

# Strengthening Families Self-Assessment Team Findings at the CPLRC

## Core Meanings of the Center for the Study of Social Policy's Protective Factors

### 1. Parental Resilience

Managing stress and functioning well when faced with challenges, adversity, and trauma.<sup>1</sup>



### 2. Social Connections

Positive relationships that provide emotional, informational, and spiritual support.<sup>1</sup>



### 3. 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.<sup>1</sup>



### 4. Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development

Understanding child development and parenting strategies that support physical, cognitive, language, social, and emotional development.<sup>1</sup>



### 5. 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.



## Examples of the Protective Factors in Action at the Cone Park Library Resource Center (CPLRC)

CPLRC adopts perspectives and practices that reinforce the value of parents as decision makers and potential leaders for building resilience within households and the community.

Staff at both the CPLRC and Cone Park Library are perceived as very friendly and effective in engaging one-on-one with parents... and providing opportunities for parents to interact with one another (and with staff, volunteers, and interns) in supportive ways.

The caring and responsive actions and attitudes of CPLRC and Cone Park Library staff are a valued asset toward engaging and establishing trusting relationships with parents and families that, subsequently, enhance the likely receipt of needed concrete supports.

Age and developmentally appropriate responses are modeled for parents in interactions with children at the CPLRC and Cone Park Library... professional background, practice experience, collaboration/peer learning, and continuing education/training of key staff and administrators have been sources of support in enhancing the likelihood of developmentally appropriate interactions with children.

CPLRC staff go "...out of their way..." to accommodate the social and emotional needs, working directly with partners to identify plans for service delivery for patrons and their children.

<sup>1</sup> Center for the Study of Social Policy. (2015). Core Meanings of the Strengthening Families Protective Factors.

# ACTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

## Putting into practice what we learned from the Strengthening Families Self-Assessment (SFSA) Tool



The purpose of the SFSA process was to evaluate Resource Center practices, programs, and services based on the Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework. The CPLRC's SFSA team consisted of 2 direct service staff members, 4 Community Ambassadors who utilize services and programs at the CPLRC, and 2 community collaborators from partner organizations. 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 policies.

### KEY THEMES OF THE CPLRC'S ACTION ITEMS



#### DEVELOP

##### Parent Focused...

Advisory council.  
Activities and services.



#### INCREASE AWARENESS

##### By...

Targeting fathers.  
Increasing the Resource Center's social media presence.  
Informing patrons of staff training.



#### INCREASE ENGAGEMENT

##### With...

Fathers and males.  
Non-English speakers.  
Local families.  
Library outdoor resources.  
Virtual spaces.



#### BUILD CAPACITY

##### By...

Enhancing staff and space resources.

### Moving forward...

Over the next year and a half, staff at the Cone Park Library Resource Center will work to implement many of the proposed action items to enhance services and programs for local children and families.



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