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Office of Teaching and Learning
Early Childhood Education Family Services Team
Family Services Team

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A collaboration between the parent, child, school, FST, and community
Head Start Family Engagement

- FST models a program that utilizes clinical and evidenced based approaches that builds relationships with families that support positive parent-child relationships, family well-being, and connections to peers and communities.
- The team is designed to support the mental, social, and emotional development of children from birth to age 5.
- FST provides families with health, nutrition, social and other services while being responsive to each child and family’s ethnic, cultural, and linguistic heritage.
Who do we serve?

- Serve 59 Title I Elementary schools and Education Campuses
- Community Parent Outreach Coordinators work with 2-3 schools and serves an average of 275 families per year
- Case Management Specialists serve 2-4 schools and receives 100 referrals per year
Program History

- 6 years old
- HS school wide model
- Evolution of the Program
- Integration into the larger system
Lessons Learned

- Old World Organizational Culture
  - Mom and Pop shop has gone Metropolitan
  - Benchmarks! Benchmarks! Benchmarks!
  - Reactive Planning

- New World Organizational Culture
  - Multiple Changes in Leadership
  - Needs Assessments Led to Proactivity
  - Community Connections
  - High Quality Care = High Quality Results
Early Childhood Education

- Aligning with the Community needs
- Ward Based Plan
  - Needs assessment
  - Community partnerships and evaluations
  - Developing a purpose
  - Honoring the time

**Current Ward Based Plans**
- Ward 1-4  Improving Access to Services
- Ward 4-5  Integration of new families (Improving access and gentrification)
- Ward 5-6  Homelessness and gentrification
- Ward 7  Food Desert
- Ward 8  Trauma responsiveness and continuity of care
Investing in the Helpers

- Strengths-Based vs Punitive approach
- Leadership Development of Staff (value differences and empower)
- Creative Cooperation (teamwork, open-mindedness, finding new solutions to old problems)

- Setting up staff to succeed
- Establishing leadership within natural teams
- Teaching staff how to advocate within the system.
Becoming Needs Based and Establishing Initiatives

- From Pre-K Parents as Partners to Parent Café
  - Reassessment of organizational values
  - Adapting a parent-centered approach

- Homelessness
  - Partnership with DC General and Days Inn
  - Policy Council Initiatives
  - Advocacy within DCPS Initiatives and other community partners
Becoming Needs Based and Establishing Initiatives

- **Health**
  - Establishing goals
  - Identifying the right partners
  - Establishing Different levels of support

- **Fatherhood**
  - Fatherhood readiness
  - Different levels of support
  - Sustainability plans

- **Books to Birth**
  - Going beyond the free stuff

- **Urban Institute attendance study**
  - The challenge of punishment vs. support
Next Steps

- Direct Services / Family Engagement
- Let’s discuss your plans!!!!!!!
  - SWOT
  - Identify the pioneers in the community
  - Incorporate families every step of the way
  - Be responsive to community
  - Resources

- What works in your jurisdiction?

- Questions/Answers