

Bobby Jindal
GOVERNOR



Alan Levine
SECRETARY

State of Louisiana
Department of Health and Hospitals
Office of the Secretary

September 17, 2009

The Honorable Lydia Jackson, Chair
Senate Select Committee on Women and Children
State Capital
P.O. Box 94183
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Dear Senator Jackson:

In response to Senate Resolution No. 122 (SR 122) of the 2008 Regular Session and Senate Resolution No. 21 (SR 21) of the 2009 Regular Session, the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) submits the enclosed report. The resolutions request that the Department of Social Services, the Department of Health and Hospitals, the Louisiana Workforce Commission, and the Department of Education jointly conduct a study and develop a comprehensive continuum of support from birth to adulthood for Louisiana's children, as modeled by the Harlem Children's Zone.

DHH is available to discuss the enclosed report and recommendations with you and the members of the Senate Select Committee on Women and Children. Please contact Dr. Rony Francois, assistant secretary of the DHH office of public health, at (225) 342-8093 with any questions or comments that you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan Levine".

Alan Levine
Secretary

Enclosures

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HOSPITALS

HARLEM CHILDREN'S ZONE

REPORT PREPARED IN RESPONSE TO SR 21
OF THE 2009 REGULAR SESSION

SEPTEMBER 2009

Contact:

Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals
Audrey Veal Pugh
Office of Public Health
628 North 4th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 60702
225-342-8096
Audrey.Pugh@la.gov

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

It is evident that the issues children face throughout their lifetime are not the result of one individual factor. Unfortunately we have tried to address these multitudes of problems by looking at each factor independently. The Harlem Children Zone model and the Neighborhood Place model have addressed these family issues with a coordinated and integrated approach. The outcomes realized by each model indicate that they are best practice methods that work.

Senate Resolution No. 21 (2009) 122 (2008) urges and request the Department of Social Services, the Department of Health and Hospitals, the Louisiana Workforce Commission and the Family Services Section of the Division of Dropout Prevention and Adult and Family Services Section of the Office of School and Community Support within the Department of Education, to jointly conduct a study and develop a comprehensive continuum of support from birth to adulthood for Louisiana's children in a report to the Senate Select Committee on Women and Children prior to September 1, 2009. This report looks at the various issues children face and presents an analysis of models that have proven track records. It also presents recommendations on how Louisiana can move forward in the future to address the needs of children and their families.

Louisiana has passed legislation regarding the welfare of the state's children. Act 726, which was passed during the 2003 legislative session, provides for service integration of health and social services; creates a framework of accountability for service integration and rapid implementation of a model that coordinates, collaborates and co-locates entities that serve children and families. This "No Wrong Door Legislation" laid the foundation for the Neighborhood Place Concept.

Act 775 establishes Neighborhood Place, and assigns equal responsibility to the Department of Health and Hospitals, the Department of Social Services, the Louisiana Workforce Commission (formally the Department of Labor), the Office of Juvenile Justice and the Department of Education to guide the implementation of service delivery integration designed to meet the needs of children and their families. To reach better outcomes, this legislation advances two main elements: 1) a framework of accountability for service integration and 2) rapid implementation of a model that coordinates collaborates and, in many cases, co-locates entities that serve children and families. The legislation, as currently written, is unfunded. Neighborhood Place sites are ideally located near community schools and encourage team-based collaborative problem solving among the agencies involved at the site. Louisiana's service delivery traditionally included each of these services, but in a siloed and disjointed fashion, often geographically dispersed and with no real integration. Over the last year and a half, two projects have made strides in

addressing the need for an integrated approach to services to children and families. Those projects are the Neighborhood Place and the DSS/DHH IT Service Integration Project.

The Harlem Children's Zone model and the Neighborhood Place model contain the same five fundamental principles. They both are community based, provide comprehensive services, build community partnerships, based on outcomes, and provide a culture of excellence. They differ in their funding structure. The Harlem Children's Zone model requires an annual operating budget in excess of \$40 million. The Neighborhood Place model is a budget neutral implementation that identifies existing services and co-locates them to one facility. Two Neighborhood Place sites have been launched and are operational with plans for a third site by the end of the year. The families in Louisiana can benefit if selected components of each model that best fit Louisiana's population are implemented and adequately funded.

