

How Community Centers and Neighborhood-based Family Support Networks can be Key Partners for Child Welfare Agencies

CWLA National Conference
Washington, D.C.
April 16, 2013

Session Presenters

Introduction: "Communities of Hope"

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Center Overviews

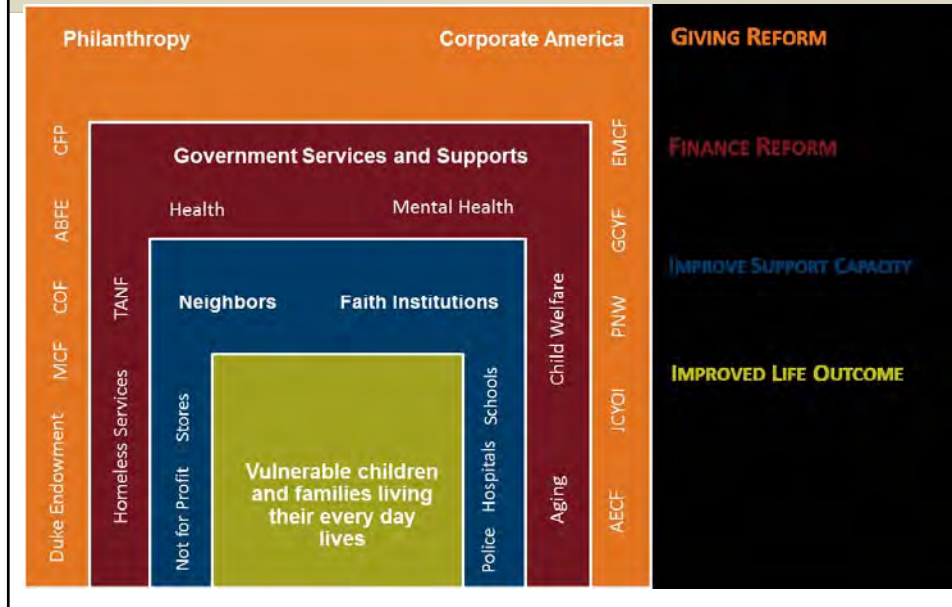
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Center Comparison and List of Community Center Essentials

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Casey Family Programs: Engaging Communities in Communities of Hope



How the Los Angeles Prevention Initiative Demonstration Project Created Community Partnerships to Prevent Child Maltreatment: The Road to Success

Presentation for the CWLA Conference April 16, 2013

Presenter: Peter J. Pecora, representing the PIDP evaluation team: Jacquelyn McCroskey, Todd Franke, Christina (Tina) A. Christie, Peter J. Pecora, Jaymie Lorthridge, Dreolin Fleischer and Erica Rosenthal.

Prevention Initiative Demonstration Project

“The thing that we are focusing on is to reconnect people to the fact that they are part of a community that is serving a family, rather than individual agencies.”

Lead Agency

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PIDP Core Prevention Values and Theories of Change

- Core prevention values
 - Community capacity building
 - Integration and alignment of services
 - Inter-departmental collaboration

- Theories of change
 - Decreasing social isolation
 - Increasing economic stability
 - Integrating community-based spectrum of prevention service

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Goals of the PIDP Evaluation

- Evaluate collaborative strategies and efforts among residents, Community-based organizations, county departments and other government entities and businesses.
- Evaluate strategies and initiatives to determine “best practices” for potential countywide replication.
- Use evaluation results to better align contracted prevention-oriented program funding streams with the needs of children and families

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Overall Study Design

- (1) Assess network development;
- (2) Track changes within DCFS offices/ and relationships b/w DCFS offices and community partners;
- (3) Gather data from participating families;
- (4) Assess promising approaches;
- (5) Test outcomes for children;
- (6) Examine interactions and synchronicity of multiple prevention-oriented strategies.

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Year Two Evaluation Findings



- Parent-reported changes
- Effectiveness as measured by CWS-CMS data
- Detailed descriptions of activities in each SPA

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Persons Served

SPA (LA Geographic Areas)	DCFS Clients	Community Residents (Non-DCFS)	TOTAL
SPA 1	147	467	614
SPA 2	445	2,173	2,618
SPA 3	281	491	772
SPA 4	121	2,284	2,405
SPA 5	51	74	125
SPA 6	597	3,723	4,320
SPA 7	58	1,528	1,586
SPA 8	691	4,834	5,525
Unduplicated Count of Persons Served	2,391	15,574	17,965

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A Community Based Approach to Child Welfare in Los Angeles

Some History:

Community Based Organizations Were There From the Beginning...

