

Southwestern Community Services, Inc. Head Start Annual Report 2010-2011

Program Overview – Enrollment

Southwestern Community Services Head Start, Inc. (SCS Head Start) serves 237 children and families in the southwestern corner of New Hampshire in both Sullivan and Cheshire Counties. The program provides part-day, part-year services five days a week at seven NAEYC-accredited Head Start Centers in two counties. These centers are located in *Ashuelot, Claremont, Drewsville, Jaffrey, Keene, Newport, and Swanzey*. In addition to the center-based sites, Southwestern Community Services Head Start works in collaboration with the Emerson Elementary School in *Fitzwilliam* to provide Head Start services for up to eight Head Start eligible children and families.

Budget Breakdown

Revenues:

HS Grant Funds	\$1,914,495.00
USDA/CACFP Funds	126,227.00
State OEP Funds	49,210.00
Miscellaneous Income	7,595.00
Non-Federal Share	480,166.00

Expenditures:

Personnel	\$946,736.00
Fringe	437,230.00
Travel	18,150.00
Other	695,411.00
Non-Federal Share	480,166.00

Total Revenue \$2,577,693.00

\$2,577,693.00

Also received Early Learning Mentor/Coaching Grant award in the amount of **\$225,000.00**

Proposed Budget for 2010-2011

Personnel	\$899,237.00
Fringe	449,374.00
Travel	18,150.00
Other- including Non- Federal Share	1,038,522.00
USDA/CACFP Funds	126,000.00

\$2,531,283.00

Program Highlights

Southwestern Community Services Head Start completed its annual 2010-2011 Self Assessment. Many areas were identified as strengths by the program managers, staff, families, and the Self Assessment Leadership Team (SALT). The following areas are highlights of some exceptional program activities:

I Am Moving I Am Learning (IMIL): In September 2007, all staff were introduced to the IMIL project and given classroom materials to implement activities as soon as school started. The songs and activities from the IMIL curriculum are now an integral part of the daily routine in SCS Head Start classrooms.

In the school year 2011-12, SCS Head Start will be participating in statewide efforts to train new staff in IMIL and to incorporate new materials in the classroom and encourage families to be more physically active.

Early Sprouts Nutrition and Gardening Program: SCS Head Start began implementing the *Early Sprouts Nutrition and Gardening Program* in three of its centers in 2007. *Early Sprouts* started as a three-year research project developed by Dr. Karrie Kalich at Keene State College to measure the impact of frequent exposure of vegetables on children's eating habits and ultimately on the incidence of childhood obesity. This innovative and intensive program incorporates weekly sensory/science and cooking activities for 22 weeks, focusing on six target vegetables that the children and teachers have planted in raised bed vegetable gardens in the spring. In addition, once a month families receive a take home kit with a pound of vegetables, a fact sheet, and recipes to prepare the vegetable at home. Currently SCS Head Start is implementing the *Early Sprouts* curriculum in all twelve classrooms in seven Head Start Centers. Annual surveys and parent and teacher feedback show that this is an effective program that enhances the science, math and literacy curriculum as well as clearly teaching children to enjoy a variety of vegetables.

Child and Family Care System: In response to results of the 2007-2008 Self Assessment, which showed some gaps in the care planning process, SCS Head Start strengthened its Child and Family Care System. This system is a case management approach that ensures that the needs of Head Start children and families are met in a timely manner. Through intensive staff training and management support over the past two years, all SCS Head Start Centers now utilize this system that includes weekly care planning meetings attended by classroom staff, family advocates, and cooks. Staff uses an established referral process to immediately identify children and families in need of more intensive follow-up, and maintain a tracking system to track progress. Staff utilizes the DISC model and "Pieces of the Puzzle" when reviewing the strengths and challenges of each family, focusing on family wellness, and have become more empowered to better identify and help families in need and help parents in turn better support their children.

Community Outreach and Collaborations: SCS Head Start, although spread out geographically in eight communities, has a unique, strong, and positive presence in each community. The collaborations that the program has established are long-lasting, and they impact not just current Head Start families, but also the greater school systems, local social service agencies, charitable groups, businesses and organizations.

Keene State College, Colby Sawyer College, Franklin Pierce, River Valley Community College, Antioch Graduate School are the area higher institutions that we work together opening our classrooms for to the future teachers, counselors, and registered dieticians to complete their methods, internship, and practicum requirements of their degrees.

