



THE COLLABORATIVE CONNECTION

The Family Support Publication of the Healthy Families/Thriving Communities Collaborative Council

Spring 2010

Collaboratives Realigned by Ward

The Healthy Families/Thriving Communities Collaboratives, under FY 2010 contracts with the DC Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA), are now aligned by ward, with six Collaboratives providing services as follows:

Wards 1 and 2— Columbia Heights/Shaw Family Support Collaborative

Ward 4— Georgia Avenue/Rock Creek East Family Support Collaborative

Ward 5— Edgewood/Brookland Family Support Collaborative

Ward 6— South Washington/West of the River Family Strengthening Collaborative

Ward 7— East River Family Strengthening Collaborative

Ward 8— Far Southeast Family Strengthening Collaborative

Under the new structure, **North Capitol Collaborative, Inc.**, (NCCI), continues to partner with the Collaboratives to provide various services and

supports to some Ward 5 families under a contract with the **Edgewood/Brookland Family Support Collaborative** (EBFSC). Other Ward 5 families that were served by NCCI are now being served by the EBFSC at 113 Q Street, NW. Ward 6 families that were served by NCCI are being served by **South Washington/West of the River Family Strengthening Collaborative** at 200 K Street NW, Suite B. In addition, the **Columbia Heights/Shaw Family Support Collaborative** has opened a satellite office at 1720 7th Street, NW (Ward 2).

“For more than 12 years, the Collaboratives have been dedicated, creative and effective in their efforts to meet the needs of the city’s most vulnerable residents, often in the face of decreasing resources,” said Jacquelyn Henry, Ed.D., executive director of the HFTC Collaborative Council. The new Ward-based structure will enable the Collaboratives to more efficiently serve their clients, while also addressing gaps in services.”

Wards 1 and 2



Ward 4



Ward 5



Ward 6



Ward 7



Ward 8



Collaboratives Testify at CFSA Performance Hearings

The testimony of the Healthy Families Collaboratives and the Collaborative Council on CFSA Performance before the DC Council Committee on Human Services on March 11 focused largely on the success of the Partnership for Community-Based Services (PCBS). PCBS is a program instituted last year, which has transformed the delivery of child welfare services by locating CFSA staff in neighborhoods throughout the city.

Jacquelyn Henry, Ed.D., executive director of the Collaborative Council, explained that the PCBS “is much more than teaming a CFSA social worker with a Collaborative family support worker on a particular case. “It is a total integration of CFSA into the community so they can access a span of resources made available by the Collaborative network,” she said. “The PCBS reflects a true paradigm shift in how services are best delivered to at-risk families,” Henry continued. “There is now a growing recognition that the District’s Collaboratives are truly a national model for providing strengths- and community-based, family-centered, non-categorical services. The [formation of] PCBS is a major step in taking

the CFSA/Collaborative partnership to a whole new level.”

Demonstrating the impact the PCBS has had on families, Rhonda Jones, a client of the Far Southeast Family Strengthening Collaborative, became emotional and wiped tears from her eyes as she explained to the Committee how she was “sent two angels in the form of my workers” from the PCBS who “worked with me to develop a plan for me and my family when my world was out of control.” Jones came to the FSFSC grieving from the death of her seven-month-old son, and with a six-year-old daughter with special needs, an eight-year-old son living with his grandmother, and a ten-year-old having trouble at school. Jones testified, “They believed in me and the success of my family. They didn’t give me the answers, but they pointed me in the direction to find them on my own. They encouraged me that the situation could get better and because of their support, my life did get better. . . . I’m not sure how they did it, but they worked with me together as a team. Where one left off, the other picked up.”

Jones said that the PCBS helped



Representing the Collaboratives at CFSA Performance Hearing, from left: Ivy Hylton, East River Collaborative; Rose Gordy, Columbia Heights/Shaw Collaborative; Rhonda Jones, Far Southeast Collaborative; and Jacquelyn Henry, Ed.D., Collaborative Council.

her identify a school for her daughter with special needs, and that the Collaborative’s housing specialist helped her find a home. She said her next steps are to advance her personal goals, and she intends to enroll in school for culinary arts. “It is through the guidance, support and encouragement of the staff at Far Southeast Family Strengthening Collaborative and the Child and Family Services Agency that . . . I can overcome any obstacle that comes my way.”

Also testifying before or submitting written testimony to the Committee on behalf of the Collaboratives were Raymond Coates, Edgewood/Brookland Family Support Collaborative; K. Ivy Hylton, East River Family Strengthening Collaborative; and Rose Gordy, Columbia Heights/Shaw Family Support Collaborative.

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Differential Response

Differential response, a child protective service practice gaining acceptance around the country, allows for more than one method of initial response to reports of child abuse and neglect. In the District, Councilmember Tommy Wells and Kwame Brown have introduced The Families Together Amendment Act of 2010 (B18-529), which “would amend the DC Prevention of Child Abuse Act of 1977 to permit CFSA to assess the strengths and needs of children and families in response to reports of abuse and neglect so as to provide prompt services to prevent family dissolution and to avoid the need for protective services and out-of-home placements.”

