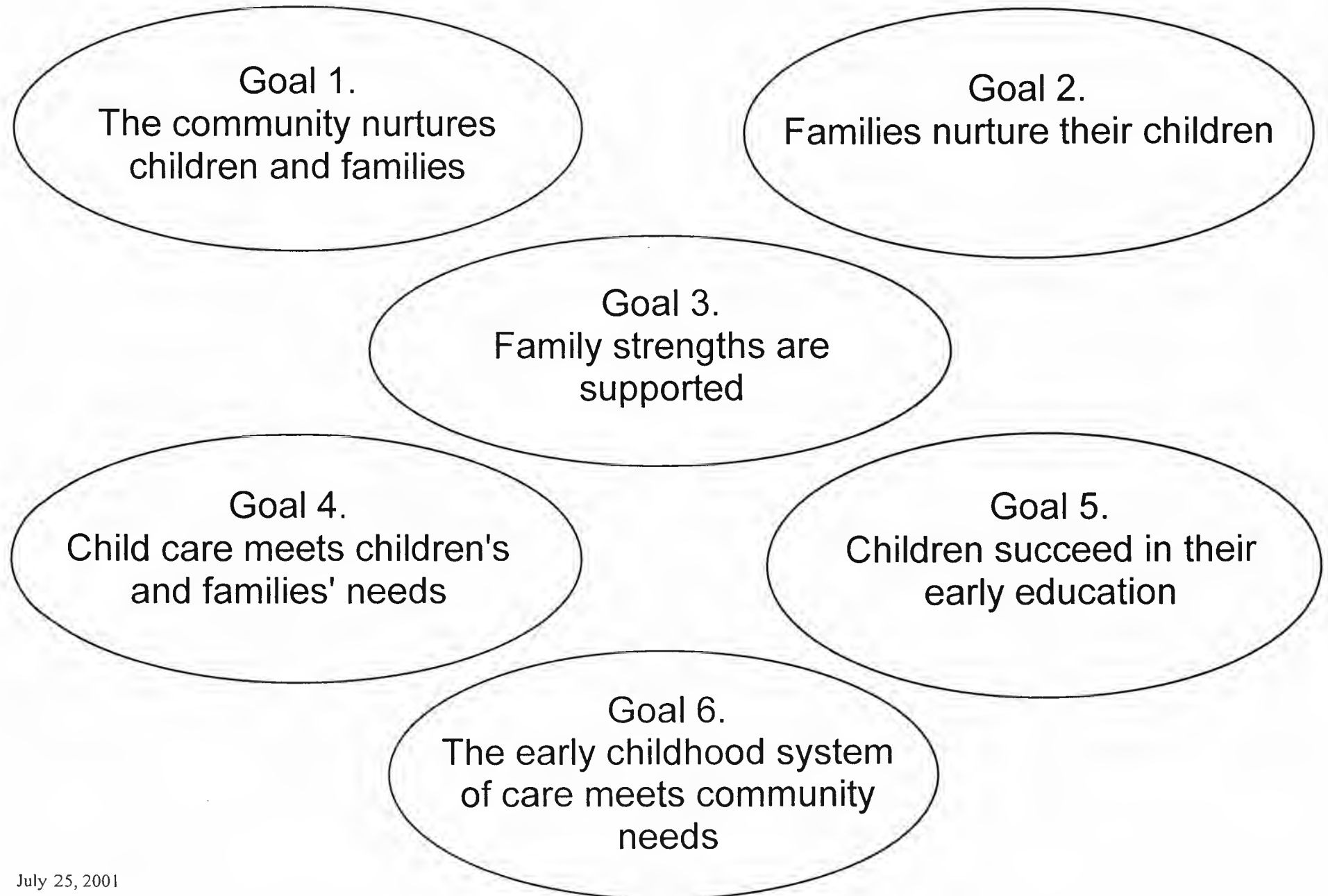
Budget

Attached to the Vision is a draft budget that identifies the estimated cost of fully funding the programs. The top section of the budget includes programs that are funded or operated by Multnomah County. The bottom section includes community-based programs that are necessary for a successful, integrated early childhood system. Costs remain estimates.

