Annual Report July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

Mission of the St. Louis Family & Community Partnership
To bring diverse stakeholders in the St. Louis region together to promote a continuum of strength-based services for children, youth and families that will:
- Support and strengthen families
- Prevent child abuse and neglect
- Ensure that children have permanent relationships that help them thrive in their own communities
- Make recommendations to public and private stakeholders in order to improve outcomes for children and families of the St. Louis region.

Council Programs 2012-13
July 2012 (Annual Meeting) – Rev. Starsky Wilson, President & CEO, Deaconess Foundation.
Sept. 2012 – Ruth Ehresman, child advocate and former policy specialist for the Missouri Budget Project
November 2012 – The Disproportionality workgroup reported on the problem of children of color receiving fewer child welfare services, and strategies to address this.
January 2013 – Dr. Norm White of Saint Louis University on the issue of youth violence and creating a system to protect children.
March 2013 – Project LAUNCH federally funded program providing services to promote young child health and mental health in the 63106 and 63107 ZIP codes.

Workgroup Accomplishments 2012-13
Communications
- Plans the annual April Child Abuse Prevention Month observance and oversees other communications.
  Angela Dockett-Plump and Donna Baringer, Co-Chairs
- April 19, 2013 Child Abuse Prevention Month event was held at the Dennis & Judith Jones Education & Visitors Center in Forest Park and was attended by about 175 people. St. Louis County Executive Charlie Dooley made his first appearance at a Partnership event, presenting his proclamation. St. Louis Aldermen Craig Schmid and Donna Baringer who are both active in the Partnership, presented a resolution from the board and a representative read Mayor Francis Slay’s proclamation. Representatives of Congressmen Lacy Clay and Ann Wagner, and Senators Claire McCaskill and Roy Blunt attended, along with several state...
representatives including Jill Schupp and Michael Butler. KMOX morning anchor Debbie Monterrey was again the emcee. Jackson Park Elementary School in University City provide art for the art show, and Crossroads School Jazz Band gave the musical entertainment. Media coverage included advance interview on KMOX, advance item in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, onsite coverage by STL-TV, and letter to the editor in the Webster-Kirkwood Times.

**Disproportionality**
*Rais es awareness, promotes dialogue and explores solutions to racial disproportionality, disparity and other inequities facing families and children served by individual agencies and the child welfare system as a whole.*

Betty Teal and Elaine Smith, Co-Chairs
- Gave presentation to November Partnership Council meeting.
- Developing strategies to engage other community members to join the workgroup.
- Working with Washington University policy students to determine if policies are contributing to disparities.

**Making Connections**
*B uilds community partnerships to improve services to children, and promotes the Strengthening Families and Team Practice models.*

Ardith Harmon and Pam Mitchell, Co-Chairs
- “Community Moments” presentations focused on mental health services and resources for youth and several resources available to families in our community were highlighted, such as “The Spot,” the Great Circle Self-Injury program, and the Teen Pregnancy & Prevention Partnership.
- In 2014, professional development through “Strengthening Families” learning sessions will be the focus of this workgroup.

**Recruitment, Training, and Support**
*Finds and maintains local resources that can support children and families in their own neighborhoods by recruiting, training, and supporting foster, adoptive, and relative caregivers.*

Nickie Steinhoff and Libby Eversgerd, Co-Chairs
- Developed a process for collecting and cataloguing information on area recruitment activities. Listed 11 area events.
- Continues to coordinate the training calendar for all pre-service and in-service training in the St. Louis area. New in 2013, all in-service training opportunities are listed on the Children’s Division website.
- Worked to build consistency in practice and policy implementation between the Children’s Division and contract agencies, by holding trainings on “Homefinding,” “Adoption Subsidy,” and “Writing Child Profiles.”
- On June 6-7, 2013, 110 child welfare professionals attended a training presented by Darla L. Henry, PhD, MSW, MARS, on her model, 3-5-7 Model©: A Practical Approach to Permanency.
- Developed a data tracking tool to provide an accurate view of resource parent recruitment and training.

**Self-Evaluation**
*Monitors data on child and family outcomes and assesses needed changes in child welfare practice.*

Betty Teal and Tena Thompson, Co-Chairs
- St. Louis City children ages 10 and under in residential care averages 5 to 7 a month. As of May 31, 2013, there were no children under the age of seven in residential for St. Louis city. St. Louis County only has 8% of children in residential care.
- The group also is studying the number of older youth in foster care regarding length of stay.