Beech Acres Parenting Center
Building Strong Marriage & Relationships
ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE

Beech Acres Parenting Center (BAPC) has been serving *at-risk* children and families in Greater Cincinnati since 1849. BAPC is known as a leader in the community in addressing and responding to the needs of *at-risk* parents, children and their families. BAPC has over 25 years of experience providing marriage/relationship and divorce programs and services for couples, individuals and children including: classes, support groups, seminars, counseling, mentoring and mediation.
The goal of Beech Acres Parenting Center’s Healthy Marriages/Healthy Communities Program is to create and test a community/faith-based, grassroots network that provides access to critical support systems in the target neighborhoods.
This will be accomplished by developing a community infrastructure that successfully connects individuals, parents, children and families with a wide range of formal and informal supports that will result in healthy and positive marriages and relationships. The ultimate result is that individuals and families will experience positive outcomes and communities will have increased capacity to strengthen relationships and ultimately, the family structure.
MODEL

Beech Acres and its partners were deliberate in creating a model that draws from and builds upon the existing assets of the communities and its residents. The Model that has been designed promotes healthy marriages and relationships through concentrated, comprehensive efforts. One of the ongoing goals is to build the capacity in each community so that they take responsibility for their community and their community needs. The major mechanism for accomplishing this is the creation of a community based, community advocate effort
COMMUNITY TEAMS

Community Teams will be created in each of the communities, charge with the responsibility of designing and implementing a continuum of classes and programs for all segments of community, drawing from and building upon the existing resources in the community.
COMMUNITY TEAMS

Each Team will include representatives from faith and community based organizations, service providers, a school representative, other organizations and/or providers in the area and a minimum of two residents from the community.
Each Community Team has a Lead Agency that has been appointed by Beech Acres. The Lead Agency will lead the Community Team and oversee the community building process. The Lead Agency will assist with overseeing the day to day activities including service delivery. Host monthly meetings and provide monthly programmatic reports.
MAJOR ACTIVITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENT

In addition to the successful Marriage and Relationship activities, programs, services, retreat & Black Marriage Day that were conducted over the past year & ½, we also had a number of successful internal accomplishments.

A sampling of our accomplishments include:
MAJOR ACTIVITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENT cont,

- Streamlining our client surveys to match our logic model
- Creating an online web based data collection system
- Instituting a tracking system that connects our logic model, activities and outcomes
- Trained residents as Mentors & in different curriculums to become facilitators which strengthen the community infrastructure
- Expanded into more high schools
COMPLIANCE & ASSURANCES

Faith Based Regulation: All program partners, Community Team members and service providers need to be notified of the Faith Based Regulations during the orientation process, verify they have reviewed, & received copies of the OFA & Federal Legal Safe Guards, Guidelines on Religious Expression and have signed compliance documents declaring they will adhere to all rules regarding the Faith Based Regulations and that they have an open outreach policy to all participants.
We recognize that domestic violence is a complex problem and that physical and emotional abuse is a serious obstacle to stable and healthy relationships. An important message to convey in all aspects of this initiative is that individuals involved in healthy relationships do not engage in violent, abusive, or coercive behavior.

All healthy marriage activities and programs will be provided in a manner that does not compromise the safety of any family member.

In promoting healthy marriage, care will be taken not to disparage or compromise the efforts and successes of single parents.

We recognize the diversity of the Hamilton and Clermont County communities and the importance of providing culturally sensitive approaches to supporting the development of healthy relationships and families.
Implementation Issues and Concerns

- One of our learning’s was related to the monitoring & direct oversight of our activities, curriculums, facilitators and partners to ensure compliance regarding the Federal regulations, in particular with 45 CFR 87.1, Equal Treatment for Faith-Based Organizations. We believe that increased oversight of facilitators, curricula, and program activities will result in better quality assurance and compliance. We intend to develop specific strategies such as reallocating staff time, formal interviews with all partners, and individual facilitators and other practices in order to successfully accomplish this.

- Also given the complexity of the federal reporting requirements, and the need to distinguish by Allowable Activity areas- attendance, numbers served, participants completion and demographics -we realized we needed to update and upgrade our data management system.
ALLOWABLE ACTIVITIES

- Healthy Marriage/Relationships & Dating Violence in High Schools
- Pre-Marital Education for Non-Married pregnant Moms & Expectant Fathers
- Pre-Marital Education for engaged/committed couples or individuals interested in Marriage
- Marriage Enhancement for Married Couples
- Divorce Reduction (Mediation & Consultation)
- Mentoring