Dental and Medical Care

Dental Health Partnerships: SCS Head Start has an exceptional partnership in both Sullivan and Cheshire County with a network of dentists, dental hygienists, and dental programs. Five years ago, the dental hygienist from the Monadnock Healthy Teeth Program, a school-based dental health program, recognized that public dental care needed to start even earlier than kindergarten. She wrote a grant to bring services to preschool programs, including SCS Head Start in Jaffrey, and has been doing dental cleanings and screenings on site since then. Her efforts sparked a similar effort in Cheshire County, where the school-based program Cheshire Smiles began working with Head Start three years ago. In Sullivan County, the Community Dental Care of Claremont offers free dental services to low income families. The goal is to ensure that every child enrolled in SCS Head Start receives a dental exam and establishes a dental home. Volunteer dentists visit each classroom and provide dental health education in addition to the dental exam.

Meeting Individual Health Needs: In response to the result of 2007-2008 Self Assessment, which showed gaps with the follow up of the health needs of the children, SCS Head Start made a commitment to ensure that there were procedures and systems to support all children with

health needs and that follow up was done timely and consistently. The program implemented **Individual Health Plans**, supported by each child's health provider, to meet individual health needs. This year's Federal Review pointed out that meeting the health needs of the children was strength rather than an area needing improvement.

Child Outcomes and Kindergarten Readiness

Southwestern Community Services, Inc. Head Start ensures positive child outcomes and in variety of ways.

Staff Qualifications and Development: At SCS Head Start, the majority of teachers have BA degrees in Early Childhood Education (ECE) or related degrees with the required credits in ECE. Two teachers have Masters Degrees, and three veteran teachers have their Associate degrees in ECE. The rest of the teachers have their BA degrees. Most of the teacher assistants have CDA or State equivalent certifications in ECE, AA degrees in ECE or are enrolled in a degree program in ECE.

Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports: SCS Head Start implemented an initiative known as **PBIS, Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports Program** to promote healthy social skills and to proactively teach safe, appropriate behaviors to children, and ultimately to improve parent-child relationships.

This initiative is folded into the curriculum and has become part of the program expectations in terms of guiding the behaviors of the children and supporting their social and emotional development.

The DISC Classroom Model: Beginning in 2007, SCS Head Start began working with Jeanine Fitzgerald, a child behavior expert and Certified Human Behavior Specialist, to implement a new and innovative classroom model based on the ladder to social-emotional wellness. The model incorporates an intentional approach that offers strategies to meet the needs of the children in all 12 classrooms. Based on the information we gather from our families in the beginning of the school year, we design the classrooms to better accommodate learning styles, personality types, multiple intelligences, and sensory-motor preferences with the intent of helping children achieve positive outcomes in the areas of achieving and mastering social and emotional competence. For example, if the majority of the children in the classroom are outgoing, dominant, and need active play, we either extend the block area to include additional active play opportunities or add another block area with appropriate materials to accommodate the children's need.

Child Outcomes Framework and Curriculum Connection: SCS Head Start Curriculum is comprehensive, developmental, and individualized. It reflects the integration of other content areas and the community at large. SCS Head Start Curriculum values parents as the primary educators of their children and partners with them as the most important collaborators of the program. SCS Head Start uses the CREATIVE CURRICULUM as a guide to design the physical environment and utilizes EMERGENT CURRICULUM to build on the emerging interest of the children.

SCS Head Start utilizes "Work Sampling for Head Start Developmental Guidelines" which is also known as "Curriculum Imbedded Assessment" for assessing children three times a year, in the fall, in the winter, and in the spring in the required domains, domain elements, and domain indicators.

Children tell us a great deal of information about who they are, what they know, and how they think by their actions and language. Careful observations over time can reveal important information about children's individual strengths, skills, knowledge, behavior, accomplishments, and difficulties. It can reveal not only what they know but also how they came to know it – their processes for thinking and learning.

The SCS Head Start Data Collection System is designed to provide one unified approach for Teaching Teams to collect their observations of children around the Positive Child Outcomes

Framework and to assist the Teaching Teams to accurately assess children in the 11 Domain areas including language and, literacy, science and numeracy skills. SCS Head Start utilizes Child Outcomes information for making ongoing quality improvements and making plans for staff training and development.

Parent and Male Involvement

Fathering Initiatives: SCS Head Start has recognized the importance of father and male involvement and, for the last 12 years, actively recruited men to be part of the everyday school environment.

From this first awareness SCS Head Start has reached a point today where male involvement is expected in our classrooms.

