



ALLIANCE
FOR
HUMAN
SERVICES

**Miami-Dade Human Services
Progress Report 2008
-An update to the 2004-2007
Social Services Master Plan**

**CBO Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, November 05, 2008**

This report is an update to the 2004-2007 plan, continuing the theme of Building a Livable Community for All, and is intended to refine and focus on **community outcomes**, set a baseline to measure progress towards the goals and outcomes and to identify priority areas for focusing policy advocacy, funding and the strategic development of service delivery in Miami-Dade County.

The Process...

- Two rounds of cluster meetings
- Staff refinement of goals, outcomes, indicators
- Special workgroups to ensure the outcomes presented are community focused, shared and measurable and to identify best practices and strategies
 - Round 1 : Refined the goals, outcomes and measures
 - Round 2: Looking at data, strategies and best practices
- Neighborhood meetings

Process cont'd

- Drafting of integrated document by staff
- Final Data collection, preliminary analysis, preparation of document draft
 - Format:
 - Description of the goals outcomes and indicators,
 - what each indicator means,
 - how we are doing in Miami-Dade County,
 - factors influencing the trends
 - strategies
 - Internal staff meetings with 2 or 3 experts for each cluster to review initial draft.
 - Credibility and accuracy of data
 - Usefulness of data
 - Trend influences and recommendations for improving the trends
 - Dissemination for final review
 - Utilizing existing forums where possible
 - Document finalization and publishing

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Results
Livable Communities

Focus areas:

- Poverty and Economic disparity
- Housing affordability
- Transportation
- Education
- Jobs/Employment
- Safe, Healthy Environment

Key Findings

Poverty

- The poverty rate in Miami-Dade County has decreased as of 2007, but continues to exceed that of the state and the nation, while median family income has seen steady increases. Food stamp use has increased, particularly since January 2008

Housing affordability

- Housing affordability remains a preeminent quality of life issue in Miami-Dade County. Median Home Price in the county has jumped from \$147,734 to \$299,300 between the years 2004 and June 2008, while median family income has not come close to doubling.

Transportation

- Commute times to work remain constant in Miami-Dade County and driving to work alone in a car, truck, or van remains the most common method, which underscores the need to develop accessible, timely public transportation that reaches residential and work centers

Livable communities cont'd

Education

- The numbers of individuals with less than a 9th grade education have climbed every year between 2004 and 2006, while students continue to score below state averages in nearly every subject in every grade throughout Miami-Dade Public Schools.

Jobs/Employment

- Unemployment has jumped significantly since 2007 after declining every year from 2004 to 2007 standing at 5.5% in August 2008; however, the jobs that are most abundant pay close to the minimum wage.

Safe Environment

- Violent and non-violent crime and vehicle crashes and injuries in Miami-Dade County have been trending downwards since 2004; however, vehicle fatalities are trending upwards

Healthy Environment

- High air quality remains an asset to the county

Recommendations

- greater investment in education and public transportation;
- building a robust economy that allows for all persons in the county to increase earned income
- creating affordable housing
- maintaining a safe and healthy environment for families

Basic Needs

Vision:

Individuals and families are self-sufficient and achieve economic security

Goals:

What we expect to happen...

1. Miami-Dade County will have access to public benefits and legal services
2. Miami-Dade county residents increase their earned income.
3. Miami-Dade County will see an increase in food security

Key Findings

-Miami-Dade County's poverty rate in 2007 was 15.4%, a decline from 16.3% in 2006.

-14.1% of all households in Miami-Dade county were food insecure with Use of public benefits and legal services meant to meet the basic needs of residents has declined in Miami-Dade County in some important areas and increased in others

- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and cash public assistance decreased in 2007
- Food stamp use decline up to 2007 then rose sharply in to just over 200,000 households in August 2008.
- Unemployment Insurance claims have increase

- more families, children and youth, older persons, and individuals are living above the poverty line in 2007 compares to 2004.

-the median family income has increased from \$40,927 in 2004 to \$49,894 in 2007, while per capita income has gone from \$29,817 to \$33,712 between 2004 and 2006

-In 2007 the Daily Bread Food Bank distributed 18,748,313 pounds of food to four south Florida counties.

Recommendations for priorities for funding, policy and strategic development for Basic Needs

- Education and outreach on eligibility to public benefits
- Advocacy for wage policies to support economic independence of residents
- Increased food distribution

Children and Adults with Disabilities

VISION: Persons with Disabilities are Full Participants in All Aspects of Community Life: Living, Learning and Working

Goals:

What we expect to happen...