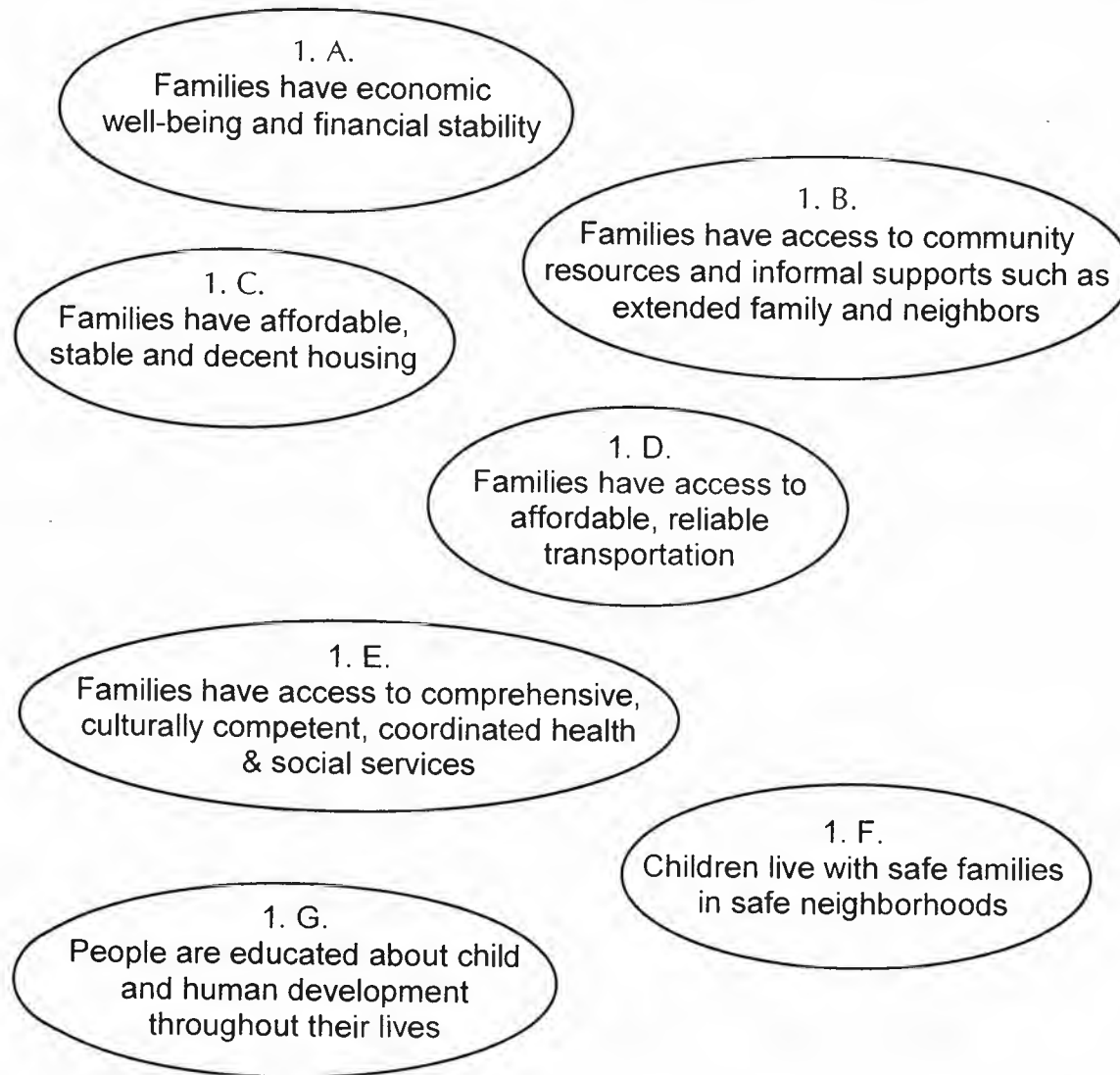
Next Steps

Current County services are being aligned towards the Vision. Additional funding is being sought to fully implement the program outlined in the Vision.