Transition Activities

Southwestern Community Services, Inc. Head Start has been implementing a successful transition plan with public school partners in seven communities. The transition plan is implemented starting in September and is ongoing as it brings public school teachers and principals together with Head Start teachers of graduating students and their parents to ensure a smooth transition to public school. This year SCS renewed its commitment to school readiness goals reaching out to our local school partners to align the goals with local school requirements and State of New Hampshire Early Learning Standards. Some of the highlights of the activities include:

- Transition Breakfast and Luncheon – Individual centers invite principals, kindergarten teachers, school nurse, guidance counselors to have breakfast and lunch at the Head Start centers with the children.
- Kindergarten teachers are invited to visit Head Start centers to read to the children.
- Kindergarten enrollment and Screening information are shared with families.
- Transition Meetings for Parents - Kindergarten teachers are invited to the Head Start centers to meet with parents and talk about expectations and give information.
- Visits scheduled to the Kindergartens
- Individual Head Start centers host Kindergarten Connection nights for Head Start parents, children and school partners.

Federal Review & Financial Audit

Federal Review: On April 10th -15th, 2011, the Administration for the Children and Families (ACF) conducted an on-site review of the Southwestern Community Services Head Start. **Congratulations to SCS Head Start staff, children and families! Not only** there were no areas of **non-compliance** in the areas of Health Services, Nutrition Services, Safe Environments, Mental Health Services, Disabilities Services, Family and Community Services, Transportation, Education and Early Childhood Services there was also an identified strength in Nutrition Services. Early Sprouts Program was pointed out as an exemplary initiative.

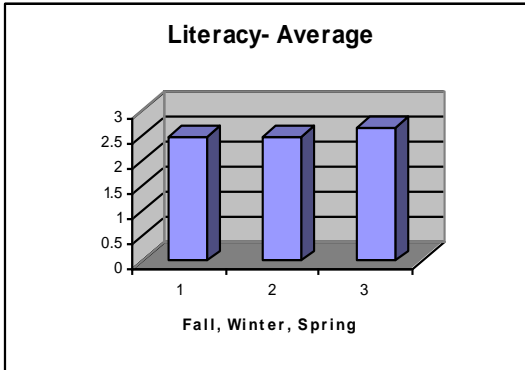
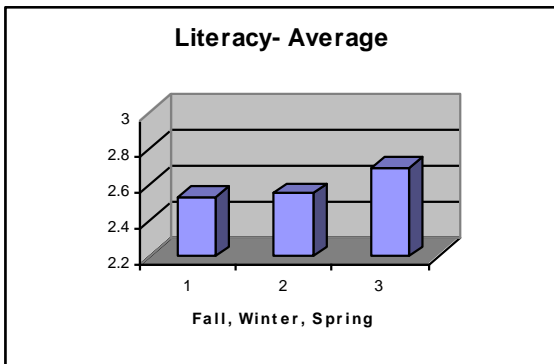
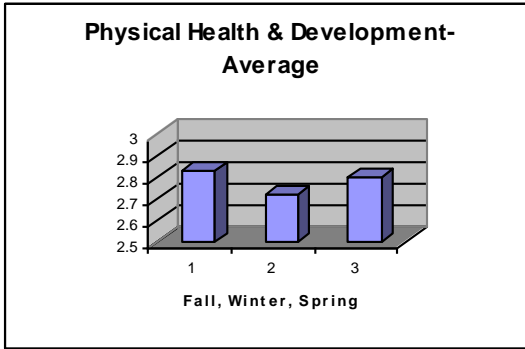
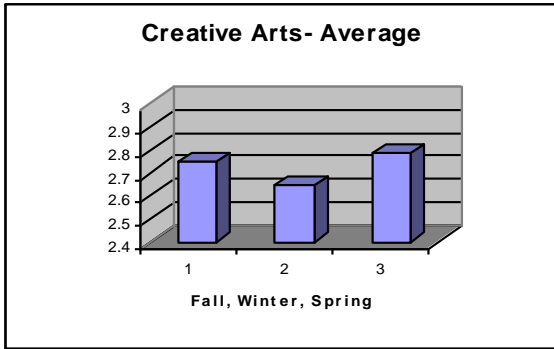
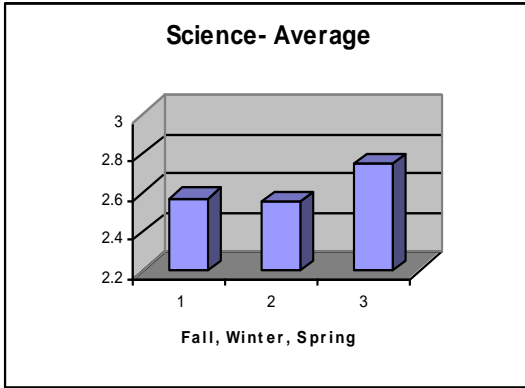
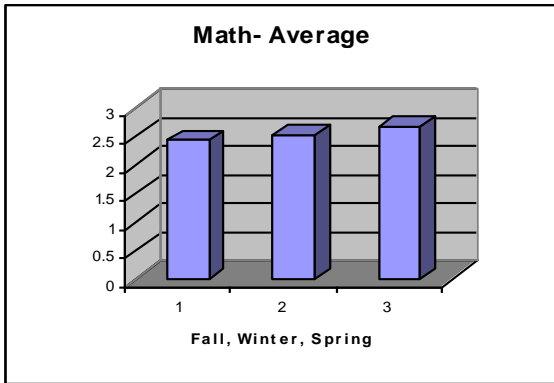
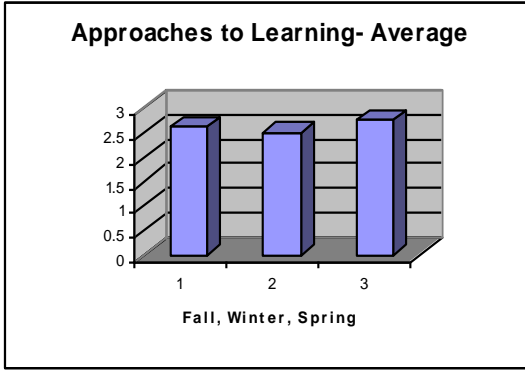
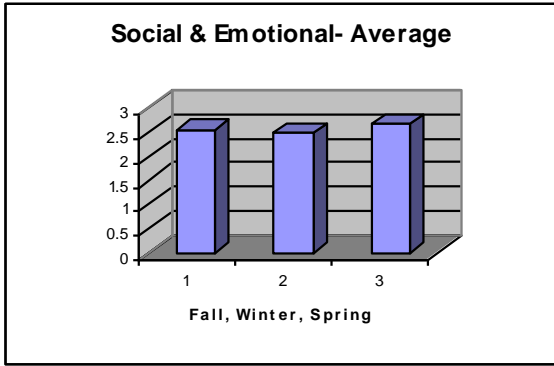
The Report from CLASS Observations (Classroom Observation Scoring System) conducted by the Federal Reviewer during the on-site review also pointed out that SCS Head Start exceeded the national average in all areas of CLASS dimensions. The CLASS tool looks at 10 dimensions of teacher-student interactions and states those observed interactions on a seven point scale. Again Congratulations to all our Education Team for scoring so high.

