

## **Regional Child Well-Being Strategy & Initial Action Plan**

### **Upstate Child Well-Being Network**

**Vision:** To work collaboratively to create an Upstate region where all children are safe and have optimal opportunities to achieve success.

**Strategy:** Develop a sustainable network of organizations, individuals and communities that work to enhance child well-being across the ten counties in the Upstate of South Carolina.

**Goals:** The group has three goals:

1. Increase awareness of existing child well-being programs and pursue opportunities to promote their importance and continued success.
2. Grow capacity and reduce gaps in child well-being programs across the Upstate.
3. Identify opportunities to reduce duplication and promote effectiveness and efficiency of programs.

**What is child well-being?** Child well-being is ensuring the success and health of a child from conception until age 26 by addressing the following areas:

- Health: preventing physical abuse and neglect, supporting proper nutrition, and providing access to proper health care.
- Education: after school programs, access to good schools and universities.
- Mental health and social and emotional competence: preventing mental abuse, reducing common barriers, facilitating positive interactions and encouraging positive social skills.
- Support: Mentoring to parents to promote good parenting techniques, giving parents the skills to cope with stress, and helping to build a support system for the parents.

**Involvement:** The network will include a regional Steering Committee and specific well-being area work groups. The Steering Committee will consist of child well-being service providers, board members and local elected officials and government representatives from across the 10-county region. This group will serve as an umbrella committee that looks at priorities and opportunities from the efforts identified by the area specific work-groups. Regional work groups will be formed in the following categories, but will likely be staggered to allow for effective development of the network: child safety, education & mentoring, housing, substance abuse prevention, health & nutrition, employment, early childhood development, and family engagement.

**Steps:**

1. Work groups will fine tune the inventory of existing child well-being programs and organizations within their focus area.
2. Using that inventory, workgroups will identify gaps in services and programs. Workgroups will also share success stories and best practices to learn from each other and look for opportunities for policy changes that can positively impact their efficiency and ability to provide optimal opportunities.
3. The Steering Committee will prioritize and determine how to best obtain support from regional and state leaders, and effect change on law and policies that hinder child well-being organizations and programs from making the largest impact possible.

**Coordination:** The initial convening of the steering committee and work groups within the network is being led by the Human Potential Task Force for Ten at the Top. Recommendations for steering committee members will be made by service providers and leaders within the Upstate counties. Ultimately, the network and initiatives developed through the process should be coordinated through child well-being entities within the Upstate.