

## SUCCESSFUL PARENTING – DC PROJECT REPORT

Prepared for

The Association for Successful Parenting (TASP)

Annual Meeting – November 19, 2018

The **SUCCESSFUL PARENTING – DC (SP-DC)** project is now in the third year of operation, supported and funded by the Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA), the child welfare agency for the District of Columbia and The Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) of the District of Columbia.

The Project was tasked with three deliverables:

**(1) Create and test parent education curriculum** -- This deliverable was completed during the first three months of the project (May through August 2016). The 2016-2017 TASP Annual Report provided a detailed overview of this Deliverable.

**(2) Provide parenting education and support services for parents who have intellectual disabilities**

For this time period, SP-DC provided services for 14 parents. All the parents had an Open Case with CFSA and were either receiving services from DDA or in the process of eligibility determination for DDA services. SP-DC worked closely with CFSA and DDA to expedite the eligibility process. For parents who were not eligible for DDA services, because they did not meet with criteria for ID, but had a disability, the parent was referred to The Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) of the District's Department of Disability Services. SP-DC also worked closely with CFSA and DDA to expedite this process.

A Monthly Report is submitted to CFSA with the following information for each family. This document has three components: A short narrative about the activities during the month for Deliverable 2 and 3 along with two Attachments.

The **first attachment** provides an overview of the activities of the parent and the Peer Navigators who worked with the parent including the following:

- Parent Name
- Number of Children
- Source of Referral (DDA or CFSA)
- Number of visits that the Peer Navigators had the parent that month
- Number of texts to/from parent
- Number of phone calls to/from parent

- Number of meetings SP-DC attended with or on behalf of the parent (including lengthy phone meetings with team members)
- Referrals made and follow-up need.

The document also includes a NOTES section where the Peer Navigator provides an overview of significant activities of the family (for example, children removed or returned, death of a grandmother, parent moved, parent obtained a job, etc.) along with an overview of the activity of the Peer Navigator regarding the family or their community.

The **second Attachment** is a report on the specific Behavioral Goals/Objectives for each parent, and progress for each Objective.

The **third Attachment** provides information on training provided by SP-DC to professionals to enhance their work with parents with ID, as well as training provided for the Peer Navigators.

### **(3) Provide training to professionals from CFSA/DDA**

This year, November 2017 through November 2018, SP-DC provided the following trainings to CFSA/DDA and the Peer Navigators:

- Overview of RSA Services by the Executive Director
- An Overview of the Peer Navigation Model by Susan Yuan (2 days)
- One day training on Strategies for Working with Parents with id
- Overview of services provided by DC Quality Trust
- Overview of Services provided by DC Developmental Disabilities Council
- Overview of University Legal Services (DC's Protection and Advocacy System)
- Review of Dr. Maurice Feldman's Step-by-Step Parenting Program: Preventing Child Neglect Through Competence-based Assessment & Intervention for Parents with Learning Difficulties
- Panel Discussion for Peer Navigators, DDA staff and CFSA staff – ASK THE EXPERTS. Panel participants included:

**Nicole Brisson, Ph.D., LCMHC** – *TASP Board Member--Sage Haven Associates – extensive work in conducting and providing training for professionals in Competency-Based Parenting Assessments for parents with disabilities; Expert Witness in Sara Gordon Case in MA. Dr. Brisson also has extensive experience working with parents with mental health concerns as well as developmental disabilities.*

**Molly Burgdorf, JD** -- *TASP Board Member -- Center for Public Representation (formerly with the Administration for Community Living and with Office of Civil Rights of Health and Human Services) – expert on disability rights law and policy.*

**Cathy Haarstad, MS** - *Cathy Haarstad, MS., Treasurer of TASP; Research Associate at Minot State University—University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, Author - Supporting Families When Parents Have Intellectual Disabilities - Curriculum.*

**Bernadette Irwin, MS** – Senior TASP Board Member – Program Director for **SUCCESSFUL PARENTING – DC**. Previously Program Director for the Growing Together Supported Parenting Program at the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore (a home and center-based program for parents with ID).

**Sue Jones, MS** –Senior TASP Board Member -- United Arc (MA), Director of Youth and Family Service that includes the Positive Parenting Program (Individualized Parent Support, Parent Education and Support Groups, Supervised Visitation, Intensive Structured Supported Family Living, Consultation, Mentoring, Positive Parenting Resource Center, and Family Support Resource Center.

**Susan Yuan, Ph.D.** – Board President of The Association for Successful Parenting (TASP); Professor Emerita of the University of Vermont -- University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD); President of Yuan Associates. Experience in doing Competency-Based Parenting Assessments. Dr. Yuan also developed the Peer Navigation model that was successful in a Federally funded 5-year program for parents with disabilities in VT and is currently the intervention model used by **SUCCESSFUL PARENTING – DC**. Dr. Yuan also has extensive experience in working with parents with disabilities who are parenting children with disabilities.

Additionally, the Peer Navigators participate in a monthly meeting which may include a guest speaker or provide time for the Peer Navigators to discuss challenges, ask for advice and guidance from fellow Peer Navigators, share successes, etc.

The Peer Navigators also met weekly either via phone or in person for supervision.

All the Peer Navigators participated in a 2 ½ day training offered by CFSA on LIFE OF A CASE.

The major challenge for SP-DC this year was the need to recruit and train 3 new Peer Navigators, as three of the four Peer Navigators left the program in early 2018 for medical or family reasons, leaving the program with one Peer Navigator while the Program Director recruited and trained their replacements. Now, for the first time since the inception of Deliverable 2, the Project has 5 Peer Navigators!

Weekly phone conversations are held between SP-DC Program Director and the CFSA Contract Manager, Emily Velasquez. These conversations are either family-issue specific or system-specific. CFSA has been very helpful during these problem-solving discussions.

Lastly, since the last Annual Report, CFSA and DDA have met twice to discuss challenges and successes of the project and develop corrective action where needed. One issue has been the challenge of identifying parents to serve from both systems. The Cross-Disability computer match has many challenges that both systems continue to discuss and rectify. SP-DC remains ready to work with additional parents as appropriate referrals are made.

**Report Submitted by Bernadette Irwin, Program Director for SUCCESSFUL PARENTING – DC for November 19. 2018 TASP Annual Meeting.**