Adolescent Parenting Transitions

Bethany became pregnant her junior year of high school. By the time she was 20 weeks pregnant, Bethany already knew that her baby would face serious medical issues. Bethany’s baby was born in September, 2016 and endured multiple surgeries and hospital stays after that. In fact, mom and daughter spent the next four months in and out of the Ronald McDonald House in Chapel Hill, NC.

Throughout this journey, Bethany stayed in school and completed her requirements for graduation with the support of the high school staff, family, friends, and the Adolescent Parenting Transitions (APT) Program (a United Way of the Greater Triangle funded collaborative partnership). As a result of Bethany’s hard work and perseverance, she was accepted into Campbell University and will begin this fall as a Pre-Med student. To assist with the costs of college, she applied for, and was awarded a scholarship funded by the APT Collaborative.

About the Adolescent Parenting Transitions Collaborative

Johnston County’s APT provides services and support aimed at helping to transition adolescent parents in their senior year of high school into college/career and adulthood.

The collaborative:

- Provides parenting education and support to adolescent parents in effort to decrease the likelihood that the 2nd generation will become disconnected youth.
- Provides workforce development services and college/career preparation to increase likelihood of sustaining wages as an adult.
- Promotes educational achievement and post-secondary educational opportunities in conjunction with school system staff, local community college, and university admissions staff.
- Develops workforce connections throughout the community to provide career exposure and experience.
- Facilitates leadership development opportunities through volunteer and community activities, peer mentoring, and peer leadership.
Durham Futures Action Team

Alan, 19, grew up in Durham. He knew he wanted to go to college after graduating, but being the first in of eight children in his family to graduate from high school, he had no idea how to fulfill his college dreams. A resource specialist with Durham Futures helped him figure out his college and career aspirations. The counselor helped him research colleges, find financial aid, set up campus visits and fill out applications. Because of Durham Futures, Alan is enrolled at Durham Tech, pursuing an associate’s degree in business administration. He goal is to own his own business one day.

About the Durham Futures Action Team Collaborative

Durham Futures is a partnership of education, business, and community leaders with a shared vision: all Durham youth complete a postsecondary credential and begin a career by the age of 25. The collaborative partners include: Achievement Academy, Durham Public Schools, Durham Technical Community College, and Made in Durham.

Family Success Alliance (FSA)

Daniel is a first grader at Carrboro Elementary School. His father works in a local restaurant and mom is a caregiver. Daniel didn’t have pre-school experience and was at-risk of starting kindergarten behind his classmates. Daniel enrolled in the Family Success Alliance Kindergarten Readiness Camp and successfully completed the four-week camp learning social, emotional, and academic skills. After the summer camp ended, Daniel’s parents decided to continue with the Family Success Alliance to be able to benefit from the other services offered by this United Way collaborative partnership. The family’s navigator connected them to resources such as Boys and Girls Club summer camp and United Way’s Teaming for Technology Program, which provides computers to low-income families and teaches parents computer skills so they can engage in their child’s schooling. Being ready for kindergarten has Daniel on track for success in school.

About the Family Success Alliance Collaborative

The Family Success Alliance is a zone-based program that aims to partner with low-income families in Orange County from the time their children are born until the time they head off for college or a career. They have four goals: 1) Children are healthy and prepared for school 2) Children and youth are healthy and succeed in school 3) Youth graduate from high school and college and 4) Families and neighborhoods support healthy development of children. Collaborative partners include: Boomerang, Chapel Hill-Carrboro Public School Foundation, Child Care Services Association, Compass Center, El Futuro, Girl Scouts, KidScope, Orange County Literacy Council, and Volunteers for Youth.

Family Table

A Lizzie was a college graduate with a Bachelor’s Degree and the editor of her own online magazine. She had a good job and was a single parent successfully raising her 9 year old son alone until she made a decision that got her arrested with a felony drug charge.

Having lost her job due to her arrest, Lizzie tried to find a new one but even with many interviews, couldn't get hired because of the felony on her record. Now with no job, Lizzie could not afford after-school care for her son, didn't have money to feed them, and had to move in with her mother. Feeling hopeless she went to The Catholic Parish Food Pantry for help, which was her entry into the Family Table Collaborative.
She began with the job’s program at StepUp Ministry where she completed the weeklong program and graduated. This was the beginning of a life changing experience for her.

