

February 25, 2019

House Appropriations Committee

Theresa Utton

As a former PCC Reach Up Case Manager, I know full well the benefits that the case management service provides at the Parent Child Center.

Participants are met in a welcoming environment that provides wrap around services and referrals to other programs within our agency when needed. If a participant needs help setting up child care it is a short walk down the hall to meet with the specialists in that department. When a participant is in need of food, clothing, housing, parent education or help with developing skills to manage stress, all of that is closely integrated with the Parent Child Center and the Reach Up Case Manager is able to guide the individual to the necessary resource. PCC Reach Up Case Managers also meet with individuals in their homes when a home visit is more convenient.

PCC Reach Up Case Managers develop relationships with their participants and their children that are caring, supportive and encouraging. Case Managers also provide guidance in starting a participant at our Reach Up worksite to obtain job skills and prepare for employment.

The wrap around services are critical while working with our youngest participants and the PCC and the Reach Up Case Manager provide those services in a family focused environment where the individual will gain the confidence and the knowledge to become self-sufficient and to grow both as an individual and as a parent.

The Parent Child Centers play a vital role in the growth and development of some of our most vulnerable community members. Reach Up Case Managers at the PCC's offer the guidance necessary to ensure strong, healthy outcomes for individuals and families.

Sincerely,

*Merry Hamel*

*NEKCA*