1. Persons with physical, developmental, intellectual and/or sensory disabilities will have access to the services they need
2. Persons with disabilities will function at their highest level of independence

Key Findings

- the rate of persons with a disability in 2007 was 14.3%, an increase from 11.8% in 2004.
- 4.3% of all children and youth aged 5-15, 9.8% of all persons aged 16-64, and 44.2% of all persons over 65 in Miami-Dade County have at least one disability
- Only 36.7% of all persons with any disability between the ages of 16-64 are employed,
- 25.7% of persons with any disability are living in poverty compared to 13.2% of persons with no disability who are living in poverty

Recommendations for priorities for funding, policy and strategic development for Children and Adults with Disabilities

- Education and outreach to families and caregivers on availability of resources in the community
- Assessment, case management and individualized plans
- Youth to adult transition services

Children Youth and Families

Our Vision:

Children and Youth are Nurtured by Strong, Healthy Families and a Caring Community

Goals:

What we expect to happen...

- Children, youth and families will have improved access to services
- Children, youth and families will improve their health and wellness
- Children and youth will increase their school readiness and academic performance
- Youth will develop positive social and life skills
- Children, youth and families will have a safe and nurturing environment

Key Findings

- Families and children in Miami are more likely to be in poverty than in Florida and the US. For 2004-2006 poverty levels of all families generally trended upwards from 12.8% to 14.9%, before dropping to 11.8% in 2007.
- less than 50% of all eligible children accessed Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten
- 100,000 children in the county (16% of all children) under the age of 18 remain uncovered by health insurance.
- High School graduation and drop out rates and FCAT scores remain significantly behind the state averages
- More than 1 in 10 female students in Miami-Dade County Public Schools attempt suicide and more than 1 in 3 experience depression
- the rate and number of incidents of child abuse (verified and some indication) has been on the decline since 2003-2004
- Fire Rescue is currently exceeding their target response times

Recommendations for priorities for funding, policy and strategic development Children, Youth and families are:

- Education and outreach as an access issue
- At-risk youth programs
- Family Support Services

Criminal Justice

VISION: A Criminal Justice System that promotes a Safe and Stable Community Where Residents Live Securely

Goals:

What we expect to happen...

1. Incarcerated adults will have access to re-entry services to allow them to return successfully to the community; remain arrest free and crime free and becoming a productive and contributing member of society/community
2. At-risk and incarcerated youth will have access to youth crime prevention, diversion, intervention and re-entry services (conditional release services) to reduce the numbers of youth in the juvenile justice system.

Key Findings

- In Miami-Dade County, crime has been trending downwards since 2003;
 - the numbers of nonviolent crime, which includes burglaries, larcenies, and motor vehicle thefts, increased recently going from 47,398 in 2006 to 50,703 in 2007.
 - violent crime, which includes murder, forcible sex offenses, robberies, and aggravated assaults, has trended downwards since 2003 going from 9,223 in 2003 to 8,537 in 2007.
 - Blue Ribbon Commission reporting an estimated 30% of all ex-offenders re-offending in three years
- from FY 2002-2003 to 2006-2007 there has been a decrease in the number of youth charged with a violent felony offense going from 7.5 to 5.8 persons per 1,000
- The number of violent offenses referrals for youth in the county has also decreased by 18.9% over the last five years.
- Youth diversion from juvenile court is on the increase, a possible indication of the success of programs, such as the Civil Citation in addressing delinquency for minor offenses

Recommendations for priorities for funding, policy and strategic development for Criminal Justice

- Comprehensive, meaningful assessments and discharge plans and services based on those assessments for youth and adult offenders
- Increased case management
- Life skills services and supports (vocational, educational, emotional)
- Supervision of ex-offenders

Elder Services

VISION: Older Adults Age Successfully and Live Safely in a Supportive Community

Goals: What we expect to happen...

1. Older adults and their families will have access to services
2. Older adults will live where they choose for as long as they have the capacity to do so
3. Older adults will be protected from abuse, exploitation, neglect and danger

Key Findings

- Miami-Dade County has the largest number of persons over the age of 60 of all counties in Florida.
 - This population accounts for a projected 18.5% of the population in 2008, with 13.8% of the population of the county or 345,734 persons being over the age of 65.
- Approximately 54% of persons over 65 report having no disability. Of those who have one or more disabilities, 117,576 have at least one disability (physical and/or otherwise) that prevents them from going outside the home
- in 2007, there were 67,441 older adults or 20% of the 65+ population living in poverty.
- The number of food insecure older adults has been on the increase since 2004, with the rate remaining around 5.1%
- in 2007, 56.6% of all adults age 65 and over lived with their spouse or a family member, while 43.4% lived alone or without a family member in the household. Also in 2007, 40.0% of adults over 65 lived alone without a spouse, while 43.4% lived as a married couple
- Of the 1,358 caregivers receiving service from the Florida Department of Elder Affairs in 2007, 97.35% reported their ability to provide care was improved or maintained after intervention

Recommendations for priorities for funding, policy and strategic development for Elder Services

- Homecare
- Older adult abuse
- Education as an access issue

Health

VISION:

Residents Have Access to Quality Healthcare and Lead Healthy Lives

Goals:

What we expect to happen...