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE SR 21 OF THE 2009 REGULAR SESSION

INTRODUCTION

In Louisiana, approximately 27% of our population is 19 years old or younger. Of this population, 26.6% of children under the age of 18 live in poverty (PHP 2000).

Senate Resolution 122 from the 2008 legislative session and SR 21 from the 2009 legislative session indicate that throughout their lives, poor children are confronted with multiple disadvantages. Poor health and unaddressed mental health problems are listed among disadvantages faced by poor children. Louisiana has made tremendous strides in the area of childhood immunizations by moving being ranked number 2 in the nation with 81.9% of children under the age of 2 years old fully immunized (National Immunization Survey, 2008).

According to the 2006 SchoolDataDirect (SDD) report, Louisiana spends \$4948 per student on instructional expenditures compared to the national average of \$5554. Performance data from the same source indicates that in 2007, math proficiency for students in grades 3-6 and grade 8 declined or stayed the same from the previous year. Only grade 7 showed a slight increase. None of the compared years showed a proficiency rate greater than 68% for any grade. This basically says that 32% of students in classrooms are not functional at grade level in math. The reading proficiency scores showed a similar trend.

Safety statistics from Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana show that in 2003, the rate (per 1000 population) of validated cases of child abuse and neglect was 10.9. Single parent households with children account for 13.4% of our population (SDD, 2008). These numbers contribute to the disadvantages associated with unstable families.

MODEL COMPARISON

Harlem Children's Zone (HCZ) is a strategic model that addresses the child poverty issues in a 100 block area in Central Harlem. Children's Zone is a unique, holistic approach to rebuilding a community so that its children can stay on track through college and go on to the job market. Harlem Children Zone has spent over 35 years working with children in poverty. This Project began as a one-block pilot in the 1990s, and then following a 10-year business plan, it expanded to 24 blocks and now to 100 blocks. The goal is to serve 15,000 children and 7,000 adults by 2011. Mr. Geoffrey Canada serves as the President and CEO.

The purpose of the Harlem Children Zone is to address Inner-City Poverty in Harlem by taking a comprehensive, progressive approach. The New York Times Magazine said the Zone Project "combines educational, social and medical services. It starts at birth and follows children to college. It meshes those services into an interlocking web, and then it drops that web over an entire neighborhood. The objective is to create a safety net woven so tightly that children in the neighborhood just can't slip through."

The HCZ model is based on five (5) fundamental principles. Those principles are listed below:

1. Principle 1: Neighborhood-Based, At- Scale Approach
2. Principle 2: The HCZ Pipeline
3. Principle 3: Building Community
4. Principle 4: Evaluation
5. Principle 5: Culture of Success

The budget for the HCZ Project for fiscal year 2009 is over \$ 40 million, allowing average expenditures of \$3,500 per child. All HCZ programs are offered free to the children and families of Harlem and are largely made possible by donations.

Like the HCZ model, the Neighborhood Place (NP) model is also a successful integrated services model that resulted from the Kentucky Education Reform Act of 1990. Neighborhood Place is a way of delivering services that brings together staff from multiple agencies in one readily accessible location to work with families in their own neighborhoods. The NP model has the following characteristics:

1. Community-based and culturally appropriate / a targeted "Safety Net"
2. Provides Comprehensive Services / Promotes Prevention and Intervention
3. Establishes Community Partnerships / Effectuates shared decision-making with clients

4. Produces timely and effective interventions
5. Promotes Excellence / NP is not a “program” or a “pilot” but a culture

The five fundamental principles of the HCZ model and the five characteristics of the NP model are consistent in nature. These principles and characteristics will be used to compare and contrast the HCZ model with the NP model. This analysis will be used as the basis for the recommendations that are included in this report.

