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The Tualatin community has grown by 70% since 1990, from 14,949 in 1990 to 22,585 in 2006. This compares with a county growth rate of 61% over the same period. The Tualatin area reflects the continued suburbanization of the county from a rural, agriculturally based community to a suburban community with a service and technology based economy.

Similar to the rest of the county, there has been a significant shift in the ethnic and racial make up of the area since 1990 when 96% of the population was white. By 2000, the white population as a proportion of the population had declined to 85.7%, with Asian/Pacific Islanders and Latinos comprising the largest and fastest growing populations, at 4.5% and 12.1% respectively. While the white population grew more slowly than the Tualatin community as a whole 35% versus 70%, the Latino population grew by more than 850% between 1990 and 2000, while the Asian/Pacific Islander population has grown by almost 350%.

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School enrollment data provides additional insights into the changing diversity of the community. Tigard-Tualatin School District has shown significant growth in the percentage of minority students enrolled between the 2000-01 school year and the 2006-07 school year.

In that time the number of minority students has increased by 76% rising from 18% of students enrolled to 30% of students. Latinos now comprise 17% of school enrollments, with Asians making up 7% of school enrollments.

As in most other Washington County school districts, the number of White students enrolled in the schools has declined. In Tigard-Tualatin the number has declined by 7% since 2000-01, and White students now make up 70% of school enrollments compared to 82% of enrollments in 2000-01.

Tualatin has a higher proportion of people under the age of 18, 29.2% in 2000, than the county as a whole (25.5%). While the majority of youth under age 18 live in two parent households (77.5%), some 22% live in single parent households. This compares to almost 80% of youth county-wide living in two parent households, and just over 20% living in single parent households.

Poverty

The per capita income in Tualatin grew significantly in the 1990s, from \$16,861 in 1990 to \$26,694 in 2000, an increase of 58%. By 2000, per capita income in Tualatin was higher than for the county as a whole, where it was \$24,969 in 2000. While poverty increased in the Tualatin community during the decade, from 4.7% to 5.5%, it remains below that of the county as a whole. The increase in the poverty rate, coupled with the growth in the per capita income reflects a growing income divide. Children are disproportionately affected by poverty as the following chart illustrates.

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Poverty by Age	1990 Tualatin	2000 Tualatin	1990 County	2000 County
Children under 18	4.7%	5.3%	7.9%	8.8%
All residents	4.7%	5.5%	6.6%	7.4%

Children who live in single parent households are even more likely to live in poverty, with more than 10% of children in single parent households being in poverty in 2000; just over 14% of children living in single mother headed households lived in poverty.

Minority children in Tualatin are more likely to live in poverty than their white peers, as illustrated by the following chart:

Race	Percent of Children in Poverty	Percent of Total Population in Poverty
White	4.4	4.5
Latino	26.1	24.1

Free and reduced lunch rates also provide insights into poverty. In the 2000-2001 school year, 17.5% of students in the Tigard-Tualatin School District were eligible. By the 2006-2007 school year participation rates in the district had climbed to 25.7%. The number of schools with more than 40% of their student body eligible for free and reduced lunch grew from 1 schools in 2000-01 to 3 schools in 2006-07.

Education

Tualatin area residents have a somewhat higher educational attainment level than county residents as a whole, with almost 93% of residents completing at least high school compared to almost 89% of residents county-wide. While almost 35% of county residents have a college degree, 36.8%



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of Tualatin residents have college degrees. The Asian / Pacific Islander population has the highest educational attainment level, with 45% having completed a bachelor's degree, and 12% with a graduate or professional degree. Latinos have the lowest educational attainment levels, with almost 72% earning high school diplomas in 2000, and just over 17% completing a bachelor's degree.

Test scores at the third and eighth grade are used as measures to determine general school performance of children and their schools. In the Tigard-Tualatin School District, students are over-performing their peers state-wide.

Third Grade	TTSD Reading	State Reading	TTSD Math	State Math
% meeting standard 2001-02	88%	85%	82%	77%
% meeting standard 2005-06	95%	90%	93%	88%
Eighth Grade	TTSD Reading	State Reading	TTSD Math	State Math
% meeting standard 2001-02	78%	69%	72%	62%
% meeting standard 2005-06	82%	68%	79%	68%

Among minority students, the achievement gap between Latino students and their White and Asian peers is evident. While all students have shown gains in scores, the gains among Latino students are highest, showing some progress in closing the achievement gap.