In testimony on behalf of the Collaboratives before the Committee on Human Services on March 19, Collaborative Council Executive Director Jacquelyn Henry, Ed.D., endorsed the legislation. “Structured differential response efforts [used in about 20 states] reduce the need for deficit-based traditional child protective services investigations, increases access to services for families, significantly increases child safety and lowers the rate of subsequent allegations of abuse and neglect,” said Henry. “To be clear, this legislation would give current practice efforts in

DC a clear legal framework, expand the utilization of this work, reduce the number of families for whom a finding of abuse or neglect is made, and increase opportunities to leverage resources from other District agencies.”

Henry continued, “The Families Together Act would allow for diversion of families from the investigative track, increase the incentives for families to accept services, and shift from a punitive to strengths-based and solution-focused response to allegations of abuse and neglect. . . . We appreciate that this legislation, while giving CFSA the authority to design a comprehensive differential response system, is not so prescriptive as to limit the agency’s ability for creativity and flexibility. As CFSA goes forward with developing its plan, we fully expect that they will continue to include the Collaboratives in this work.”

A copy of Henry’s testimony is available at www.dccollaboratives.org.



Jacquelyn Henry, Ed.D.
Executive Director

Youth Promises Act



In testimony before the Committee on Public Safety and the Judiciary and the Committee on Libraries, Parks and Recreation, Collaborative Council Policy and Planning Director Richard Flintrop applauded the intent of the proposed Youth and Young Adult Promise Act of 2009. He noted, however, that the legislation was inconsistent with the Omnibus Public Safety and Justice Amendment Act of 2009, passed by the Council in July 2009, which included recommendations in the Collaborative Council’s report, *Responding to Gang, Crew and Youth Violence in the District of Columbia: A Blueprint for Action*.

Flintrop said that the major focus of the recommendations is the mandate for the mayor to establish a Gang and Crew

Intervention Working Group, which was to move rapidly on the Phase 1 recommendations in the *Blueprint for Action*.

Flintrop said that the *Blueprint for Action* offers the District a platform from which to launch a coordinated and sustained effort to both intervene in youth violence and address its root causes. He asked the committees to “urge the mayor to take the first step by establishing the mandated Joint Working Group, to support the coordination of the FY2010 youth violence funds, and to consider options in the FY 2011 budget for establishing a multi-year funding stream that sustains youth violence intervention and prevention efforts over the long haul.”

A copy of Flintrop’s testimony is available at www.dccollaboratives.org.

Sign Up for the Digital Collaborative Connection

Beginning with the Spring issue, the *Collaborative Connection* is now also being published in digital format via direct e-mail. If you want to receive the digital version, or if you want others to receive it, please e-mail Runa Peoples at rpeoples@hftcc.org.

THE COLLABORATIVE CONNECTION

Healthy Families/Thriving Communities Collaborative Council

1112 11th Street, NW, Suite B, Washington, DC 20001

Voice 202-299-0900 Fax 202-299-0901

www.dccollaboratives.org

The Collaborative Council provides technical assistance, training and advocacy, and data collection and analysis for a network of six neighborhood-based Collaboratives in Washington, DC. These Collaboratives, each with its own governance board, offer a range of services directed toward strengthening at-risk families and building supportive communities so that all residents can reach their full potential.

Collaborative Council Staff

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Kinaya Sokoya, Executive Director, DC Children’s Trust Fund
Clare Anderson, Associate, Center for the Study of Social Policy
Anniglo Boone, Ph.D., LICSW, Executive Director, Consortium for Child Welfare Agencies

Collaboratives

Columbia Heights/Shaw
Family Support Collaborative (Wards 1 & 2)
1816 12th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009
202-518-6737 www.chfsfc.org
Penelope Griffith, Executive Director

East River Family Strengthening
Collaborative (Ward 7)
John Wilson Resource Center
3732 Minnesota Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20019
202-397-7300 www.erfsc.org
Mae Best, Executive Director

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202-832-9400 www.ebfsc.org
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Far Southeast Family
Strengthening Collaborative (Ward 8)
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Suite 304
Washington, DC 20020
202-889-1425 www.fsfsc.org
Perry J. Moon, Executive Director

Georgia Avenue/Rock Creek East
Family Support Collaborative (Ward 4)
1104 Allison Street, NW
Washington, DC 20011
202-722-1815 www.garcec.org
Karen Feinstein, Executive Director

South Washington/West of the River
Family Strengthening Collaborative (Ward 6)
1501 Half Street, SW, Apt. 31
Washington, DC 20023-3424
202-488-7997 www.swwr.org
Brent Terry, Interim Executive Director

Collaborative Annual Events

Collaborative Council Annual Meeting

June 14, 2010
The Sumner School
17th and M Streets NW

Columbia Heights/Shaw Family Support Collaborative 9th Annual Conference

June 11, 2010
Thurgood Marshall Center
1816 12th Street NW

Far Southeast Family Strengthening Collaborative

Annual Business Meeting
April 17, 2010, 9 am- 4 pm
Thurgood Marshall Public Charter High School
2427 Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave, SE

Georgia Avenue/Rock Creek Family Support Collaborative

Annual Family and Community Cookout
June 18 2010 12-6pm

Stop the Violence Back to
School Block Party
August 14, 2010
12-6pm

E-mail news and information for
the Collaborative Connection to
ewsassociates@gmail.com.