Early Childhood Vision: All children develop to their full potential



Goal 1. The community nurtures children and families



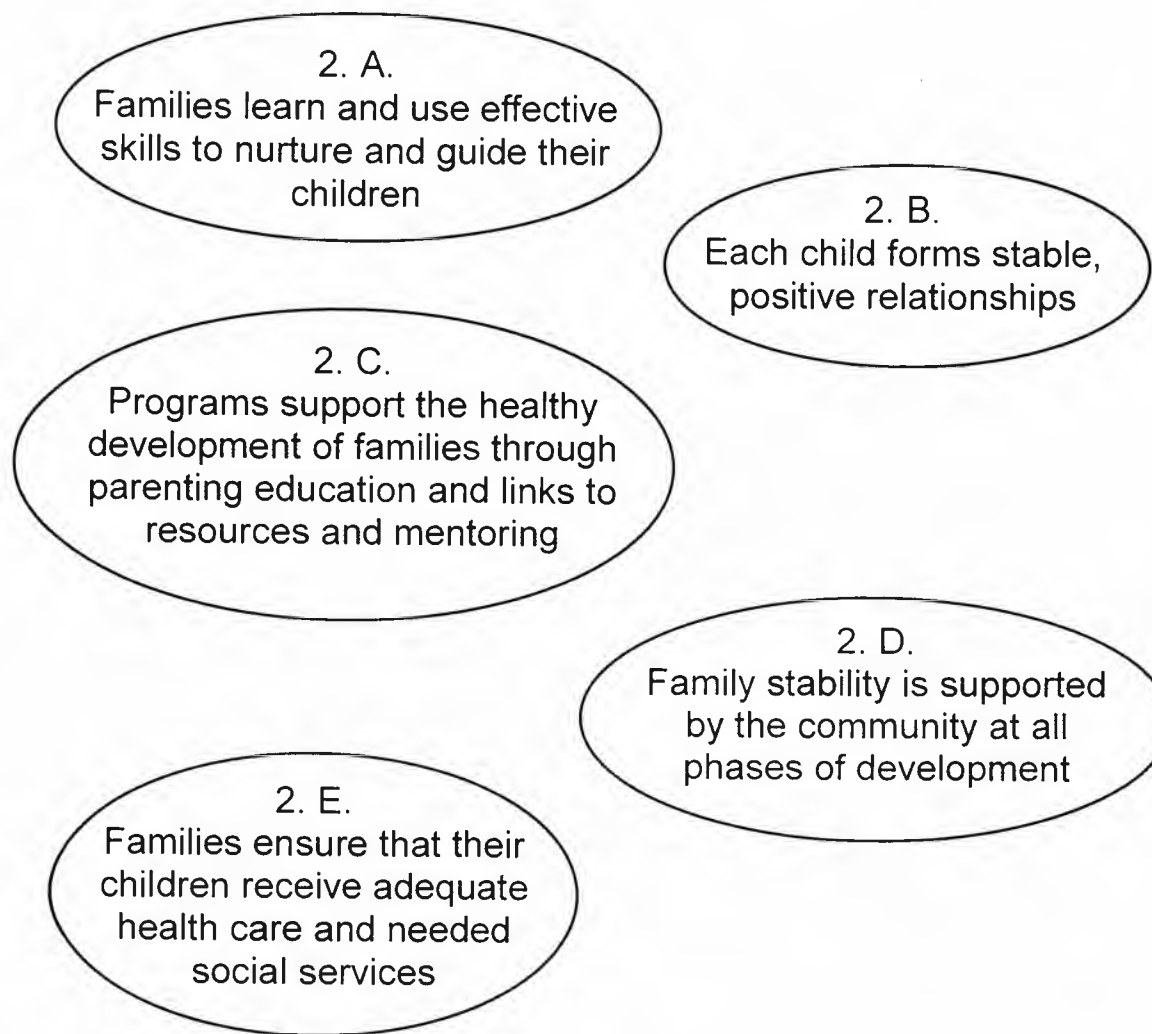
Possible Strategies

- ◇ Develop stronger communities through community centers which organize informal social supports.
- ◇ Enact strong policies for safety of young children (e.g. gun safety, child abuse prevention, lead poisoning prevention.)
- ◇ Promote land use planning that is family-friendly and encourages development of community gathering spaces.
- ◇ Encourage schools to integrate child and human development into their K-12 curriculum.
- ◇ Train service providers and educators to provide culturally competent services.
- ◇ Give employers information and incentives to support healthy families.

Guiding Principles

EVERYONE in the community has a role in nurturing young children.
The community has formal and informal systems for meeting the needs of young children.
This Framework is for ALL children within our diverse community.

