



# MY COMMUNITY CARES

## MCC SUMMARY & NEIGHBORHOOD SUPPORT TEAM TASK OVERVIEW

The My Community Cares Initiative was created to help reduce the number of valid child abuse and neglect cases and reduce the number of children being removed from the home and is part of an even BIGGER project called the LA Program Improvement Plan. We want to understand what community members need on an everyday basis and try to connect people to services that can help with those needs.

The MCC Initiative stemmed from the Children and Family Services Review completed by the Federal Children's Bureau. The results from the review found that families were not able or did not access the resources they needed to remain together as a family or to avoid additional child welfare involvement. The goal is to bridge the gaps between services and families who are involved in the child welfare system trying to access those services in order to promote prevention and provide happy, healthy childhoods.

The goal is to help keep children SAFE, make sure families are STRONG and SELF-SUFFICIENT, and build SUPPORTIVE communities all over Louisiana beginning with Livingston, East Baton Rouge, Rapides, and Caddo Parishes.

If you are interested in joining a Neighborhood Support Team, some of the tasks and next steps are:

### **(FROM THE GRANT...)**

- **Convening at least one community conversation (i.e., meetings, block parties, community dinners)** with residents of each priority neighborhood and present data on child abuse and neglect in their area; allow them to make their unmet needs known, provide feedback on barriers to services and supports and social determinants of abuse and neglect in their neighborhood, discuss what children and families in their neighborhoods need to be safe, stable, and self-sufficient, identify a person and/or entity they trust in and/or go to in their neighborhood to provide information on services and support, complete a family needs assessment, and sign up to join their Neighborhood Team; and, capture, report, and analyze feedback and data collected to inform decision-making and strategies in the priority neighborhoods, and track

participation, attendance, agendas, dates, locations, barriers identified, and action steps/strategies.

- **Hosting at least three listening circles**, one with parents with lived experience with child welfare, former foster youth, and foster parents from priority zip codes to assess barriers to services and supports they needed to prevent child welfare intervention, allowing them to make their unmet needs known, providing feedback on barriers to services and supports and social determinants of abuse and neglect in their neighborhood, discussing what children and families in their neighborhoods need to be safe, stable, and self-sufficient, identifying a person and/or entity they trust in and/or go to in their neighborhood to provide information on services and support, completing a family needs assessment, and signing up to join their Neighborhood Team; and, capture, report, and analyze feedback and data collected to inform decision-making, strategies, and action plans in the priority neighborhoods/
- **Conducting family needs assessments (at schools, daycares, service provider locations, community events, community conversations, listening circles, etc.)** with residents in priority zip codes/neighborhoods to determine their unmet needs and partner with service providers and community partners to meet the needs indicated on the assessment, allowing them to provide information on what children and families in their neighborhoods need to be safe, stable, and self-sufficient, identifying a person and/or entity they trust in and/or go to in their neighborhood to provide information on services and support and signing up to join their Neighborhood Team; and, capture, report, and analyze feedback and data collected to inform decision-making, strategies, and action plans in the priority neighborhoods.
- **Capture and share data collected from family needs assessments** to inform decision-making and strategies in the priority neighborhoods.
- **From the community conversations, listening circles, and family needs assessments, help MCC Neighborhood Support Teams formalize MCC Neighborhood Teams** with community residents in priority neighborhoods that meet regularly to: discuss the social determinants of abuse and neglect, gaps in services, unmet needs in their neighborhood, what children and families in their neighborhood need to be safe, stable, and self-sufficient; identify persons and/or entities they trust in and/or go to in their neighborhood to provide information on services and support; complete and conduct family needs assessments on parents in their neighborhood, and determine solutions and implement strategies to overcome barriers, meet needs, and prevent child abuse and neglect in those neighborhoods. Once barriers to services, gaps in services, and unmet needs of the families are identified by residents in the priority neighborhoods, facilitate the creation of strategic plans between the MCC Neighborhood Team and the MCC Parish Team that they believe will aid in the prevention of child abuse and neglect in their neighborhood.

**(OR... and more simply said)**

- Planning and participating in block parties/baby showers/resource fairs/and other community events,
- Discovering barriers by conducting needs assessments with families in the community,
- Sharing available resources, services, and tips on accessing them with families once needs are assessed and also with the MCC team in efforts to complete the online resource portal,
- Hosting and/or facilitating listening circles to discuss strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats in the community,
- Giving the community a voice by supporting one another and building connections,
- Establishing, convening, and supporting Neighborhood Teams in the actual communities,
- Partnering with initiatives, meetings, and programs that are already taking place in neighborhoods and;
- Meeting regularly to discuss strategies and other next steps.