

FOCUSING ON ACTION: STRENGTHENING FAMILIES SELF-ASSESSMENT (SFSA) JUNE 2022 UPDATES FOR THE SWAG FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER (SWAG FRC)

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The SWAG SFSA Process

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. SWAG FRC 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:** Peer-to-Peer led trainings, a speaker series and parent support nights.
- **Theme Two:** Increase awareness by utilizing key community members and improving messaging to the community.
- **Theme Three:** Increase engagement with SWAG FRC programs, local businesses, schools, fathers/males, diverse populations, patrons in the planning process for programs.
- **Theme Four:** Begin hosting social connection events, community events and parent-only activities, once appropriate, considering safety and public health recommendations.

As SWAG FRC staff have focused on enhancing services and supports in other identified areas of improvement, at this time there is one action item update for theme one. Conversely, all action items in theme two have been addressed to some degree. Therefore, while efforts will continue to be finetuned related to theme two, the focus will shift away from these action items in the coming months. Themes one, three and four have associated action items to focus on moving forward. It is important to recognize that all action items may not be feasible due to staff capacities or available resources. However, SWAG FRC staff, community partners and community ambassadors will work collaboratively to try to achieve the best solution for each action item. For action items related to the Social and Emotional Competence of Children protective factor, there are recommendations in lieu of action items because the team determined the SWAG FRC staff's recommendations would be better served in this area due to their experience. Action items are listed with the protective factor SFSA report they were developed but may overlap with another protective factor.

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



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

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

SWAG FRC'S ACTION ITEM KEY THEME UPDATES



THEME ONE: DEVELOP PEER-TO-PEER LED TRAININGS, A SPEAKER SERIES, AND PARENT SUPPORT NIGHTS.

Overarching Action Item: Create a dynamic speaker series and/or programs to reach two audiences - parents and youth.

Action Item Update: To increase the number of dynamic programs for youth led by peers, a local Eagle Scout will be offering coding classes to his peers at the SWAG FRC this fall. Youth who participate will receive a free monitor and raspberry pi (small computer) to continue their coding adventures at the end of the program.



ACTIONS TO FOCUS ON MOVING FORWARD

The following action items will continue to be focused upon over the next year with updates provided every six months.

Social Connections Action Item: Explore opportunities for the development of parent support groups and mentoring opportunities that are parent centered. Consideration may be given to the implementation of a “parent support night” following discussions with parents and Community Ambassadors.

Parental Resilience Action Item: Explore means and mechanisms for Community Ambassadors to participate in training opportunities.

Concrete Supports in Times of Need Action Item: Explore a peer-to-peer training program, created by and for community members, related to getting needed supports and resources and how to act in a collective manner to advocate for each other.

SWAG FRC'S ACTION ITEM KEY THEME UPDATES



THEME TWO: INCREASE AWARENESS BY UTILIZING KEY COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND IMPROVING MESSAGING TO THE COMMUNITY.

Parental Resilience Action Item: Utilize community members to help raise awareness of the SWAG FRC.

Action Item Update: The SWAG SFSA Community Ambassadors have been added to the Resource Center Managers listserv for event updates and monthly calendars - the goal is that these individuals will help spread the word in the community when they receive emails.

Parental Resilience Action Item: Reevaluate the current engagement and outreach strategies to improve messaging to parents/families/households regarding the agency (SWAG FRC).

Action Item Update: On May 19, 2022, PSF launched a "Family Resource Centers" Facebook page. This page helps spread awareness and boost key messaging to community members.

Parental Resilience Action Item: Formalize a communication channel between the SWAG Board and the members of the Strengthening Families Self-Assessment Team.

Action Item Update: SWAG Board meetings will be held in person soon and will be listed on the SWAG FRC calendars as they will be open to the public. Other community groups such as the Preservation and Enhancement Committee will begin hosting their meetings at the RC starting in July 2022.

Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development

Action Item: Explore the means and mechanisms by which the community can become more aware of parenting and child development supports available at the Resource Center.

Action Item Update: With the creation of the PSF Family Resource Centers Facebook page, one goal is to be able to increase awareness of parenting and child development supports that are available. Additionally, the Resource Center Manager will be sending out service and support updates to patrons who provide their email address when visiting the Resource Center.

Social and Emotional Competence of Children

Recommendation: Help spread awareness of social and emotional programming by advertising the open-door policy on applications for children's programming.

Recommendation Update: While this language was not added to the summer activities applications, the Resource Center Manager plans to implement this language in the homework help applications that will be available at the end of the summer, before school starts.

SWAG FRC'S ACTION ITEM KEY THEME UPDATES



THEME THREE: INCREASE ENGAGEMENT WITH SWAG FRC PROGRAMS, LOCAL BUSINESSES, SCHOOLS, FATHERS/MALES, DIVERSE POPULATIONS, AND PATRONS IN THE PLANNING PROCESS FOR PROGRAMS.