COLLABORATIVE COUNCIL

Fathering Court Holds Second Graduation

Funding Stops for Job Development, Case Management

Five participants in the DC Superior Court's Fathering Court Initiative completed the program and were recently honored at a graduation ceremony. The 2010 honorees are: Anthony Owens, Reginald Sutton, Irvin Thorne, Michael Turner, and John Williams.

Judge Milton Lee, presiding judge of the initiative, was particularly pleased with one graduate. Lee said that he was the sentencing judge for one of the participants, and "couldn't be more thrilled" and "never thought that this would have occurred. . . . Miracles do happen for those who believe that they can change," said Lee.

While there was much to be celebrated at the 2010 graduation — all graduates are now working and reconnected with their children — the program's future success is unclear because case management and job development are no longer being funded. "We are disappointed that continued funding has not been secured to support this program. This work with fathers is critical to a true family-centered continuum of supports," said Karen Feinstein, executive director of GARCEC.

For the past two years, the Fathering Court Initiative, under a federal

grant, provided parents who had not been making child support payments in the District of Columbia, for a long time, a chance to make a fresh start. Participants were offered case management, job training, counseling, a job, and support to get their lives back on track.

Yvette Russell and Travis Santiago of GARCEC, former case managers for the program, received awards at the graduation ceremony for their roll in the graduates' success.



Above: Judge Lee F. Satterfield presents awards to Yvette Russell and Travis Santiago, of the George Avenue Rock-Creek East Collaborative. Below left: 2010 Fathering Court graduates. Below right: Judge Lee presents award to volunteer who collected and donated dress shoes and wallets to the Collaborative for Fathering Court participants.

FAMILY STRENGTHENING MONTH ACTIVITIES AND INFO

DC Children's Trust Fund

April 10
The Trust Fund will sponsor its second "Luv Affair for Parents," on April 10. The event is a stress-reduction activity where parents can get free massages, hair styles, makeup, haircuts, nutrition counseling, etc., while their children are being cared for in another part of the building. Everything is free. The event will include an awards luncheon, where a parent from each ward will be honored. "This is the second Luv Affair sponsored by the Trust Fund. Parents made an overwhelming appeal for a repeat of last year's event," said Kinaya Sokoya, executive director. To RSVP for this event, call 202-299-0900.

East River Family Strengthening Collaborative

Slogan: There's No Excuse for Child Abuse

April 6
Agency Kick-off (staff training)

April 15
Community Meeting

- April 1-30**
- Outreach to Ward 7 Neighborhood — elementary and middle schools (PTA, staff and children); daycare centers and family child care centers; residents and stakeholders
 - Dental Health Awareness Campaign (Syleem Hylton in Partnership with a local dentist)
 - Closing ceremony and contest winner celebration

Georgia Avenue/Rock Creek East Family Support Collaborative

April 1-30
Each Thursday between 11am and 2pm, GARCEC will distribute awareness and prevention material for Family Strengthening Month at these locations:

- Safeway - 3830 Georgia Ave NW
- Safeway - 6500 Piney Branch Rd NW

April 21 - 6-8pm
Georgia Avenue Family Night
Child Sexual Abuse Awareness and Prevention Workshop
Community Academy Public Charter School
1300 Allison Street, NW

The DC Children's Trust Fund has relocated to:

**1112 11th Street, NW
Suite B
Washington, DC
20001**

Office: (202) 299-0900
Fax: (202) 299-0901
www.dccf.org

Collaborative Council Joins Strengthening Families Coalition

The Collaborative Council has joined the Strengthening Families and Communities DC Coalition (SFDC), a group of individuals and organizations dedicated to mobilizing resources, facilitating partnerships, building capacity, and organizing stakeholders to strengthen families and communities. The coalition offers:

- Training and technical assistance for organizations aiming to develop family programming
 - Curriculum training and certification
 - Healthy marriage and relationship education
 - Parenting workshops and activities
 - Health education
 - Responsible fatherhood training
- Organized last year with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families (ACF) as the senior partner, other coalition partners include:

- The African American Healthy Marriage Initiative
- Alan J. Inman Enterprises (Convenor)
- BET Foundation
- DC Department of Human Services
- DC Parent Information Resource Center
- Hope Worldwide
- Multicultural Community Services
- Family First DC
- Galilee Baptist Church
- Greater Washington Urban League
- Howard University School of Social Work
- McFarland & Associates, Inc.
- Kingmaker Foundation
- Totally Committed Community Outreach
- LifeSTARTS Youth & Family Services
- Summit Health Institute for Research & Education
- United Planning Organization
- Wedded Bliss Foundation



Diann Dawson represents ACF, SFDC's senior partner

DC ACTION FOR CHILDREN

DC ACT's New Focus is the Very Young

HyeSook Chung, formerly a consultant with the Women's Foundation, supporting the Early Care and Education Funders Collaborative, and the DC State Board of Education, has joined the DC Action for Children (DC ACT) as executive director.