1. Residents will have access to primary, secondary, tertiary and behavioral health services
2. Residents will lead healthy lives

Key Findings

- The rate of uninsured in Miami-Dade County is significantly higher than that of the nation at 28.6 in 2004
- Miami-Dade County immunization rates are on the rise, currently at 82% for children aged 19-35 months
- percentage of adults in Miami-Dade County who consume fruits and vegetables 5 or more times daily, is at 23.3% and just under the rate for Florida
- Miami-Dade County also has a higher number of persons considered obese and overweight than the state of Florida and for 2004-2006, 33.5% of adults in Miami-Dade County had no leisure time activity
- The county does share with the state similar disparities in health measures by race and ethnicity.
 - Blacks are less likely to receive annual dental visits (age 2+), annual flu shots (age 65+), and prenatal care while pregnant, and are more likely to have asthma, be overweight and obese, have difficulty in accessing healthcare in the past year, and have no leisure time for physical activity than whites
 - Hispanics are more likely than non-Hispanics to have prolonged depression, have extremely stressful days, have no leisure time for physical activities, lack health insurance (age 18-64), have difficulty in accessing healthcare the previous year, and be overweight.

Recommendations for priorities for funding, policy and strategic development for Health

- Addressing Health Disparities
- Access to preventative care
- Reducing preventable diseases through healthy lifestyles

Immigrants and New Entrants

VISION: Immigrants and New Entrants (including refugees, asylum and victims of trafficking) successfully transition and integrate into the Community

Goals:

What we expect to happen...

1. Immigrants and new entrants will have access to social services, public benefits and employment
2. Immigrants and new entrants will be empowered to integrate into the community

Key Findings

- The rate of foreign-born persons in the population of Miami-Dade County was stable at approximately 50% between 2004 and 2006
- Immigrants of Miami-Dade County are more likely to be low-wage, at risk of poverty than the general population of the county
- More than one in four foreign-born residents of Miami-Dade County have less than a high school education, and foreign-born median earnings are far less than the general population's earnings in Miami-Dade County, making vocational and educational services critical for this population
- In 2007, 60.5% of all foreign-born residents in Miami-Dade County speak English less than "very well"
- there has been an increase of persons obtaining Legal Permanent Resident Status in Miami-Dade County from 2003-2006

Recommendations for priorities for funding, policy and strategic development for immigrants and New Entrants

- Education & outreach as an access to benefits issue
- Vocational and Educational Services
- English Language Competency

Workforce Development

VISION: Hard-to-Serve Job Seekers (poorly educated, poorly skilled, individuals with disabilities, ex-offenders, at-risk youth or elders) have the Opportunity to Learn, Work and Become Self-Sufficient

Goals:

What we expect to happen...

1. Hard-to-serve job seekers will have access to workforce development services
2. Hard-to-serve job seekers will be equipped with the skills needed to be job ready
3. Hard-to-serve job seekers will find and maintain employment

Key findings

- The unemployment rate of persons with any disability aged 16-64 in 2007 was 63.3% for Miami-Dade County, a decline from 69.5 in 2004. Of those in the county employed 33.7% were below the poverty level in 2007
- The number of ex-offenders receiving workforce development services through Transitions Inc, the South Florida Workforce provider servicing this population was 192 in 2007-08, a decline from 297 in 2004. Of these 142 or 82.2% were placed in employment as compared to 249 or 83.8% placed in 2004.
- The Florida Department of Education Schools Indicator report shows that in 2007, 54.6 % of followed-up high school graduates from the previous year were working either part-time or full time one year after graduation, an increasing/decreasing trend since 2004

•The impact of being inadequately educated and poorly skilled is reflected in median earnings. The earning potential for those with less than a high school education remains below \$17,000 and increases with additional educational attainment

•The employment rate of older adults age 65 to 74 in Miami-Dade County has increased in small increments between 2005 and 2007 moving from 22.7% to 23.8%, while the employment rate for persons aged 75 and older has declined from 6.7% in 2003 to 4.9% in 2007.

Recommendations for priorities for funding, policy and strategic development for Workforce Development for Special Populations

- Comprehensive assessments and services that support job seekers from education/training to employment
- Advocacy for increased funding targeted to workforce development for special populations
- Advocacy with the business community to increase employment for hard-to-serve job seekers

Next Steps for the Alliance

- Publishing of the report
- Completion of the Funding Inventory

What we hope the community will undertake

- A comprehensive needs assessment for all the human services sector
- Producing a Social Services Master Plan for 2010
- Development of implementation strategies to meet the community goals
- Annual updating of the Progress Report on the Plan