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	Lang Arts White	Lang Arts Asian	Lang Arts Latino	Math White	Math Asian	Math Latino
% meeting standard 2002-03	77.6%	70.1%	37.1%	73.4%	68.2%	35.9%
% meeting standard 2005-06	81.5%	82.4%	50.9%	86.3%	84.6%	62.7%
% in-crease	5%	18%	37%	18%	24%	75%

The drop out rate for students in Tigard-Tualatin has shown an increase in recent years, although it remains below that of the state and the county as a whole. In Tigard-Tualatin, the only decrease in the drop out rate among racial / ethnic groups has been for Asian youth, as illustrated below.

	2000-01 Drop Out Rate	2005-06 Drop Out Rate
TTSD	3.81%	3.1%
County	4.57%	3.4%
State	5.25%	4.1%
TTSD by Ethnicity		
White	2.6%	2.3%
Asian	2.8%	1.1%
Latino	19.8%	9.0%
County by Ethnicity		
White	3.5%	2.5%
Asian	2.9%	1.8%
Latino	11.3%	8.2%

Census data suggests that the drop out rate may be higher. In 2000, among 16 to 19 year olds in Tualatin, 11.4% were not en-

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rolled in school and had not graduated from high school. Among White youth, in 2000, 11.1% were not enrolled and had not graduated; among Asian / Pacific Islander youth, 4.7% were not enrolled and had not graduated; and among Latino youth, 16.9% of youth between 16 and 19 were not enrolled and had not graduated from high school.

Community Needs and Issues

The Commission on Children and Families has spent the last year talking with hundreds of people in communities across the county to explore the issues facing children and families. In Tualatin, these conversations revealed significant concerns relating to the health and well-being of our children, youth and families. The following issues emerged in conversations with school personnel and community leaders in Tualatin:

- Significant population growth
- Overcrowded schools
- Social service infrastructure and services not increasing with the pace of population growth.
- Increasing concerns about housing, rental assistance, and the increasing costs of housing.
- New housing developments (new tracts, apartments, condos.) but not enough affordable housing.
- Wages not increasing at the rate of increased costs of living. Because wages are increasing, there is an increase in housing development which helps to hide homelessness and poverty which are growing at faster rates
- Wake up call that there is a low income population in Tualatin and they are struggling with how to get their needs met.
- Better / more urban growth / development that is inclusive of all members of the community – not just upper income
- Increase in congestion and traffic
- Change in perception of Tualatin as a part of Portland. The



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community is more connected through mass transit and will be even more connected with the new commuter rail line.

- Substance abuse; increasing methamphetamine use
- Increasing alcohol / drug use among teens
- There's no place for teens to go – to hang out- not surrounded by adults, programs and others agendas.
- Child abuse rates are increasing
- Lack of parenting skills / education
- Lack of child care – especially infant/toddler
- Increase of availability and involvement in things that tear families apart: gambling, drugs (at low cost), pornography)
- Limited mental health resources
- Low access to county-based services in Hillsboro
- Limited public transportation limits opportunities for jobs, services, etc
- Increasing numbers of people with no health insurance or with high deductibles
- Health care, dental care - very limited low cost, sliding fee options and access to affordable care. Increasing numbers of uninsured.
- Food resources are limited
- Family Resource Center and the Caring Communities Closet moved to Tigard- access is limited for some residents of Tualatin
- Low income students– don't fit in, increasing stigma
- Affordable after school care; safe places for youth to be -what is available is often full or not affordable.
- Documentation status for many families and youth – makes it challenging to provide services. Families have fear of im-



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migration authorities so they don't access services – even if their children might be eligible.