DC ACT, an associate member of the Healthy Families/Thriving Communities Collaborative Council, is an 18-year-old nonprofit dedicated to improving conditions for children, youth and their families in the District of Columbia, with the vision that each child in DC should be afforded the opportunity to reach his or her own potential.

Chung said that last year, DC ACT's board reflected on its history of focusing on children youth and families, and determined that the organization will continue to work for better programs and policies that support children overall. Chung said, however, that because of the city's tremendous focus on K-12 reform, the youngest are often not a priority. "When we start younger, we are going to help ensure we achieve positive outcomes. We need to focus on the very young – pre natal through age 8," she said.

"Parenting and early education is the hardest job," Chung continued, "If we don't cultivate, nurture, and prepare

them, we won't see the outcomes that we expect."

DC ACT's four new key strategies to accomplish its mission, are as follows:

- Increasing public awareness of issues facing young children in the District of Columbia
- Providing policy analysis to shape and support effective public policies for young children
- Building and supporting a constituency base for children and their families
- Collaborating with other organizations and individuals to accomplish its goals

In testimony during the Performance Oversight Hearing for the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) on March 5, Chung, said that DC ACT is working towards a more comprehensive approach to early education, which includes:

- Ensuring the creation of a citywide system of support to ensure all of the District's children receive the tools and resources necessary to enter and succeed in school and lead a productive life.
- Highlighting and addressing critical issues that perpetuate the cycle of poverty for low-income families, in

particular, limited access to quality and affordable early care and education programs.

Chung also encouraged OSSE to:

- Strengthen the Quality Rating and Information System (QRIS) to ensure a stronger linkage to high-quality standards and incentives for providers; provide the opportunity to increase: quality of care and education for all children; parents' understanding of and demand for higher-quality early childhood education; and the professional development of child-care providers.
- Implement a state-of-the-art data tracking system to replace the current paper-based system to ensure a more systemized approach to maintaining a baseline of data.

Chung said that there is a critical need for additional supports for infant and toddler services. "In the District, as well as in the nation as a whole, there is a substantial shortage of available childcare slots for infants and toddlers. . . . The supply of quality infant/toddler care is particularly acute in

low-income communities, specifically



HyeSook Chung, executive director of DC Action for children

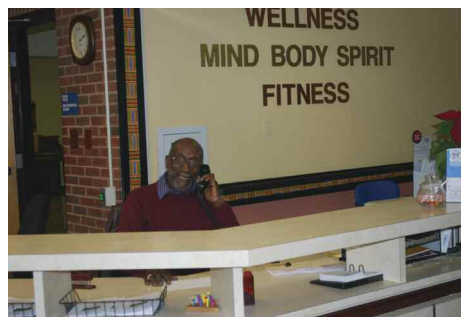
in Wards 5, 7, and 8," she said. She also urged the District to implement a central system to credential infant/toddler caregivers, noting that there is no infant/toddler specialist network to provide assistance to caregivers, and there is no consistent/primary caregiver requirement.

EAST RIVER

ERFSC Wins Grants to Operate Three Seniors Programs

Under three grants from the DC Department on Aging, ERFSC is operating the Washington Seniors Wellness Center (WSWC), Weekend Nutrition Program, and the Keeping the Elderly Eating Nutritiously (KEEN) program. WSWC offers seniors in Ward 7 health and wellness activities, social activities and other services. The Weekend Nutrition Program, operates each Saturday for seniors across the city and offers a hot lunch and recreation/socialization to more than 85 participants. Among other services, the KEEN program provides case management, counseling, nutrition, socialization and recreational services to Ward 7 seniors.

ERFSC Executive Director Mae Best said "We had done some work with the senior population, often as a member of the family constellation, but we have always looked forward to working more closely with seniors. We now have the opportunity to connect with, learn from, work with, and



Rodney Gibson at the Washington Seniors Wellness Center

empower senior citizens living in Ward 7 and beyond."

Contacts:

WSWC
3001 Alabama Avenue, SE
8:00am to 5:00pm, Monday-Friday
202-581-9355

KEEN Seniors Program
Lisa Bryant - 202-397-7300, ext 103

Weekend Nutrition Program
Evelyn Minor - 202-669-9526

ERFSC, CFSA Staff Use Movie "Precious" for Team Building

The CFSA and ERFSC teams, with approval from the respective agencies recently used an excursion to the movie "Precious" as a team-building experience.

"Precious" is a movie with a social work back drop, including incest, physical and verbal abuse, educational neglect, domestic violence, dysfunctional families, and inappropriate social work interventions. Staff had different observations and emotional reactions to the movie, but in general all agreed that this was an experience that had to be shared.

Kelly Friedman, CFSA supervisor, said, "Seeing the movie was an opportunity to get our staff to discuss key issues affecting families involved in the child welfare system, as well as a great teaming experience. . . ." Zina Williams, said, "It opened up conversation as it relates to what we do on a daily basis and what our families are

going through. We also talked about the media's response to the movie [and it's lack of understanding of social work]."

David Lyons and Kareem Nixon, put forth the idea of seeing the movie, and are advocates for continued team-building experiences between CFSA and ERFSC. "Overall, this was a great experience for us to have shared with our CFSA partners," said Lyons.