COMMUNITY BASED

The HCZ model uses a Neighborhood-Based, At Scale Approach: The model serves an entire neighborhood comprehensively and at scale. In order to bring widespread change, the HCZ model believes it is necessary to work on a scale large enough to create a threshold in the community beyond which a shift occurs away from destructive patterns and towards constructive goals. According to the HCZ model, engaging the entire neighborhood helps to achieve three goals.

- a. It reaches children in numbers significant enough to affect the culture of a community.
- b. It transforms the physical and social environments that impact the children’s development.
- c. It creates programs at a scale large enough to meet the local need.

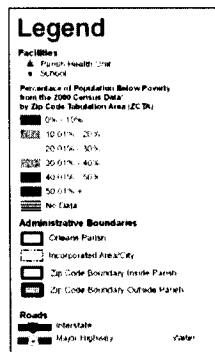
The nationally prominent NP integrated human and social services model is one that showcases the benefits of multidisciplinary approach to serving the community and its citizens. Within a NP, multiple organizations will have a staff presence and be able to extend their services or make appropriate referrals. The staff partners from various programs work together to attain the best solutions for the family’s need. A NP is ideally located near community schools and addresses the leading barriers to children and youth succeeding in the educational environment. It allows for greater innovation in meeting the various needs of the community.

The NP model also realizes that Community Assessments are necessary to determine needs and existing resources in the community. Using GIS mapping, five indicators are used to determine the communities of greatest need within a parish where a NP might be established. The following indicators of need, by zip code, are used in the Louisiana Assessment for Neighborhood Place.

1. Number of Medicaid Recipients
2. Number of Food Stamp Recipients
3. Dropout Rate
4. Children in State Custody
5. Poverty

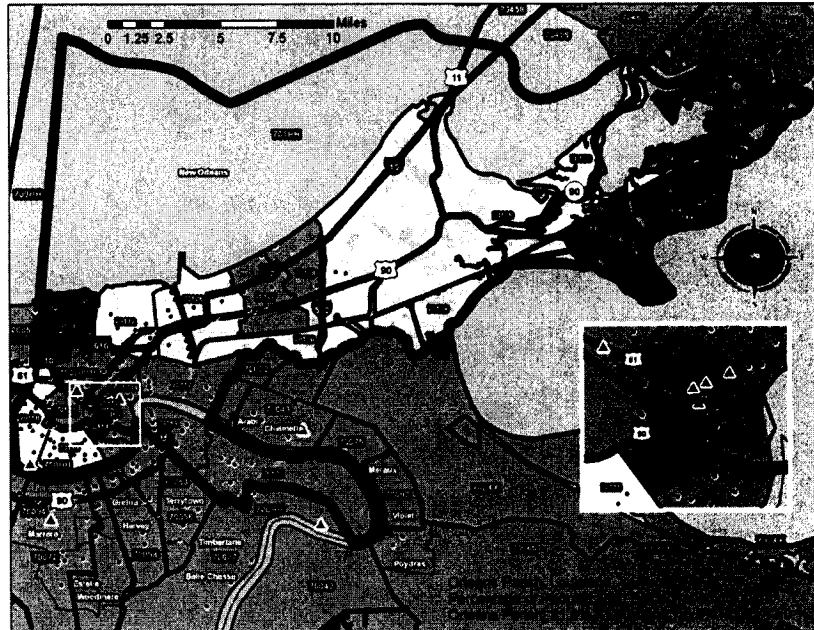
The Louisiana Promise Zone (LPZ) collaborative (group that visited HCZ) is in agreement with the indicators established by NP listed above, and used the same indicators and mappings for the LPZ community assessment.