- Language barriers and cultural conflicts

Existing Services and Supports

Conversations with the community revealed a number of strengths in the Tualatin area, both in terms of the characteristics of residents and the community as well as in terms of community supports:

- NW Children's Outreach – provides resources for families based on recommendation by service providers rather than on strict income or residency requirements
- 211 – provides good and accurate information
- The Essential Health Clinic has a south county location
- Washington County Public Health Department offers a teen clinic in Tigard
- Faith based communities are stepping up to provide much needed services and support including food and clothing
- Collaboration with county mental health, juvenile justice, child welfare and agencies such as Youth Contact, and LifeWorks NW
- Tigard-Tualatin Family Resource Center (TTFRC)–located at Tigard High School- provides information and referral, clothing, food, donated items, emergency assistance, employment resources, English classes, school supplies, parent training and more.
- Caring Communities clothing closet and the food pantry's "shopping style" access works well for families and is less stigmatizing
- Tualatin School House Food Pantry is located in Tualatin at



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- Old Tualatin Elementary School
- Community Calendar – through CAO list serve
- Women’s Resource Centers at PCC campuses – help with access to community services (i.e. food stamps, child care, health education)
- SMART and other literacy initiatives in the schools
- Dental vans through International Medical Teams at local elementary schools
- Head Start
- Emergency food resources are more available and accessible
- Libraries – offer a lot of good programs, especially for children. Not just a place for books.
- Parks are well maintained, available and well-used.
- Senior centers – activities, meals, computer rooms
- City Councils – increasing awareness of and involvement in addressing social services needs
- Business community increasingly supportive of the community, engaged in supporting organizations and services
- Workforce Training Center at the Capital Center
- Women’s Support Group at the TTFRC
- Community Partners for Affordable Housing and Tualatin Valley Housing Partners are resources for affordable housing in the Tualatin area.

Health

- ***Community Health Nursing*** – Washington County Health Nurses provide home visits and specialized services to new parents who have children with special medical needs. Community health nurses help families access other health and social services
- ***Health and Developmental Screening*** – Community health nurses provide regular health and developmental screening for children with special health needs. Children who participate in Head Start/Oregon Pre-Kindergarten ser-

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vices also receive health and developmental screening and their families are assisted in accessing any needed services. New Parent Network/Healthy Start home visitors provide regular screening for at-risk first time parents and their babies as part of intensive home visitation services. Schools partner with the Lions Club, Pacific University and other health care organizations to provide screening and referral for follow up services for vision, hearing and other health concerns.

- **Direct Care** - Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center operates several clinics in Washington County serving lower income and uninsured residents, including a clinic in Beaverton. They will also be providing primary health and mental health services for students in the Tigard-Tualatin School District through a school based health center located at Tigard High School beginning in 2008. The Essential Health Clinic provides free acute care for uninsured patients one evening per week at the Washington County Health Department Clinic in Tigard. The Washington County Health Department operates a Teen Clinic at the same location in Tigard once a week.
- **Nutrition** – The Women Infants and Children nutrition program provides vouchers for dairy, cereal, fruit juices (and fruits/vegetables as Farmer’s Markets) for lower income pregnant women, and young children. Nutrition education is also provided through regular classes held in health clinic settings in a number of locations around the county.
- **Outpatient Mental Health and Addiction Treatment Services** – for children and families are available through a network of county-funded treatment providers. Services can be provided in home based settings to facilitate access to services. For children and youth experiencing serious mental



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health or substance abuse concerns, community treatment providers will work to assist families to access intensive community based treatment and or residential treatment services. Lifeworks Northwest, Samaritan Counseling Center, and Western Psychological and Counseling Services have outpatient counseling centers located in Tigard.

Parenting and Family Support

A number of parenting and family support services are available and are provided in the Tualatin area:

- ***Tigard-Tualatin Family Resource Center*** is a central resource for families who need emergency assistance, who need help identifying and finding health and social services such as mental health, parenting, child care and other critical services. The Family Resource Center also provides a bridge between individuals and organizations seeking to provide assistance and families in need.
- ***Parenting Classes*** are available through a partnership between the Tigard-Tualatin Family Resource Center and the Washington County Parenting Consortium. Parent Education classes are regularly scheduled in English and Spanish at different Tigard-Tualatin school sites.
- ***Tigard-Tualatin School District Pregnant/Parenting Students program*** provides comprehensive support for pregnant and parenting students including advocacy, counseling, parenting education and day-care.
- ***Promotoras (LifeWorks NW)*** visit families in their homes, at schools and health clinics to provide support, education, parenting classes, and resource information for



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Latino families with children and adolescents.

