What is Family Connections?

introducing

Family Connections

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The Vision - System Change

A service array that is:

1. Individualized to family need, culture, and readiness for change
2. Based on family need not case status (in-home or out-of-home)
3. Coordinated with other family-serving agencies
5. Naturally fits with Arizona’s Safety and Risk Assessment models
6. Consistent across providers and regions
7. Science-based

Individualized  Relevant  Coordinated  Engaging  Consistent  Effective
Conceptual Framework for Development

- Prevention Science
- Intervention Research
- Implementation Science
- Interdisciplinary & Consumer Involvement
History of Family Connections

1996-2002
*Federal Demonstrations - OCAN
  - SAMHSA support to develop TA-FC

2003-2009
*Federal Supported Replications
  *SAMHSA
  *Rated as Promising Practice
  *Special Issue of Protecting Children
  *JBA Final Report
  *Implementation in CA, MD, MI, NJ, TX

2010-2012
*Major implementations in NYC & Florida
*Numerous papers published

2015-2016
*Studies on implementation
*Reflection on what supports are essential for implementation

2017-2019
*Expansion of QA capacity by replicating sites
*Data sharing
Theories that Guide The Intervention

• Psychosocial Theory
• Problem-Solving Theory
• Life Model Theory
• Crisis Theory
• Systems Theory
• Role Theory
• Cognitive Theory

• Empowerment Approach
• Trauma Theory
• Attachment Theory
• Trans Theoretical Model of Change
Philosophical Principles

- Ecological Developmental Framework
- Community Outreach
- Empowerment & Strengths Based Practice
- Cultural Competence
Philosophical Practice Principles

- Family Assessment & Tailored Intervention
- Helping Alliance
- Outcome Driven Plans With SMART Goals
- Focus on Practitioner
Family Connections (FC)

Is a multi-faceted community-based program that works with vulnerable families in their homes, in the context of their neighborhoods, to help them meet the basic needs of their children and prevent child maltreatment.

• FC Core Components
  – Intake
  – Outreach & engagement
  – Concrete services
  – Comprehensive family assessment (assessment instruments)
  – Outcome driven case plans with SMART goals
  – Change focused intervention
    • Direct facilitation of change
    • Advocacy/service facilitation
  – Evaluation of Change (at least every 90 days)
  – Case Closure
Target Population:

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN FROM BIRTH TO AGE 18 AT RISK OF FUTURE MALTREATMENT AND/OR PLACEMENT; CHILDREN WHO ARE UNSAFE
Outcomes tied to Protective Factors Framework and the SAFE AZ Practice Model:

- Family Functioning
- Social Support
- Child Well-Being
- Parenting Attitudes & Behaviors
- Family Resources
- Managing Parenting Stress
Summary Results: Risk Factors

• Comparing all caregivers baseline to 6 months post intervention, significant reduction in:

  Risk Factors:

  ✓ Caregiver depressive symptoms
  ✓ Parenting stress
  ✓ Life stress
Summary Results: Protective Factors

• Comparing all families baseline to 6 months post intervention, significant increase in:

  Protective Factors:
  ✓ Parenting attitudes
  ✓ Parenting satisfaction
  ✓ Social support
Summary Results: Child Safety

• Significantly Improved: Physical Care
  – Household furnishings
  – Overcrowding
  – Household sanitation

• Significantly Improved: Psychological Care
  – Mental health care
  – Caregiver teaching stimulation of children

• Fewer CPS reports & CPS indicated reports
Summary Results: Child Behavior

• Comparing all families baseline to 6 months post intervention, significant decrease in:

  Total behavior problems:
  ✓ Internalizing behavior problems
  ✓ Externalizing behavior problems
Replication of Family Connections

• Formal replication in 8 sites in the U.S. with support from the U.S. DHHS Children’s Bureau

• Cross-site evaluation of implementation process, fidelity, cost, & outcomes

Conducted by James Bell Associates (JBA)

Summary Outcomes: Change Over Time

• Significant improvement in Risk Factors
  – Decreased caregiver depressive symptoms (CESD)
  – Decreased parenting stress (PSI)

• Significant improved child well-being
  – Decreased scores on children’s externalizing and internalizing behaviors (CBCL)
Summary Outcomes: Change Over Time

- Significant improvement in Protective Factors
  - Appropriate Nurturing & Parenting Attitudes (AAPI) - higher scores on 5 sub-scales: Developmental Expectations, Empathy, Corporal Punishment, Role Reversal, and Power Independence
  - Social Support (SFS) – decreased need for support in the areas of emotional support, daily living, and child rearing
  - Family Functioning (FAF) – improved family functioning scores
STAFFING
SUPERVISION
LENGTH of SERVICE
TRAINING
FIDELITY
Combined Resources

Local Capacity

National Coordination
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How to learn more about:
Family Connections: https://action4cp.org/our-services/family-connections
Nurturing Parenting: www.nurturingparenting.com

Each replication is individualized and tailored