Neighborhood Place Planning Map:
Percent of Population Below Poverty
by ZCTA, 2000 for Orleans Parish*



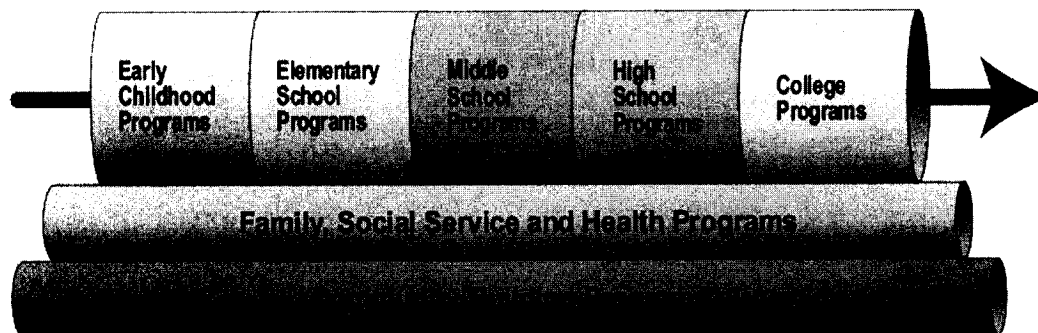
Zip Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTAs)
with the highest percentage of people
living below poverty (2000 Census)*

ZCTA	Percent Below Poverty (2000)
70112	72%
70113	49%
70125	39%
70117	38%
70130	37%



Map of Orleans Parish, 2000. The map shows the percentage of the population living below poverty by Zip Code Tabulation Area (ZCTA) in Orleans Parish, Louisiana. The map is based on data from the 2000 Census. The map is a grayscale map where darker shades represent higher percentages of the population living below poverty. The map includes major roads and water bodies. An inset map shows the location of Orleans Parish within the state of Louisiana.

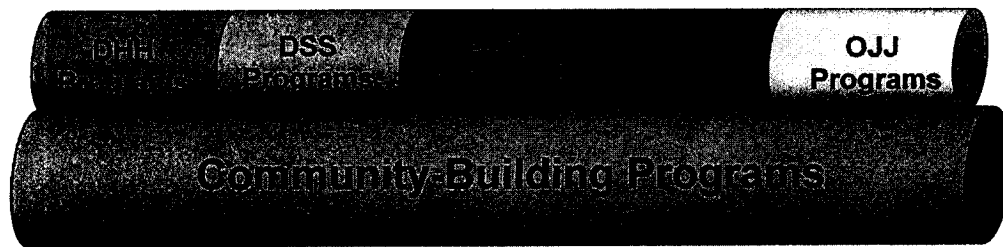
COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES



The HCZ Pipeline, or continuum of services, provides children and families with a seamless series of free, coordinated, best practice programs. HCZ focuses on the needs of children at every developmental age, including specific programs addressing prenatal care, infants, toddlers, elementary school, middle

school, adolescence, and college. The HCZ model requires the development of excellent, accessible programs and schools and links them to one another so that they provide uninterrupted support for children's healthy growth, starting with prenatal programs for parents and finishing when young people graduate from college. The HCZ model surrounds the pipeline with additional programs that support families and the larger community. Programs offered include:

- Harlem Gems – all day pre-kindergarten/Three Year Old Journey
- Harlem Peacemakers – trains young people who are committed to making their neighborhoods safe for children and families. Places AmeriCorps participants in the classroom.
- TRUCE Fitness and Nutrition Center – free classes in karate, fitness, nutrition, health, dance and regular academic assistance (grades 5 – 8).
- Arts and Media – youth development/academic growth, career readiness, fostering media literacy and artistic ability
- Employment and Technology – computer and job- related skills for teens and adults
- A Cut Above – an after school program that helps in middle-school
- Countee Cullen Community Center offers a range of services at night, weekends and summers
- The Baby College- Parenting workshops
- HCZ Asthma Initiative
- Promise Academy – High quality public charter school and obesity program
- Beacon Community Centers
- Foster Care Prevention Services
- The College Programs
- Family, Community and Health Programs
- Community Pride
- Single Stop – from counseling to financial advice to legal consultations



