

**ALTERNATIVES-TO-ABORTION SERVICES
ANNUAL REPORT
December 2011**



This report is submitted by the following:

Terry Cline, Ph.D.
Commissioner
Secretary of Health and Human Services

Stephen W. Ronck, MPH
Deputy Commissioner, Community and Family Health Services

Annette Wisk Jacobi, JD
Chief, Family Support and Prevention Service

Chris Fiesel, MLA
Program Coordinator, Alternatives-to-Abortion Program

ALTERNATIVES-TO-ABORTION SERVICES
OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

On November 1, 2006, the Oklahoma statute¹ “Alternatives-to-Abortions Services” became effective. As required by the statute, a related Board of Health rule² was brought before that Board in September 2006.

GENERAL PURPOSE

The Oklahoma State Department of Health is to contract with nongovernmental health care and special service organizations to provide alternatives-to-abortion services. Alternatives-to-abortion services means “those services that promote childbirth instead of abortion by providing information, counseling and support services that assist pregnant women or women who believe they may be pregnant to choose childbirth and to make informed decisions regarding the choice of adoption or parenting with respect to their children.” The services must be outcome-based with positive results.

The information, counseling and services provided under this program may include, but are not limited to:

1. Medical care;
2. Nutritional services;
3. Housing assistance;
4. Adoption services;
5. Educational and employment assistance, including services that support the continuation and completion of high school;
6. Child care assistance; and
7. Parenting education and support services.

MINIMUM AGENCY QUALIFICATIONS

The following requirements applied to all bidding agencies:

- The agency must be a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.
- The agency must have had an alternatives-to-abortion program in place for at least one year as of November 1, 2009 or have incorporated an alternatives-to-abortion program that has been in existence for at least one year as of November 1, 2009.
- The agency’s alternatives-to-abortion program must have the purpose of assisting and encouraging women to carry their pregnancies to term.
- The agency must not charge women for alternatives-to-abortion services.
- The agency must have written privacy policies and procedures in place to ensure that any information that might identify any woman seeking services is not made public or shared with any other agency or organization without consent of the woman.
- The agency must have policies and procedures in place for the reporting of child abuse and neglect commensurate with Oklahoma law.

¹ Alternatives-to-Abortion Services 63 OS 1-740-11

² Alternatives-to-Abortion Services 310-527

- The agency must have policies and procedures in place requiring all staff, paid and voluntary, to undergo an OSBI background check. The background check must be completed and provided prior to the staff working in the alternatives-to-abortion program.
- The agency must have policies and procedures in place to ensure that women served are not discriminated against due to race or religion.
- Agency must be capable of collecting data and reporting the data in aggregate form on an annual basis.

As stated in the law, the OSDH may not contract with a provider of adoption services not licensed by the state of Oklahoma. The OSDH shall not award the alternatives-to-abortion funds to any organization or affiliate of any organization that provides or promotes abortion or directly refers for abortion; however, any nondirective counseling relating to the pregnancy shall not disqualify an organization from receiving these funds.

THE BIDDING PROCESS

The OSDH established seven separate Invitations to Bid:

- 1) Medical care – award not to exceed \$10,000
- 2) Nutritional services – award not to exceed \$5,000
- 3) Housing services – award not to exceed \$10,000
- 4) Adoption services – award not to exceed \$10,000
- 5) Education and employment assistance – award not to exceed \$5,000
- 6) Child care assistance – award not to exceed \$5,000
- 7) Parenting education – award not to exceed \$5,000

The OSDH faxed or emailed the seven Invitations to Bid to approximately 180 potential bidders. A review committee of three professional staff evaluated the bids. The review committee made recommendations to the OSDH Chief of Procurement. The final awards were made in accordance with an established scoring tool developed by the OSDH and rules established by the Oklahoma Department of Central Services.

CONTRACT AWARDS

Through a standardized process and in conjunction with the Department of Central Services, five successful bidders were awarded three-year, renewable contracts. There were no successful bidders for the Invitation to Bids related to adoption or child care.

1. MEDICAL SERVICES – Birth Choice of Oklahoma

Birth Choice of Oklahoma is a non-profit organization established in 1973 to provide medical services and a variety of birth-related services to pregnant mothers. There are currently four offices in Oklahoma. Birth Choice is completely private, independent, interdenominational, and non-political. Medical services include pregnancy tests, tests for sexually transmitted diseases, ultrasounds and referrals to appropriate health care professionals.

A total of \$9,496 was reimbursed to Birth Choice of Oklahoma for medical supplies and ultrasound training.

