

encouraged to become participants in the program activities such as the parent/family nights,
complete a family assessment and set goals for the family based on these assessments.

Classroom teachers also completed initial home visits to share classroom expectations and obtain input from parents regarding their child.

Referrals were made to community services and counseling as needed.

Have any problems or obstacles in regard to the planning or implementation of this project been encountered this quarter? If so, explain what they were and how they were overcome.

Obtaining and providing quality staff continues to be a challenge. As a result we did not offer summer services in Osage while re recruited, hired, and trained new center staff. We advertised and were able to hire staff with teaching license, CDA credential and Head Start experience.

The second obstacle occurs in helping parents to understand the importance of health care and completing paper work on time. Family workers made phone calls and home visits to each family that included assistance with paperwork as needed and reminders of deadlines and appointments.

Does there continue to be a need for this project? Explain.

Yes, there is. The collaboration with Rockford preschool indicates the need for expanding our efforts to serve children who just miss the Head Start qualifications. There is an increase in the number of children served from the previous year. We have also added children to the program in Nora Springs. The increase in empowerment funded children from the previous indicates a definite need for these Head Start quality services.

FMC EMPOWERMENT AREA PROJECT

Quarterly Project Report

Today's Date: January 15, 2006 Quarter: Second
Project Director: Dianne Casto
Name of Project: Head Start
Service Area: Floyd and Mitchell County
Dates of Project/Service: July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006/October 1 – December 31, 2005
Number of Participants this quarter:

October -	Charles City A	2 empowerment for 21 days
	Charles City B	2 empowerment for 19 days
		16 children for 2 additional days
	Rockford	9 empowerment for 20 days
	Nora Springs	2 empowerment for 21 days
	Osage	2 empowerment for 19 days
		12 children for 19 extended days

Family Worker continued initial home visits and followed up on referrals. Parent meetings were begun.

November –	Charles City A	2 empowerment for 19 days
	Charles City B	2 empowerment for 17 days
		16 at no additional days
	Rockford	9 empowerment for 15 days
	Nora Springs	2 empowerment for 17 days
	Osage	2 empowerment for 17 days
		12 children for extended days

Family Worker continued to make home visits to new families.

December –	Charles City A	2 empowerment for 20 days
	Charles City B	2 empowerment for 14 days
		15 children for 6 additional days
	Rockford	9 empowerment for 13 days
	Nora Springs	2 empowerment for 11 days
	Osage	2 Empowerment for 12 days
		12 children for 12 extended days

Initial Funding Request: \$120,530 Actual funding needed October - December: \$23,570.68. Total Amount of Funding Needed to Date: \$36,327.65.

Explain your progress toward achieving the goals, objectives and action steps of this project.

The goal is to provide Head Start comprehensive services to children in Floyd and Mitchell County who do not qualify for Head Start and to extend the length of services for Head Start qualified children. We have provided services to seventeen children and extended services for 27 children. Extended services have been provided in Charles City

with additional days of service and in Osage with extended and additional days for service. Full comprehensive services were provided to each child. Services were provided to nine children in Rockford and four in Charles City two in Nora Springs and two in Osage who would not have been able to obtain services. A family worker continued the initial home visits as new families enrolled. During these visits parents were assisted to:

- Complete required paper work,
- complete medical appointments if needed,
- encouraged to become participants in the program activities such as the parent/family nights,
- complete a family assessment and set goals for the family based on these assessments.

Classroom teachers also completed initial home visits with new families to share classroom expectations and obtain input from parents regarding their child. Teachers held conferences in November to discuss the child's progress with the parents and share information to assist the families in encouraging their child's education and participation in Head Start. Our first RIF (Reading Is Fundamental) family night was held to encourage children and parents to read. Each child was able to select their own book to keep.

Referrals were made to community services and counseling as needed.

Have any problems or obstacles in regard to the planning or implementation of this project been encountered this quarter? If so, explain what they were and how they were overcome.

Obtaining and providing quality staff continues to be a challenge. We continued to advertise until we were able to interview individuals with some experience working with preschool children for the empowerment aide positioning Osage. In Charles City when the aide left employment (birth of child and need for more hours), we combined two positions to enable us to provide health benefits resulting in the ability to hire a staff person.

The second obstacle occurs in helping parents to understand the importance of health care and completing paper work on time. Family workers continued to make phone calls and home visits to each family that included assistance with paperwork as needed and reminders of deadlines and appointments. Phone calls and home visits as needed were made to follow-up with families on their goals and achievements.

Does there continue to be a need for this project? Explain.

Yes, there is. The collaboration with Rockford preschool indicates the need for expanding our efforts to serve children who just miss the Head Start qualifications. There is an increase in the number of children served from the previous year. We have also added children to the program in Nora Springs. The increase in empowerment funded children from the previous indicates a definite need for these Head Start quality services. We do have a small waiting list for services in Floyd County