NP provides comprehensive services. All services available through the integrated services model shall be comprehensive (screening, eligibility and assessment, full application, approval and referral, re-determination). NP service partners are comprised of city and state government agencies, local service providers and non-profit organizations, delivering core and optional services. The NP model represents a partnership of public sector agencies that have come together to create a network of community-based, “one-stop” service centers with the purpose of providing blended and accessible health, education, employment and human services that support children and families in their progress toward self-sufficiency. Neighborhood Place services include the following:

- Child Care Assistance
- Child Support
- Family Independence Temporary Assistance Program
- Food Stamp Program
- Housing Services
- Utility Assistance
- Behavioral Health Services
- Developmental Disabilities Services
- Louisiana Rehabilitation Services
- Aging and Elderly Services
- Health Unit Services
- Employment Services
- Education Services

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

HCZ and NP both rely on the entire community working collaboratively with local leaders, residents, cultural organizations, and faith based institutions in order to adequately support children and families. Neighborhood Place sites are ideally located near community schools and encourage team-based collaborative problem solving among the agencies involved at the site. Louisiana's service delivery traditionally included each of these services, but in a siloed and disjointed fashion, often geographically dispersed and with no real integration. Over the last year and a half, two projects have made strides in addressing the need for an integrated approach to services to children and families. Those projects are the Neighborhood Place and the DSS/DHH IT Service Integration Project.

OUTCOMES BASED

Program evaluation is a key component of both HCZ and NP. The structure of each program includes formalized sections and/or committees that specifically address evaluation.

CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE

Both HCZ and NP use best practice models in their integrated service delivery. Both models demonstrate respect for the families they serve and are dedicated to empower families and communities to reach self-sufficiency and to excel.

COMPARATIVE SUMMARY

The leadership of the HCZ recommends that communities apply the principles of the HCZ model. The HCZ leadership specifically states "A great number of high-quality, promising programs already exist in neighborhoods, cities, and states throughout the US. Communities interested in following the HCZ model do not need to replicate the specific programs we developed for Central Harlem, but they do need to incorporate all the *principles* outlined (above) into the programs that work best in their own neighborhoods."

The previous sections of this report clearly demonstrate that the two models, HCZ and NP incorporate the same basic principles in program implementation. The principles of HCZ are consistent with the integrated service delivery model established through Neighborhood Place.

ACTIVITY STATUS REPORT

As a result of the previous legislation the following gains have been made:

1. There is a core group with each department working on the development of Neighborhood Place.
2. November 2007 leaders and stakeholders site visit to Kentucky
3. April 4, 2008 first Cabinet Level Meeting
4. Ongoing State Leadership Meetings Started 4/17/08
5. Act 775 Signed by Governor Jindal
6. Site Visit to Harlem Children's Zone
7. Clinic with KY NP Founding Father, Marty Bell 7/29/09
8. Meetings held with Mr. Cooper and Mark Washington - New Orleans Site
9. Neighborhood Place Subcommittees developed
10. A logo has been developed.
11. Two NP Sites opened on 6/29/09 in Sabine Parish
12. Ongoing meetings/planning to develop additional sites in Louisiana
13. On line Neighborhood Place course developed
14. The local community is involved
15. A strategy has been developed to offer integrated, blended services
16. Technology and telephone request have been submitted
17. On line Neighborhood Place course developed
18. Staff completed the Neighborhood Place Training

STATUS OF NEIGHBORHOOD PLACE SITES AND POTENTIALS SITES

Currently there are two Neighborhood Place Sites opened in Sabine Parish. Neighborhood Place South is located in Many and Neighborhood Place North is located in Zwolle. (See Appendix D for Press Release). The following areas have expressed an interest in developing, organizing, sponsoring and/or hosting Neighborhood Place Sites:

Lafayette – This group is facing a challenge locating ample space for the staff that would be housed at Neighborhood Place. There are no immediate plans to move forward until additional resources have been identified.

Baton Rouge – Several local Community Partners have expressed a high level of interest in opening a center to address truancy. Many of the children who are truant and their families need intervention from the Social Service System. The local Community Partners at this time are exploring resources for space, a Site Based Manager and Intake Coordinator. The State Leadership Team will provide technical assistance.

