

# Entry Form

Deadline: All entries must be postmarked by Friday, February 26, 2010.

# 2010 ECCO Recognition Program

Celebrating Excellence in Community Communications and Outreach

Please include this form with one sample of each entry(s). Label each of your entries with the entry category, community name, and contact information.

## Entry Procedures

Please see the Call for Entries for complete entry instructions. To access this form electronically, contact your Campaign technical assistance provider at 202-331-9816 or via e-mail.

Copy form and fill out entirely for EACH entry. Photocopy form as needed.

ECCO entries will not be returned; they will be added to the Campaign Resource Center to serve as examples of communications and social marketing for reference by other system of care communities.

★ **Category:** (For complete category descriptions, see the Call for Entries.)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Professional Outreach         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Media Outreach                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership Development                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Outreach: Parents and Caregivers      | <input type="checkbox"/> Communications/Social Marketing Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Outreach: Children and Youth          | <input type="checkbox"/> Internal Communications                  |

★ **Title of entry:** (Please type or print clearly and keep to 10 words or less.)

Informing our Community

★ **Submitted by:** (Note: The person submitting will be the point of contact.)

Name: Liza Leonard  
Title: Community Outreach Coordinator  
Organization: Sarasota Partnership for Children's Mental Health  
Address: 1751 Mound Street Suite 205  
City: Sarasota State: FL Zip Code: 34236  
Telephone: 941-861-1448 Fax: 941-362-8756  
E-mail: liza\_leonard@doh.state.fl.us

★ Please PRINT organization name exactly as it should appear on the recognition plaque;

Sarasota Partnership for Children's Mental Health

★ Was the entry created with or by an external consultant?  Yes  No

Approximate budget for entry: \$740 a year for printing & mailing (most are emailed)



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# **2010 ECCO Award Entry Questions Informing Our Community Professional Outreach**

## **1. Relevance to Category**

A quarterly newsletter was designed to provide information about the Partnerships activities, values, and upcoming projects to both our internal and external audience which includes parents, professionals and the community.

## **2. Planning**

During the winter of 2009, a task force was convened to develop strategies to improve staff communication regarding the many changes and transitions within the Partnership. Initially, a monthly update was provided to staff but the task force recognized a need to provide the information in a friendlier format and to a broader audience. What originally began as a periodic update has been transformed into a newsletter that is distributed to a wide audience including internal staff, partnering agencies, other community agencies, family members, and volunteers.

## **3. Cultural and Linguistic Competence**

The Partnership is committed to reaching all members of our community and offering information in the primary language of the family. In keeping with this goal, the newsletter is available in both English and Spanish. The Spanish version of the newsletter was mailed to families in which Spanish is the primary language spoken at home.

## **4. Youth, Family and Partner Involvement**

### **Newsletter came out of focus group?**

The Community Outreach Coordinator and the Director of the Family Support Network worked closely together to design a newsletter that would be helpful and meaningful to families. The Director of the Support Network suggested the inclusion of a family story in each issue to provide hope for other families and to help other organizations understand some of the struggles that families face.

## **5. Message**

The Partnership utilizes a public health approach in developing improved systems of care to support early childhood mental health. The goal of this newsletter is to educate the community about the various aspects of this approach by highlighting our promotion, prevention and intervention efforts along with our core values.

## **6. Execution/Presentation**

After receiving feedback from the task force, the Social Marketing Workgroup prioritized the creation of a newsletter that is distributed to a wide audience including internal staff, partnering agencies, other community agencies, family members, and volunteers. The workgroup, which is comprised of individuals from various organizations and family members, brainstormed content areas that represent the Partnership's activities, mission and values.

## **7. Creativity**

The Butterfly logo is an important symbol for the Partnership signifying transformation and change. It was essential that the newsletter reflect the images and significance of the logo. The newsletter was designed to coordinate with all of the other marketing materials and be visually appealing to all audiences. Special effort was made to give the newsletter a unique "feel" through the use of vibrant colors and photographs.

