

Oklahoma State Department of Health – Child Guidance Program

Child Guidance Vision: *Creating a state of health in which families can thrive so that all children reach optimal growth and development.*

Child Guidance Mission: *Child Guidance serves children, birth to age 13, their families and caregivers by providing services that are relationship based, family centered, developmentally appropriate and culturally sensitive. Child Guidance is a key partner in a system of care that works to assure conditions by which our younger citizens can be healthy.*

Program Overview:

The Child Guidance Program (CGP), developed in 1956, addresses the mental health needs of children and families in Oklahoma. Located within targeted local county health departments in areas with significant poverty and high risk indicators, the center-based program provides prevention, early detection and intervention services. County hub locations include: Bryan, Canadian, Carter, Cleveland, Comanche, Custer, Garfield, Kay, Leflore, Muskogee, Oklahoma, Payne, Pittsburg, Pottawatomie, Rogers and Tulsa.

Eligibility Criteria: Children birth to age 13 and their families who do not qualify for Part C or B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Services:

The CGP provides clinic-based individual and group services which focus on strengthening families by promoting positive parent-child relationships and optimal development. Child development specialists, speech language pathologists, and psychologists provide screening, assessment and intervention for developmental, communication, hearing, and behavioral concerns and assists families in accessing resources. All services provided through the program are evidence-based or evidence informed best practices. During SFY 2014, the CGP served 7,316 individual clients through 20,586 clinic based visits. Those visits were comprised of screening, assessment/evaluation and treatment services. An additional 18,975 persons were served through 1,230 group events. Specialized Programs within the CGP include:

- ***Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT):*** PCIT is an empirically-supported treatment for conduct-disordered young children with an emphasis on improving the quality of the parent-child relationship and changing parent-child interaction patterns. For SFY 2014, 884 total individual encounters for Parent Child Interaction Therapy program were conducted.
- ***The Incredible Years:*** Parents, Teachers, and Children Training Series is a comprehensive set of curricula designed to promote social competence and prevent, reduce, and treat aggression and related conduct problems in young children ages 4 to 8 years. For SFY 2014, The Incredible Years Program served 67 parents in parenting groups, 25 children in classroom groups and, 149 children in treatment groups.
- ***Circle of Parents (COP):*** Circle of Parents® uses an evidence-informed mutual self-help support group model as a means of preventing child abuse and neglect and strengthening families. Groups are parent-led with the support of a trained group facilitator, encouraging leadership and accountability for the success of the group and each participant. For SFY 2014, 30 groups were facilitated by CGP clinicians.
- ***Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation:*** CGP clinicians are part of a network of providers who consult with OKDHS subsidized child care centers across the state. This evidence-based practice is provided at the child care center's request and has been shown to be extremely effective in decreasing expulsion from child care. On-site consultation with the classroom teacher and child care staff provides education and information about handling challenging behaviors, classroom management and developmental expectations. For SFY 2014, 15 CGP clinicians provided 659 mental health consultation visits to 74 child care centers across the state.

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Participant Characteristics: For those receiving services during SFY 2014, 53% were living in two parent homes, 24% were from single parent homes (23% were single mothers), 8% of the children were living in foster care, 3% had two divorced parents with joint custody and 3% were living with grandparents. The remaining 9% did not specify a caregiver. 47% of families reported that the mother was the primary caregiver. 63% of the families were on Sooner Care and 47% received WIC services. Of the children receiving treatment services, 30% had behavior problems at home, 25% had communication issues, 25% were seen for parenting or concerns about development and 19% had behavior problems at school or child care.

Outcomes:

Indicator 1: Quality of Relationships

Outcome 1: 57% of families receiving Child Guidance services reported a decrease in inappropriate social emotional behaviors.

Outcome 2: Of clients who reported an expulsion from school or child care due to behavioral issues prior to receiving Child Guidance services, 88% reported no further expulsion following intervention.

Indicator 2: Parental Ability

Outcome 1: 43% of parents receiving Child Guidance services reported an increase in their ability to help their child learn.

Outcome 2: 51% of parents receiving Child Guidance services reported an increase in protective factors for child abuse and neglect (knowledge of child development).

Outcome 3: 42% of parents receiving Child Guidance services reported an increase in their confidence in parenting.

Indicator 3: Service Provision

Outcome 1: 70% of clients receiving Child Guidance services had positive (fair, good or very good) progress toward treatment goals.

Outcome 2: 53% of clients receiving Child Guidance services completed their service plan.

Funding SFY 2014:

CGP services are available to all families in Oklahoma on a sliding scale basis, based on income and the number of people in the family. For those who receive Medicaid benefits, the program bills Medicaid for eligible services.

SFY 2014 Expenditures:

State \$2,670,967

Federal \$524,213

County \$1,594,826

\$4,790,006

SFY 2014 Receipts:

Medicaid \$759,083

Fees \$366,268

Contracts \$201,438

\$1,319,928