Goal 2: Families nurture their children



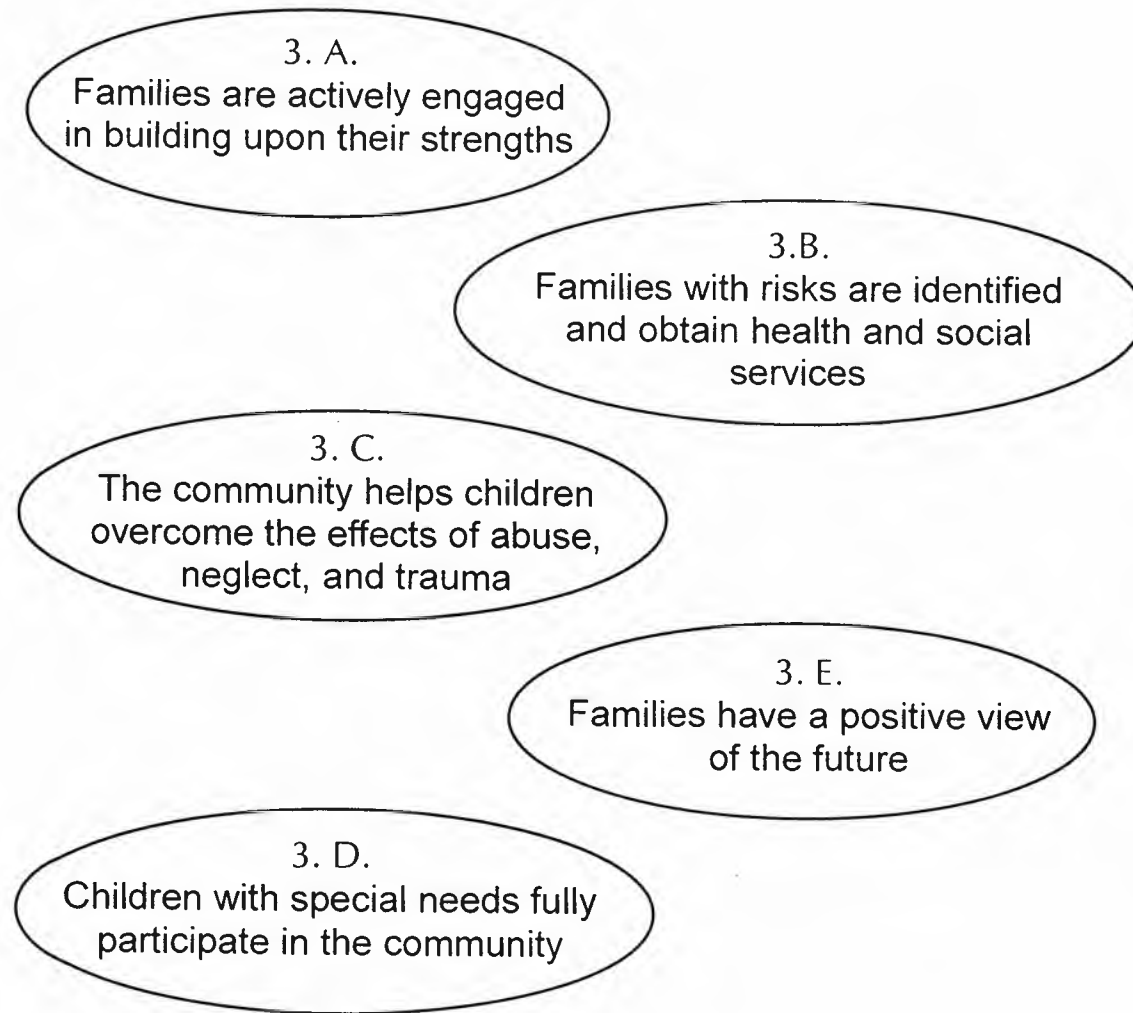
Possible Strategies

- ◇ Conduct ongoing prenatal screenings for medical and significant risks.
- ◇ Conduct home visits for all newborns linking families to needed supports and community resources.
- ◇ Develop and promote a health education curriculum to parents and family members.
- ◇ Provide families with access to service programs for low cost dental and nutritional care.
- ◇ Provide family mentors to support parents in their role as parents.
- ◇ Fully immunize all children where a safety net is utilized.
- ◇ Ensure that all children receive adequate nutrition.
- ◇ See Strategy in Goal 1 referring to child and human development education

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Goal 3: Family Strengths are supported