## **8. Effectiveness and Evaluation**

The Community Outreach Coordinator has received a number of positive emails about the newsletter. Some of the unsolicited compliments were:

"Excellent newsletter!" Jennifer

"Wow, all this looks great that is happening with the Partnership! Congratulations!!! "Myra

"This was a GREAT newsletter. You all do such great work." Karen

"Thanks for sharing, wow!! Lots of good stuff happening for children and families. I'm especially pleased to learn about the training initiative for our child welfare workers." Lucile

"Great newsletter and thanks for the front story coverage on the Fair!" Katie

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# Transforming our Community Listening to Families Caring about Children

Fall 2009

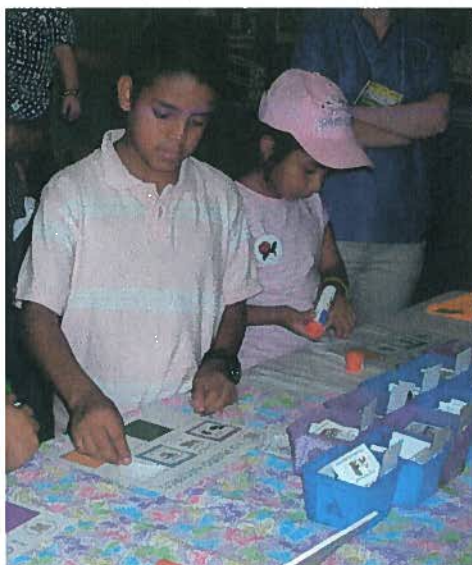
## Ready, Set, Grow! Infant to Kindergarten Family Fair



The Ready, Set, Grow! Infant to Kindergarten Family fair was held on Saturday, July 25th, at Roberts Arena. This years event was another success, reaching almost 4,500 adults and children from the community. During this free event, families received valuable information on topics such

as preschool, nutrition, social services and child safety.

At our booth, the children were given an opportunity to create storyboards detailing either their morning or evening routines. The parent's were very appreciative of this activity and were very excited about having a tool that would help them prepare their children for school or bedtime with less reminders! The children loved choosing the pictures and creating their routines. This activity was especially helpful for families who had not created consistent



routines for their children before this time.

Our booth was extremely popular with crowds of people lining up to participate in our new activity. We were lucky to have a large number of agency and family volunteers for this event! We want to especially thank the Family Support Network, Partnership family members and members of the USF evaluation team for their help with translation. We would not have been able to reach so many families without you!



# A very successful beginning for the PBS project!

The Positive Behavioral Support (PBS) initiative (provided through the Early Learning Coalition and funded by the Sarasota Partnership for Children's mental Health) is off to a tremendous start. Over 30 sites and 90 individual childcare providers have attended the PBS workshops and many are receiving ongoing mentoring and follow up through the program. PBS is an approach for changing a child's behavior by teaching the child new skills to replace challenging behaviors. It is a holistic approach that considers all factors that impact a child and helps to develop and understanding of why the child has challenging behaviors. Gary LaFemina, Positive Behavior Support coordinator at the Early Learning Coalition, stated "the PBS program has been instrumental at helping teachers look at children through a new lens. This is an incredible training and the response has been very positive."



When Gary reflects on the PBS trainings, one child's story in particular often comes to mind. It is the story of a 4 year old child who was asked to leave four early learning centers over the course of two years because he demonstrated aggressive behavior toward other children and adults. All of the centers worked to intervene to support both the child and his family but to no avail. After a PBS trained behavioral specialist from the Florida Center was called in to observe, the early learning center decided that they could no longer manage his behavior.

The child was then placed in a center that participated in PBS training. Along with the support of the Florida Center Behavioral specialist and the PBS coach, the teachers and director of the new center began to reframe some of the behaviors the child demonstrated and organized a plan of intervention strategies to support the child as he went through his day. As they days and weeks went on, trouble areas were discussed and additional interventions were implemented. Additionally, the director of the center and the teachers met with the child's parents to help educate them and provide them with strategies to support the child at home. Over the course of 2-3 months, the child's aggressive behavior diminished and he learned acceptable, age-appropriate ways to express his needs and emotions. As the new school year approached in August, transition strategies were discussed by the teachers and parents to ensure the child's success in a new classroom. The child's previous and new teachers met to discuss strategies to support the child's learning and behavior.



One full month into school and nearly five months after he arrived, the statements describing his behavior are all positive and he fully participates in his academic program. His interaction with other children and adults has moved from aggressive in nature to engaged and reflective. All who know him credit the comprehensive nature of the PBS training they received and their ability to feel competent and prepared to problem solve his behavioral and learning challenges. They are committed to ensuring his success and to maintaining him as a student in their program.

