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# ANNUAL REPORT July 2015 - June 2016

TEAM for West Virginia Children, Inc.

Many thanks to our grant funders:

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Fund West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation West Virginia Children's Trust Fund Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts (IOLTA) The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation through Mission West Virginia United Way of Central West Virginia Foundation for the Tri-State Community Try This Change the Future WV Head Start Sisters of St. Joseph Health & Wellness Foundation Sisters Health Foundation

And many other contributors!

Our Initiatives: Mountain State Healthy Families • Western Regional CASA • Partners in Community Outreach Prevent Child Abuse West Virginia • West Viriginia Infant/Toddler Mental Health Association

www.teamwv.org

## The TEAM continues to sponsor several initiatives to carry out its mission:

## Western Regional CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate):

The TEAM initiated the state's first CASA Project in 1991. Each year in West Virginia, victims of child abuse are thrust into court through no fault of their own. These children become victims of a complex legal network of judges, lawyers, and social workers who frequently do not have time to give detailed attention to each child. The judges often find that no one has truly presented specialized, independent and well-researched information or has made recommendations that are in the best interests of the child. Sometimes these children fall through the cracks of the system that was designed to help them. In 1977, the concept of the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) was created by Judge David Soukup in Seattle, Washington to insure that the best interests of abused children were being presented in court. The CASA is a trained community volunteer, appointed by a judge, who provides the court with full knowledge of the child's circumstances and makes certain that the child is moved through the child welfare and court systems in a sensitive and expedient manner.

The TEAM's CASA Project, Western Regional CASA, celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> year in 2016, and continues to provide high quality advocacy to abused and neglected children in court. Western Regional CASA provides a trained community volunteer (CASA) to advocate for an abused child in Cabell, Wayne, Lincoln, Putnam, Boone and Kanawha County Circuit Courts. The CASA volunteer fully researches the situation and makes recommendations to the judge on what is in the best interests of the child as well as the best permanent placement. The CASA volunteer visits with the child frequently and gets regular updates from the child's caregiver.

CASA staff presented at three statewide conferences and has partnered with Mission WV to support older youth who are navigating the educational systems as they begin the transition to adulthood. Two new CASA Volunteer Supervisors were hired, bringing the total to 3 for the first time. These Volunteer Supervisors, along with the Program Coordinator recruited, screened, trained and supervised 51 volunteers in FY 16. Staff and volunteers advocated for the best interests of 250 abused/neglected children. CASA volunteers and staff participated in nearly 1,300 court hearings. Staff and volunteers also attended 335 multi-disciplinary team meetings where updates were given on the progress of the parents to reunify with their children. CASA staff also monitored an additional 466 children whose cases were in the system due to abuse and neglect. The children in these cases are on the wait list for a CASA volunteer. Volunteer recruitment efforts have increased due to the large jump in children in need of CASA advocacy.

## Mountain State Healthy Families:

During this year, Mountain State Healthy Families continued providing the universal screening, assessment and referral system for expectant women as the gateway for families into Healthy Families America and other community resources. Medical providers and social service agencies provided information about the program and invited families to participate. In FY16, 596 families in the program's six-county service area completed a screen and received a resource booklet like *Parenting Step-by-Step: A Guide to Resources in our Community.* Family Resource Specialists visited 282 of those families in their homes. During these visits, the Family

Resource Specialists engaged the families in conversations about their parenting backgrounds, hopes and concerns related to parenting, and plans for the future of their families. Based on this information, the families were linked with various community resources, one being the long-term home visitation services of Healthy Families America.

Healthy Families America is a national initiative by Prevent Child Abuse America to establish a universal, voluntary home visitor system for all new parents to help their children get off to a good start in life. Research over the last two decades has consistently confirmed that providing education and support services to parents around the time of a baby's birth – and continuing for months or years afterward – significantly contributes to positive, healthy child-rearing practices, thereby reducing the risk of child abuse and neglect. The goals of the model are (1) to systematically reach out to parents to offers resources and support; (2) to cultivate the growth of nurturing, responsive parent-child relationships; (3) to promote healthy childhood growth and development; and (4) to build the foundations for strong family functioning.

The TEAM entered into its 20th year of providing support to parents who face many challenges and offering them voluntary intensive home visitation services through Mountain State Healthy Families, an accredited program. In FY16 our home visitors served 329 families, facilitating 3,650 home visits. Additionally, group activities were held to provide an opportunity for participants to meet one another for support.