- **Family Coaching** is a home-based skill building service for families with a child displaying high risk and/or challenging behaviors.
- **The New Parent Network/Healthy Start program** provides home visitation service to at-risk first time parents, providing individualized parenting education and support to assist parents in supporting their child's development and meeting their family's basic needs.
- **Babies First** provides community health nurse home visitation services for families who have an infant with special health needs.
- **Family Support and Connections** – Community outreach specialists provide families involved in Department of Human Services (DHS) programs (i.e. cash assistance) that are at-risk of involvement in the child welfare system with individualized support, case management and assistance accessing community resources.
- **Self-Sufficiency Services** – The Oregon Department of Human Services provides a range of services and programs for low income families, including cash assistance, food stamps, child care assistance, and Oregon Health Plan. Offices are located in Tigard, Beaverton and Hillsboro. Application materials are available at the Tigard-Tualatin Family Resource Center to facilitate families accessing services.

There are also a range of services available to support families from throughout the county. These services include:

- **Child Welfare** – The Child Welfare Division of the Oregon Department of Human Services provides Child Protective Services to investigate allegations of abuse and neglect and assure safety of children, permanency planning for long term placement of children in foster care or adoptive homes, family reunification services to support children returning home, and system of care supports to provide spe-

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cialized and individualized services for individualized wrap-around services to children in the Child Welfare System.

- **Homeless Shelters** – There are four shelter programs serving homeless families in the county, one shelter serving women and children leaving domestic violence situations, and one shelter serving runaway and homeless youth.
- **Court Appointed Special Advocates** – Community volunteers, who are recruited, trained and supported to provide advocacy, monitoring and support for children in the Child Welfare system.

Youth Development

There are some school and community-based services available locally to support youth success in school and provide them with constructive activities during non-school hours. Those that are available in Tualatin are highlighted below, followed by some county-wide supports which can be utilized by Tualatin residents.



- **After School Activities** – There are a number of activities offered during after school hours at school sites provided by the Tigard-Tualatin School District After School Activities program; including sports, academic enrichment and some activity clubs which meet seasonally (sports) or on a regular basis.
- **Sports and Recreation**- The Tigard-Tualatin School District Swim Center located at Tigard High School offers swimming activities. Tualatin Baseball and Southside Soccer Club also provide team sports opportunities for children in the Tigard area. The YMCA is located in Sherwood.
- **Tualatin Public Library** – Offers the Summer Reading

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program which includes regular special activities during the summer months to encourage children to read, and provides incentives at the end of the summer. During the school year, libraries offer reference assistance and access to the internet to aid students in completing school assignments.

- **Community Service** – The annual Youth Summit provides an opportunity for middle and high school student teams to submit a proposal for funds to implement a school or community based project to improve conditions in their community.
- **Skill Building and Prevention Education Groups** – The Health Department has health educators who can provide education programs in school and community settings for youth and adults on a range of topics from health topics to gambling to substance use.
- **Alternative Education / Options** – All school districts offer alternative education options programs for students for whom a traditional education program is not meeting their needs.

- **Homeless Education Services** – Under the auspices of the



McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act, every school district has a designated staff person who works with building staff to identify homeless students (unaccompanied older students or students living with their homeless family), and works with staff to

minimize disruption to students' education, works to develop plans to maintain students in their home school, and helps them (and their families) to access needed community resources.

- **Tualatin Together Alcohol and Drug Prevention Coalition** - A broad based prevention coalition, composed of representatives from schools, business, law enforcement, social service providers, treatment providers, and others which com-

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plete needs assessments and plan and implement evidence based prevention strategies in a variety of settings, ranging from youth and family based services to community education and awareness building to advocacy and policy level changes.

