

2/10/2020

Good Evening,

I'm Gwen Schuyler the Employment Advisor for the Family Center of Washington County. I would like to thank you for this opportunity to speak to ask for your support to fully **fund the Parent Child Centers' essential work with families with young children and increase base funding for the 8 core services this year to \$4 million and please support the Parent Child Center Bill.** My work as an employment advisor is through the Reach-up Program. Although we no longer have Reach-up Case managers at the center we still have the Job Coaching component. My Job is to assist young parents with everything work related which many times starts well before a resume or job lead is ever introduced. Many young parents face challenges ranging from mental health, transportation, childcare, parenting, addiction, housing, domestic violence and homelessness. I work closely with young parents to assess their work and life skills and ultimately their work readiness; many times, looking to our onsite Child Care, Early intervention, Family Support Home Visiting, Family Works and Family Supportive Housing Programs for support. This team support is essential in overcoming young parents' obstacles and preventing additional challenges. Being under one roof allows tight collaboration, consistent support, creative solutions, family focus and effective relationship building. Staff from the varying programs in the center work as a team supporting each other, thus building seamless and strong programming for the families we serve.

Employer Relations and Networking is a crucial part of Job Coaching. I meet with employers to uncover paid and unpaid work opportunities and our onsite daycare center is also an incredible resource. I have met

parents with varying professions which has resulted into several outstanding work Experience sites for young parents. The broad spectrum of people involved either directly or indirectly with the Family Center broadens the circle of support and opportunity for families and children. Through my work as an Employment Advisor I can educate employers, non-profits and area agencies on the services we provide and more importantly on the families we serve to create a community that understands trauma-based support.

Many young parents I work with feel hopeless. Many are skeptical... as this is yet another referral. When they can access services at one location this actually eases their anxiety in many cases. They can work on issues thoroughly and can work with a variety of personalities, supports and programs. The programs we provide are all family focused and parents become empowered to reach many goals including their work readiness and employment goals. PCC's promote self-reliance through trauma-based support and a prevention approach. It certainly is cliché but PCC's are the village that it takes. Thank you so much again for your time and listening ear. Please Fully fund Parent Child Centers.

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