

# FOCUSING ON ACTION:

## STRENGTHENING FAMILIES SELF-ASSESSMENT (SFSA) - JANUARY 2023 UPDATES FOR THE CONE PARK LIBRARY RESOURCE CENTER (CPLRC)

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### The CPLRC SFSA Process

The purpose of the SFSA process was to evaluate Cone Park Library Resource Center (CPLRC) practices, programs, and services based on the Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework. The CPLRC's SFSA team consisted of 1 direct service staff member, 1 volunteer, 2 community collaborators from partner organizations, and 4 Community Ambassadors who utilize services and programs at the CPLRC. Team members completed a survey with questions related to the implementation of each protective factor at the CPLRC. The SFSA team came together for critical discussion and dialog to assess each item and develop action items to address any gaps in programs, services, or Resource Center practices. CPLRC staff have been working hard to implement action items with the allotted resources and staff capacities. Updates on action items and plans were categorized into four key themes determined by the SWAG SFSA team for the future and are provided in this report. The key themes are:



- **Theme One:** Parent focused advisory council and programming.
- **Theme Two:** Increased awareness targeted to fathers, increased awareness via social media and increased awareness of staff training.
- **Theme Three:** Increased engagement with males/fathers, non-English speakers, local families, library outdoor resources and virtual spaces.
- **Theme Four:** Building capacity by enhancing staff and space resources.

As CPLRC staff have focused on enhancing services and supports for all themes. Some action items have been explored and are now at their limitations. Action items are listed with the protective factor SFSA report from which they were developed, however in some cases action items may overlap with another protective factor or theme. It is important to recognize that attainment of select action items may be impacted given staff capacities and/or available resources. However, CPLRC staff, community partners and community ambassadors have and will continue to work collaboratively to try to achieve the best solution for each action item.

### Core Meanings of the Center for the Study of Social Policy's Protective Factors<sup>1</sup>

#### 1. Concrete Support in Times of Need

Access to concrete support and services that address a family's needs and help minimize stress caused by challenges.

#### 2. Social Connections

Positive relationships that provide emotional, informational, and spiritual support.

#### 3. Social and Emotional Competence of Children

Family and child interactions that help children develop the ability to communicate clearly, recognize and regulate their emotions, and establish and maintain relationships.

#### 4. Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development

Understanding child development and parenting strategies that support physical, cognitive, language, social, and emotional development.

#### 5. Parental Resilience

Managing stress and functioning well when faced with challenges, adversity, and trauma.

<sup>1</sup> Center for the Study of Social Policy. (2015). Core Meanings of the Strengthening Families Protective Factors. The contents of this project are funded by the Children's Bureau, under grant #90CA1868.

The contents of this project do not necessarily represent the official views of the Children's Bureau.

# CPLRC'S ACTION ITEM KEY THEME UPDATES



## THEME ONE: PARENT FOCUSED ADVISORY COUNCIL AND PROGRAMMING

**Parental Resilience Action Item:** Explore and consider a formal collaboration between Cone Park Library Resource Center (CPLRC) and the Cone Park Library (CPL) to establish a parent advisory council/committee.

**Action Item Update:** CPLRC's PCAC has been meeting routinely since September 2022. After several months of vacancy, the Cone Park Library Branch Manager position has been filled. The CPLRC's Manager will meet with the new Branch Manager and introduce the PCAC, extending an invitation for the library to join these efforts.

**Parental Resilience Action Item:** Efforts should be made (perhaps in consultation with a newly formed Parent Advisory Council/Committee) to explore the collaborative development and implementation of possible parent-focused activities/events aimed at stress relief.

**Action Item Update:** In response to patron requests, CPLRC has started a Zumba class and gardening group which provide social connections and concrete supports, which could be a stress reducer.



## THEME TWO: INCREASED AWARENESS TARGETED TO FATHERS, INCREASED AWARENESS VIA SOCIAL MEDIA AND INCREASED AWARENESS OF STAFF TRAINING

**Parental Resilience Action Item:** Create a joint marketing strategy between CPLRC and other resource centers to market directly to fathers.

