

May 2016

Office of Teaching and  
Learning  
Early Childhood  
Education Family Services  
Team





DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Family Services Team

Rianna Berkeley LGSW Program

Manager Ward 7

Lauren Brown LICSW

Program Manager Ward 4-5

Orin Howard LICSW MBA

Director



# A collaboration between the parent, child, school, FST, and community

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## Head Start Family Engagement

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- 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?

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- 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

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

## Lessons Learned

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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