

Project Description



Family Ties Project

LIFE PLANNING FOR FAMILIES AFFECTED BY HIV/AIDS

Lead Agency

Consortium for Child Welfare

Project Collaborators*

Building Futures

Children's National
Medical Center

Family and Medical
Counseling Service

Family Connections

Georgetown University
Medical Center

Hospice of Washington

HUH C.A.R.E.S.

Miriam's House

My Brother's Keeper-HIV
Behind Bars

Our Place, DC

Pediatric AIDS/HIV Care

Project CHAMP

Sasha Bruce Youthwork, Inc.

University of the District of
Columbia/David A. Clarke
School of Law

Unity Health Care

Washington Free Clinic

Washington Hospital Center

(*as of 5/1/01)

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CHILD WELFARE

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June 2001

The Consortium for Child Welfare's Family Ties Project is a federally and foundation-funded demonstration project which addresses the issues of children orphaned by the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the District of Columbia. Experts estimate that that between 1,100 and 2,000 children in the city will be orphaned by AIDS. The Family Ties Project is a multi-agency, multi-disciplinary project established to help parents and caregivers plan for their children's futures.

The mission of the Family Ties Project is to promote and preserve the well being of children, youth and families affected by HIV/AIDS by working with parents and caregivers to plan for the future care of their children. These objectives are accomplished through the direct collaborative efforts of a multi-disciplinary team of service providers, including case managers, therapists, and attorneys. The project also advocates for policy changes to improve the life planning options available to parents and caregivers in Washington, DC. Enactment of standby guardianship in the District of Columbia is a priority of the Project.

The Consortium for Child Welfare, a coalition of the city's private child welfare agencies, serves as the lead agency for this city-wide effort which provides direct services to families affected by HIV/AIDS, provides training and education to service providers and caregivers, and promotes policy reform to support parents' choices in life planning. Project subcontractors provide the following specialty services:

- ✦ legal services provided by the University of the District Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law;
- ✦ art therapy, counseling, and support groups for adults, adolescents and children who are affected or infected by HIV/AIDS by Pediatric AIDS/HIV Care, Inc.;
- ✦ kinship care transitional case management services provided by Sasha Bruce Youthwork, Inc.; and
- ✦ foster parent and caregiver training provided by Project CHAMP of Children's Hospital.

To be eligible for Family Ties Project services, families should be receiving family-centered case management at one of the Family Ties Project collaborating case management providers. (See list of project collaborators on the left.) Once enrolled by their case manager, families work with case managers on life planning issues and have access to the Project's specialty services. Case managers receive training and consultation from the Project staff to assist them in working with their families in early life planning. Increased collaboration and communication among case managers and specialty service providers is facilitated by Project staff. Services are provided without charge to families.

The Project produces a bi-weekly newsletter which provides information relevant to life planning. A monthly support group for case managers involved in life planning is facilitated by Family Ties Project staff. Training on life planning issues is provided to case managers and other service providers caring for families affected by HIV/AIDS. In addition, a series of parenting skills training and other parental and caregiver education activities are provided.

The Consortium for Child Welfare's Family Ties Project is funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children, Youth and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Abandoned Infants Assistance Program, Grant No. 90-CB-0100. Foundation support is provided by the Washington AIDS Partnership and Broadway CARES/Equity Fights AIDS. For fiscal year 2001, the federal grant award totals \$449,532, representing 86% of the total Project budget. Non-federal sources represent 14% of the total Project budget, providing \$70,945 in cash and in-kind assistance.