County-wide services which are available to youth from Tualatin include:

- ***Mentoring*** – Programs such as Big Brothers, Big Sisters can provide adult mentors to at-risk youth who would benefit.
- ***Employment and Training*** – Several organizations provide specialized employment and training services for youth. Community supports range from the State Employment Division which offers basic pre-employment training and job search assistance regardless of income to federally funded employment and training services including educational supports, pre-employment supports, employer-based training placements, job referrals, and follow-up support and assistance accessing post secondary education and training opportunities for lower income youth.
- ***Juvenile Department*** – The Juvenile Department offers a range of services for youth referred to prevent further penetration into the juvenile justice system, provide sanctions and restitution, and provide youth with opportunities to develop skills and capacities to succeed in their family, school and community.
- ***Runaway and Homeless Youth Services*** – A short term, home based shelter program has been available for runaway youth and/or youth with a mental health crisis since the



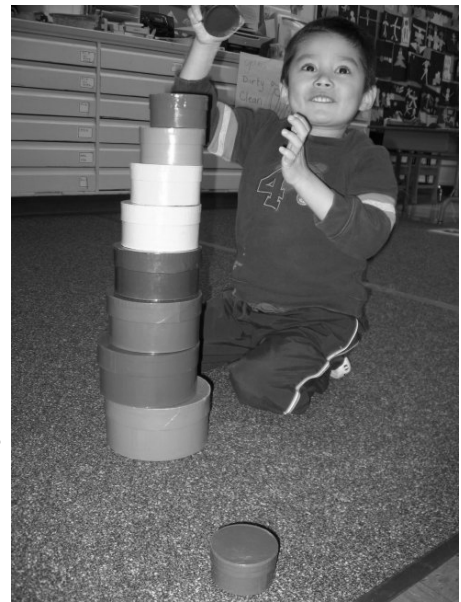
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late 1970s. In May, 2007 Boys and Girls Aid opened the Safe Place Shelter, offering short term facility based shelter and transitional housing to runaway and homeless youth. Additionally there is a small transitional housing program using scatter site apartments and case management for homeless youth. The 24 hour mental health crisis line provides crisis counseling for runaways and their families, as well as access to shelter services. The Home Plate program is a community collaboration which provides an evening meal, access to showers, a movie and social recreational activity, and referral to community resources for homeless youth once a week.

School Readiness

There are limited services available in Tualatin for families with young children. A brief review of services in the community is provided below.

- ***Child Care Resource and Referral*** – CCRR, operated by Community Action, provides individualized phone support for parents seeking child care, offering information and education in how to select care, indicators of quality, opportunities for assistance in paying cost of care, as well as referrals and information about specific child care providers in family, group home or center based settings. CCRR also provides support and training for child care providers, and works to identify providers and to build capacity in the community for under-served populations. CCRR offers workshops for child care providers on promoting early literacy through reading and other activities, and has a structured early literacy curriculum that is offered to child care



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- providers in their home or center based setting.
- **Child Care Division, Oregon Employment Department** – registers and licenses child care providers in the state of Oregon assuring that minimum standards for care are met.
 - **Oregon Department of Human Services** – administers funds to help lower income families pay for the cost of care (Employment Related Day Care)
 - **Head Start/Oregon Pre-Kindergarten** – Oregon Child Development Coalition provides Head Start/Oregon Pre-Kindergarten services in Washington County including Migrant Head Start and specialized child care services for migrant farm worker families. Transportation services are provided to assure that low income children and their families can participate in services.
 - **New Parent Network/Healthy Start** – provides home visitation services including parenting and child development education and support for at-risk first time parents.
 - **Early Intervention / Early Childhood Special Education** – the Northwest Regional Education Service District provides services for young children with disabilities for children from birth to school age. Services for children birth to age three (Early Intervention) are generally provided through home visits and parent training to support children’s optimal development, while services for preschool aged children (4 and 5 year olds) are provided in program sponsored classrooms, community placements and through parent groups.
 - **Tualatin Public Library** – Public libraries throughout the county offer a number of early literacy services, including story hours where young children’s books are read aloud to model reading to young children and to provide exposure to books appropriate for different ages of children. ‘Theme bags’ can also be checked-out through inter-library loan that



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contain books, videos/DVDs, games and resource information on a variety of topics.

- **Health Services** – Community health nurses provide home visits to families with a young child who has special health needs. The WIC program provides nutritional supplements and nutrition education for lower income families with young children. Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center provides primary health care to migrant and seasonal farm workers and other low income residents in three clinic locations in the county, as well as outreach services to migrant camps during the summer months.
- **Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation** – is available to provide individual consultation and assistance accessing community based mental health services for children and their families around emergent behavioral and mental health concerns as well as consultation for child care providers and other early childhood professionals to provide information and training in supporting positive social emotional development and early intervention for children displaying early signs of mental health challenges.
- **Outpatient Mental Health Services** – for children and families are available through a network of county-funded treatment providers. Services can be provided in home based settings to facilitate access to services.