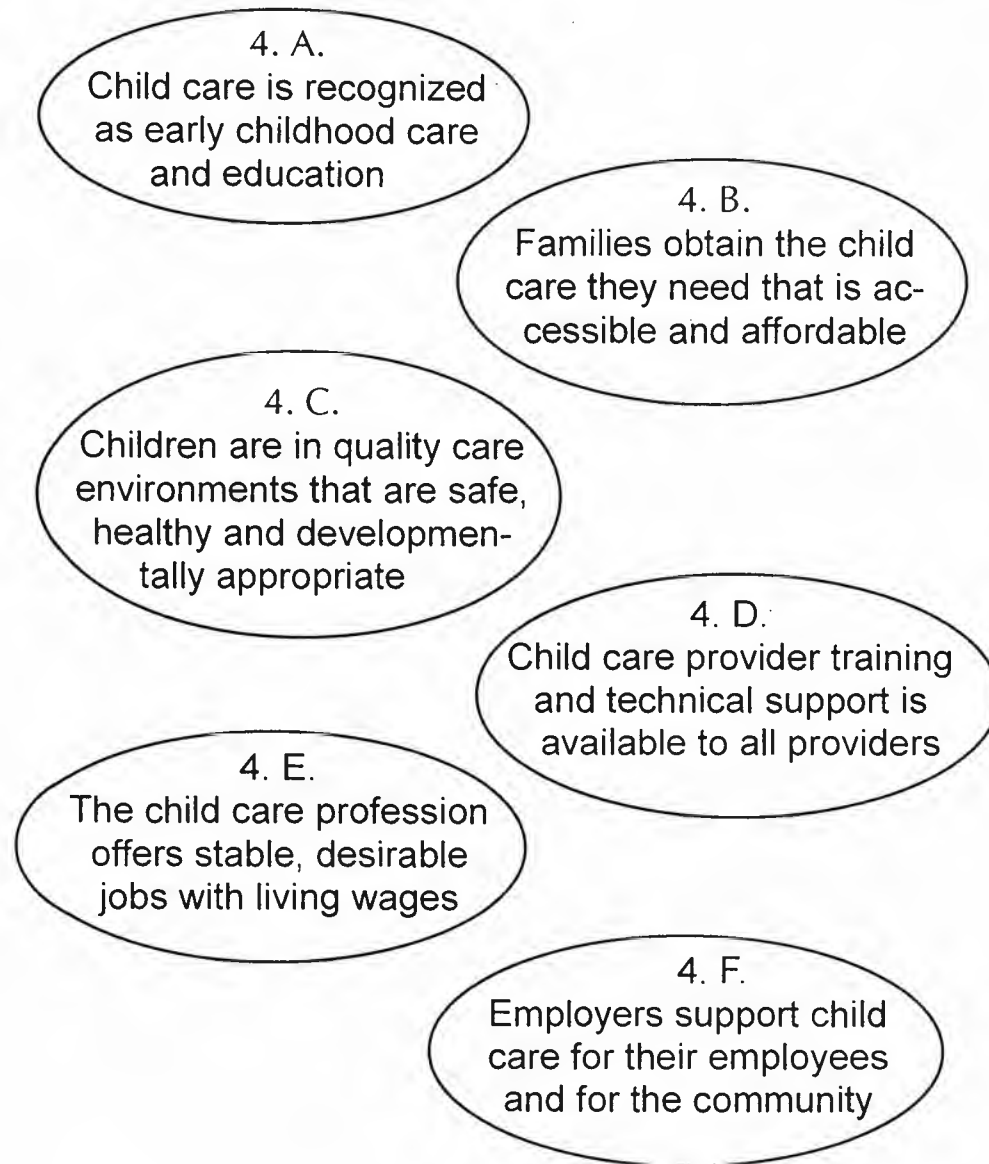
Possible Strategies

- ◇ Increase parent support, education and respite through intensive home visiting programs
- ◇ Provide relationship-based mentoring for at-risk children and parents
- ◇ Increase access and availability of health services, domestic violence services, mental health services, alcohol/drug treatment, sexual abuse treatment, and juvenile justice.
- ◇ Develop and implement early childhood care and education approaches to improving severely challenging forms of behaviors.
- ◇ Ensure that classes are available often, and all over the County, that help families develop their knowledge and supports.

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Goal 4: Child care meets children's and families' needs



