

## **TO PREVENT FUTURE BIRTHS OF ALCOHOL + DRUG EXPOSED BABIES**

**September 2003** – State Child Protective Services workers stated they were experiencing an epidemic of babies being born with drugs in their systems in Cowlitz County. In response, DAPC started an enhanced outpatient treatment program for women called STARS (Sharing, Teaching, Achieving, Recovery, Sisterhood) in November 2003. To date:

- 256 women served
- 76 children returned home
- 93 found safe/safer housing
- 73 gained employment
- 31 increased their level of education
- 21 clean births out of 24 pregnancies**
- 59 % Completion Rate

In August 2005, DAPC implemented a 6-month residential program for 16 pregnant/parenting women (PPW) and their children. To date:

- 221 entered program
- 55 children reunited with their mothers
- 20 clean births out of 20 pregnancies**
- 69% Completion Rate

Also in August 2005, DAPC implemented a Parent-Child Assistance Program (P-CAP), a 3-year in home intensive case management program for women, their target child and family. We have enrolled 122 clients. A total of 26 clients have been transferred or false enrolled, leaving Cowlitz P-CAP with 96 clients distributed among six advocates. To date:

- 68 were pregnant at time of enrollment. Of these, 6 are still pregnant and 62 have given birth. Of the 62 who have given birth, 4 babies were born positive for drugs. **58 babies were born drug free (94%).**
- 56 moms had already given birth to their target child at time of enrollment. Of these, 26 babies were positive for drugs at birth and **30 babies were born drug free (54%).**

**Conclusion:** Our women's programs have reduced the risk of babies being born positive for drugs. Now we need to provide stable housing and wrap around services to empower these families to ensure the optimal development of children, youth and adult family members. We are developing a movement for social change that requires all of us – policymakers, program providers, parents, employers, etc. – to take responsibility for improving the lives of children and families by ending the intergenerational cycle of babies being born positive for drugs. The Bureau of Justice estimates that it costs society

from \$750,000 to \$1.4 million in medical costs alone for the first 18 years of a drug baby's life. Overall, out of **106 babies born** to mothers in our programs, 99 or 93% were **born drug free** resulting in a cost avoidance of between **\$74 to 139 million** over the next 18 years.

## **THE FUTURE**

The Drug Abuse Prevention Center (DAPC) and the Longview Housing Authority (LHA) are collaborating on the development of the 'Phoenix House.' Phoenix House will consist of Five (5) – Four (4) bedroom/Four (4) bath dwelling units. The families will be provided with extensive case management and integrated access throughout the community. LHA will own, operate and manage Phoenix House while DAPC will be responsible for ensuring that residents are provided with the resources they need to facilitate their recoveries. LHA is expert at developing and managing housing for low income/indigent people and DAPC has a 36 year history providing the service support needed for recovery in our community.

Services to include:

- Transportation
- Parenting Skills
- Financial Skills
- Employment/Education
- Rental History
- PCAP Advocate

When residents are ready to leave the Phoenix House, they will be eligible to receive a Section 8 Housing Voucher. They will have a job, a GED, a credit score, a bank account, a rental history and a preferred renter's certificate.

**This is the final step in developing a continuum of care that can break the intergenerational cycle of babies being born with drugs in their systems. *IS THERE ANY NOBLER ENDEAVOR?***

