

Hello,

My name is Siobhan Long and I have been in the role of Reach Up Case Manager at the Lund center for 10 years serving families on Reach Up to support them in reaching their goals, connecting to services, and removing barriers. It has been an honor and truly humbling experience to be in the position of a Reach Up Case Manager through a Parent Child Center and I would be deeply saddened to see this service removed from our Parent Child Centers across the State as this would be a loss to the families that we are serving whom are most in need. Parent Child Centers value lie in the holistic/whole family approach, teaming models, and the variety of on site services. Our community is stronger, because of Lund and the PCC's across the State. The clients we are serving deserve the highest level of support and opportunities to address their needs. Reach Up case management is a foundation for many families and removing this aspect from the PCC's could be detrimental to families struggling with navigating public assistance.

It has been a tremendous benefit as a Reach Up Case Manager to have the support of wrap around services at my disposal. I am able to help families to access family education services, childcare, transitional housing, Residential program, New Horizons Educational Program for High School completion, opportunities to speak to others about family planning and/or options counseling, mental health/substance abuse counseling services, on site work placements, or simply a package of diapers or baby clothing amongst a host of other things. We are able to make accessing these services more efficient and less complicated or scary due to the staff teaming model and common mission of service to others. We are often attending team meetings, are out in the community with clients, at home visits, and are offering intensive and often on demand case management support when it is needed.

We are able to meet families where they are at and layer services based on their needs and preferences. We often have participants stopping in to our offices when they are done with a meeting with their mental health counselor or if a student in New Horizons Educational Program needs help making a phone call or resolving an issue.

These factors lend themselves well for our Reach Up staff to have the positive outcomes that we have demonstrated which then supports the mission and vision of the Reach Up program. Our Reach Up participants are often struggling on a day to day basis to get by and it is all of responsibilities to ensure that we are offering the highest quality support in settings that are best suited to the individual accessing services. We will all benefit from this approach as it will be reflected in our community as a whole and will be worth the initial investment in funding. I ask that you consider these factors and oppose the proposed Parent Child Center Reach Up grant cuts.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Siobhan Long
Reach Up Team Lead
LUND
2/25/2019

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