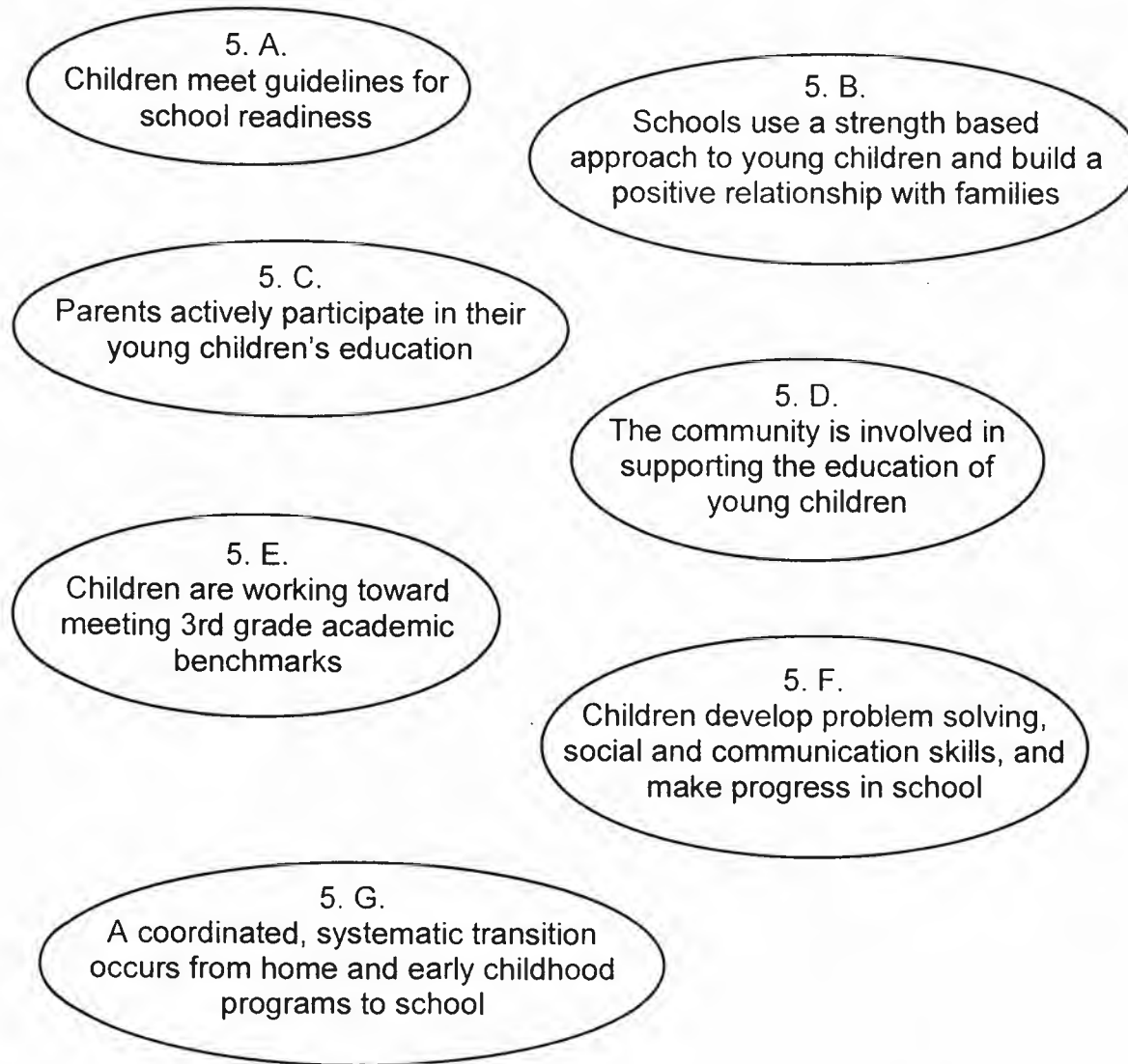
Possible Strategies

- ◇ Provide small business and child development training supports to all child care providers.
- ◇ Ensure access to early childhood mental health services for all child care providers
- ◇ Ensure access to early childhood special needs services for all child care providers.
- ◇ Provide incentive stipends to child care providers who achieve designated levels of training.
- ◇ Develop child care subsidies to provide assistance to families to stabilize their child care.
- ◇ Develop a public awareness campaign emphasizing the recognition of child care as early childhood care and education.
- ◇ Create a system to disseminate health and safety equipment and materials to child care providers to meet Child Care Division registration and certification requirements.
- ◇ Educate employers on ways to assist employees in supporting their child care needs.
- ◇ Provide tax incentives beneficial to all sizes of employers to ensure that quality, developmentally appropriate child care facilities, in a variety of settings, are available for all their employees.
- ◇ Provide families with consumer education on how to look for quality child care. Provide child care providers technical assistance through support networks and mentoring.
- ◇ Recruit child care providers to meet the child care needs of parents, i.e. infant/toddler care, flexible hours, children with special needs, etc.
- ◇ Ensure access to health and safety consultation services to all child care providers.

Guiding Principles

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Goal 5: Children succeed in their early education



Possible Strategies

- ◇ Implement comprehensive approaches (parent/child/school based) to prevent and address severely challenging forms of behavior.
- ◇ Encourage employers to provide paid release time to allow employees to work in childhood care and education programs.
- ◇ Provide a range of experiences to young children that enhances early literacy and other learning.
- ◇ Encourage schools to integrate a comprehensive social support system that contains formal and informal supports for families and children.
- ◇ Provide comprehensive early childhood programs for all children, ranging in ages from birth to five.
- ◇ Ensure that parents, early childhood providers and schools are actively engaged in transitioning children from one setting to another.