- Pivotal conversations among County social service agencies, community based organizations, County policy advocates, philanthropic organizations, residents and others that:
- Had nascent beginnings with the implementation of the family support and family preservation programs starting with passing of the 1995 federal legislation
- Amplified with the establishment in 2003-04 of an initial Prevention Workgroup convened by the LA Commission for Children & Families

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A Community-Based Approach to Child Welfare (Cont.)

- Gained traction with a follow on Prevention Workgroup convened in 2004-05 by then DCFS Department Director Dr. David Sanders
- Led to a Board of Supervisors motion asking for a report back on how to design and implement child abuse prevention initiatives that address the underlying factors that lead to maltreatment (including poverty & social isolation)
- Coincided with the application and approval for a Title IV-E waiver facilitating more flexible funding
- Resulted in the implementation of a range of cutting edge initiatives including the Los Angeles Prevention Initiative Demonstration Project

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A Community-Based Approach to Child Welfare (Cont.)

From these conversations emerged:

- A commitment to the premise that children's safety depends on strong families and strong families depend on connections to a broad range of people, organizations and community institutions
- To address them productively, the intertwined issues of poverty, marginalization, economic dis-investment, child abuse and neglect, substance use, and community violence require an updated "non-service" family support and community capacity building approach
- ❖ A determination that interagency collaboration is insufficient as a framework for the development of an integrated, family focused, community based service delivery system; transformative change could however occur by viewing CBO/NGO/NFP networks of organizations as a system available and necessary for cross-sector partnership
- Recognition that doing business differently was essential

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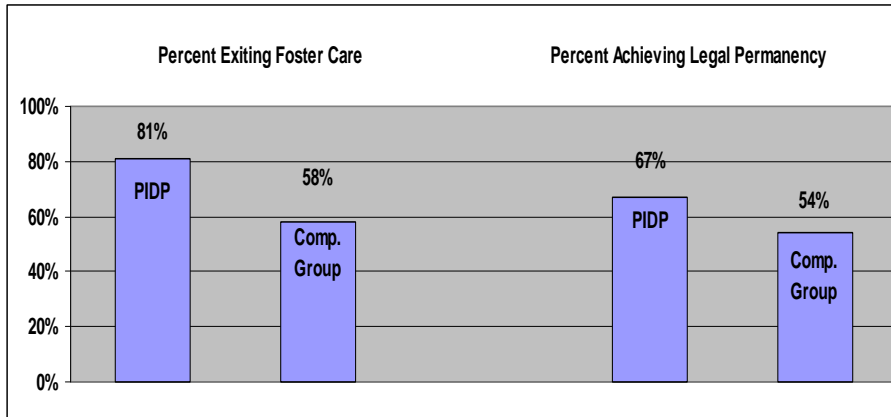
Social Supports

- PIDP parents in all SPAs reported that they had greater involvement in their community, more desire to engage in community activities, and felt less lonely or isolated.
- Scale scores for the Relationship-based Protective Factors Survey follow.

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CWS/CMS Findings SD 1

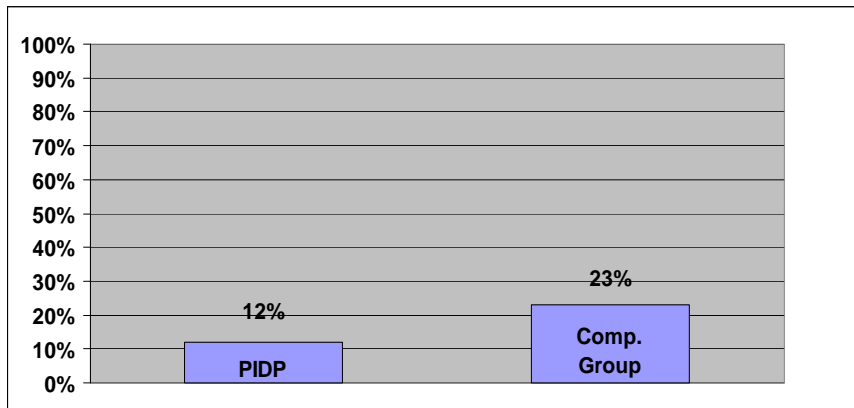
Figure 5.1 – Pomona (SPA 3) Exits and Achievement of Legal Permanence