## Partners in Community Outreach (PiCO):

The report *Strategies for Building a Statewide System of Home Visiting in West Virginia* was completed and presented to the WV Early Childhood Advisory Council on August 12, 2015. The report also explored national home visiting systems that have developed strategies to address "the Big 3" (domestic violence, substance abuse, and mental health).

By the end of 2015, In-Home Family Education became available to some families in every county of West Virginia – a first in our history! This would not have been possible without the Federal Maternal, Infant, Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) funding secured by our colleagues at the WV Home Visitation Program, Office of Maternal, Child & Family Health, Bureau for Public Health at the WV Department of Health and Human Resources. Over 1700 families are currently being served. Partners in Community Outreach participated in the MIECHV Federal Site Review of the WV Home Visitation Program in September 2015.

The *Efforts to Outcomes* (ETO) data system, provided by the WV Home Visitation Program, is continually adapted to meet the needs of efficient data collection. This data is shared with *Partners in Community Outreach*. Through the ETO data system, there is a referral tracking system in place that works across early childhood programs such as *Right From the Start* and *Help Me Grow*. We are planning a self-referral feature on the websites <u>www.wvpartners.org</u> and <u>www.inhomefamilyed.com</u>

In March 2016, *Partners in Community Outreach* held a planning retreat to develop new commitments and strategies for the future. From that, a new strategic work plan was created to guide our work together over the next few years. That strategic work plan also provided a foundation for a grant proposal to the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, who has been funding the coalition.

The Coordinator wrote an article entitled *In-Home Family Education Promotes Oral Health in Pregnant Women and Children* for <u>Early Childhood Quarterly</u> and assisted in soliciting two additional articles for the publication (from the WV Department of Education & the WV University Pregnancy and Oral Health Study), which focused on young children's oral health. The Coordinator had a fun interview on the WV Public Broadcasting Front Porch podcast on June 22, 2016.

The Coordinator received Level VII on the State Training and Registry System (STARS) Career Pathway and became a Certified STARS Trainer in 2015. The Coordinator re-certified as a trainer in the updated WV STARS system in the Spring of 2016. The Coordinator has sponsored WV STARS credits for Safe Sleep trainings and several other trainings.

Partners in Community Outreach and WV Home Visitation staff and consultants presented We've Come a Long Way, Baby! a well-received day-long session at 2016 Celebrating Connections Early Childhood Conference. In addition, a Positive Parenting Norms workshop geared toward home visitors was presented at the same conference, with the leadership of our colleague Jay Otto, from the Center for Health and Safety Culture, Western Transportation Institute, Montana State University.

The Partners in Community Outreach Coordinator continued to periodically co-present *What Is Infant Mental Health and Why Is It Important?* at various state and local conferences.

The Mental Health Support for Home Visitors pilot project provided group clinical consultation to In-Home Family Education programs around West Virginia. This pilot project was funded by the Sisters of Saint Joseph Health and Wellness Foundation and the WV Department of Health and Human Resources Bureaus for Behavioral Health and Health Facilities and Public Health, Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health and also included First Choice Health Systems as a collaborative partner.

Partners in Community Outreach coordinated logistics (location, lodging, food & PiCO Agenda) for the Quarterly Meetings held jointly with the WV Home Visitation Program. Partners in Community Outreach continue to be represented on the WV Early Childhood Advisory Council, its committees and subcommittees; WV STARS Policy Advisory Council; Our Babies: Safe & Sound Advisory Panel, WV Pyramid Model Leadership Team, and many other statewide groups.

## Prevent Child Abuse West Virginia (PCA-WV):

As the state chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America, PCA-WV has implemented a variety of projects and initiatives throughout the state during the past year. We are pleased with the success of our various state and local partners during the past year.

- The WV Circle of Parents Network grew from 32 groups to 34 groups during the past year. Circle groups held a total of 375 meetings in FY 20116.
- Over 450 parents/caregivers participated in Circle of Parents group meetings.
- Child Abuse Prevention Month activities were conducted throughout the state including distributing 19,200 Pinwheels for Prevention statewide.
- Various child abuse prevention trainings on topics including Strengthening Families, Mandated Reporter Training, infant Safe Sleep and preventing Shaken Baby Syndrome were conducted.
- We have worked to develop an online Mandated Reporter Training Module.
- We implemented a Development Campaign which resulted in more people donating to the WV Children's Trust Fund than ever before with over 11,000 people donating during the past year.

What follows are the various projects and initiatives under the umbrella of our state chapter.