"This activity helped staff to see families in a different perspective, realizing that even the worst parent has some redeeming qualities . . . and that we must work with [families] in creative, attentive, and appropriate ways that support change," said Minnie Allen, director of quality improvement.

EDGEWOOD /BROOKLAND

EBFSC Launches *RISE UP* Employment Program

EBFSC is expanding employment services and supports for individuals and families in Ward 5 via *RISE UP*, an employment program funded by the United Planning Organization (UPO). The goal of the program, which was launched in December with a job readiness class at Beacon House, is to provide educational and employment readiness opportunities, increase job placements and post-employment retention, and provide supportive services to remove barriers to economic stability. The curriculum for the program includes:

- Professional Writing and Speaking
- Application and Resumes
- Mock Interviews
- Job Research and Marketing

EBFSC is partnering with Associates for Renewal in Education (ARE) to facilitate the classes.

The 11 participants who completed the initial class were young, unemployed adults, 18-24 in need of basic skills training. A second class graduated March 11, and the next class is scheduled to begin April 22.

Ward 5 residents with household incomes at 200% of the poverty level or below are eligible for the program. To register for the program, to provide employment opportunities, or for more information, contact Scott Perry, EBFSC's employment coordinator, at 202-832-9400.



RISE UP participants in job readiness class.

RISE UP Services

- Personal Interest Assessment
- Individual Employment Plan
- Family Support and Case Management
- Job Readiness Activities
- Training
- Resume Preparation
- Job Interviewing Techniques
- Job Placement and Support
- Job Coaching

RISE UP Eligibility

Ward 5 Residency
200% of the Poverty Level or Below

Family Size	100 Percent	200 Percent
1 Person	\$10,830	\$21,660
2 People	\$14,570	\$29,140
3 People	\$18,310	\$36,620
4 People	\$22,050	\$44,100
5 People	\$25,790	\$51,580
6 People	\$29,530	\$59,060
7 People	\$33,270	\$66,540
8 People	\$37,010	\$74,020
For each additional person, add	\$3,740	\$7,480

EBFSC and ARE Establish Saturday Academy at Browne

In partnership with the principal of Browne Educational Center, EBFSC and ARE planned and organized the Saturday Academy for students at risk of failing academically and students in grades 7 and 8 who exhibit negative/violent behavior patterns. Participating students are offered academic support, enrichment workshops and activities that focus on character development, peer mediation, and violence prevention. The Saturday Academy also includes parenting workshops and fitness classes to encourage parent participation with their children.

EBFSC also continues to work with ARE in the coordination and implementation of Browne's 21st Century Learning Center programs. As a 21st Century Learning Center, Browne receives federal funding to provide children with academic enrichment opportunities and other activities during non-school hours. Approximately 45 students are participating in after-school programs with community partners, including Revel Youth Shine, The Empowerment Center, and Dance Place.

Visit EBFSC's Re-designed Web site at www.ebfsc.org

PATH Focuses on Reducing Youth Violence

EBFSC is addressing issues that promote and facilitate violence among youth under PATH (Peace Amongst The Hoods). Funded by the District of Columbia Department of Health, Community Health Administration, PATH, which received its name from Ward 5 youth, is designed to prevent violence among youth, ages 14-24 living in PSA 501. Sasha Bruce Youthwork and Beacon House are EBFSC's partners in the program, providing engagement and case management services to youth who are: (1) gang/crew involved; (2) truant or experiencing educational challenges; (3) offenders/former offenders; or (4) exposed to violence at school,

home or the community. To date, EBFSC has provided support to more than 50 young adults.

EBFSC also received funding from the South Washington/West of the River Family Strengthening Collaborative and the U.S. Dream Academy to provide services in Ward 6 to prevent or intervene in youth violence. EBFSC has implemented a school-based violence prevention strategy at Browne Educational Campus, and is specifically targeting youth through the Saturday Academy and a peer mediation program, as part of the school's 21st Century Learning Center programs.



Participants in PATH program display certificates.

FAR SOUTHEAST

FSFSC is a Partner in Effort to Close the Digital Divide

Fifty Ward 8 families now have access to high-speed Internet and e-mail, thanks to the Change Access Program, a partnership among One Economy, Cricket Wireless, FSFSC, and several other community-based organizations. The goal of the Change Access Program is to close the digital divide for low-income families. One Economy came to FSFSC to help identify fami-

lies to participate in the program, and FSFSC met with both One Economy and Cricket wireless to identify how the organizations could work collectively to provide this service to Ward 8 families. The Change Access Program gives up to 1,000 families in Ward 8 an opportunity to access free Internet service for two years. Participants receive a USB broadband modem with wireless

connectivity.

“The Change Access Program gives our families an opportunity to access more resources on employment opportunities, financial resources, housing, schools and health,” said Perry Moon, FSFSC executive director. For more information, contact FSFSC at 202-889-1425.



FSFSC Among Sponsors of Ward 8 Higher Achievement Program

FSFSC is among the sponsors of a new Higher Achievement Program (HAP) to be established in Ward 8 in June 2010.