N for PIDP: 110
N for Comparison Group: 200

CSW/CMS Findings SD 2

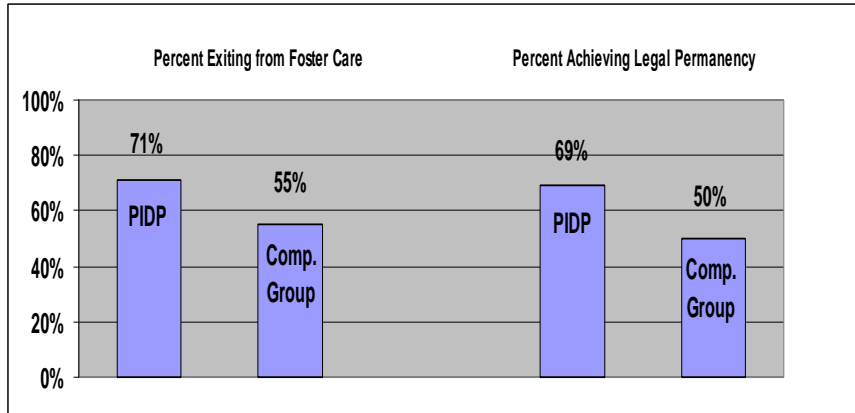
Figure 5.3 – Compton (SPA6) Re-Referrals to Child Protection Services



N for PIDP: 130
N for Comparison Group: 150

CWS/CMS Findings SD 4

Figure 5.2 – South County and Torrance (SPA 8) Exits from Foster Care with Faith-Based Visitation Services



N for PIDP: 79

N for Comparison Group: 100

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Promising child maltreatment prevention strategies for future replication across Los Angeles County

- Social connections strategies such as Neighborhood Action Councils and family resource centers, such as the ASK Centers.
- Parent economic empowerment strategies such as career counseling, job training, job placement, pro bono legal services and the EITC and VITA programs.
- Faith-Based Parent Visitation Centers for parents with children in foster care.

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Promising child maltreatment prevention strategies (continued)

- The combination of Cultural Brokers and Parent Advocates into a case management team approach (strategies that include community residents and parents who have been served by the child welfare system)

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Special Notable Approaches by Community

- **Economic Development** (VITA in SPA 4, EITC in all SPAs)
- **Neighborhood Action Councils** (NACs in SPAs 2, 4, 7, 8)
- **Family Resource Centers** (ASK Centers in SPA 6)
- **Family Visitation Centers** (SPA 8)
- **Shared Leadership in Action Programs and Parents Anonymous® Adult and Children's Groups** (SPA 3)
- **Cultural Brokers & Parent Advocates** (SPA 3)

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References

- Center for the Study of Social Policy. (2009). *Strengthening Families through early care and education*. (Retrieved July 24, 2009 from www.strengtheningfamilies.net/index.php/main_pages/protective_factors)
- Marts, E.J., Lee, R. McCroy, R. & McCroskey, J. (2008). Point of engagement: reducing disproportionality and improving child and family outcomes. *Child Welfare, 87*(2),335-358.
- McCroskey, J., Christie, T., Lorthridge, J., Chambers, R., Pecora, P. J., Azzam, T., Fleischer, D., Rosenthal, E., Weisbart, A., Custodio, C., Franke, T., Nunn, P., Carter, S., Yoo, J., Bowie, P. &Wold, C. (2009). *Prevention Initiative Demonstration Project (PIDP): Year one evaluation summary report*. Los Angeles: Casey Family Programs. Retrieved from http://www.casey.org/Resources/Publications/pdf/pidp_fr.pdf

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Continued: References

- McCroskey, J., Christie, T., Pecora, P. J., Lorthridge, J., Chambers, R., Franke, T., Azzam, T., Fleischer, D., Williams-Carter, S., Fleischer, D., Rosenthal, E., Weisbart, A., Custodio, C., Smith, S., Nunn, P., Hahn, R. and Yoo, J. (April 2009). *Building communities and connecting the dots: Preliminary evaluation findings from the Los Angeles County Prevention Initiative Demonstration Project*. Seattle, WA: Casey Family Programs. Interim report.
- Pecora, P. J., McCroskey, J., Christie, T., Lorthridge, J., Chambers, R., Franke, T., Azzam, T., Fleischer, D., & Williams-Carter, S. (2008). *Midcourse lessons learned from the Los Angeles County Prevention Initiative Demonstration Program (PIDP): Early successes, innovative partnerships, and the challenges that lie ahead*. Seattle, WA: Casey Family Programs.
- Reynolds, A. J., & Robertson, D. L. (2003). School-based early intervention and later child maltreatment in the Chicago longitudinal study. *Child Development 74*, (1), 3–26.