New Orleans - This group is working with the community of Central City to house several local Community Partners and the 5 state agencies. Although renovations are occurring at the Mahalia Jackson site, space issues are under discussion with the Early Childhood & Family Learning Foundation personnel as they in turn work with the Orleans Parish School Board. A definitive opening date is uncertain at this time, but it is planned for the end of the year or early 2010.

Lake Charles – The Lake Charles Youth Planning Board, Local Community Agencies, Office of Juvenile Justice and other Stakeholders are planning to open a Resource Center. At this point, NP presence has not been requested.

LOUISIANA PRACTITIONER'S INSTITUTE DELEGATION

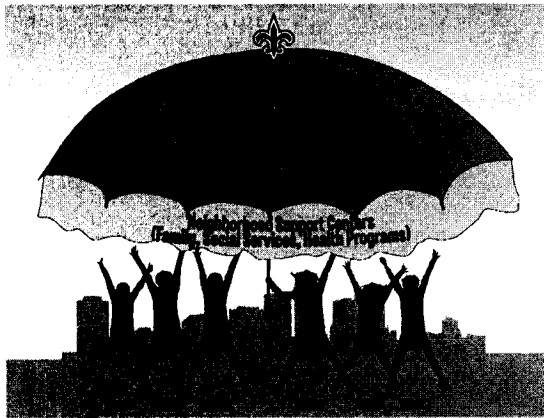
The Louisiana Association of Non-profits (LANO) was instrumental in coordinating visits to the HCZ headquarters in New York City. LANO leadership also traveled to Washington, DC on June 16-18, 2009 and held meetings with staff members of the US Department of Education, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, Louisiana Congressional Delegation members and staff, and national poverty officials and staff. The primary purpose of these meetings was to position Louisiana to be named as one of President Obama's "Promise Neighborhoods". These Promise Neighborhood planning grants are under the US Department of Education Innovation Fund.

As a result of two separate visits in 2008 to the HCZ Practitioner's Institute, the Louisiana's Promise Zone (LPZ) Collaborative was established. Through this group, stakeholders across the state have come together to analyze the HCZ model. On March, 10, 2009, a planning session was held with stakeholders to analyze the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to undertaking the replication of the HCZ. The strengths included the following: wealth of social service agencies, strong leadership throughout various sectors, growing community engagement and strong culture of family. The weaknesses and threats included apathy, politics, hidden agendas, and lack of corporations and big businesses to provide ongoing financial support. The opportunity most discussed in the analysis was the funding that would be provided from the stimulus package to replicate the HCZ model. Twenty pilot

neighborhoods will be selected throughout the United States to replicate HCZ's best practices.

The LPZ Collaborative selected New Orleans as the city to host the Promise Zone pilot community. The LPZ Collaborative used the selection criteria established by Neighborhood Place to identify Central City (zip codes 70112, and 70113) as having the largest percentage of population in poverty. The LPZ Collaborative also used the other site selection criteria established by Neighborhood Place which included: Medicaid recipients, Food Stamp recipients, dropout rate, and children in state custody.

At the July 23, 2009 meeting of the LPZ collaborative, a recommendation was made and approved to form a New Orleans LPZ collaborative. It was further decided that New Orleans based members of the statewide collaborative and members of the United Nonprofits of New Orleans would be included in the NOPZ meetings. The first meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, August 19, 2009 from 8:30am to 10:00 am at Kingsley House.



Louisiana Promise Zone model

Through ACT 775 (2008), the Neighborhood Place model was established as the brand that Louisiana would use for integrated service delivery. The previous sections of this report clearly demonstrate that the two models, HCZ and NP, are extremely similar in structure and identical in outcomes that are desired for the citizens being served. A possible solution to the branding issue would be to acknowledge the contribution of each model. For example, if a community is selected as one of

President Obama's Promise Neighborhoods, it could be named "Neighborhood Place at XYZ (location)" "A Promise Zone Community".

