Head Start Community Needs Assessment

By Kitwan Billy
Serena Holtsinger
Charlotte Lysohir
Emily Ross
Introduction

- What is Head Start?
- Why is a Needs Assessment Necessary?
- How will this Information be used?
- People served by Head Start and Early Head Start
Scope of Work

- Gather and analyze demographic data
- Develop and administer Head Start Household Needs Assessment (HSHNA) survey
- Analyze HSHNA survey data
- Create a working map of Head Start service areas
- Develop Ontario County Community Needs Assessment survey
- Written report based on government guidelines
Methods

- Survey Research Method and Data Collection Method
- Sources: Census, previous Community Needs Assessments, the Success for Geneva’s Children 2011 Data Report, school district records
- Survey sample: Head Start enrolled families
- Map/visual aid for Ontario County (using geo-commons, or googlemaps/fusion table)
Example Survey Question:

20. Is anyone in your immediate family incarcerated? (Circle one)
   Yes  No

*If yes, circle how the incarceration has affected your family:

Primary Care Giver with multiple incarcerations
Have received services for incarceration
Housing/residency has changed
There has been an increase in stress

Child care has changed
Family income has changed
Daily routine has changed
Family relationships have changed
Problems with our Survey

- Answer choices were not exhaustive and/or exclusive
  - Race/Ethnicity question – White v. White Non-Hispanic
  - Moves in the last year – no choice for “0”
  - Respondents circled both “Yes” and “No” on some concern and knowledge questions

- Translation into Spanish caused confusion for respondents
  - Direction said “Circle one” – respondent circled one Y/N item out of 5
  - Question about Domestic Violence – omitted the answer portion and was left blank
Head Start Service Area
Demographic data for both Head Start children and respondents are similar based on:
- Race
- Ethnicity
- Primary Language

Language Spoken (Children):

- English: 90%
- Spanish: 9%
- Far Eastern: 1%
Demographics Continued

**Marital Status**
- Single/Never Married: 45%
- Married: 33%
- Partnered: 7%
- Divorced: 5%
- Separated: 5%
- Missing: 5%

**Education Level**
- Some High School: 19%
- High School: 18%
- Graduate: 18%
- GED: 4%
- Vocational Training: 2%
- Some College: 13%
- College Graduate: 19%
- Missing: 18%
Terms and Definitions

- **Health and Wellness Needs** - Nutrition, physical fitness, health, early intervention

- **Early Intervention Services** - For children with disabilities, birth to 5, or children in evaluation process

- **Disability Status** - 13 categories defined by IDEA (2004)

- **Support Programs** - Programs and services that are in the Head Start served areas of Ontario County.

- **School Readiness** - Skills in literacy, math, social studies, science - have receptive and expressive skills, demonstrate self-control.
Findings

- Health and Wellness Knowledge Gap
  - Stress, Stress Relief, Anxiety, and mental health services
  - 38% wanted more information on Mental Health

- Disability Status Knowledge Gap
  - 32% not knowledgeable about ADD/ADHD (classified as a Learning Disability, 504 plan)

- Programs for School Readiness Knowledge Gap
  - 54% do not know about other daycare/preschool facilities
## Findings – School Readiness Gap

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parent Interest in More Information</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Yes %</th>
<th>No %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hygiene</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Health</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Discipline</strong></td>
<td>38</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obesity/Food Nutrition and Exercise</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Social Development</strong></td>
<td>30</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Percentages do not add to 100 because of missing data**
Findings… Continued

- Support Services Knowledge Gap
  - 46% not knowledgeable about 211 service

- Incarceration -- 10% of respondents reported incarcerated family member

- Of 10% of respondents reporting family member incarcerated...
  - 63% of families affected by incarceration have experienced a change in family relationships
17% needed information on Job Training

The graph shows percentage of respondents who reported needing job training information cross-referenced by level of education.

% Need Information on Job Training

- 21% Some High School
- 43% GED
- 14% High School Graduate
- 14% Some College
- 7% College Graduate
Suggestions

- More educational programming related to these topics of concern and need
- Utilize partnerships to address the changing needs of Head Start families
- Free and accessible educational materials regarding topics of need targeted toward Head Start families

Survey:
- Reduce the number of answer options for each question
- Revise answer options to be exhaustive and exclusive
- Double sided and distribution
- Comment box for further concerns
In Conclusion…

- **Head Start’s Mission Statement:** “Shaping and preparing today's children to succeed in tomorrow's world”
Focus Group Session

- Do you see incarceration, mental health, and job training as problems in your community?
- Do you perceive your community needs more information or services related to these issues?
- Do you perceive your community having needs that have not been mentioned here?
- In hearing more about our survey, were you prompted to make a suggestion concerning a specific topic?
- Anything else to add?
- For further inquiry contact Toby Kayser at tkayser@genevacsdo or at 315-781-4105