A special thank you to All Children's Specialty Care Clinic for hosting the training at their site!

## Sarasota leads a national movement to broaden mental health supports for young children



A Diagnosis and Eligibility Work Group, led by Kathryn Shea of the Florida Center and comprised of leaders in the early childhood system of care movement, have been hard at work promoting the idea that infants and young children who are at imminent risk for developing mental health or serious emotional disorders should be given consideration for enrollment into systems of care. This group's efforts are based on the knowledge that an infant or young child's social and emotional development is linked to all the other areas of their growth and development. Children who are not socially and emotionally healthy may also have physical symptoms, such as poor weight gain and slow growth, sleep problems or developmental delays. If children do not achieve early social and emotional milestones, they will not do well in the early school years, and are at higher risk for school problems and juvenile delinquency later in life. Early intervention with young children and their families can greatly improve outcomes for these children. At the 2009 Systems of Care Conference Early Childhood Communities Training, Dr Gary Blau, Adolescent and Family Branch Chief for SAMSHA, announced that the eligibility criteria for enrolling children into systems of care has been expanded to include infants and children who have a diagnosis of imminent risk. Although the changes are not officially in effect yet, this a positive step towards our goal of reaching more children in our community and in other early childhood sites.



## Supporting families in child welfare services

The Sarasota/Manatee Safe Children Coalition and the Sarasota Partnership for Children's Mental Health recently teamed up to provide training for over 50 child welfare investigators, counselors and case managers. The half-day trainings were focused on the core values of system of care—Strength-based, Family-driven and Cultural competency. The training encouraged active participation to enhance understanding and develop strategies to support children and families in child welfare. After the presentation, participants were given scenarios and were asked to identify strengths for each of the families described in the vignettes. The trainers commented that they were very impressed with the participants positive approach. The participants were open to sharing some of the challenges they faced when working with families. Lakeiffa Williams presented a family perspective and helped the participants see what it is like to be a family involved in the child welfare system. Examples of how to work with resistant families and how to engage families who are not complying with recommendations were provided. Overall, the training was a success and the presenters have already been asked to provide additional training on assessing and interacting with children between the ages of birth to four.

Congratulations to the Sarasota Partnership for Children's Mental Health trainers:

Kristie Skoglund, Clinical Director

Sherl Craft, Wraparound Coordinator

Anne Ferrier, Cultural and Linguistic Competency Coordinator

Lakeiffa Williams, Parent Mentor

Please contact Liza Leonard, Community Outreach Coordinator, at (941) 861-1448 if you are interested in learning more about training opportunities offered through the Partnership.

## Culture and Community Connections Workshop

On July 21st, families, Partnership staff and other community partners gathered for an interesting and informative dialogue on the topic of culture. Led by Anne Ferrier, Cultural and Linguistic Competence Coordinator, the group explored how culture impacts our judgment and perception. The National Center for Cultural Competence defines culture as an integrated pattern of human behavior, which includes things such as thought, communication, languages, beliefs, values, practices, customs, courtesies, rituals, manners of interacting, roles, relationships and expected behaviors. Cultural awareness trainings offered through the Partnership are not focused on offering information about other's cultures. The goal of Ms. Ferrier's workshops is to help people identify limiting assumptions that prevent them from being optimally effective. Anne suggests that individuals working with families look at what their basic assumptions are about the families they work with, how that can limit effectiveness, and how much that can be accomplished by remaining open to possibilities. Through cultural awareness presentations, people are invited to become curious about how the outcomes that occur are connected to how they see the world. Anne Ferrier states "our cultural glasses define what is possible and what is not possible, by shifting perspectives possibilities arise."

Community workshops such as these help the Partnership's mission of infusing the Partnership's core values (child centered, family focused, community based, cultural competence) into agencies, programs and services. Agencies that demonstrate cultural competence actively support each child's development within the family as a complex and culturally-driven ongoing experience and recognize and demonstrate awareness that individuals' and institutions' practices are embedded in culture. This workshop was a great first step towards helping this community understand the importance of culture.

