

TO: Juvenile Welfare Board Members

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Pinellas Safe Start Update

Pinellas Safe Start, with JWB as the lead agency, is one of nine demonstration sites to be awarded continuation funding for Phase II (May 1, 2001-October 31, 2002) 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. The total award for the 18 month period is \$1,090,000, of which \$400,000 has been released to begin implementation of the community plan that was developed in Phase I. The release of an additional \$670,000 is anticipated by early fall, 2001, pending final acceptance of the Phase I deliverables. Additional awards of up to \$670,000 for three additional years after completion of Phase II are anticipated.

Here are highlights of current news and activities schedule for the next few months:

- An Interagency Training Council was convened in May, and is working on a coordinated training calendar and development of cross-system training.
- Representatives from 15 local agencies that serve children exposed to violence attended replication training for the Child Development-Community Police Program that was hosted by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department in May. This is a national model for mental health-community police partnership designed to provide a rapid response leading to early intervention to reduce the impact of violence related trauma on children.
 - An initial pilot for replicating this program is in the early development stages in Clearwater, as a collaboration between the Clearwater Police Department and Directions for Mental Health.
- A Request For Proposal (RFP) has been released to select a local evaluator, as required by the award. A request to award the evaluation contract for up to \$109,000 to a qualified provider will be presented to the Board in October.
- Additional RFPs related to implementation will be developed over the next few months to select:
 - Vendor for Social Marketing survey prior to implementing Safe Start public awareness campaign (up to \$20,000)
 - Vendor for development of Safe Start Information System Plan (up to \$50,000)
 - Provider collaborative to develop Safe Start Partnership Center with an anticipated start-up date in May, 2002 (up to \$165,200).
- On-going coordination with related community initiatives
- Initial implementation of proposed community involvement activities.