

**ALTERNATIVES-TO-ABORTION SERVICES
ANNUAL REPORT
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This report is submitted by the following:

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ALTERNATIVES-TO-ABORTION SERVICES
OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

On November 1, 2006, the Alternatives-to-Abortions Services Program was established by Oklahoma statute.¹ As provided by statute, Oklahoma State Department of Health rules² were enacted to implement the provisions of this Act.

GENERAL PURPOSE

The Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) is to contract with non-governmental 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.
- The agency must have policies and procedures in place requiring all staff, paid and voluntary, to undergo an Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation background check. The background

¹ Alternatives-to-Abortion Services 63 O.S. 1-740-11

² Alternatives-to-Abortion Services O.A.C. 310-527

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 non-directive 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 and support services – 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 Invitations to Bid related to adoption or child care. This report covers the third and last contract period for this particular contract cycle.

1. MEDICAL CARE – 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 the Oklahoma City metropolitan area (Bethany, Edmond, Norman and South Oklahoma City) as well as four rural offices (El Reno, Lawton, Nowata and Stillwater). However, for the purposes of this contract, reimbursement of medical services covers costs that were incurred only at the South

Oklahoma City office. Medical services included pregnancy tests, tests for sexually transmitted diseases, limited obstetric ultrasounds³ and referrals to appropriate health care professionals.

A total of \$10,000 was reimbursed to Birth Choice of Oklahoma for medical supplies and ultrasound training.

Number of unduplicated encounters for pregnant women seeking medical services during the contract period: 3,162

Average number of encounters per pregnant woman: 1.4

Age of pregnant women:

14-19:	526
20-24:	1,063
25-29:	795
30-34:	340
35+:	332
Unknown:	106
<u>Total:</u>	<u>3,162</u>

Marital Status:

Married:	618
Divorced:	66
Widowed:	12
Separated:	36
Single:	2,287
Unknown:	143
<u>Total:</u>	<u>3,162</u>

County(ies) and state(s) of residence of clients: Oklahoma County, Oklahoma

Number of babies born to clients during contract period (denoting multiple births): 439 including three sets of twins⁴

Number of babies placed for adoption by clients: 2

Number of children born at low birth weight: 1 out of 439

Number of children born at very low birth weight: 2 out of 439

Number of babies born prematurely: 14 out of 439

³ Limited ultrasounds are used to determine the baby's weight, heartbeat, placement of the placenta, breathing, movement and amount of amniotic fluid in the uterus. All ultrasounds are performed by trained medical professionals and reviewed by a physician.

⁴ Not all women that receive a pregnancy test return for additional services. For this reason, information regarding birth outcomes is only known for 439 children during the contract period.

Number of mothers entering prenatal care during the first trimester: 2,396

Number of mothers entering prenatal care during the second trimester: 193

Number of mothers entering prenatal care during the third trimester: 60

Outcomes/Deliverables:

- Pregnancy tests completed: 3,162
- Sexually transmitted disease tests completed: 251
- Ultrasounds conducted: 686
- Clinic visits: 287
- Referrals: 85
- 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.
- The OSDH reimbursed Birth Choice for staff to attend the Institute in Limited Obstetrical Ultrasound Training.

2. NUTRITIONAL 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 organization that provides housing for 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 nutrition classes and food items purchased by the Rose Home.

Number of encounters for pregnant women seeking nutritional services during the contract period: 13

Average number of encounters per client: 9

Ages of clients:

<14 years: 0
15 - 19 years: 4
20 - 24 years: 2
25 - 29 years: 1
30 - 34 years: 5
Unknown: 1

Marital status of clients:

Single: 13
Married: 0

County of residence of clients: Oklahoma County

Number of babies born to clients during contract period (denoting multiple births): 7 with no multiple births

Number of babies placed for adoption by residents: 0

Numbers of babies born that are clients:

First-born: 3
Second-born: 1
Third-born: 1
Fourth-born or more: 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.
- Nine nutrition classes were provided to residents at a total cost of \$1,990.
- A total of \$3,010 was reimbursed for food items purchased during the contract period. Items included the basics such as milk, juice, vegetables, eggs, cheese, meat, bread, condiments, and baking items. Kitchen supplies, snacks such as cookies, potato chips, candy, and household items like paper towels, dishwashing liquid, and cleaning solutions were not reimbursed.

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

Please see the description and beginning 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 during the contract period: 72

Outcomes/Deliverables:

- Thirteen pregnant women were provided housing at the Rose Home. On average, women stayed at the Rose Home for 5.5 months.
- In addition, twenty-nine pregnant women were provided housing assistance during the contract period.

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

Please see the description and demographics beginning on page 4.

A total of \$4,920 was reimbursed towards transportation costs associated with education and/or employment of the Rose Home clients.

Number of referrals made for educational assistance: 19

Number of referrals made for employment assistance: 21

Average number of encounters per student/trainee: 2

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 a high school diploma or General Educational Development (GED) if appropriate, obtaining a driver license if needed, job training, seeking or maintaining employment, learning budget skills and money management.
- Residents are taught problem-solving skills, assisted with school registration, employment applications and advanced training applications.

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

The Zoe Institute in Tahlequah, Oklahoma is the parent company of the Pregnancy Center. Zoe Institute is a private company categorized under Educational Cooperative Organizations, established in 2004, and incorporated in Oklahoma. The Pregnancy Center of Tahlequah operates with an executive director, financial officer, and part time support staff. Parent educators trained in the “Love and Logic” parent education curriculum volunteer to conduct regular parenting and maternity classes. The Pregnancy Center offers parent education and information, parenting classes on child development and maternal health, specialty workshops on financial management, and other services including referrals to the Women, Infants and Children Program and the local hospital. The Center also provides vouchers for immediate need supplies such as clothing, food, and infant items from their off-site warehouse.

A total of \$5,000 was reimbursed to the Pregnancy Center for parent educator’s stipends, curriculum materials, printing and facility space.

Number of parents participating in parent education/support classes: 54 adults

Average number of encounters/classes per participant: 5

Age of class participants:

14-20: 1

21-25: 7

26-30: 18

31-40: 19

> 40: 8

Unknown: 1

Marital status of class participants:

Single: 48
Married: 6

Gender of class participants:

Male: 6
Female: 48

County(ies) of residence of clients: Cherokee County

Number of referrals made on behalf of pregnant students/trainees in the following categories:⁵

Medical care: 101
Nutritional assistance: 7,145
Housing assistance: 129
Child care assistance: 7
Adoption services: 4
Mental health services: 7
Educational assistance: 68
Employment assistance: 5
Other types of assistance: 42

Outcomes/Deliverables:

- A total of 54 adults attended 34 sessions of the “Love and Logic” parent education program.
- All of the male class participants and 9 of the female class participants who attended the parent education classes were court-ordered.
- Twenty-one of the women attending the parenting classes were residing in a local domestic violence shelter.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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⁵ This number includes all women seeking services, not just those participating in the parenting education classes.