**Action Item Update:** The CPLRC Manager will reach out to the Director of Resource Centers to discuss plans for collaborating with other FRCs on creating a joint strategy for increasing services to fathers/male caregivers.

**Parental Resilience Action Item:** Develop a coordinated and collaborative strategy for engagement and dissemination of program/service/activity information that is relatable to local families with the goal of creating buy-in and enhancing the utilization of the CPLRC and CPL.

**Action Item Update:** The CPL Branch Manager, who acted in an interim capacity since October 2022, was officially hired at the beginning of January 2023. Having previously worked at the CPL Branch, she has a good relationship with the CPLRC Manager. Together they planned the 2022 Fall Festival and work in a collaborative fashion on afterschool events. As time goes by, further integration of collaboration and engagement strategies may develop. CPLRC calendars and event flyers are also disseminated through a partner listserv, distributed at community events, and made available on-site. The CPLRC Manager also attends various community outreach activities.

**Social Connections Action Item:** Determine which trainings associated with diversity and other issues (including, but not limited to, mental health issues/topics) that staff receive that might have relevance for an expanded group of participants (including Community Ambassadors, other patrons, etc.).

**Action Item Update:** CPLRC has provided some appropriate webinar links to PCAC members and will continue to consider this as training opportunities become available.

# CPLRC'S ACTION ITEM KEY THEME UPDATES



## THEME THREE: INCREASED ENGAGEMENT WITH MALES/FATHERS, NON-ENGLISH SPEAKERS, LOCAL FAMILIES, LIBRARY OUTDOOR RESOURCES AND VIRTUAL SPACES

**Parental Resilience Action Item:** Explore options for connecting immigrant and refugee families to services in their own language.

**Action Item Update:** The CPLRC manager will discuss with the CPL Branch Manager possible strategies for connecting with immigrant and refugee families.

**Parental Resilience Action Item:** Explore how outdoor resources can be utilized for individual and health-based activities targeted towards caregivers. Consider (for example) the development of a regular program such as a formal or informal track league.

**Action Item Update:** CPLRC plans on having its second annual On Track Fitness Health and Wellness Fair in 2023. This event promotes utilizing Cone Park's outdoor resources while giving health advice. Zumba is held on-site, and the gardening group also utilizes the property's free resources.

**Parental Resilience Action Item:** Provide more father focused programming at CPLRC.

**Action Item Update:** The CPLRC Manager will discuss with the CPL Branch Manager possible programming options to better engage fathers. This initiative will also be part of a broader FRC plan, across sites.

**Social Connections Action Item:** Explore social media utilization strategies for CPLRC (perhaps in collaboration with CPL) as a means of engaging/connecting with patrons and their families (including marginalized groups) and disseminating information regarding program and resource supports/opportunities.

**Action Item Update:** PSF posts RC activities regularly, but still limited to those on Facebook. The CPLRC Manager and Director of RC's will schedule a meeting with community relations to discuss other strategies. In addition, the CPLRC Manager will talk to the new CPL Branch Manager to request they share programs as well on their outlets.

**Social Connections Action Item:** Explore how (structure and feasibility given benefits and concerns) social media groups can supplement existing at the end of CPLRC and CPL structured (face-to-face) activities and help foster meaningful connections among participants.

**Action Item Update:** While CPLRC staff encourage patrons to make their own social media groups, there is a staffing limitation to monitoring such groups, which prohibits CPLRC staff from making or hosting them.



## THEME FOUR: BUILDING CAPACITY BY ENHANCING STAFF AND SPACE RESOURCES

**Concrete Supports in Times of Need, Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development, and Social and Emotional Action Item:** Explore the possibilities of enhancing/expanding staff and space resources so that CPLRC can ensure a maximization of potential service and support-benefits linked to protective factors.

**Action Item Update:** In the first week of December 2022, a long-time patron and volunteer was hired to work part-time through PSF's host agency agreement, created in 2019 with The National Caucus & Center on Black Aging, Inc.

THE CONE PARK LIBRARY RESOURCE CENTER

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