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PIDP Contact Information

Report compiled by Dr. Jacquelyn McCroskey, Dr. Todd Franke, Dr. Christina (Tina) A. Christie, Dr. Peter J. Pecora, Jaymie Lorthridge, Dreolin Fleischer, and Erica Rosenthal.

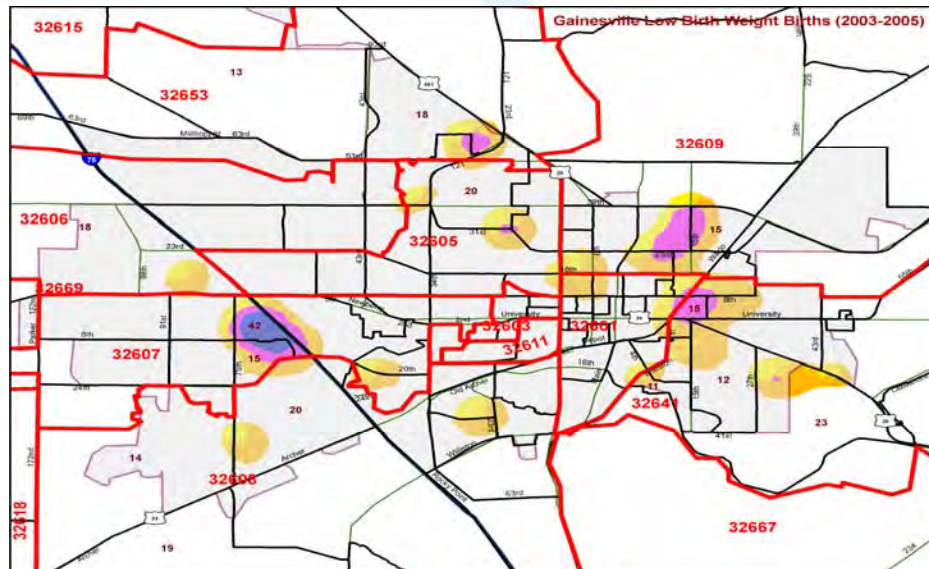
For more information about this evaluation report, please contact:
Dr. Peter J. Pecora (ppecora@casey.org) or Dr. Jacquelyn McCroskey (mccroske@usc.edu).

For more information about the LA Prevention Initiative and Demonstration Project, please contact: Marilynne Garrison, Division Chief, Community-Based Support Division (garma@dcfs.lacounty.gov)

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Our Beginnings





Our Beginnings

2007: PSF, CFP and DCF teamed up to develop a concept to reduce the number of children entering the foster care system by targeting vulnerable communities



June 2008: PSF met with 100+ community partners (Faith-based, social service organizations/agencies, Alachua County School District, University of Florida, etc.) including the ACLD to identify a place to open the Resource Center



August 2009: Official Community Grand Opening of the LP. Countless partner agencies/organizations were on-site sharing information about services that they will be offering at the LP. More than 200 community members attended



Our goals are to create a center that:

Values Children
Strengthens Families
Engages the Community

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Accomplishments & Challenges

Accomplishments

- ✓ In 2010, the Library Partnership was one of only three library programs recognized nationwide as a Bright Idea Program by Harvard University's School of Government.
- ✓ For the past two consecutive years, the Library Partnership has been instrumental in Alachua County being named one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People by America's Promise Alliance, which is the nation's largest partnership organization dedicated to children.
- ✓ The Library Partnership has also been recognized by the Institute of Museum and Library Services for delivering quality library services while also striving to improve the community's quality of life.
- ✓ In recognition and support of the Library Partnership's parenting programs, the following organizations have also awarded funds to the organization: Community Foundation of North Central Florida, Satchel's Grant Program, the Gator Exchange Club, the City of Gainesville and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Challenges

