

Strengthening Families Self-Assessment Team Findings at the SWAG FRC

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.¹



2. Social Connections

Positive relationships that provide emotional, informational, and spiritual support.¹



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.¹



4. Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development

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



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.¹



Examples of the Protective Factors in Action at the SWAG Family Resource Center (SWAG FRC)

Opportunities are provided for parents to relieve stress through referrals to support groups, engaging parents informally, and arranging for individual consultations with staff and other professionals to address issues that are a source of stress in their lives.

The collaborative connections of the SWAG FRC and the Southwest Advocacy Group, the scope and quality of community partners, and the SWAG FRC staff's skills and authentic concerns serve as a foundation that encourages newcomers and isolated or marginalized families to participate in program activities.

The effective collaboration between an abundance of community partners, SWAG FRC, and other Southwest Advocacy Group service centers such as the CHILD Center and the SW Health Clinic ensures a timely and effective provision of concrete supports to distressed families within the community.

The SWAG FRC staff has a "see a need, fill a need" mindset that rings true when recognizing and supporting the parenting challenges experienced by families with children who have special needs.

SWAG FRC staff, interns, and volunteers meet youth "where they are at," individualizing personal goals and program elements to meet each child's needs. The SWAG FRC's Family Support Facilitator highlights: "we don't just help with homework; we help children recognize their emotions and learn how to deal with them in a positive manner."

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

ROADMAP TO 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 SWAG FRC's SFSA team consisted of 2 direct service staff members, 3 community collaborators from partner organizations, and 4 Community Ambassadors who utilize services and programs at the SWAG FRC. Team members completed a survey with questions related to the implementation of each protective factor at the SWAG FRC. 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.

KEY THEMES OF THE SWAG FRC'S ACTION ITEMS



PEER-TO-PEER

Led...

Trainings.
Speaker series.
Parent support nights.



INCREASE AWARENESS

By...

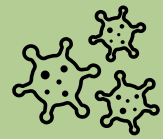
Utilizing key community members.
Improving messaging to the community.



INCREASE ENGAGEMENT

With...

SWAG FRC Programs.
Local businesses.
Schools.
Fathers/males.
Diverse populations.
Patrons in the program planning process.



POST-COVID PLANNING

Host...

Social connection events.
Community events.
Parent-only activities.

Moving forward...

Over the next year and a half, staff at the SWAG Family 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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Tallahassee: Institute for Child and Family Services Research