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June 25, 2014

Children's Trust Home Visiting Grantee Highlighted in Home Visiting Report

As the South Carolina lead agency for the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program, Children's Trust has program partners throughout South Carolina. These agencies are working to implement proven child abuse, neglect and injury prevention strategies that focus on parental support through a child's first few years. The program offers services to expectant and post-partum parents and families with new babies and children.

Institute for Child Success recently released a case study of one of Children's Trust's MIECHV partners, Carolina Health Centers. In Greenwood the home visiting work is lead by Sally Baggett, one of the authors of the report.

Initiatives for Children Find Success in 2014 Legislative Session

[Work Remains to Improve Child Well-Being](#)

There were many important pieces of legislation that passed during the 2014 legislative session which will work to improve the lives of all South Carolina's children. They include:

- [S 459](#), statewide texting and driving ban;
- Education Expansion in the FY 2014-2015 budget; and
- [H. 3428](#), First Steps to School Readiness reauthorized until July 1, 2016.

Despite this success, work also remains.

- The child welfare system needs to be strengthened. The list of mandated child abuse reporters needs to be expanded.
- The child passenger safety law should be updated to meet standards set by the American Academy of Pediatrics.
- Gun locks should be required for where children have access to firearms.
- Liscensing standards for summer camps and day cares need to be strengthened.

A complete recap by Megan Branham, policy and government liaison for Children's Trust, is available.

Final Week of Session Ties Up Loose Ends and Budget Vetoes

After a week away from the State House, House and Senate returned. They finished conference committee work, took up additional legislation on their calendars and voted on Governor Haley's budget and legislative vetoes. The General Assembly overrode 54 of the 76 total budget vetoes. They also overrode [Governor Haley's veto of First Steps reauthorization](#). First Steps was one of two bills to be vetoed by the Governor thus far during the 2014 legislative session.

The Senate also elected two new leadership positions. With Lieutenant Governor McConnell stepping down, Sen. Yancey McGill, D-Williamsburg, was selected a new Senate president pro tempore and was then sworn in to the vacant lieutenant governor position. Sen. Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, was then elected to the position of president pro tempore. A new lieutenant governor will be elected in November.

Webinar Available for Improving System Responses to Latino Children and Families

Webinar Scheduled for Tuesday, July 1, from 3-4:30 pm.

The Alliance for Racial Equity in Child Welfare continues its 2014 webinar series with a focus on the experiences of Latino children and families involved in the child welfare system. This webinar will discuss the growth of the Latino population in foster care, state statistics on dis-proportionality and an overview of promising practices in addressing the needs of Latino children and families.

Presenters include:

- Alan Dettlaff, Associate Professor, Jane Addams College of Social Work, University of Illinois at Chicago
- Sylvia Deporto, Deputy Director, Family and Children Services, Human Services Agency of San Francisco
- Raquel Amezcua, Consultant, Casey Family Programs
- Michelle Johnson-Motoyama, Associate Professor, School of Social Welfare, University of Kansas

Child Welfare News From Around the Country

Georgia Department of Family and Children's Services Facing Law Suit

Georgia's embattled child welfare agency now faces a \$1 million lawsuit after a local teenager died from starvation.

Maine Child Abuse Increases 58 Percent

After years of decline, the number of confirmed cases of the physical abuse of children in Maine climbed dramatically from 2011-2013. Authorities attribute the dramatic two-year rise to greater awareness, but also see a link

to the surge in the use of opiates.

Scheduling Note

With the South Carolina Legislature not in session, the Policy Post will be distributed monthly beginning in July with updates on federal policy, South Carolina elections and child welfare news from around the country.

When the legislature returns in January 2015, we will resume our weekly schedule.

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Policy Post is published by Children's Trust of South Carolina.

We invite you to join with us to strengthen and support public and private prevention efforts that keep South Carolina's children safe.

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