### A family's story

Xavier was born at 35 weeks gestation and was placed in the NICU due to fluid in his lungs. He was a very quiet baby who didn't seem to react to his surroundings. Because of this beginning, Xavier's mother, Melissa, felt that Xavier never bonded with her. Melissa is a hard working single mother who has put her educational aspirations on hold to care for her two children. Melissa is currently a psych tech who dreams of returning to MCC to finish her Medical Assistant training.

When the family first came to the Partnership seeking help, seven year old Xavier was a child in constant motion. He had been repeatedly suspended from school. Melissa was concerned about Xavier's aggression towards his sister and other children. Xavier's mother transferred him to a Charter school but he continued to have difficulties with his behavior and was delayed academically.

Xavier was enrolled in care coordination services through the Partnership. He received psychotherapy, psychiatric services and nontraditional services such as participation in the Sarasota Boxing Club. Melissa received support and advocacy through the Family Support Network. The combination of appropriate pharmaceutical interventions, care coordination, therapy and non-traditional activities has helped Xavier become successful at school and at home. Last year he transitioned to Alta Vista elementary school where he is thriving. Xavier has been able to maintain his school placement, his academic performance has improved, and his aggressive behavior has decreased dramatically. He has successfully graduated from the Partnership.

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# Transforming our Community Listening to Families Caring about Children

Winter 2009/2010

## Kidfest!



On November 21st, Partnership staff gathered at the Mullen Center Greenway in Northport to prepare for the 2nd Annual Kidfest and Film hosted by the Northport area Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the City of Northport. This free festival was created to

offer North Port families and local businesses an opportunity to get to know one another in a fun and creative way. There were many different booths, each with unique activities for the children. Families had the opportunity to purchase festival food and view performances from various artists.

The Partnership's display and activities focused on educating parents about healthy social/emotional development of young children, warnings signs that help may be needed and ways parents can help foster healthy development in their children. Partnership staff also discussed the importance of establishing routines with the children and their parents. The story board activity was a very popular choice for children and we were even able to compete



with the face painting booth next to us! Overall, the day was a tremendous success and we were able to reach many families with our message.

Representatives from the Partnership also participated in the Parent Institute at Philippe Shores Elementary School. This event was organized by PALS/ Sarasota County School District and offered workshops for parents and information on local not-for-profit agencies. Parents from many different schools attended this educational event.



## Supporting teen moms and their babies



Over the past year, the Sarasota Partnership has collaborated with the Cyesis Teen Parent Program of the Sarasota County School District to provide consultation, mental health therapy, care coordination and family support services based upon an identified need for enhanced services for the teen mothers and their babies. Florida has one of the highest rates of teen pregnancy in the U.S. There were 273 births by teen moms in Sarasota County in 2008; 15% of the teen mothers had one or more children previously. While some teen mothers are able to successfully parent their children, researchers have found that children of teen mothers are more likely to have poor social and educational outcomes.

Through the relationship with Cyesis, the Partnership identified a need to expand the number of mental health clinicians who have the specialized knowledge and skills to work effectively with teen parents. The Sarasota Partnership, in collaboration with Chances for Children and the FSU Center for Prevention and Early Intervention, has implemented an intensive training for mental health/early childhood professionals. This program is part of an effort to develop a comprehensive community-based system of Infant Mental Health supports for teen parents and their children. The project is funded by the Sarasota Partnership and the World Childhood Foundation.

Eleven professionals from various community agencies including Early Steps, The Florida Center for Child and Family Development, Forty Carrots, The Healthy Start Coalition, and the Sarasota County School District are participating in the training that includes four- 3 day training sessions, reading assignments and bi-weekly clinical supervision. One clinician stated, "the knowledge I have learned is invaluable and will benefit me in the work I do with all my families, not just teen parents". This training has the added benefit of bringing together professionals from various organizations who work with children and families.



## Planning for the future

In November, the Sarasota Partnership's Finance Committee issued recommendations to the Coordinating Council that will aid in planning and budgeting for the remaining two years of the SAMHSA grant. The Coordinating Council asked the Sarasota Partnership workgroups to submit proposals that will help meet community and system-level goals and outcomes and Partnership strategic objectives. Ten proposals were received from the various workgroups asking for a total of \$393,074 over the next two years. Proposals include pediatric screening, mental health consultation for summer programs, Family Leadership Academy, Positive Solutions for Families training, community cultural competency training, community wide early childhood website, activities for Children's Mental Health Awareness Day, cultural competency video project, workforce development training for home visitors and sustainability consultation. The proposals were reviewed by a team of independent evaluators and then sent to the Finance Committee for review. The Finance Committee will be making recommendations to the Coordinating Council at the January 6th meeting. Members of the Coordinating Council will have the difficult task of prioritizing initiatives and services for the remaining two years of the grant. Please join us on January 6th at 9:30 am at the Sarasota County Health Department, 2200 Ringling Blvd, Room 226, if you are interested in hearing more about the proposals.