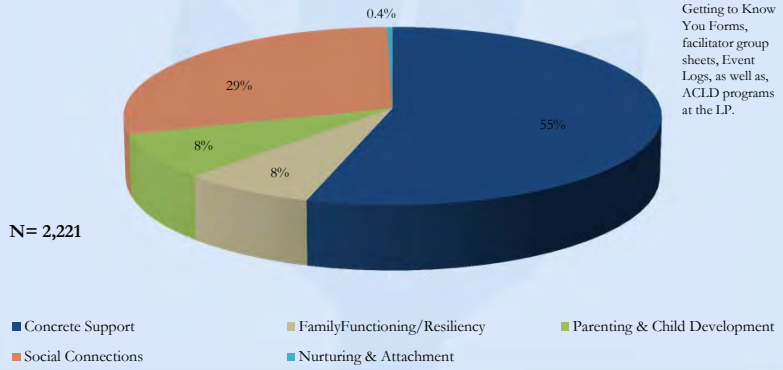
- ✓ Engaging the community to take ownership in the center and realize the benefits of our programs
- ✓ Showing the correlation between the data collected and the decrease in children being placed in out-of-home care
- ✓ Obtaining funding for incentives to encourage participants to participate in our programs through completion

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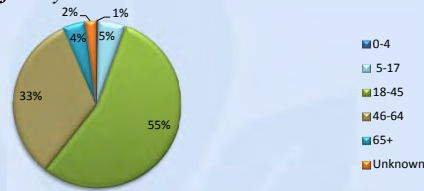
Utilization Data

Percentage of Library Partnership Services by Type January 2013 - March 2013

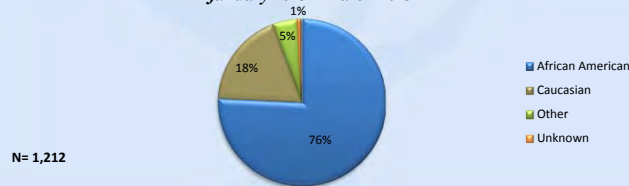


Utilization Data

Percentage of LP Visitors by Age Group January 2013 - March 2013



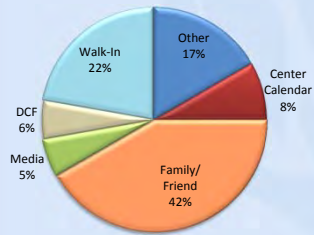
Percentage of LP Visitors by Race January 2013 - March 2013



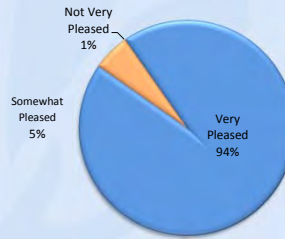


Utilization Data

How did you hear about the Library Partnership?



How pleased were you with the services you or your family received?

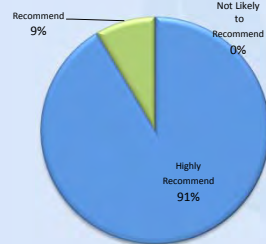


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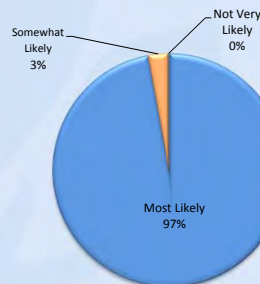


Satisfaction Data

Would you recommend others to the Library Partnership?



Would you return for additional services?



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Programs and Services



My FIRST Nest Egg gives parents the opportunity to create a savings account for their child's future education-related expenses while learning important parenting and financial planning information.

Hello!! I just wanted to tell you that I just dropped my cable boxes at COX!! I reduced my bill from \$220 to \$65 and after 12 months it will only increase \$20! I'm working on the emergency fund but it is going to take me awhile to get it saved but it will happen. . . Baby steps :)

-Kelly Christian, participant

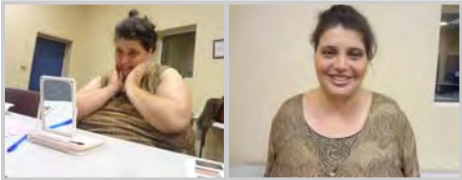
Fight For Your Money (F.F.Y.M) provides participants knowledge on different financial topics. Participants also obtain multiple financial tools that will empower them to seek financial sustainability for their families.



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Programs and Services



Above: a Job Makeover participant learns how to apply make-up appropriate for a job interview with a professional make-up artist

Project Job Makeover trains and empowers women to succeed in the current job market. The program's approach addresses both practical methods and emotional growth and includes the following topics: Employability Skills, Career Counseling, Dress for Success and more.

