

Vision Statement

Family Resources & The Parental Stress Center

This statement provides a rationale and justification for the combining of two organizations with a focus on preventing child abuse in the Southwestern Region of Pennsylvania.

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Preventing child abuse by strengthening families has been the mission and work of Family Resources and the Parental Stress Center for more than three decades. While an honorable aim, it is daunting to attempt prevention of a critical social problem that crosses social class, race, religion, family structure, and level of education. A mission of preventing child abuse moves our organizations beyond serving families in the child welfare and mental health service delivery systems. Preventing child abuse means we engage isolated families challenged by stresses before serious problems and risks develop. Preventing child abuse means having the organizational capacity to respond to alcohol and drug problems, mental health concerns, physical illness in adults and children, domestic violence, poverty, and other community distresses. Preventing child abuse means moving beyond our professional and funding community to engage the public in preventing the injury of children in families and public places.

The scope of the effort to prevent child abuse in our region is best accomplished by a single, mission-driven organization. While competition is valued in many arenas of non-profits services, generating the knowledge, resources, staff competencies, and leadership is very challenging with prevention services, and by combining two agencies with the same prevention agenda will increase our capacity to efficiently and effectively accomplish our aims

The service 'fit' between Family Resources and the Parental Stress Center is complementary. There is no duplication of services, despite almost identical missions. The family reunification service of the Parental Stress Center expands the continuum of in-home services provided by Family Resources. A new division of In-Home Services would combine and integrate these services. The community services of the Parental Stress Center are not provided by Family Resources and fit well within the Prevention Services division of Family Resources. Family Resources has distinct administrative functions that would be an asset to the Parental Stress Center. These functions include human resources, finance,

development, public relations, individual donations, and legal services. The Parental Stress Center has financial assets, a strong board of directors, and supporters and donors that strengthen the combined efforts. The idea of these organizations combining efforts is strongly supported by the funding community, particularly foundations that support non-profit mergers that reduce administrative costs to our community.

By merging these organizations we envision the following results:

- Assure the continuation and legacy of services and history of the Parental Stress Center
- Services for children and families provided by the Parental Stress Center will continue without interruption.
- The continuum of services for children and families will become more holistic with the integration of the in-home services of the two organizations.
- Efforts to engage communities and the public in child abuse prevention activities will be expanded and intensified.
- Government relations and advocacy activities will be undertaken to assure that our values and principles inform public policy, regulation, and funding.
- Administrative costs will be reduced.
- Foundation support will be generated to address issues of succession, financial debt, information technology, and property management.
- Fundraising efforts will be integrated, particularly individual giving, special events, and public relations.
- Programming supported by the Allegheny County Department of Human Services will be enhanced.
- Community-centered services provided in the East Liberty area will grow to improve opportunities for families and children living in these neighborhoods.

Our vision for the future focuses on the welfare of children and families in our region by strengthening services, expanding community relations, and engaging the public to prevent the injury of children in families. The idea of our organizations combining has been envisioned by many in our community. We aim for our region to have the best child abuse prevention services and activities in the nation. This goal requires that going beyond providing innovative services for families at-risk to challenge how our community values, thinks, and behaves toward children in everyday life. As a combined, stronger, and more versatile organization, this vision is achievable.