Founded in 1975, Higher Achievement’s mission is to provide an environment that develops and increases positive academic skills, behaviors, and attitudes of academically motivated, yet underserved, middle school students, ages 9-14. Since HAP’s inception in 1975, there has been demonstrated and record-breaking improvement in their participants’ grades, test scores, attendance, and opportunities – resulting in their acceptance to college preparatory high schools. HAP operates Achievement Centers that serve hundreds of students each year in Washington, DC, and Alexandria, Virginia, and as of this year, HAP opened its first Baltimore Achievement Center at full capacity. The organization has received numer-

ous awards, but the most important measure of success is the results achieved by the HAP scholars themselves. Scholars enter the program with an average GPA of 2.3, and after four years, the GPA jumps to an impressive 3.8. Higher Achievement is a champion of three principles: talent is everywhere, intellect is built through effort, and opportunities matter.

“While the details and logistics of the new location are being worked out, FSFSC and a host of other sponsors are collaborating time, resources, contacts and funding to make this long-awaited dream a reality,” said Perry Moon, FSFSC executive director. In addition to FSFSC, sponsors include Willkie, Farr & Gallagher; Harris Teeter; and Freddie Mac, among others. Karen Jones, FSFSC’s quality assurance coordinator; Lynsey Wood Jeffries, HAP’s,

executive director; and Ashley Williams, HAP’s Ward 8 community outreach coordinator are collaborating on establishing mentors, student participants, community resources and other aspects of the Ward 8 HAP site.

For more information, visit www.hap.org.



Special guests pause at the recent Higher Achievement Program auction fundraiser, which generated \$40,000.00 in scholarship funding. From left: James Bennet, event co-chair; Ron Suskind, honoree; Dominique Jones (daughter of FSFSC’s Karen Jones), alumnae/Sidwell Friends student; Lynsey Jeffries, executive director; Annie Linehan Czerwinski event co-chair.

FSFSC Annual Business Meeting

April 17, 2010

9am-4pm

Thurgood Marshall Public Charter High School
2427 MLK Jr. Ave., SE

The theme of this year’s FSFSC Annual Business Meeting is “Strengthening Families: Moving Families Forward!”

The meeting includes an election of Board officers; activities, workshops and information to empower families; CEU credits, Wii Fitness Tournaments, PS3 Madden Tournaments, moon bouncers for children and adults, vendors, local live entertainment, and more. FSFSC will provide licensed child care and lunch.

To register, call 202-882-1425.

CFSA Performance Hearing (from page 1)

Roque Gerald Testimony

CFSA Director Roque Gerald, Psy.D., provided the Committee with agency highlights of his tenure as director, indicating that:

- The CFSA infrastructure is stronger than at any previous point in agency history, with the agency maintaining staffing of case-load-carrying social workers at 90 percent or more, which keeps individual caseloads within national standards for optimum safety and quality.
- CFSA is awaiting a ruling on the District’s motion of February 2009, asking the Federal District Court to expedite a process to terminate court oversight of the agency, and the agency is working to increase performance on mandated benchmarks.
- CFSA used the momentum that led to accomplishments in safety reform in 2008 as a springboard for forging ahead in other areas. In 2009, CFSA further improved overall timeliness and qual-

ity of investigations while also achieving significant gains in performance.

Gerald said that CFSA’s agenda going forward includes:

- Improving, through best practice, family engagement and empowerment, to broaden support for individual families and children within the system, and to produce better decisions throughout the life of each case.
- Seeking legal permanence or life-long connections for youth regardless of age, while simultaneously giving the the same quality of preparation for adulthood that intact families receive. He explained that the Office of Youth Empowerment subsumes the former Office of Youth Development and Centers for the Keys for Life program and offers an expanded array of services that youth in care deemed most important in a survey and listening tour.
- Spearheading action to bring the cutting-edge practice of differential response to the District.



Roque Gerald, Psy.D., at CFSA Performance Hearing

- Expanding on the agency’s increased collaboration and transparency with key stakeholders, including youth, providers, child advocates, Family Court, and other partners through a complete re-design of the agency’s Web site, which will be more user-friendly, especially to the public.

Copies of Collaboratives’ testimony are available at www.dccollaboratives.org. A copy of Dr. Gerald’s testimony is available at www.dc.cfsa.gov.

Tim “Pig” Patterson - Coach, Mentor and Friend to Youth in Ward 4

By Shakira Gantt

In every community there are unsung heroes; the ones that do good when others aren't looking; when there's no crowd cheering them on. These unsung heroes are low-key and not looking for the spotlight. They do what they do because of their love for their community. The Georgia Avenue Collaborative would like to recognize one such person, Tim “Pig” Patterson.

Patterson, or “Pig,” as his friends and family like to call him, was born and raised in Washington, DC. He attended Clark Elementary, Macfarland Middle and Roosevelt Senior High Schools. As a teen, Pig admits to getting into “mischief” in his neighborhood: dealing drugs; fighting; and other misdoings. His involvement in the street life led to him becoming a gunshot victim in 1993 and he spent four months in the hospital. During his recovery, Pig began to realize that he had a “bigger purpose in life” and he decided to give back to his community, and formed Uptown Impact in 2001. He says he got the inspiration from his mother whom he lost to AIDS. He said that she always told him to “do something with his money” that he was making on the streets, so he decided to reinvest it for positive change in his community.