Other programs include: Teacher's Open House, Health Fair, Job & Career Fair, Clothing Closet, Youth Book Club, Beading Class and many more!

Services typically requested from our Family Support Facilitator relate to the five protective factors. Our Family Support Facilitation program creates one-on-one interactions with the families to discuss the issues they are experiencing, identify their strengths and connect them with resources in the community to form a system of support. This is our most utilized service.



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Mission Statement

The mission of Family Support Services of North Florida, Inc. is to be the leader in providing safety, stability, and quality of life for all children by working with the community to strengthen the family unit.



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Mission Statement

Edward Waters College, through the Schell-Sweet Community Resource Center, is committed to providing senior wellness, prevention services, and a community collaboration network with a direct focus on health, social, and educational services.



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Programs and Services



Magnolia Project



Strengthening Ties and Empowering Parents



Born Learning



Access Services

Community Resource Specialists



Community Outreach



Community Safety Training



Community Food Distribution



"CHOICES"



Dad All Day Network



Mark your calendar!
April 6
Saturday

D.A.D.

Dad All Day is a free fatherhood program from FSS.

Discover what being a dad is really all about. Open to dads of all ages with children of all ages!

Join us!
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.
Schell-Sweet Community Resource Center
1697 Kings Road
Jacksonville, FL 32209
(on the corner of Grand Street/College)

Be a great dad 24 hours a day, seven days a week? Develop stronger relationships with your family. Learn ways to be involved in your child's life and discover how to improve communication with your child's mother or your child's caregiver.

D.A.D. includes:

- Fathering skills and strategies
- Relationship skills
- Communication skills
- Personal, cultural and professional development
- A network of dad-discussing fatherhood

For more information, contact:
Anthony Bentley at abentley@fssnf.org or (904) 228-8347.



Breakfast Learning Series

A free educational program for parents, caregivers, social services professionals and the general public. The series will feature helpful professionals who are providing a networking opportunity to those raising children and adolescents who have parents.

BREAKFAST LEARNING SERIES

Mar. 20: Schell-Sweet Community Resource Center
1697 Kings Road, Jacksonville, FL 32209
(on the corner of Grand Street/College)

Mar. 21: Prince Community Development Center
3314 Loring Street, Jacksonville, FL 32206
(corner of Loring Street and E. 23rd Street)

Wed., Mar. 20 and Thurs., Mar. 21
9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
Networking and Continental Breakfast at 8:30 a.m.

Topic: Helping Children with Mental Health Issues

Speaker: Laura Nihedorf, therapeutic services specialist, Family Support Services of North Florida

Learn where you can get mental health services for your child and the many services available in our community.

Hear about:

- How to get the services that your child needs
- The behavioral, emotional and mental health care services available for children
- Therapy and service options, including targeted case management, outpatient therapy, therapeutic behavioral on-site services and the Statewide Inpatient Psychiatric Program (SIPP)
- Services that help families stay together while facing mental health issues

Register to attend: FSS.BLS.Jax@fssnf.org or 904-432-2719. No charge to attend.

Accommodations for individuals with disabilities will be made upon request in advance. Interpreter services are provided free of charge for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Become a Mentor.
 All it takes is a few hours of your time each month.
 Help children and families reunite.



You can make a difference in the life of a mom or dad in jail. Help them reunite with their children and families, become a better parent and successfully transition from prison life into community life.

For more information on becoming a re-entry coach, or to sign up, contact: umi.kargbo@fssf.org or call (904) 525-3157

JACKSONVILLE RE-ENTRY CENTER

Funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice.

Accommodated for individuals with disabilities will be made upon request in advance. Interpreter services are provided free of charge for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing.

FSS
 Family Support Services
 OF NORTH FLORIDA INC.

How it works:
 Mentors, also known as "re-entry coaches," will be trained to meet with offenders who have a desire to improve their family relationships, focus on parenting and make positive lifestyle changes.

As a re-entry coach, you must be able to commit to one year of mentoring:

- You'll meet twice a month for one-on-one mentoring sessions and monthly for a group session.
- You'll provide mentoring and transitional coaching to inmates from local non-profits centers.
- You'll receive on-going quarterly training.
- You must pass a thorough background screening. Qualified ex-offenders will be considered.