Partners in Prevention (PIP) - Through our Partners in Prevention (PIP) mini-grant program, 44 grants were awarded last year to community teams that are making a difference in preventing child maltreatment within our state. With a focus on building Protective Factors identified by the Center for the Study of Social Policy that are linked to the prevention of child abuse and neglect, PIP teams implemented activities and services based upon locally identified needs, as well as consideration of promising and evidence-based practices. Their plans are also supported through the establishment of logic models, parent involvement, reflections of past experiences, lessons learned throughout the years, and personal stories from those they serve.

Community projects included ongoing Parenting Classes, Parent-to-Parent Support Groups, Parent Support Trainings, Baby Pantries, Educational & Supportive Events (such as Family Days/Nights; Family Field Trips; Moms & Dads Day Out; Pre-K Academy), Community Parent Resource Fairs and Baby Showers, Community Discussions & Forums, and Community Trainings for Parents, Professionals, and Community Members.

More than 83,000 WV parents, children, professionals and community members received faceto-face support or training through the PIP Teams. More than 74,000 educational materials made it into the hands of parents, professionals and the public. The teams received ongoing technical assistance from our Community Partnerships Coordinator. PIP Team Leaders also participated in an annual 3-day training session.

*Our Babies: Safe & Sound - Our Babies: Safe and Sound* is an educational campaign that provides parents and other caregivers of infants under the age of one, as well as expectant parents and professionals, with information and tips on ways to keep babies safe while

sleeping, and how to keep your cool when babies cry. The overall goal of the campaign is to help prevent West Virginia infants from injury and death.

During the past year, we expanded our *Say YES to Safe Sleep for Babies Hospital Project* to 5 additional hospitals, bringing our total to 22 hospitals statewide. Collectively, these hospitals serve over 80% of the births in WV. We are making great progress towards having 100% participation to reach every child born in the state.

During the past year, over 152,000 materials promoting safe sleep and shaken baby prevention were distributed to families statewide. We conducted numerous trainings on infant safe sleep and shaken baby prevention, and we have published an updated online training module for infant safe sleep featuring the most up-to-date recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics. We also have finalized a new 7 minute Say YES to Safe Sleep video and DVD for parents and caregivers of newborns. Additionally, we conducted a number of activities at hospitals across the state during Infant Safe Sleep Month with WV First Lady, Joanne Jaeger Tomblin, who has been an outstanding spokesperson for the campaign.

Strengthening Families West Virginia - We have supported implementation of the Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework, including providing training to a total of 286 WV participants from the early care & education, advocacy, child welfare, mental health, housing, business, medical, education and other sectors during the past year. Our four nationally-certified Strengthening Families trainers delivered workshops to provide in-depth information to home visitors and others about the Strengthening Families framework.

This year SFWV expanded partnerships and equipped dozens of new community members to nurture Protective Factors among families in their communities. SFWV mini-grants were awarded to 7 communities in support of local projects that build protective factors. The grantees reported increased parent engagement in planning and implementation, increased activity among community partners, and the leveraging of new resources and opportunities brought about by the collaborative work of their mini-grant.

*Circle of Parents West Virginia* - Prevent Child Abuse WV officially launched Circle of Parents in West Virginia in September 2012. Circle of Parents is a national network of parent-led self-help groups, where parents and caregivers share ideas, celebrate successes and address the challenges surrounding parenting.

The WV Circle of Parents Network grew from 32 groups that met during all or part of FY15 to 34 groups during FY16. There were 17 sponsoring organizations with active groups during FY16. Circle groups held a total of 375 meetings in FY16. 466 parents/caregivers participated in Circle meetings in FY16. 129 children participated in a children's program while their parents met.

The Circle of Parents Training Team conducted a 2-day workshop and trained 25 new Circle of Parents facilitators and parent leaders. Photos are posted at <a href="https://wvcircleofparentsnetwork.shutterfly.com">https://wvcircleofparentsnetwork.shutterfly.com</a>.

The Network conducted a voluntary member survey (May-June 2016), funded by the Benedum Foundation, to assure that the WV Circle of Parents Networks and its member organizations and groups are having a positive impact on parents/caregivers and their families.

- 85% of respondents said Circle of Parents helped them improve their parenting skills.
- 87% said Circle of Parents made a positive difference in their family.
- 95% said they felt comfortable discussing questions and concerns with their Circle of Parents groups.

*Child Abuse Prevention Month*- All of our *Partners in Prevention* teams actively participated in Child Abuse Prevention month. Participation in the *Pinwheels for Prevention* campaign has grown remarkably in our PIP centered communities. In 2016, we distributed 14,016 pinwheels to our PIP Team Leaders across the state.