Outcomes/Deliverables:

Pregnancy tests completed: 2,034
Sexually transmitted disease tests completed: 115
Pregnancy counseling conducted: 2,250
Ultrasounds conducted: 585
Referrals: 22

- All services were provided free of charge.
- When needed, women were provided prenatal vitamins.
- Women that were eligible for SoonerCare medical insurance were assisted in applying.
- Clients that could not find a physician to care for them because they had already entered into the latter stages of their pregnancies were provided prenatal care by Birth Choice’s voluntary physicians.

2. NUTRITION SERVICES – Birth Choice of Oklahoma/Rose Home

Rose Home is an emergency shelter, established in 1986, serving homeless, pregnant women and their children. Rose Home is a 501(c) 3 non-profit housing up to seven mothers at one time. Residents must be at least 18 years of age, drug and alcohol free. All referrals come through Birth Choice of Oklahoma. Residents may reside in the facility for up to 90 days after the birth of their baby with exceptions made when clients are continuing to work towards goals related to child rearing and/or becoming self-sufficient. Client services provided at Rose Home include furnished housing, meals, case management, transportation for all necessary appointments, clothing, tutoring, parenting and child development education and adoption services if needed.

A total of \$5,000 was reimbursed for food items purchased by the Rose Home.

Number of unduplicated encounters for pregnant women seeking nutritional services during the contract period: 11

Ages of clients:

<15 years: 5
15 - 19 years: 1
20 - 24 years: 2
25 - 29 years: 2
30 - 34 years: 0
Unknown: 1

Marital status of clients:

Single: 8
Married: 3
Unknown: 0

County of residence of clients: Oklahoma County

Number of referrals made in the following categories:

Medical care: 53
Additional nutritional services: 11
Housing assistance: 6
Child care assistance: 2
Adoption services: 2
Parenting education and support services: 9
Education assistance: 7
Employment assistance: 4
Other types of assistance: 0

Number of babies born to clients during contract period (denoting multiple births): 6

Number of babies placed for adoption by residents: 1

Numbers of babies born that are clients:

First-born: 3
Second-born: 1
Third-born: 0
Fourth-born or >: 2

Outcomes/Deliverables:

- The Rose Home has a contract with the Regional Food Bank so that professional nutritionists can educate residents on food storage, preparation, and nutritional value of specific foods. The nutritionists work with residents in the meal planning and purchase of food.
- Residents rotate in their responsibility for food preparation, meal planning and shopping.

3. HOUSING SERVICES – Birth Choice of Oklahoma/Rose Home

Please see the description and demographics on page 4.

A total of \$10,000 was reimbursed towards the salary of the Rose Home Director.

Number of pregnant women seeking housing assistance during the contract period: 63

Number of pregnant women provided housing or housing assistance during the contract period: 8

Age range of those individuals provided housing or housing assistance during the contract period: 18-25

Outcomes/Deliverables:

- The Director provides leadership in the curriculum implementation for food and nutrition classes; manages the financial responsibilities relevant to transportation expenses of residents to public school and special classes, job hunting or to work, technical training classes, medical or other health appointments; monitors time and effort documentation of the housekeeper/housemother; schedules volunteer workers and educators; arranges for special tours for board of director members and prospective funders; interacts with local police in

monitoring the facility; prepares reports and meets with funding or contract monitors; and updates resident handbook and is responsible for resident orientation.

4. EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES – Birth Choice of Oklahoma/Rose Home

Please see the description and demographics on page 4.

A total of \$1,123 was reimbursed towards transportation costs associated with education and/or employment of the Rose Home clients.

Outcomes/Deliverables:

- Each resident is individually counseled and encouraged to follow through with personal life goals and objectives. Goals are specific and relative to the objectives of the program, and include but are not limited to: obtaining high school diploma or General Educational Development (GED) if appropriate, obtaining a drivers license if needed, job training, seeking or maintaining employment, learning budget skills and money management.
- Residents' progress is formally tracked and documented.
- Residents are taught problem-solving skills.

5. PARENTING EDUCATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES – Pregnancy Center of Tahlequah

The Zoe Institute is the parent company of the Pregnancy Center of Tahlequah. Established in 2004, the Pregnancy Center of Tahlequah provides a multitude of services to pregnant and parenting women including parent education. Trained parent educators utilize the Love and Logic parenting curriculum and also provide childbirth and breastfeeding classes.

A total of \$10,000 was reimbursed to the Pregnancy Center for parent educator's stipends, curriculum materials, printing and facility space.

County of residence of clients: Cherokee County

Number of referrals made in the following categories:

Medical care: 59

Housing assistance: 208

Child care assistance: 15

Mental health services: 8

Employment assistance: 52

Adoption services: 12

Outcomes/Deliverables:

- A total of 54 families attended 34 sessions of the "Love and Logic" parent education program.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information regarding the Alternative-to-Abortion Services, please contact:

Chris Fiesel, MLA

Oklahoma State Department of Health

Program Coordinator

(405) 271-7611

Chrisf@health.ok.gov