Parental Resilience Action Item: Increase engagement with local businesses and schools to promote the Resource Center.

Action Item Update: A relationship between Hidden Oaks Elementary personnel and the Resource Center staff has been fostered. Families can now more conveniently meet with school personnel at the Resource Center. Over the last four months, school personnel from Hidden Oaks elementary have been helping to support the SWAG FRC's monthly Community Dinner. This has given children and families in the SWAG neighborhoods an opportunity to bond with school personnel outside of the school environment, as well as highlight resources that are available to the community.

Parental Resilience Action Item: Recruit more fathers to utilize the services and programs at the SWAG FRC.

Action Item Update: On June 24, 2022, all Resource Center staff will receive training regarding improved engagement with fathers. This training will be led by Pastor Gerard Duncan who is involved with the Florida legislative bill to support involved fatherhood in Florida.

Parental Resilience Action Item: Strengthen partnerships with local organizations such as Meridian Behavioral Health to provide mental health support for the community.

Action Item Update: Since November 2021, a representative from Meridian Behavioral Health is now onsite at the SWAG FRC once a month to promote available services and to connect the community to mental health resources.

Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development

Action Item: Ensure that value is placed on peer-to-peer programs and services that are most needed and wanted by parents in the community.

Action Item Update: With enhanced staff effort to receive complete patron satisfaction surveys, the SWAG FRC will be able to place higher value on community wants and needs when planning programs and services.



ACTIONS TO FOCUS ON MOVING FORWARD (THEME THREE)

The following action items will continue to be focused upon over the next year with updates provided every six months.

Parental Resilience Action Item: Create a Youth Advisory Council (YAC) to advise the SWAG FRC.

Parental Resilience Action Item: Host social connection events with themes catered towards fathers.

Parental Resilience Action Item: Create a Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) or Community Advisory Community (CAC) to advise the SWAG FRC.

Social and Emotional Competence of Children Recommendation: Enhance understanding and appreciation for individuals from different cultures, ethnicities, sexual orientations, languages, and cultural expressions; and include volunteers and interns in cultural competence trainings.

Social Connections Action Item: Explore the creation of a Community Advisory Council (CAC) with broad representation of community members who are motivated to serve the community and enhance supports for its members. Special attention should be paid to ensure the inclusion of fathers and grandfathers as part of this advisory committee.

Social and Emotional Competence of Children Recommendation: Enhance trainings to include competence of environmental and economic factors and how these factors play a role in social and emotional development.

Parental Resilience Action Item: Explore opportunities to better engage patrons in program planning and how that could be organized.

SWAG FRC'S ACTION ITEM KEY THEME UPDATES



THEME FOUR: BEGIN HOSTING SOCIAL CONNECTION EVENTS, COMMUNITY EVENTS AND PARENT-ONLY ACTIVITIES, ONCE APPROPRIATE, CONSIDERING SAFETY AND PUBLIC HEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS.

Note: While some of the action items have begun to be addressed, it is important to note that the SWAG FRC is not yet operating in full capacity, due to public health and safety concerns.

Parental Resilience Action Item: Host a community event to talk about gun violence that can serve to help connect the community with grief counselors.

Action Item Update: In November 2021, PSF's Gainesville Resource Centers including the SWAG FRC collaborated with Moms Demand Action, the Gainesville Police Department, and the Alachua County Sheriff's Office to host the *One County, One Community Standing Together for Gun Safety* event. This program focused on providing information about gun safety to families and connected families with mental health services and affordable afterschool and enrichment activities for youth.

Social Connections Action Item: The SWAG FRC needs to reinstate and expand social connection/community events once it is safe to do so, given currently safety and public health concerns.

Action Item Update: Starting in April 2022, the monthly SWAG FRC community dinner has shifted from a to-go format to an in-person format providing an avenue for family members to spend time together and community members to get to know one another. On June 16, 2022, the SWAG FRC had a large scale community dinner with special family activities and a DJ to celebrate its 10th anniversary since its doors were open to the community.

Social Connections Action Item: Ensure that patrons have supportive and responsive means and mechanism to openly communicate with and/or inform the staff about any knowledge or skill sets they believe staff should have to better serve the community.

Action Item Update: Patron satisfaction surveys have always been available at the SWAG FRC, however staff are enhancing their efforts to ensure each visitor is aware of this option to provide feedback and openly communicate with staff so that the community can be better served.



ACTIONS TO FOCUS ON MOVING FORWARD

The following action item will continue to be focused upon over the next year with updates provided every six months.

Parental Resilience Action Item: Host social connection events with themes catered towards fathers.

THE SWAG FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

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