FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER OPENS EMERGENCY SHELTER FOR TEENAGE MOTHERS AND THEIR CHILDREN

MIAMI, FL—The Family Resource Center (FRC), a leading provider of child welfare services that is one of only seven full case management providers in Miami-Dade County, is opening an emergency shelter for pregnant teenagers, teenage mothers in the foster system and their children, at the Hurwit Maternity Emergency Center in Miami Gardens.

“Teenage girls in foster care have greater risk of becoming pregnant than other teenagers,” said Family Resource Center Executive Director Oren Wunderman, Ph.D. “These kids need a lot of support to ensure they can return to society with the mindset and skills to lead productive lives and successfully parent their children.”

The goal of the FRC is to have shelter care services for up to eight teenage mothers and two children per mother. The program will offer a safe, nurturing facility with 24/7 staff assistance. Mental health and medical services are provided as well as emotional and logistical support. This includes transportation and childcare to enable foster teen parents to pursue school, vocational training and entry into the workplace. In addition, the FRC will provide a 15-session court approved parenting education program, life skills training and road to independence mentoring.

The purpose of this program is to promote physical and mental well-being by encouraging foster teen parents to pursue their vocational and educational goals, develop good parenting skills, and develop essential personal, social and family relationship skills. The program will give structured and supervised services to help teenage mothers become independent contributors to their community, so that the cycle of abuse and neglect is not repeated. Moreover, the program makes every effort to engage the biological father in the co-parenting process, when possible.

FRC recently hired Megan Noicely, M.S.W., a professional who is highly experienced in working with young people in the Dependency System, for the position of Director of the Maternity Emergency Shelter. As a highly experienced administrator and clinician, Megan will ensure that our clients receive coordinated, compassionate and clinically sensitive care. For more information about the Family Resource Center and its Emergency Shelter for Teenage Mothers and Their Children, please call Megan at: 305-458-1426.

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The Family Resource Center was founded in 1978 with the mission to help prevent and treat child abuse and neglect through the strengthening of families. A complete continuum of child welfare, abuse prevention and treatment services are provided through the following programs through-out Miami-Dade County: Full Case...