The pinwheel symbol is becoming recognized as a calling card for action on behalf of our children's health, safety and well-being. The engagement activities are broad-based and growing each year and include: pinwheel awareness gardens; "Paint the Town Blue" and "Wear Blue" events; displays in business storefronts; awareness walks/runs; media blitzes (both print & social) that were targeted to the message that we all have a role to play in the health & well-being of our children and our communities; children's day at courthouses across the state; engagement with local early education programs, libraries, the business community, and schools; recognition events for local child advocates, and prevention-focused training, community events, and celebrations throughout the month.

*WV ACES Coalition* - In early 2016, Prevent Child Abuse WV joined with over 70 different organizations and individuals to form the West Virginia ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences) Coalition. The PCA-WV State Coordinator serves as Co-Chair of the Coalition. The Coalition's vision, mission, and goals are:

<u>Vision</u>: All West Virginians will thrive in a compassionate community that supports lifelong healthy development.

<u>Mission</u>: To improve the health and well-being of all West Virginians by reducing the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and preventing their occurrence. <u>Goals:</u>

- Advocate for resources to support best practices to reduce the burden of ACEs.
- **Coordinate** across agency boundaries to deliver the best possible services to reduce and mitigate ACEs.
- **Educate** the public and influential citizens/leaders on the role of ACEs in the present health and economic problems facing our state.

The Coalition has formed workgroups and held 4 meetings. We were very pleased that Dr. Vincent Felitti, co-author of the original ACES study showing the link between ACES and health outcomes, joined us for our Coalition meeting in October. The Coalition is working to analyze the prevalence of ACES in West Virginia and publish a White Paper in early 2017 documenting the results.

*Public Policy* - PCA-WV continued to advocate for policies that promote safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments, thereby preventing child maltreatment. We convened the Legislative Action Team on Children & Families, which meets weekly during the Legislative Session and distributes action alerts as needed to mobilize advocates in support of policies affecting children and their families. Actions included work to preserve funding for early childhood and family support programs, and restored funding for Child Advocacy Centers. In addition, we assisted the State Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children, which was established with the passage of **Erin Merryn's Law** during the 2015 Regular Legislative Session. The Task Force is developing recommendations for decreasing the incidence of sexual abuse of children in West Virginia.

WV Children's Trust Fund (CTF) Development Campaign – This campaign had another positive year with our second highest total donations ever. We also set a record for number of donations received with 11,013 people donating. Donations totaled \$137,826, which is a slight decrease from the previous year, but still 14.5% higher than 2 years ago and more than double what the total was when Prevent Child Abuse WV began the annual development campaign encouraging donations to the CTF. The number of people donating has also increased dramatically with a 24% increase in number of donors from 2 years ago.

## West Virginia Infant/Toddler Mental Health Association:

The first three years of life are critical to healthy brain development. As development is cumulative, all infants and toddlers need good health, strong families, and positive early experiences to enhance their potential. The WV Infant Toddler Mental Health Association is working to promote collaboration among the various disciplines that work with young children and families. Through a nationally recognized set of Early Childhood Mental Health Competencies, those working with and for children will use a shared framework, which focuses on relationship practices and gives a platform to address the social emotional needs of all children. As part of the competencies, professionals can pursue the Infant Mental Health Endorsement, which guides professional growth and development of professionals who work with or on behalf of infants, toddlers, and families.

Highlights of the Association's work in 2016 include:

• Endorsed two Infant Mental Health professionals (Level II); four other professionals still in process

- Hosted a two-day Reflective Supervision retreat and facilitated monthly 1 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hour Reflective Supervision conference calls
- Began conversations and initial work to implement the West Virginia Infant/Toddler Mental Health Competency Guidelines into West Virginia STARS (West Virginia State Training and Registry System)
- Collaborated with Project LAUNCH to promote West Virginia's first Infant Mental Health Week (including participating in the Roll and Read event)
- Hosted and facilitated a week of lunchtime webinars during Infant Mental Health Week with over 50 people participating each day (topics included What is Infant Mental Health?, Father-Child Bonding, Substance Abuse, Reflective Supervision, and Baby and Infant Feeding
- Presented to the WV Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) Infant/Toddler Credential Workgroup and the full ECAC Advisory Board where the decision was made to recognize the Endorsement as the state Infant/Toddler credential (instead of creating a new credentialing system)
- Partnered with Great Beginnings Conference to expand conference offerings specific to Infant Mental Health and lengthen conference
- Facilitated a Pre-conference Seminar (Reflective Supervision: A Key to Supporting High Quality Services for Young Children) and One Day Institute (Mental Health Issues Within the Parent Child Dyad) during Celebrating Connections
- Participated in many webinars and presentations that highlighted Infant Mental Health, the Association, and the Endorsement (including West Virginia Home Visitation Program Lunch and Learn, Birth to Three Lunch and Learn, Project Launch presentations, Great Beginnings Conference, WV Early Intervention Interagency Coordinating Council, WV ACEs press conference, Celebrating Connections, WV Social Work Conference)
- Developed a promotional video for the competencies/endorsement

