



## Anoka County Children and Family Council

2100 Third Ave.  
Anoka, MN 55303-2264  
Ph: (763) 323-6034

Members: Anoka County, Anoka County Community Action Program, Emma B. Howe Family YMCA, Alexandra House, Anoka County Community Action Program Child Care Services, parent representatives and the school districts of Anoka-Hennepin, Centennial, Spring Lake Park, Columbia Heights, Fridley, St. Francis, and Forest Lake.

# Community Report Card

Collaboration Past, Present & Future - Published August 2006

**Mission:** Nurturing collaborative efforts by building bridges and networks between people & agencies who share a vision of a healthier community for children and families.

**Vision:** All children and families are healthy, thriving and connected to community.

## From the Co-Chairs:

Aug. 2006

### Together We Make a Difference!

The Council's work originates with engaging multiple constituencies: school districts, county departments, community agencies, parents, and others interested in strengthening our communities. Our efforts focus on improving the way we work together in order to improve outcomes for children and families.

2005 was a transitional year. Due to federal changes, we learned that approximately 85% of funding from the Local Collaborative Time Study (LCTS) is no longer available. Therefore, we have made significant changes and reductions. We commend staff and partners for their patience and can-do attitude as we have worked through challenges associated with such a significant change.

Participation in the LCTS will continue to fuel important efforts that are built on 12 years of hard work. In 2006 and 2007, we will implement a new model for regional services, called Community Connections, which will focus on resource and referral, family intervention and community capacity building.

When we began the Council in 1994, we set out to develop mutually beneficial, capacity building relationships. Moving forward, the goal remains the same.

Commissioner Rhonda Sivarajah,  
Anoka County

Barb Zandlo Hutchinson,  
Spring Lake Park District 16

**For information on our initiatives, Council members, community partners and events, plus links to resources for families, go to our website:**

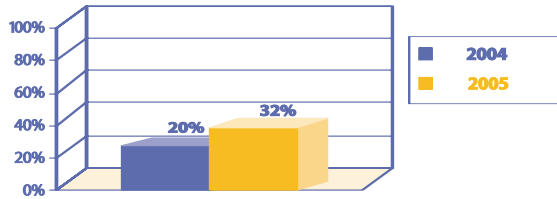
**[www.AnokaCountyChildrenFamilyCouncil.org](http://www.AnokaCountyChildrenFamilyCouncil.org)**

***"The collaborative is an opportunity for folks to really look at how we can do what we do better. It's an opportunity to close the gaps that some people fall into when they're trying to access help." - Community Partner***

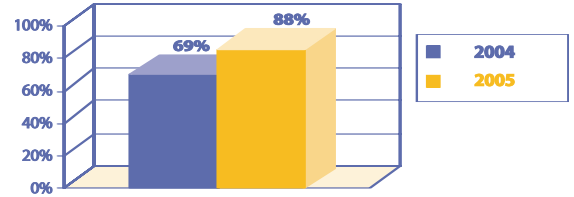
# Making Connections

The School Based Team opens doors for families. 2005 data indicates that prior to involvement of support workers, families were connected to an average of less than one community resource. At case closing, workers had referred families to an average of six resources. Moving forward, the Community Connections program will build on the strong history and experience of the School Based Team.

Staff members have seen firsthand there are a handful of persistent and widespread concerns. These are areas the Council will continue to tackle through Community Connections and the Community Asset Fund, a new tool developed to encourage people to work together to address needs in the community.



The percentage of non-English speaking families served increased 12% in 2005.



Percentage of families served that included a child or adult with mental health concerns. Untreated mental health concerns can result in other issues such as financial stress or a child's poor school functioning.

Affordable housing, basic needs, transportation, and serving families with multiple challenges are additional areas of concern. Whether the issue is mental wellness, culturally appropriate services or housing, reoccurring themes are evident. Collaboration —past, present and future— is an investment that streamlines systems, removes fragmentation, and builds capacity in the community.

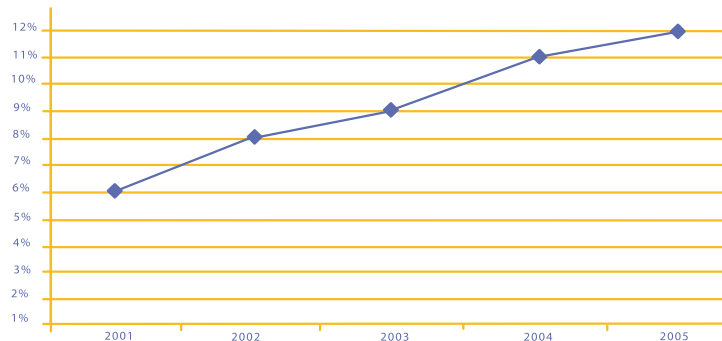
## Family. Partners. Commitment.

# Community Training

The Proactive Intervention Program serves children, parents, and early childhood professionals. More than 400 childcare providers and early childhood professionals participated in Proactive Intervention Program trainings last year. Nearly 50 parents participated in parent support groups sponsored by the Proactive Intervention Program. While LCTS funding will not continue for Proactive Intervention, through efforts of community partners and staff, some training opportunities and parent support groups will continue to be offered throughout the community.

# Working Together

Healthy Start is a network of community partners working together with families to help their babies reach their full potential. In 2005, the percentage of enrollments for non-English speaking families increased. This speaks to the network of partners' strong commitment to improve outcomes for immigrant and refugee communities in Anoka County. Also experiencing discontinued LCTS funding, Healthy Start is exploring other funding sources to sustain the partnership. The Council looks forward to forming a new relationship with the Healthy Start network of partners as they redesign the initiative in order to better serve children and families in our community.



Percentage of new families that accessed educational and support services through Healthy Start network that were non-English speaking