FREE training includes:

- Orientation and program guidelines
- Learning the role and requirements of being a re-entry coach
- Developing effective mentoring skills to promote relationship building, problem solving and communication tactics to inmates



RECIP Grant





Teen Leaders of America





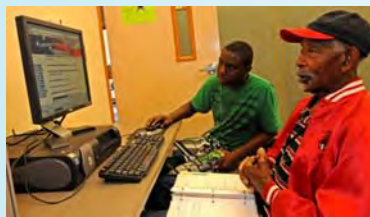
Senior Services



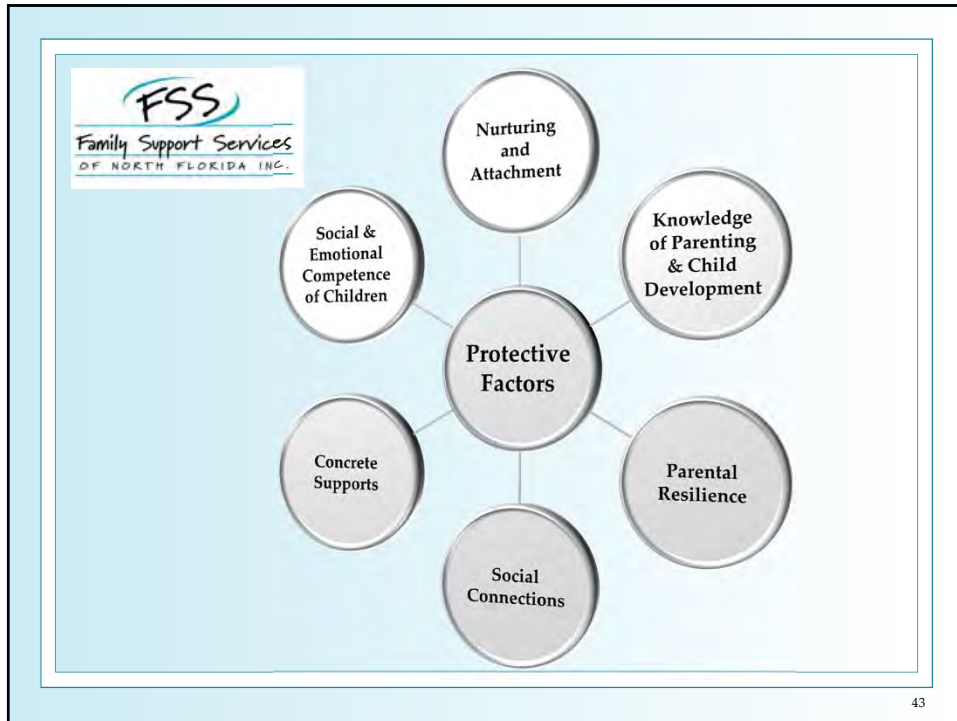
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GED and Pre-GED



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The slide is titled "Future" in a large, serif font. In the top-left corner is the logo for "FSS Family Support Services OF NORTH FLORIDA INC.". In the top-right corner is the logo for "EWC EDWARD WATERS COLLEGE". The main content consists of a list of bullet points:

- Develop a system to collect data more efficiently
- Develop ways to increase community ownership including:
 - Seeking funding sources
 - Board development
 - Ongoing community needs assessments

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Community Center Comparison

Similarities

- Find many of the same issues challenging
- Heavy reliance on volunteers
- Formal and informal relationships with other organizations are critical
- Incorporation of “self-worth” and empowerment
- Emphasis on building trust in the community

Unique Aspects

- Years in operation
- Technological sophistication
- Address same core issues in different ways
- Program structure
- Service focus and primary client base

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Community Center Essentials

- “Identity” or presence in neighborhood
- Diverse and supportive community network
- In-house administrative function for service coordination and data collection
- Skilled, committed volunteer base
- Sufficient funding and careful program planning for maximum service
- Coordination with child welfare agency

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Additional Information

Falconer, M.K., Murphy, C. & Stolc, P.E. (2012). *Library Partnership as a Neighborhood Resource Center: A research chronicle*. Tallahassee, FL: Ounce of Prevention.

Falconer, M.K., Murphy, C. & Stolc, P.E. (2012). *Edward Waters College Schell-Sweet Community Resource Center: A research chronicle*. Tallahassee, FL: Ounce of Prevention.

Full research chronicles can be found online through Casey Family Programs (www.casey.org) or the The Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida (www.ounce.org)