Strategy Analysis

Gaps and Barriers to Service

- After School Activities- There is a need to expand availability and range of activities for school aged children and youth during non-school hours, including activities during school breaks, holidays, and the summer months.
- Health Care- While care options have expanded in recent years with



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the Essential Health clinic operating in Tigard one evening a week, the growth in capacity has not kept pace with population growth and the increasing numbers of uninsured families. Expansion of primary care, screening, and school based health services to enhance access to early treatment is also needed.

- **Mental Health Services-** Expansion of school based supports for mental health, to assist in identification of children, youth with behavioral health concerns and assist them and their families to access services. Increase home-based treatment options to facilitate access and reduce transportation barriers for families. Spanish-speaking mental health therapists are needed in the Tualatin community.
- **Parenting and Family Support-** There is a need to increase parenting and family support services in the community. The lack of capacity in the existing Tigard-Tualatin Family Resource Center makes it difficult to provide the needed supports to low income families.
- **Community Awareness-** There is limited awareness of needs of children, youth and families and the barriers that are faced in access to services. There is limited awareness of resources and services that are available and how to access them, and how individuals and community organizations could help with access and service expansion.
- **Housing**—increased access to low income housing supports and assistance with negotiating the eligibility process.
- **Lack of living wage jobs.** The economics of needing to work for single parents and many two parent households to keep their heads above water is huge. This is a major concern among immigrant populations.



Potential Solutions

There are several initiatives under-way in the county which will

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help to address some of the major concerns identified in Tualatin.

- Tigard Tualatin School District (TTSD) is working with a broad based community collaboration working to develop a county-wide system of school based health centers over the next five to ten years. A school based health center (SBHC) will be opening in 2008 at Tigard High School. The SBHC will primarily serve students who attend Tigard High or the nearby Durham Center, but it will be open to any child who attends a TTSD school. The SBHC will provide quality primary care for all students; including those with no health insurance.
- The NW Regional Education Service District is facilitating a collaborative effort to develop and implement systems to improve access to school and community mental health treatment supports for students. The collaboration involves all school districts, the County Mental Health Organization, the Juvenile Department, community behavioral health treatment providers and the Commission on Children and Families. To date, results of the initiative have included development of district and county-wide, cross-district crisis response protocols, training of district staff and mental health treatment staff in evidence-based practices to enhance identification, treatment and support of students with behavioral health concerns, and development of a guide for school staff to the county mental health system and services.
- In order to help facilitate access to needed health care, a county-wide initiative to enroll all eligible children in the Oregon Health Plan is being undertaken. In the Tigard-Tualatin area, there were 2,666 children under the age of 18 enrolled in the Oregon Health Plan in 2006. Income eligibil-



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ity for the Oregon Health Plan is comparable to that for the free and reduced lunch program, which served almost 3,200 school age children in the Tigard-Tualatin School District in 2006-07. This suggests that more than 530 children may be eligible for OHP coverage who are not currently covered.

Conversations with school and community leaders in Tualatin also revealed a number of strategies that could be under-taken in the community to help address concerns identified. Strategies discussed included:

- Expansion of after school and summer activities for children and youth to include non-sports activities as well.
- Expand capacity of the Family Resource Center.
- Increased funding from the state as revenue forecast looks better
- Increase programs to address under-age drinking
- Work with teens to design options for / by teens – including community service, mentoring, etc.
- Northwest Children’s Outreach – expand services
- Broaden eligibility for services – expand other / grass root supports
- Have developers focus on multi-income developments – to expand affordable housing and community development
- Better / more urban growth / development that is inclusive of all members of the community – not just upper income
- Expanded safety nets for children/families to provide services / supports for those who need them – provide options for families who may not meet income, residency require-



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ments.

- More parenting education and early intervention for at-risk families
- Training for child care providers; especially in the areas of child development and business strategies
- Safe house for parents to drop off their children during stressful times – may help reduce number of abuse cases
- Language barriers – need more access / availability to ESL for adults