Through the program she was introduced to other collaborative partner agencies. Dress For Success helped her with her self-confidence and professional clothing. Her son enrolled in the Boys and Girls Club, where he is very active. Lizzie continued to go on interviews and finally landed a good paying job. She went on to complete the second phase of StepUp Ministry and graduated the year long Life Skills program. Through this collaboration she was able to get her life back on track, save money for a car, and now has her own apartment. The family is well on their way to being stable and self-sufficient.

About the Family Table Collaborative
The Family Table is a collaborative partnership that works with families identified by Catholic Parish Outreach to help them overcome barriers and obtain employment as well as medical care and childcare. The Family Table collaborative partners include: StepUp Ministry, Dress for Success, Alliance Medical Ministry, Boys and Girls Club, Child Care Services Association, and Catholic Parish Outreach.

More than a Roof
Jalisa was a young mother experiencing homelessness. Without stable housing, she had made the difficult decision to send her sons to live with relatives. Determined to get her kids back, Jalisa began working with a transition specialist and attending weekly life skills classes. Her mentor-advocate at Families Together, one of the collaborative partner agencies, connected her to resources. As a result, she was able to get a job and obtain stable housing. She’s also attending online school part-time. Jalisa is thrilled to have a home and her sons with her.

About More than a Roof Collaborative
More than a Roof provides holistic wrap around services for homeless families and children living in hotels. The collaborative partners include: Catholic Charities, Families Together, Learning Together, Salvation Army of Wake County, and Triangle Literacy Council.

Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) for Vulnerable Families in Wake County
Maria, age 7, was experiencing symptoms of anxiety and depression resulting from her victimization and exposure to domestic violence. Her family’s private insurance had a large co-pay making it cost prohibitive to access the mental health services she needed. Maria’s mom was able to get assistance through the MDT collaborative partnership’s funding and now Maria is able to receive the ongoing therapy and support she needs. Additional support was provided to the family by connecting mom to resources for her own mental health needs and through emergency housing resources, after the family was evicted from their home. Now, instead of living in their car, the family has a stable home in which they can heal and thrive.

About the MDT Collaborative
The Multi-Disciplinary Team for Vulnerable Families in Wake County is a collaborative partnership providing cross-sector response, treatment, and prevention for children experiencing abuse, and support for their families. The collaborative partners include SAFEChild,
Triangle Family Services, and providers from Child Protective Services, and legal and educational systems. The MDT collaborative recently enhanced their services by adding additional bilingual therapists and the integration of Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) for their clients. In April, this team received national accreditation from the National Children’s Alliance.

**Wake Child and Family Violence Prevention**

At the age of 37, Sumera came to Wake Child and Family Violence Prevention Collaborative (WCFVP) with her three children. Sumera had been a stay-at-home mom. Her husband of 13 years was the primary wage earner, and was also abusive. One night, during a verbal argument, Sumera knocked the phone out of her husband's hand when he threatened to record and frame her. He called the police and Sumera was arrested. After the arrest, Sumera's husband took physical custody of the children and would not let her see them. This left her homeless, without her children, and without an income. Sumera called WCFVP partner Kiran Inc for help and through their connection she was able to receive support for herself and her children through InterAct and SAFEchild. Sumera attended the PEACE program through which all criminal charges against her were dropped, and participation in the MOVE group enhanced her parenting skills. Legal Aid’s divorce and custody clinic co-located at InterAct helped her to regain custody of her children.

With the joint support of Wake Child and Family Violence Prevention partners, Sumera is reunited with her children, working a full-time job, and living violence free.

**About the Wake Child and Family Violence Prevention Collaborative**

WCFVP ensures that victims of domestic violence have the support they need to become, and remain independent and violence free. The collaborative partners include: Alliance of Disability Advocates, Haven House, InterAct, Kiran Inc., Legal Aid of NC, and SAFEChild.

The families affected by violence served by this partnership experience additional barriers such as disability, homelessness, language and cultural challenges or youth related situations needing more coordinated, specialized, intensive services.

This collaboration:

- Connects families fleeing from violent homes with comprehensive wraparound services that include access to attorneys through Legal Aid, culturally appropriate and specific services, short and long-term case management, parenting classes, and services for those with disabilities.
- Targets families who are at highest risk of serious injury or death
- Connects families with all resources within the collaborative
- Breaks the cycle of violence across multiple generations
- Offers families immediate safety and long term support

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