

PROGRAM REPORT
JUNE 2017

HELPING FAMILIES INITIATIVE



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ALABAMA - BIRMINGHAM DIVISION



WE HAD A VISION...

- **Provide intervention** for families **before** children encounter the juvenile justice system
- **Enhance partnership** between the DA's office, local schools, service agencies, and families
- Improve **access to resources**
- **Build on the successful HFI model** and tailor the program for our community

...TOGETHER WE DID IT!

MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TEAM

Our MDT meets weekly to review the results of home assessments, offer additional background information on families, and craft individualized intervention plans.

10 AGENCIES: 15 PEOPLE

- HFI/Office of the District Attorney
- Tarrant City Schools
- Tarrant Police Department
- Birmingham City Schools
- Birmingham Police Department
- Jefferson County DHR
- Jefferson County Family Court
- JBS Mental Health
- Woodlawn Foundation
- Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama

355 HOURS OF EXPERTISE

volunteered in our pilot phase



UNIQUE APPROACH

HFI accesses information across multiple agencies, conducts in-home assessments, and provides individualized intervention plans and case management support to meet specific needs across a wide range of domains BEFORE students and families are in trouble.

HFI evaluates:

- Parental capabilities
- Family interactions
- Family safety
- Environment
- Social/community life
- Child well-being
- Self-sufficiency
- Family health/mental health
- Trauma

HFI PROCESS

- Recognize warning signs
- Identify root causes
- Empower families



HFI RESULTS

- Strengthening families
- Improving educational outcomes
- Reducing crime

HFI partners with over 30 organizations including nonprofits, government agencies, churches, and United Way agencies to refer families to services including:

- Mental health evaluations
- Counseling
- School uniforms/clothing
- Parenting classes
- Driver's license recovery
- Furniture
- Mentors
- After-school/summer programs
- Food/utility assistance
- GED/literacy programs
- Healthcare/medication
- Employment training

RESOURCES ACCESSED



LIVES CHANGED

Tarrant Intermediate Principal David Seale recognized improved behavior when a young lady received HFI services.

**"She's less likely to fire off at an adult now.
There's more peace in the valley."**

Case Officer Kim Curry intervened with a 14-year-old runaway whose anger was resulting in violence at school.

"Instead of entering the juvenile system, we resolved issues with Medicaid so she could get counseling, secured a scholarship to a therapeutic arts program, and provided access to parenting classes and a GED program for mom."

Woodlawn High Assistant Principal Wander Riley saw parents become more engaged in ensuring good school attendance.

"Tons of parents began calling the school to ensure we received excuses for absences. They started paying attention to their students' attendance."



HELPING FAMILIES INITIATIVE

HFI IS ADDRESSING DANGEROUS STUDENT BEHAVIOR AND SCHOOL ATTENDANCE THROUGH INTERVENTION

PILOT STATS

Kids Alerted - 700

Families Assessed- 26

Intervention Plans - 16

Kids Served - 51

SCHOOLS SERVED

Tarrant: Elementary, Intermediate, High

Birmingham: Avondale, Hayes, Oliver, Putnam, Woodlawn High

Total Student Enrollment: 4,100+

HFI ADVISORY COUNCIL



WWW.H-F-I.ORG

Chronic absenteeism and disciplinary infractions reduce the likelihood of a student graduating on time and negatively impact reading proficiency.

Gaining a good education is crucial for students to avoid a future life of crime.

"HFI combines the influence of the DA's office with the insight of educators and others working together to pursue multiple paths to help families get back on track and, most importantly, keep students coming to school."

Andrew Smith, Tarrant City Schools

"HFI has given Birmingham City Schools a very important avenue to assist in preventing attendance and behavior problems. For families to know there is help available may be the very factor that prevents a life of crime and poverty."

Dr. Etheldia Reynolds, Birmingham City Schools

DANNY CARR



DISTRICT ATTORNEY, PRO TEM
10TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ALABAMA - BIRMINGHAM

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