## Listening to families

On November 17th, the Sarasota Partnership held the third Community Partners Meeting. These quarterly gatherings provide an opportunity for family members, representatives from local agencies and community volunteers to gather and learn from one another. Participants were asked to be prepared to discuss the following questions: What would you like people to know about your family's experience within the system of care (or the services you have provided for families), what changes would you like to see, and how do we, as a community, foster these changes.

Anne Ferrier, Cultural and Linguistic Competency Coordinator, asked family members to share their experiences. Family members expressed overwhelming gratitude for the support they have received from the Partnership. Family members also discussed challenges they experience when trying to advocate for their children. Issues with aftercare, summer programs and the local school district were common sources of frustration. Many of the families who participated are bilingual and translation was provided at this meeting. Several families related that they felt embarrassed asking for a translator when meeting with school representatives. They were encouraged by the group to always request an interpreter, even if they have some understanding of English. Family members stated that the school system is complicated and not having the information provided in a language they feel most comfortable with can lead to misunderstanding. Other parents emphasized "even if you are embarrassed, it is essential that you do everything you can to advocate for your child." Tears were shed and participants were moved by each others' stories. Thank you to everyone who participated in this enlightening discussion. The meeting ended with a powerful poem written by one of the family members entitled "Please see me" (page 4).

A special thank you to Children's First for hosting this valuable meeting at their site.

## The Observed and the Observer

The Sarasota Partnership for Children's Mental Health and the Art Center Sarasota are collaborating on a project to help residents of our community explore how culture impacts judgment and perception. During the next several months, four families with diverse backgrounds currently involved with the Partnership will each be painted by four artists. These families have young children who are experiencing emotional and behavioral challenges. The 16 painters will also represent different cultures, age groups and backgrounds, allowing for an enlightening exchange between the artists and families. The artists' interpretation of the same family from four different perspectives will provide fascinating insight into the unique aspect of culture. The end result will be four families interpreted in 16 diverse ways.

Families who are receiving services from the Partnership were asked to submit a paragraph describing their family and why they are interested in participating in this project. The families then met with a representative from the workgroup to discuss the details of the project. The workgroup has identified 13 of the 16 artists. The families and artists will meet in late January and then the artists will begin working on their artistic representation of the family. The paintings will be on display at the Art Center during the summer of 2010, accompanied by workshops and other community events surrounding this exchange of culture. The goal is to help people understand how their beliefs and life experiences impact how they see and judge others in their community, and to foster an increased awareness and acceptance of the needs of children and families impacted by mental illness. For more information about this exciting project, please contact Anne Ferrier, Cultural and Linguistic Competency Coordinator, at (941) 861-1427

## Families supporting each other



I am me, please see me.....

Poem By Melissa Rainey

Please listen and help make a change, if you will.

I am a small child age two with a mother, father and a sister. And, we all love each other.

Close your eyes see me.

A Little boy age 4,

can't go to school because no one understands what I am going through.

See me.

Dreaming that someday, someone will accept me, besides my parents.

I am me.

Please someone see me for I am me, a little boy age five, I really really want to thrive,  
but something inside won't let me be.

Please God please help me. I am just trying to be me.

Now two years have passed.

I am still me, the little boy trying to make people see me.

Now I am age seven

confused in a world filled with people that can't really see me for I am me!!!

Another year has passed

I'm repeating the first grade because no one seems to be able to help me, or understand

I am me ...

trying to be what people want me to be, and act how they think I should act.

I think of the years all gone too fast, now I must accept the fact that help won't last,  
but if you open your eyes and look you'll see me ...

I am me someone like you who wants to be free and just be me.

I still stumble, but refuse to fall.

Now I can tell you who I am, my name is Xavier Jr., I am nine and doing fine ...

