



Media Contact:

Stacy Shelp, Public Information Officer
Phone: 919.245.2462 or Cell: 919.636.8842
E-mail: sshhelp@orangecountync.gov

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**FAMILY SUCCESS ALLIANCE SELECTS TWO ZONES FOR
CRADLE TO CAREER PILOT PROGRAM**

ORANGE COUNTY, NC (December 16, 2014)—The Family Success Alliance Advisory Council made a significant step towards creating a pipeline of success for children living in poverty in Orange County. During tonight’s special meeting, members of the Council selected **Zone 4** and **Zone 6** to pilot a new collective impact effort to counter the effects of poverty on these children.

The Advisory Council selected two zones from an initial group of six geographic areas in the County, where the cumulative adverse effects of poverty were determined to be especially severe. The initial six zones were identified by using a range of local data that show families struggling to meet basic living standards —such as medical care, food and housing.

Over the past several months, the Family Success Alliance worked with community members and organizations in each of the six identified zones to identify needs and priorities facilitate community listening sessions and complete the application process.

About Zone 4

Zone 4 is located between I-40 and I-85 in central Orange County, and includes A.L. Stanback Middle and New Hope Elementary. Zone partners who worked together to communicate the concerns and hopes of their community include school representatives, community organizations, and faith leaders. Zone 4 data shows that approximately 1 in 4 kids under 18 are living in poverty in Zone 4, and 55% of kids at Zone 5 schools receive free or reduced lunch. These are two of the highest numbers for these data points from all six zones. Additionally, test scores for Zone 4 schools show that 53% of 3rd graders are not proficient in reading and 63% of 8th graders are not proficient in math. In their application, Zone partners described hearing concerns from parents about their children’s emotional, physical and social well-being, their safety, and their academic achievement. Parents, both Spanish-speaking and English-speaking, identified the schools as safe, nurturing and positive places for their children and a source of support and connection for the entire family. Zone 4 is fortunate to have many community partners as well as school staff and parents who are working to build and strengthen the five parts of the pipeline. Families and local organizations, many of whom have felt unheard and unimportant in the past, have expressed excitement and anticipation in the work that has already begun and in future possibilities as part of the Family Success Alliance.

About Zone 6

Zone 6 is a densely populated zone that encompasses from downtown Chapel Hill southwest to Highway 54. Members of Zone 6 passionately expressed in their application that the history of the neighborhoods in this area gives the community a sense of identity. Zone partners who spearheaded the application include representatives from neighborhood organizations, community groups, and municipal services and service providers. Due to its size and density, Zone 6 has the highest estimate of kids under 18 living in poverty – an estimated 878 kids. Further, local data shows that approximately 30% of children at Zone 6 schools receive free or reduced lunch. The Zone 6 application highlighted early childhood development as the weakest part of their pipeline from cradle to career/college, as they feel the Zone has lost early education resources due to funding changes. Zone partners look forward to promoting the rich cultural history and diversity of their community to create a sense of unity to collaborate on projects that better the community.

The next phase of the project moves from zone selection to an analysis of priority needs and gaps in services and resources in the selected zones. The work of the Alliance is loosely modeled after successful programs, such as the Harlem Children's Zone and the East Durham Children's Initiative. These models have shown improvements in children's chances for education and economic opportunities by providing evidence-based programs, services, and support from cradle to career. The gap analysis process will help identify needs and define priorities in each of the two zones.

"By initially concentrating on two zones, the Alliance can ensure that the strategies are effective before expanding into the additional zones. This will also ensure that each zone builds the pipeline from cradle to career to reach a tipping point for community success," said Dr. Michael Steiner, chair of the Advisory Council.

About the Family Success Alliance

The Family Success Alliance is modeled after proven national models such as the Harlem Children's Zone and the Promise Neighborhoods Institute. It is founded on the understanding that no one organization or individual has the ability to single handedly change the way poverty negatively affects the chances our children, and our community, have to succeed. The Alliance is dedicated to breaking down the silos and building a comprehensive system of engagement on education and health, with built-in family and community support. The Alliance is staffed by Orange County Health Department employees and is supported by work groups made up of staff members of the participating advisory council organizations. Initial funding for the work of the Alliance was made possible by the Orange County Board of County Commissioners through the Social Justice Fund.

About the Advisory Council

The Family Success Alliance Advisory Council consists of 22 members representing a cross section of the community, local government agencies, and non-profit organizations. A representative from each of the selected zones will also be included. The Council is responsible for advising and making decisions on zone selection, resource allocations, program planning, and policy changes to ensure a pipeline of high-quality services exists in Orange County.

The Council includes representation from:

- Orange County Board of Commissioners
- Orange County Board of Health
- Orange County Department of Health

- Orange County Department of Housing, Human Rights, and Community Development
- Orange County Department of Social Services
- Orange County Sheriff's Department
- Town of Carrboro
- Town of Chapel Hill
- Town of Hillsborough
- Chapel Hill/Carrboro City Schools
- Head Start/ Early Head Start
- Orange County Schools
- Orange County Partnership for Young Children
- Cardinal Innovations Healthcare Solutions - OPC
- UNC Health Care
- Chapel Hill Training-Outreach Project
- Compass Center for Women and Families
- Interfaith Council
- Orange Congregations in Mission
- Orange County Literacy Council
- Orange County Partnership for Young Children
- United Way of the Greater Triangle
- Zone Representatives

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