President Barak Obama has allocated \$10 Billion of planning grant funds to be given to twenty (20) cities across the country to establish Promise Neighborhoods that use the Harlem Children's Zone model. New Orleans has been the city in discussion with HCZ as a prospective Promise Neighborhood. In particular, the Central City location at Mahalia Jackson is one entity that is working to access the funds. The Mahalia Jackson site embraced the Neighborhood Place model nearly eighteen months ago and has

been working with the state agencies that have provided technical assistance in the areas of planning research and documentation.

Governance Structure: The HCZ model is completely governed by the HCZ organization. The Neighborhood Place model is a community driven model that relies on the community for facilities and operating resources. The state agencies play a role by shifting existing resources to a NP site. The state facilitates the communities in planning and implementation by providing technical assistance to the communities regarding the model. The state Departments of Health and Hospitals, Social Services, Education, Louisiana Workforce Commission and the Office of Juvenile Justice are all committed to the Neighborhood Place model.

RECOMMENDATIONS

As a result of this study, the following recommendations are offered. Establish a subcommittee of the Neighborhood Place and Louisiana Promise Zone teams to recommend improvements to Neighborhood that would modify it to include necessary elements from Harlem Children's Zone.

CONCLUSION

The capacity for complex planning, ability to raise private dollars over a sustained period of time, commitment to data and evaluation and commitment to a management structure to ensure financial accountability are essential for a successful implementation. These factors are important for the success of any model that is implemented in Louisiana. Tailoring programs to the needs of the community in a place that is easily accessible and committed to outcomes and funding the efforts will put Louisiana well on its way to bringing the children and families of this state to a culture of success.

APPENDICES

Appendices can be found at <http://www.dhh.louisiana.gov/offices/?ID=289>.

APPENDIX A: NEIGHBORHOOD PLACE MOUS AND CEAS

APPENDIX B: SABINE PRESS RELEASE

APPENDIX C: SITE SELECTION MAPS FOR SABINE, LAFAYETTE, AND BATON ROUGE

APPENDIX D: NEIGHBORHOOD PLACE BUSINESS PLAN

APPENDIX E: NEIGHBORHOOD PLACE OUTCOME MEASURES

APPENDIX F: NEIGHBORHOOD PLACE SURVEY

APPENDIX G: LOUISIANA PROMISE ZONE COLLABORATIVE DOCUMENTS

APPENDIX H: BATON ROUGE PRESS RELEASE

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 21

BY SENATOR JACKSON

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Social Services, the Department of Health and Hospitals, the Louisiana Workforce Commission, and the Family Services Section of the Division of Dropout Prevention and Adult and Family Services of the office of school and community support within the Department of Education, to jointly conduct a study and develop a comprehensive continuum of support from birth to adulthood for Louisiana's children, in a report to the Senate Select Committee on Women and Children prior to September 1, 2009, and to provide for the appointment of an advisory team from the committee to address the models, to provide quality assurance, and to develop a specific roadmap to secure and plan for the use of Federal Promise Zone Stimulus to replicate Harlem Children's Zone prototypes in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, at crucial points in their development from birth to adulthood, poor children confront a multitude of disadvantages, such as poor health, unstable families, lack of early education and enrichment, child abuse and neglect, failing schools, unaddressed mental health problems, and a disproportionate involvement in child welfare and juvenile justice systems; and

WHEREAS, these accumulated convergent risks form a cradle-to-prison pipeline, trapping these children in a trajectory that leads to marginalized lives, imprisonment and premature death; and

WHEREAS, studies indicate that eighty-six percent of black, eighty-three percent of Latino, and fifty-eight percent of white fourth graders cannot read at grade level; and

WHEREAS, eighty-nine percent of black, eight-five percent of Latino, and fifty-nine percent of white eighth graders cannot perform math at grade level; and

WHEREAS, it is most notable that a black boy born in 2001, has a one in three

chance, a Latino boy born in 2001, a one in six chance, and a white boy born in 2001, a one in seventeen chance, in a lifetime risk of going to prison; and