#### TEAM for West Virginia Children BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cathy Burns, Huntington Regional Chamber of Commerce Jean Eglinton, Rabbi, B'Nai Sholom Congregation Jo Dee Gottlieb, Marshall University Social Work Program Beth Hammers, Marshall Health Barbara Hoeft, H3LLC Lisa Jacobson, The Huntington Land Company Irv Johnson, Cabell County Assessor Mary Johnson, Lifeskills Therapy Services Stephen Jones, Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Lauren Oxley Mayo, President, Mid-Atlantic Maintenance Bill McIlvain, Community Volunteer Samuel Moore, Pastor, Full Gospel Assembly Patricia Proctor, Simon Perry Center for Constitutional Democracy Marie Redd, paralegal Xavier Staggs, Jenkins Fenstermaker PLLC Ann Wheeler, Secretary, Community Volunteer Jennifer Wheeler, Vice-President, Cabell Assessor's Office Christie White, Treasurer, First State Bank

Each Board member is elected to serve a three-year term. Each officer is elected to serve a one-year term.

During this year, the Board of Directors held meetings on July 21, 2015; September 8, 2015; October 13, 2015; November 10, 2015; January 12, 2016; March 8, 2016; May 10, 2016; and June 9, 2016.

All Board meetings were held at 4:30pm at First State Bank in Huntington, WV.

The TEAM's Annual Meeting was held on November 3, 2015 at 6:00pm at Marshall University Visual Arts Center in Huntington, WV.

#### CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL

Laurie McKeown, Executive Director Florence Tabor, Office Manager Connie Kinsey, Administrative Assistant Michelle Rollyson, WV Infant/Toddler Mental Health Association Administrative Coordinator Kim Runyon Wilds, Western Regional CASA Coordinator Jim McKay, Prevent Child Abuse West Virginia Coordinator Michelle Comer, Mountain State Healthy Families America Senior Program Coordinator Michele Baranaskas, Partners in Community Outreach Coordinator

#### ASSETS

Current Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 233,565
Accounts Receivable	\$ 1,342
Grants Receivable	\$ 62,673
Other Receivables	\$ -
Prepaid Expenses	\$ 20,035
Workers Compensation Deposit	\$ -
Total Current Assets	\$ 317,615
Furniture, Fixtures, and Office Equipment	\$ 50,326
Deposits	\$ -
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 367,941

<i>Public Support &amp; Other Revenue</i> Funds from Direct Public Support Federal & State grants Other Grants	\$ \$ \$	29,282 3,089,831 214,819	
Total Support	Φ	3,333,932	
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Revenue			
Fees for services	\$	15	
Interest and dividends	\$	1,241	
Rent	\$	2,040	
Fundraising sales	\$	41,461	
Miscellaneous	\$	-	
In-kind revenue	\$	23,884	
Total Revenue	\$	68,641	
TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUE	\$	3,402,573	

#### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$ 57,346
Payroll Taxes	\$ -
Accrued payroll liabilities	\$ 12,322
Accrued vacation	\$ 64,251
Deffered revenues	\$ 279,584
Total Liabilities	\$ 413,503
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	\$ (45,562)
Temporarily restricted	. ,
Total Net Assets	\$ (45,562)

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS \$

#### **EXPENSES**

NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR

Program Services :		
Advocacy	\$ 187,048	
Family support	\$ 1,955,653	
Education	\$ 846,043	
State system	\$ 223,276	
Total Program Services	\$ 3,212,020	
Support Services :		
Management and General	\$ 188,618	
Fundraising	\$ 14,019	
	\$ 202,637	
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 3,414,657	
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets		
Excess of (deficit) for the year	\$ (12,085)	
Net assets, beginning of year	\$ (33,477)	

\$

(45,562)

The Vision of the TEAM for West Virginia Children is to Promote safe, loving and healthy environments, to Eliminate child abuse, and to Ensure permanent families for all children.

367,941