

Guidelines for Participation

*Join the National
Conversation
on Child Abuse
and Neglect*

- Participant phones are on mute, but we encourage you to use the chat box to send us questions throughout the presentation.
- There are polling questions and a structured chat in this call—we are asking all participants to respond.
- This is a fast format (30-minute dialogue), but there will be additional opportunities to interact on the issue.
- At the end of the formal presentation there will be time for an extended Q & A with the speaker. Join us to hear answers to burning questions.



DIGITAL DIALOGUE

FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



New Jersey's Neighborhood Gathering Place



Speakers

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WELCOME
Sharon McKinley
Program Specialist,
Children's Bureau's
Office on Child
Abuse and Neglect



PRESENTER
Antonio R. Lopez, LSW, MSW
Administrator, Office of
Family Support Services,
Family and Community
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MODERATOR
Nilofer Ahsan
Lead,
Knowledge
&Partnerships,
CANTASD



PRESENTER
Charmaine L. Thomas, MSW
Assistant Commissioner,
Family and Community
Partnerships and Division on
Women

NJ Family Success Center History

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- Initial funding in 2007
- Now 57 Family Success Centers (Family Success Centers)
- Family Success Centers open in all 21 NJ Counties
- Crisis support during Hurricane Sandy
- In 2016 Family Success Centers Served:
 - 52,682 families
 - 92,099 individuals
 - 152,048 services
- Provided technical assistance to similar model implementations in : New York City, Washington D.C., along with nations such as South Korea, Brazil, and Ireland

Family Success Center Model

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- Family Success Centers (Family Success Centers) are safe, warm and welcoming neighborhood gathering places where any community resident can go for support, information and resources.
- The model strives to create a family focused environment where programs, activities and services are centered on family needs and are family driven.
- The overall goal is to strengthen families by increasing protective factors and ultimately prevent child abuse and neglect.

Family Success Center Purpose

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- The mission of New Jersey's Family Success Centers is to enrich the lives of children by strengthening families and neighborhoods.
- Develop networks of family strengthening services to prevent child abuse and neglect.
- Provide integrated, locally based services that are family focused and culturally responsive.
- Strengthen connections with families, between families, and to the community.

What does a Family Success Center look like?

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- Family Success Centers have family friendly spaces that resemble homes or create home-like environments; most of the meetings take place in the living room or the kitchen area.
- The Family Success Center facility has a living room, hospitality corner (i.e. coffee, tea, water), business area (i.e. copiers, computers, fax machines, telephone), kitchenette, coaching corner, child area, and conference room.

NJ Family Success Centers

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Family Success Center Core Services

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At NJ's Family Success Centers, you can access the following services:

- Child, maternal, and family health services
- Parent education and parent-child activities
- Economic self-reliance/employment related services
- Life skills training
- Advocacy
- Information and referral services



Parent Child Activities and Promoting Social Connections

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Key Elements

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- Family Success Centers focus on **providing primary prevention programs.**
- Family involvement is **100% voluntary**, all services are free and open to everyone in the community.
- High level of engagement and satisfaction.
- Family Success Centers provide a **two generation approach** to serving families
- Leadership to Family Success Centers is provided by the NJ DCF Division of Family and Community Partnerships.
- Family Success Centers develop partnerships to ensure families are connected to community programs.
- The design and delivery of services are guided by parents' voice and choice through a Parent and Community Advisory Board.

Resources

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DCF website on Family Success Centers:

<http://www.nj.gov/dcf/families/support/success/>

Family Success Center Practice Profile Learning Modules

<https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/6898>

Family Success Center Practice Profile

<https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/6898/files>

National Family Support Network

<https://www.nationalfamilysupportnetwork.org/>

Gateway Page on Family Resource Centers

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/preventing/prevention-programs/familyresource/>

Thank You and Next Steps

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- Download the handouts to learn more. Click on the files in the “Handouts” box on your screen.
- Do you have innovative ideas, questions or concerns about engaging families and communities? Tell us about your work. Send an e-mail to **hello@CANTASD.org** with “Family and Community Engagement” in the subject line.

Upcoming:

*April 18, Engaging Business and Other
Partners in Child Abuse and Neglect
Prevention Approaches*

Participant Feedback

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Thank you for your participation!

How useful was this session?

Additional Comments: hello@CANTASD.org