Uptown Impact is a youth develop-

ment organization for the Ward 4 community aimed at reducing gang “beefs.” The program was designed to include educational workshops, groups for teen mothers, conflict resolution sessions and community cleanups. When he first got started, Pig basically used his own money to fund the project and as he began to network with others, he got the outside support he needed. Currently, Pig is a coach for the Roosevelt High School Junior Varsity Football team,

Pig is very proud of the youth that he comes into contact with everyday – in particular the young men of The Rough Riders JV Football squad, who recently won the 2009 JV City Title. In addition to football, he has encouraged these youth in other ways. Pig gave them the task of writing a letter about why they wanted to go to college – and all 47 team members responded. Many of the youth he has been involved with have gone on to play at the college and professional levels. One thing that is special about this group of young men that Pig works with is that many of them are from different “crews” but through the team, he has created a dialogue among them, and helped to diminish the neighborhood lines that once divided. It is symbolic that these youth – once divided by colors and city blocks – are now looking forward to wearing the same team jackets.



The Rough Riders, 2009 JV Champions. Pig Patterson is fifth from the left; second row from top.

Pig Patterson Q&A with Shakira Gantt

SG: How did you get the nickname “Pig”?

TP: I was greedy as a baby and had a big appetite, a very big appetite! I was told that my Aunt Wanda gave me that name and it has stuck ever since.

SG: What started you coaching youth?

TP: I went to sign my son and nephews up and they were short on coaches so the club director asked me if I would (do it) and the rest is history.

SG: What would you say is your...Biggest challenge? Biggest success story? Proudest moment?

TP: My biggest challenge? Everyday life. There are new challenges everyday good and bad. My biggest success story? Starting Uptown Impact and winning the 2009 JV City Title. My proudest moment? Watching my kids being born and becoming a dad. There is nothing like it.

SG: What would you say is the biggest challenge that the youth you work with face?

TP: Lack of parental support. I've met a few parents and my goal is to meet all of them. I would like to meet more dads. Very few of them come to the games.

SG: What can we (parents, teachers, the community, etc.) do to help/support them?

TP: Embrace, teach and invest in them.

SG: What are the youth's biggest assets?

TP: Their minds are the best assets they have.

SG: What motivates you?

TP: Failure motivates me the most. I always want success. I never liked to be laughed at as a child –it was the worst feeling, so to never have that feeling I've always given the maximum effort in all my endeavors.

“I live in both worlds, but I choose to live on this (the good) side of the world.”

— Tim “Pig” Patterson

GARCEC Family Strengthening Month activities are listed on page 3 of this newsletter.

TRANSITIONS

Collaborative Council

Dwight Monroe, from DC's Project Empowerment Program, is working with the Collaborative Council, assisting with such tasks as answering the phones, copying, greeting clients, and more.



Columbia Heights/Shaw Family Support Collaborative

Jason Berry is the director of communications and development at CHSFSC, responsible for increasing engagement community, media, and donors. Before joining CHSFSC, Jason worked on the Obama Presidential Campaign; worked four years coordinating community conservation projects in Latin Amer-



ican, Africa and Asia; and learned marketing skills and became bilingual by running his own bird-watching tourism company in Guatemala. Born and raised in Chicago, Jason worked for five years as a family counselor with a youth outreach organization that addressed substance abuse and gang violence in some of the city's most violent neighborhoods. “What attracted me to CHSFSC is the holistic approach to supporting youth, families and the Columbia Heights community that my wife and I have called home for the last six years,” said Jason. Jason holds bachelor's and mas-

ter's degrees from American and George Washington Universities, respectively.

Vivek Dudgaonkar is CHSFSC's interim finance director, responsible for all accounting functions, including accounts payable and receivable, payroll, financial reporting, and liaison to the auditors. Vivek has more than 22 years of experience in finance



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TRANSITIONS

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and accounting, including seven years with Goldome Bank, eight years with Key Corp/Key Bank, three years with Providence Hospital, and a year with the Mills Corporation and AmeriChoice/United Health Group.

Jacqueline Marquez

is a bilingual family preservation specialist at CHSFSC, where she focuses on understanding family development and strengths in order to solve family issues. She previously interned at the Adelphi/ Langley Park Family Support Center in Maryland where she gained first-hand knowledge of family issues and needs. Jacqueline earned her bachelor of science in family services from the University of Maryland College Park.



East River Family Strengthening Collaborative

Minnie Allen, formerly

family services director, has been named director of quality improvement, responsible for ensuring that ERFSC programs and services are in compliance through the effective management of various databases, auditing, reporting, and training. Minnie recently became a licensed independent clinical social worker (LICSW) approved to practice in the District of Columbia, and is working to become eligible to practice in Maryland and Virginia.



Lisa Bryant is the

program director for the Keeping Seniors Eating Nutriously (KEEN) Program. Prior to joining ERFSC, Lisa served as the director of the UPO Senior Life Center and provided services as a private consultant through her organization, I Can Build A Bridge, Inc. Lisa holds a master of social work degree from Howard University.