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# Transformado Nuestra Comunidad Escuchando a las Familias Preocupándonos por los Niños

Otoño 2009/2010

## ¡Festival del Niño!



El 21 de noviembre, el personal del Partnership se reunirá en el Centro Mullen Greenway en North Port para organizar el 2do. Festival del Niño y Filmación, auspiciado por la Cámara de Comercio de North Port en alianza con la Ciudad de North Port. Este festival gratuito fue creado para ofrecer a

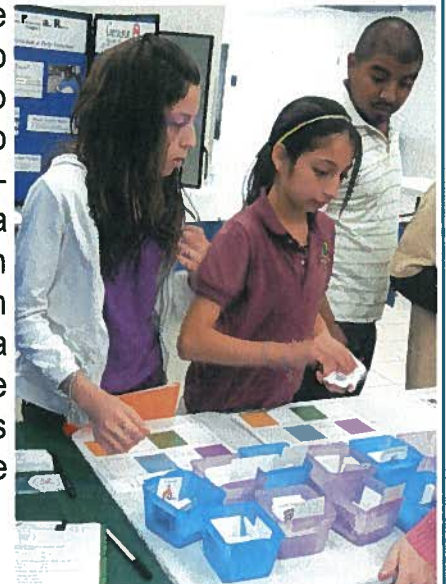
las familias y los negocios de North Port la oportunidad de conocerse unos a otros de una forma creativa y divertida. Habrá una extensa variedad de kioscos, cada uno con diferentes actividades para los niños. Las familias tendrán la oportunidad de comprar comidas y ver la actuación de varios artistas. El Partnership expondrá actividades enfocadas en educar a los padres sobre el desarrollo de la salud social/emocional en los niños, alertas que puedan ayudarlos y formas en que los padres puedan fomentar un desarrollo saludable en sus hijo/as. También, el personal del Partnership discutirá la importancia de establecer rutinas con los niño/as y sus padres.

La actividad del tablero histórico fue una de mucha acogida por los niños. El año pasado el éxito fue tal ¡que hasta pudimos competir con el kiosco donde pintaban las



caritas que estaba a nuestro lado! En general, el día tuvo un tremendo éxito y tuvimos la oportunidad de llevar nuestro mensaje a muchísimas familias.

Representantes del Partnership también participaron en el Instituto para Padres en la Escuela Elemental de Phillippi Shores. Este evento fue organizado por PALS/Distrito Escolar del Condado de Sarasota. Se ofrecieron talleres para padres e información sobre agencias sin fines de lucro en la comunidad. Padres de diferentes escuelas asistieron a este evento educativo.



## Apoyando a Madres Adolescentes y a sus hijo/as



En el pasado año, el Partnership de Sarasota ha colaborado con el Programa de Padres Adolescentes Cyesis del Distrito Escolar del Condado de Sarasota proveyendo consultas, terapias de salud mental, coordinación de servicios de cuidado y servicios de apoyo a la familia, basados en la identificación de la necesidad y de realzar los servicios para las madres adolescentes y sus niño/as. Florida tiene uno de los índices más altos de adolescentes embarazadas de los Estados Unidos. El Condado de Sarasota tuvo 273 nacimientos en madres adolescentes para el 2008; El 15% de estas madres adolescentes ya han tenido uno o más niños previamente. Mientras algunas madres adolescentes son capaces de ejercer la paternidad exitosamente con sus hijos/as, los estudios indican que los niños de éstas son más propensos a tener unos resultados muy pobres en lo social y educativo. A través de la relación con Cyesis, el Partnership ha identificado la necesidad de expandir el número de clínicos en salud mental, los cuales tienen conocimientos y destrezas especializadas en cómo trabajar efectivamente con padres adolescentes.

El Sarasota Partnership, en colaboración con Oportunidades para los Niños (en inglés Chances for Childrens) y el Centro de Prevención e Intervención Temprana de FSU, han implementado un entrenamiento intensivo para los profesionales en salud mental/infancia temprana. Este programa es parte de un esfuerzo para el desarrollo de un sistema comunitario comprensivo para apoyar a los padres adolescentes y a sus hijos/as en la Salud Mental Infantil. El proyecto es financiado por el Sarasota Partnership y la Fundación Mundo Infantil (en inglés World Childhood Foundation).

