

# FOCUSING ON ACTION:

## STRENGTHENING FAMILIES SELF-ASSESSMENT (SFSA) - JULY 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 the 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 discussions 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 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 CPLRC SFSA team.



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 worked collaboratively, to the best of their ability, to achieve solutions for each action item.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Cone Park Library Resource Center closed its doors to the public on August 11, 2023. This decision comes as part of a budget reduction plan implemented by Partnership for Strong Families (PSF), in response to several challenges, with the unprecedented costs associated with out-of-home care for children being the most significant factor. Although this change may seem sudden, it was made after much thoughtful consideration by PSF leadership, with a commitment to minimizing the impact on our patrons. While this location will be closing, PSF remains committed to providing high-quality family support services to local children and families through our network of Family Resource Centers and recognize the amazing contributions of Ms. Erica Reed, along with our patrons and partners, in making Cone Park a success.

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

## 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.



## THEME ONE: PARENT FOCUSED ADVISORY COUNCIL AND PROGRAMMING

**Parental Resilience Action Item:** Explore and consider a formal collaboration between the 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. The Cone Park Library Branch Manager attends every meeting.

**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:** The community garden is a formal collaboration run by the CPLRC PCAC and it continues to be a success. An event to taste the fresh vegetables from the garden is coming soon. A community walk takes place on mornings to provide stress relief by walking the CPL track.



## 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 the CPLRC and other resource centers to market directly to fathers.

**Action Item Update:** The CPLRC Manager continues to keep an eye out for male speakers and teachers as well as encourage involvement among males at community events like the health fair and MLK activities.

# CPLRC'S ACTION ITEM KEY THEME UPDATES

## THEME TWO: CONTINUED

**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 has been working hand in hand with the CPLRC manager to collaborate on the fall festival, summer camp, children's literacy services, advertisements and one-on-one patron needs.

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

**Action Item Update:** Ms. Rose who came on as a CPLRC volunteer in November 2022 obtained HIPPA and Security Awareness training. She and the CPLRC manager will attend a De-escalation training soon.



## 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:** Every service at the CPLRC is available to all immigrant and refugee families. Communication needs are assessed on an individual basis.

**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:** Library facilities have increasingly been used for a community walk, playground, and track activities for youth, IFAS outdoor activities, summer camp and homework help. Additionally, many events such as the Health Fair took place outdoors.

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

**Action Item Update:** The CPLRC Manager and the CPL Branch Manager discussed possible programming options to better engage parents/fathers. There is interest in how services can be overlapped to assist father focus events.

# CPLRC'S ACTION ITEM KEY THEME UPDATES

## THEME THREE: CONTINUED

**Social Connections Action Item:** Explore social media utilization strategies for the 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:** The CPLRC manager meets regularly with CPL staff to make sure all events are updated on their website. Additionally, some churches are known to share information related to the CPLRC in their communities.

**Social Connections Action Item:** Explore how social media groups can supplement existing relationships created during CPLRC and CPL structured (face-to-face) activities to 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 the CPLRC can ensure a maximization of potential service and support-benefits linked to protective factors.

**Action Item Update:** In November 2022 a long-time patron and volunteer was hired part-time through PSF's host agency agreement, created in 2019 with The National Caucus & Center on Black Aging, Inc. Additionally the CPLRC has had 4 other volunteers this year who have helped with activities such as summer camp and food distribution.

THE CONE PARK LIBRARY RESOURCE CENTER

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Suggested citation: Lancaster, C & Reed, E. (2023) Focusing on Action: Strengthening Families Self-Assessment (SFSA) Updates for the Cone Park Library Resource Center. Tallahassee: Institute for Child and Family Services Research