Otis Dupree joined

ERFSC on February 1 as job developer. Prior to joining ERFSC, he was a job and program specialist at Marshall Heights Community Development Organization, Inc. From 1976-1994, he served as vice president of urban program services at the Metro DC YMCA.



Renee Woodard-Few, is program director

of the Washington Seniors Wellness Center. She has more than 20 years of experience in a range of services and disciplines, including health and social services. She has served program manager, Breast Cancer Awareness for Emory Beacon of Light, Inc.; associate pastor of health and pastoral care, Emory United Methodist Church; director of the Health Ministry, First Baptist Church; associate chaplain, University of Maryland Medical System; and as a program manager for Marshall Heights Community Development Organization, Inc., among other positions. She holds bachelor's degree in vocational education from the University of Maryland, and a master of divinity from Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, DC.



Lakisha Harrington, ERFSC's

receptionist, is a lifelong Ward 7 resident, and a graduate of Northwestern High School in Hyattsville, Maryland. Prior to joining ERFSC, she worked for Advisory Neighborhood Commission 7A and the Salvation Army.



Eugene Prince has

joined the ERFSC KEEN Seniors Program as a part-time nutrition site manager at the Allen House Nutrition Center.



Edgewood/Brookland Family Support Collaborative

Preston Haythe is an

employment coach for the Ward 5 Employment Program. He is a native Washingtonian, born and raised in the Ward 5 community. He is in his junior year at UDC where he is a social work major. Preston is an active member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and a constant community servant. He has been working in the social services field for more than 10 years, and began his tenure at EBSFC as one of the first youth advocates in Brookland Manor.



Scott Perry is

EBSFC's employment coordinator, leading the Ward 5 Employment Program funded by the United Planning Organization. He is a native Washingtonian who has been working in the fields of youth services,



adult education, and workforce development for more than 10 years. He has worked as a case manager, job developer, and instructor serving populations such as youth, ex-offenders, homeless families, and public housing recipients. Most recently, he was the director of the Workforce Investment and Social Enterprise Program at the Latin American Youth Center, a Collaborative partner.

Katrina Y. Allen, has resigned from

EBFSC to become clinical director at SWWR. A native Washingtonian, Katrina graduated from Benjamin Banneker Academic High School, and earned a bachelor of social work from the University of the District of Columbia. She joined EBFSC in 2000, and, while at EBFSC, received her master of social work from Howard University and became a licensed clinical social worker. Katrina has held several positions at EBFSC, including family support worker, EAP team leader, community social worker, and, most recently, family services coordinator. Katrina has accepted the position of clinical director at South Washington/West of the River Family Strengthening Collaborative.

Far Southeast Family Support Collaborative

Veronica Allen is

FSFSC's receptionist, responsible for managing the front office, greeting guests, scheduling, and other responsibilities. Prior to joining FSFSC, Veronica worked at the Passport Office as a filing/data entry assistant. She has also served as an administrative assistant for Keller Williams and as a program leader for Dytown Waterpark in Palm Dale, California. She is graduate of Bowie High School.



Christine Doe, program

manager, is responsible for implementing FSFSC's System of Care, Supervised Visitation, and Early Response programs. Christine graduated in 2000 from John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. She began her career as a legal assistant at a law firm, and later became a social worker at a foster care agency. In 2005, she obtained a master in public administration from Metropolitan College of New York, later moved to Philadelphia to run the Foster Care Department at Volunteers of America, and joined FSFSC in 2009.



Temitope Fagbemi is a family support worker with FSFSC, where he provides community support on issues such as mental health, substance abuse, housing, parenting, and education. Temitope holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Southeastern University in Washington, DC.

Charles Holland Jr., a

Washington, DC, Ward 7 native, is a member of the Community Engagement Division at FSFSC. He attended Edward Waters College in Jacksonville, Florida, where he exhibited a passion for community development while volunteering with AmeriCorps. Charles says he looks forward to giving residents the tools they need to create healthy families.



Darryl E. Sanders, is community

engagement coordinator at FSFSC. Prior to joining FSFSC, he worked at Sasha Bruce Youth Network, as director of its Independent Living program. Prior to that, he served for 16 years as director of the organization's HIV Prevention Services, where he coordinated and supervised service delivery programs aimed at providing quality care to high-risk youth and families. Darryl received a bachelor's degree from Jarvis Christian College in Hawkins, Texas, and a master of divinity degree from Howard University.

Claudine Sherwood is

program manager, oversight to FSFSC's Family Services programs. She received her master of education in counseling psychology and a bachelor of science in psychology from Howard University. She is a licensed professional counselor in the District, and a relationship coach for the Garment's Hem, Inc., in Largo, Maryland, providing preventive and therapeutic psychospiritual services. Her professional and community presentations have included the United States Attorney's Office, District of Maryland; the Association of Black Psychologists 32nd Annual Convention, Ghana, Africa; the Shiloh Baptist Church, Women's Ministry and the Metropolitan Baptist Church, Washington, DC. Women's Ministry Retreat Workshop Series.



Courtney Williams is

a quality assurance specialist at FSFSC where he helps the organization's support centers with ETO, monitors data entry, helps enforce protocols for active cases, and participates in auditing internal and external case management documents.