Once profesionales de varias agencias en la comunidad incluyendo Primeros Pasos, (en inglés Early Steps), El Florida Center para el desarrollo de niños y al familia (The Florida Center for Child and Family Development) Forty Carrots, la coalición de Comienzos Saludables (The Healthy Start Coalition), y el Distrito Escolar del Condado de Sarasota estarán participando en el entrenamiento que incluye cuatro – 3 días de sesiones, lectura de tareas asignadas y supervisión clínica bisemanal. Según indicara uno de los clínicos, “El conocimiento que he adquirido es invaluable y me beneficiará en



el trabajo que realizo con mis familias, y no solamente con los padres adolescentes”. Este entrenamiento tiene el beneficio adicional de acercar a los profesionales de varias organizaciones quienes han trabajado con niños/as y familias.

## Planificando el Futuro

En noviembre, el Comité de Finanzas del Sarasota Partnership emitió unas recomendaciones al Concilio de Coordinación que ayudarán en la planificación y administración del presupuesto para los dos años restantes de la propuesta de SAMHSA. El Concilio de Coordinación requirió a los grupos de trabajo del Sarasota Partnership presentar aquellas propuestas que puedan ayudar a satisfacer las metas de la comunidad a nivel del sistema donde se proyecten los resultados y objetivos estratégicos del Partnership. Se recibieron diez propuestas de varios grupos de trabajo donde se solicitó un total de \$393,074 para los próximos dos años. Las propuestas incluyen información pediátrica, consultas en salud mental para programas de verano, la Academia de Liderazgo para la Familia, entrenamiento en Soluciones Positivas para Familias, entrenamiento para entender la diversidad cultural en la comunidad, la página en la red sobre amplios conocimientos en infancia temprana, actividades para el Día de Crear Conciencia sobre la Salud Mental en los Niños, el proyecto en vídeo sobre la diversidad cultural, entrenamiento en el desarrollo de trabajadores que visitan los hogares y la consulta eficaz. Estas propuestas fueron revisadas por un equipo Independiente de evaluadores que luego serán enviadas al Comité de Finanzas para ser revisadas. El Comité de Finanzas hará recomendaciones al Concilio de Coordinación durante la reunión del 6 de enero. Miembros del Concilio de Coordinación tendrán la difícil tarea de darle prioridad aquellas iniciativas y servicios que más se necesiten para los dos años restantes a la propuesta. Si usted está interesado en escuchar más sobre las propuestas, favor de unirse a nosotros el 6 de enero a las 9:30am, en el Departamento de Salud del Condado de Sarasota, en el 2200 Ringling Blvd., Salón 226.

## Escuchando a las Familias

El 17 de noviembre, el Sarasota Partnership llevará a cabo la tercera reunión con los Socios Comunitarios. En este trimestre, el grupo ofrecerá la oportunidad a familias, representantes de agencias locales y voluntarios de la comunidad para unirse y aprender uno del otro. Se les ha pedido a los participantes prepararse para analizar las siguientes preguntas: ¿Qué le gustaría a usted que la gente conociera sobre su experiencia familiar en el Sistema de Cuidado? (o para proveedores, ¿qué servicios se han ofrecido a la familia?), ¿Qué cambios le gustaría a usted ver, y cómo nosotros, como comunidad, adoptamos estos cambios? La Coordinadora en Diversidad Cultural y Lingüística, Anne Ferrier, preguntó a las familias que compartieran sus experiencias. Las familias expresaron una inmensa gratitud por el apoyo que ellos han recibido de parte del Partnership. También, los miembros familiares discutieron los retos que ellos han experimentado al momento que han tratado de abogar por sus hijos/as. Temas como el cuidado de niños luego de la escuela, programas de verano y problemas con el Distrito escolar a nivel local, fueron entre otros las fuentes de mayor frustración. Muchas de las familias que participaron son bilingües, de igual forma se les proveyó traducción/interpretación para esta reunión. Varias familias expresaron como se sentían avergonzados al momento de preguntar por un traductor para alguna reunión con representantes escolares. El grupo hizo hincapié en fomentar que siempre se solicite un traductor, aún cuando ellos entiendan el idioma inglés. Los padres también comentaron lo complicado del sistema escolar y al mismo tiempo, lo difícil que es no tener la información solicitada en el idioma que ellos se sienten más cómodos, lo cual puede conducir a un mal entendido. Otros padres enfatizaron “aún cuando usted esté avergonzado, es esencial que se haga lo posible para abogar por su hijo/a”. Se derramaron lágrimas y los participantes se conmovieron unos a los otros con sus historias. Gracias a todos los que participaron en esta fulminante discusión. La reunión terminó con un poderoso poema escrito por uno de los padres titulado: “Yo soy yo, por favor mírame” (página 4).

