

SAN GABRIEL UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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San Gabriel Unified School District Family Resource Center (DFRC)
102 E. Broadway, San Gabriel, CA 91776

The counseling program at the DFRC is 100% grant funded. The program reaches out to low income students, frequently first-generation Americans, and their families who need psychotherapy. The program has a strong partnership with the district's support staff, with the majority of referrals being made by school counselors. The goal of the program is to provide early psychotherapy intervention to families lacking access to mental health services.

The clinical supervisor works closely with the Counseling Coordinator who oversees the overall functioning of the program. The counseling program utilizes MFT trainees from local graduate schools to provide it's services (Cal State LA, Azusa Pacific University, Fuller Theological Seminary and USC). A part-time case manager also supports the program by reviewing referrals and prioritizing need in addition to linking families to other community resources, such as the DFRC's emergency food program and medical/dental care from community health clinics.

All DFRC referrals are screened for Medi-Cal and private insurance coverage. Families with Medi-Cal coverage are referred out to community agencies such as Pacific Clinics. Most students with Medi-Cal are seen at their school sites or the DFRC thru the Pacific Clinics school-based program. If families do not have Medi-Cal or Healthy Families insurance, but appear eligible upon case management screening, they are referred to the GEM's program (Get Enrollment Moving) which assists with the Medi-Cal application process at the DFRC. Families possessing private insurance are also offered assistance in locating local mental health services that are paid for through their benefits.

SGUSD was awarded a federal grant in 2006 through the Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools, allowing us to contract with Family Counseling Services, West San Gabriel Valley (a division of Santa Anita Family Services) for counseling services specifically for elementary students and their families. The prevention and early intervention services provided include individual, family, group and psycho-educational services.

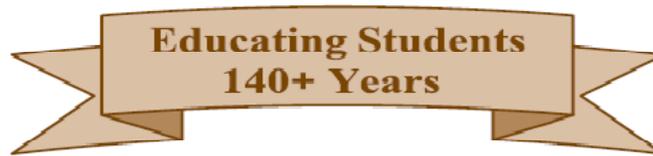
The remaining students and parents who do not have Medi-Cal or private insurance and cannot be referred to FCS WSGV, having no other access to mental health services, are assigned to our own MFT trainees and interns. Those MFT trainees work closely with the school counselors and teachers who have identified concerns for a student early on. In working with the students, they are also able to reach the parents, offering family therapy and parenting classes. The families served by our program are the most underserved and hard-to reach in our community.

Our greatest concern at this time is the future of this program beyond June 2009, when federal funding will cease. Although we are in the process of applying for other grants, there have been no solid leads to date. Our agency has been involved in the planning phase of Prevention and Early Intervention, and we remain hopeful that some funding will be allotted for the San Gabriel

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community, as we represent not only the underserved, but also the Education and Health sectors at our center.

To our disappointment, San Gabriel was aligned with Arcadia, Temple City and San Marino in our PUMA, where there are huge discrepancies in income, level of education, unemployment rates, etc. Our community, which is much more similar to our neighboring cities of Alhambra and Rosemead, certainly have a greater need in terms of prevention and early intervention services. Naturally, the Family Resource Center will be overlooked if we remain grouped with these more affluent communities, masking the actual vulnerability of those being served in San Gabriel.