Financial Audit: As of May 31 2011, Southwestern Community Services, Inc, agency auditor's report showed no areas of non-compliance to the financial statements of Southwestern Community Services, Inc.

Additional Information

- SCS Head Start employs 46 individuals.
- SCS Head Start received “the Centers of Excellence” nomination by the Governor of New Hampshire in the school year of 2009-2010.
- All seven SCS Head Start centers are accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).
- SCS Head Start was awarded the “Early Learning Mentor/Coaching” a competitive Grant from the Office of Head Start.
- 100% of all 12 teachers have degrees. 84% of all SCS Head Start teachers have bachelor and higher degrees in Early Childhood Education or related field, 17% have associate degrees in Early Childhood Education.
- 100% of the children all children are up-to-date on a schedule of age appropriate preventative and primary health care according to state's EPSDT schedule for well child care.
- 86.04% of the children received oral health examination.
- 9.65% diagnosed as needing dental treatment.
- 100% received dental treatment.
- 97.36% of all enrolled children completed all Medical Screenings.
- 100% of the children were covered by Health Insurance at the end of the Enrollment Year.
- 97.36% of children had continuous accessible health care at the end of the enrollment year.
- 13.21% of the total enrollment (35 children) served at SCS Head Start were children with identified disabilities who had Individual Education Plans (IEP'S) and received related services and supports.
- SCS Head Start has seven signed Interagency Agreements with all seven School Administrative Units to work in collaboration with for supporting and identifying children with disabilities and also transitioning children to kindergartens. These School Administrative Units are:

SAU#1	SAU# 6	SAU#29	SAU#38
SAU#43	SAU#47	SAU#60	
- During the 2010-2011 school year, SCS Head Start served 35 children with identified disabilities.



SCS Head Start Child Outcomes Data Analysis- 3 year olds
2010-2011