Una gratitud especial a ustedes en Children’s First por ser el anfitrión para esta valiosa reunión en sus facilidades.

## El Observado y el Observador

El Sarasota Partnership para Niños de Salud Mental y el Centro de Arte de Sarasota están colaborando en un proyecto para ayudar a los residentes de nuestra comunidad a explorar cómo la cultura impacta la percepción y el criterio. Durante los próximos meses, cuatro familias con diversos trasfondos culturales que actualmente están participando en el Partnership, se unirán a cuatro artistas que harán una pintura sobre ellos. Estas familias tienen niños pequeños quienes han experimentado algún reto emocional o de comportamiento. También, las 16 pinturas representarán diferentes grupos de edades y culturas permitiendo un fulminante intercambio entre los artistas y las familias. La interpretación de los artistas sobre la misma familia vistos desde cuatro perspectivas diferentes proveerá una fascinante idea en los aspectos culturales únicos de cada uno. El resultado final será cuatro familias interpretadas en 16 diversas formas. A las familias que han recibido servicios del Partnership, se les preguntó que presentaran un párrafo donde describieran a su familia y el por qué estaban interesados en participar en este proyecto. Las Familias luego se reunieron con un representante del grupo de trabajo para discutir los detalles del proyecto. El grupo de trabajo ha identificado 13 de los 16 artistas.

Las Familias y los artistas se reunirán en los últimos días de enero y luego los artistas empezarán a trabajar en su representación artística de la familia. Las pinturas se expondrán en el Centro de Arte durante el verano 2010, acompañados por talleres y otros eventos comunitarios rodeados por este intercambio cultural. La meta es ayudar a las personas a entender cómo sus creencias y sus experiencias en la vida impactan la forma de cómo ellos ven y juzgan a otros en su comunidad y ha fomentar el aumento al crear conciencia y aceptación de las necesidades de los niños/as y familias que han sido impactadas por las enfermedades mentales. Para más información sobre este emocionante proyecto, favor de comunicarse con Anne Ferrier, Coordinadora en Diversidad Cultural y Lingüística, al (941) 861-1427.

## Familias Apoyándose unas a otras



### Yo soy yo, por favor mírame...

#### Poema por: **Melissa Rainey**

Favor de escuchar y ayudarme a hacer el cambio, si usted puede.

Yo soy un niño de dos años con una mamá, un papá y una hermana. Y, Todos nos amamos.

Cierre sus ojos y me ves.

Un niño de cuatro años de edad, no puede ir a la escuela porque nadie Entiende lo que me pasa.

Me ves.

Soñando que un día, alguien me acepte, aparte de mis padres.

Yo soy yo.

Por favor alguien que me vea por quien soy, un niño de cinco años, yo Realmente quiero prosperar,  
pero algo dentro de mí no me permite ser.

¡Por favor Dios ayúdame!. Yo sólo trato de ser yo.

Ahora dos años ya han pasado.

Yo sigo siendo yo El pequeño niño tratando que la gente me vea.

Ahora tengo siete años

Confundido in un mundo lleno con gente que no puede realmente verme por ¡¡Quién yo soy yo!!

Otro año ha pasado

Estoy repitiendo el primer grado porque nadie parece estar para ayudarme, o entenderme

Yo soy yo....

Tratando de ser lo que la gente quiere que yo sea, y actuando como ellos piensan que yo debo actuar.  
Yo pienso que los años se han ido muy rápido, ahora Yo debo aceptar el hecho que esa ayuda no durará,  
pero si usted abre sus ojos me verá....

Yo soy yo alguien como usted que quiere ser libre y solamente Yo.

Todavía estoy tropezando, me rehúso a caer.

Ahora Yo le puedo decir quien soy, mi nombre es Xavier Jr.

Ya tengo nueve años Y estoy bien....

Sarasota Partnership para Niños de Salud Mental

1751 Mound Street Suite 205, Sarasota, Florida 34236

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