

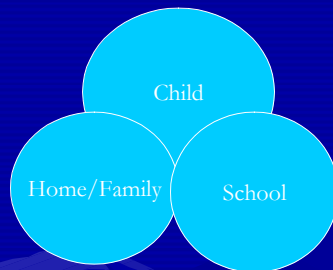
# **A Family Services Coordinator Serving Your Title I School, Students and Families**

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## **The Philosophy behind the position**

- Over the past 100 years the range of students needs that the school has been expected to meet has grown.
- The needs our students bring to school have also increased.
- The funding and resources to meet those needs has not expanded proportionately.

- School Success



## **Family Satisfaction/Family Support**

- Child's school behavior problems decrease when the family is invested in the school.
- When the family has their "home" needs met the child performs better at school.
- Academic performance increases with family support and investment in the child's school.
- School and Family supporting and working together = Student Success.

## Research

### Michael E. Woolley, Ph.D

- Reveals that meeting students social and emotional needs at home and in the school are linked with better behavior at school, more positive attitudes and beliefs about school and improved academic performance.

## Students have many needs.

- Social: personalized relationships/support, recognition
- Home: food, clothing, shelter, safety, emotional support, employment or income of the caregiver
- School: understanding of the child's situation, attitudes and beliefs, motivation
- Meeting these needs predicts better school performance.

## A Family Services Coordinator

- Acts as a Liaison to promote the family and school as well as the community partnerships. (YMCA, Family and Children's Service, White Bear Lake Lions, Rotary Club, churches, county resources).
- Identify students and families with needs.
- Create plans to meet those needs.
- "Social Work 101"
- A FSC does not have to be a social worker.

## Social/ Emotional /Coping Skills

- Work with students in groups or individually
- Motivation ,Compassion (for others and self),
- Setting Standards for themselves, Respect, Responsibility to do what is right,.
- Cope with homelessness, divorce, poverty, anxiety, depression and other situational issues.
- YOU CAN IF YOU BELIEVE YOU CAN!!!

## The Process

- Referral Process/ Anyone can refer
- Assess needs
- Collaborate with school/staff/parents/outside agencies

Confidentiality and release of information consent is necessary to collaborate.

## Funded

- Title I Funds  
Five Title I Elementary Schools in the district  
Service each school five and a half hours a week  
Schedule is one day a week at each school

## Parent Involvement

- Make a sustained effort
- Provide a caring climate
- Accommodate families based on their circumstances
- Transportation/ Home visits/ Help them connect with community services

## Family Involvement

- School Staff are overwhelmed themselves\*\*\*\*
- Staff need reinforcement (for some families) in reaching out/ sharing tasks/building the trust.
- I act a liaison to staff as well by helping them understand that some families are intimidated by school personnel.
- Encourage school staff to communicate GOOD news.
- Encourage families to come to fun activities, food, fun. (Parent Involvement Nights)

## Work In Progress

- Reduce families who Isolate themselves  
( EMWC)

Help Families find and support in each other

Help Families recognize and increase their own strengths

Helping families get comfortable with getting and giving help

## Success Stories

- ( homelessness) Lot's of homelessness this year.
- (glasses fam. new to the USA)
- Helping the unemployed parents (get a job) resources. medication, emotional coping skills, single dad support
- helped a grandpa gets resources when he suddenly became the guardian of his grandkids (parent went to jail)
- EMWC
- Anything and Everything. (Support Teachers)
- Students with their individual social skills work

## Take Away Points

- School as Learning Place/ Supportive, Helpful (resources)
- social/emotional support( we don't provide therapy but we can help you get it)
- Compassion (one of White Bear Lake's core values)
- Focus of the whole child
- A Family Services Coordinator can meet the needs of the students and the families you serve.

## References

- Michael E. Woolley, PHD University of Chicago  
[Addressing Students Social and Emotional Needs](#)
- [The Family Project Facilitator Toolbox](#)  
Family and Children Services, St. Paul