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Goal 6: The early childhood system of care meets community needs

Possible Strategies

- ◇ Develop and implement a shared plan with all stakeholders.
- ◇ Modify programs as needed to meet outcomes and goals.
- ◇ Actively engage new stakeholders, including parents, the faith community and investors.
- ◇ Increase funding from a variety of sources for the early childhood system.
- ◇ Create incentives for businesses and employers to contribute in ways other than financial.
- ◇ Encourage pooling mechanism to merge and leverage employer/private/city/county/state and federal funds to support the early childhood system of care.
- ◇ Merge/coordinate similar programs to maximize efficiency and effectiveness.

6. A.

Planning and implementation are coordinated

6. B.

Every sector of the community is engaged in supporting families with young children

6. C.

Programs and resources have the capacity to meet community needs

6. D.

Best practices of new and existing strategies are utilized across the system of care

6. E.

Programs are retooled for effectiveness and efficient use of funds through technical assistance

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Funding & Program Estimates:
Vision for Voluntary System of Services for Families with Young Children
August 8, 2001

Programs Operated by Multnomah County								
Program	No. Served per Year	Est. Total Cost	Mult. Co. Existing Funding¹	Portland Children's Investment	Oregon Children's Plan	Federal Funding	Foundation Funding	Private Funding
Prenatal Assessment	12,000	\$500,000						
<i>Healthy Start:</i> Olds Nurse Home Visiting	900	\$5,280,000	\$336,700 ²					
<i>Healthy Start:</i> Family Support Team	1,850	\$12,705,000	\$6,347,370 ²					
A&D and MH Treatment - Funding Pool	1,400	\$2,000,000						
Welcome Baby	9,300	\$910,000	\$407,940 ²					
Evaluation and Coordination	--	\$650,000						
Sub-Totals	--	\$22,045,000	\$7,092,010					

¹ Existing programs will be realigned to this model

² Medicaid match portion = \$800,000 from Health Department programs

Community-Based Programs								
Programs	No. to be Served	Est. total cost	Mult. Co. Existing Funding	Portland Children's Investment	Oregon Children's Plan	Federal Funding	Foundation Funding	Private Funding
Head Start	1,800	\$13,582,000	\$705,800 ³	\$700,000		\$11,468,630 ⁴		
Early Head Start	1,800	\$20,542,500				\$3,258,500 ⁴		
Parent Education & Newsletters	9,300	\$400,000						
Child Welfare - Relief Nurseries	240	Not avail.	\$385,000	\$300,000				
Sub-Totals	--	\$34,524,500	\$1,090,800	\$1,000,000		\$14,727,130		
Grand Total	--	\$56,569,500	\$8,182,810	\$1,000,000		\$14,727,130		

³ Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants (plus \$8000 for a Nurse Manager)

⁴ Total current funding from Federal and State sources

NOTE: The above tables are based on serving 20% (approximately 1,800 a year) of the families with new births who have the most risk factors in the county.

Whole Community Advocacy & Parenting Education

Services and Resources Available to All Parents and Young Children

Age of children	Universal families	Activities and programs available	Highest Risk Families
Prenatal	Prenatal Screening (All families)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinated assessment & triage plan for services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy Start Program (Olds Nurse Home Visiting Program & Family Support Team) • Early Head Start
At Birth	Welcome Baby (All New Births)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nurse hospital visits – all new births • Coordinated assessment and Triage plan for services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy Start Program (Continuing and new families – “Olds” is continuing families only) • Early Head Start • Early Intervention
Birth to Pre-K	Library Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library Early Childhood Resources Program • Early Words • Reach Out and Read 	
	Early Childhood Development & Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Care Provider Networks • Child Care Resource & Referral 	Early Head Start Head Start
	Medical/Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well baby care • Dental • Lead screening & Immunization education 	WIC
	Behavioral Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants 	Mental Health Counseling & Alcohol and Drug Treatment
	Early Intervention		Developmental Delays & Disabilities Services
	Child Welfare		Relief Nurseries
Kindergarten to Grade 3	Public School System (All children)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kindergarten transition and assessment 	First Step Program Touchstone