WHEREAS, the Harlem Children's Zone project is a multi-year comprehensive community building initiative established in 1997; and

WHEREAS, it is the mission of the Harlem Children's Zone to create significant, positive opportunities for all children living in a 100-block area of Central Harlem, New York, by helping parents, residents, teachers, and other stakeholders create a safe learning environment for youth and to improve outcomes for poor children and families in devastated communities; and

WHEREAS, the urgent challenge is to prevent the waste of lives of children and the Harlem Children's Zone model represents such a comprehensive continuum of support from birth to adulthood.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Social Services, Department of Health and Hospitals, the Louisiana Workforce Commission, and the Family Services Section of the Division of Dropout Prevention and Adult and Family Services of the office of school and community support within the Department of Education to jointly conduct a study and develop a comprehensive continuum of support from birth to adulthood for Louisiana's children in a written report as modeled by the Harlem Children's Zone.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the joint study group shall present its report to the Senate Select Committee on Women and Children prior to September 1, 2009, with written recommendations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an advisory team from the Senate Select Committee on Women and Children shall be appointed by the committee chair to address the models, to provide quality assurance, and to develop a specific roadmap to secure and plan for the use of Federal Promise Zone Stimulus to replicate Harlem Children's Zone prototypes in Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Harlem Children's Zone prototypes may serve failing schools and address extreme poverty, crime-laden communities, high unemployment, teen pregnancy, and school dropout issues.

SR NO. 21

ENROLLED

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Social Services, the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals, the executive director of the Louisiana Workforce Commission, the head of the Family Services Section of the Division of Dropout Prevention and Adult and Family Services of the office of school and community support within the Department of Education.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 122

BY SENATOR JACKSON

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Social Services, the Department of Health and Hospitals and the office of family and youth development within the Department of Education, to jointly conduct a study and develop a comprehensive continuum of support from birth to adulthood for Louisiana's children, and to report to the Senate Select Committee on Women and Children prior to September 1, 2009.

WHEREAS, at crucial points in their development from birth to adulthood, poor children confront a multitude of disadvantages, such as poor health, unstable families, lack of early education and enrichment, child abuse and neglect, failing schools, unaddressed mental health problems, and a disproportionate involvement in child welfare and juvenile justice systems; and

WHEREAS, these accumulated convergent risks form a cradle-to-prison pipeline, trapping these children in a trajectory that leads to marginalized lives, imprisonment and premature death; and

WHEREAS, studies indicate that eighty-six percent of black, eighty-three percent of Latino, and fifty-eight percent of white fourth graders cannot read at grade level; and

WHEREAS, eighty-nine percent of black, eighty-five percent of Latino, and fifty-nine percent of white eighth graders cannot perform math at grade level; and

WHEREAS, it is most notable that a black boy born in 2001, has a one in three chance, a Latino boy born in 2001 a one in six chance, and a white boy a one in seventeen chance, in a lifetime risk of going to prison; and

WHEREAS, the Harlem Children's Zone Project is a multi-year comprehensive community building initiative established in 1997; and

WHEREAS, it is the mission of the Harlem Children's Zone to create significant, positive opportunities for all children living in a 100-block area of Central Harlem, New York, by helping parents, residents, teachers and other stakeholders create a safe learning environment for youth and to improve outcomes for poor children and families in devastated communities; and

WHEREAS, the urgent challenge is to prevent the waste of lives of children and the Harlem Children's Zone model represents such a comprehensive continuum of support from birth to adulthood.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Social Services, the Department of Health and Hospitals, the office of family and youth development within the Department of Education to jointly conduct a study and develop a comprehensive continuum of support from birth to adulthood for Louisiana's children as modeled by the Harlem Children's Zone.

BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED the study group shall report to the Senate Select Committee on Women and Children prior to September 1, 2009 with recommendations for models and quality assurance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Department of Social Services, the Department of Health and Hospitals and the office of family and youth development, within the Department of Education.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE