

Summary of Outcomes Activity 2009 Forum on Family Support

At the forum, participants were asked to react to the idea of coming up with Family Support Center outcomes that were broad enough to cut across the different Family Support Center services. As the discussion followed, two main assumptions were voiced:

- Outcomes expected from the services provided by family support centers assume that centers are following the Family Support Principles, and
- That there is a deliberate focus on the part of Family Support Centers to reach diverse and vulnerable communities as well.

Organizational Research Services had participants reviewed a list of outcomes gathered from different sources. After participants reviewed the list of outcomes provided, they were asked to identify any missing outcomes. Those added by participants are listed in the table below with the word “Added” in front of each. Outcomes added that belong to the existing areas were moved underneath the outcome headings and those that refer to organizational and/or community outcomes were left at its own outcome areas.

Participants were asked to vote on the outcomes listed based on two primary criteria: close enough to claim and big enough to matter.

- Close Enough to Claim—outcomes that are logically connected to the activities and interventions at your Family Support Center or at a typical Family Support Center in Washington; choose changes you know that Family Support Centers can claim to have helped make for families and children.

AND

- Big Enough to Matter—outcomes that are also salient and meaningful outside of the family support/children and families services world; choose outcomes, that if properly measured, will help to make a good case for Family Support Centers with funders, legislators, and other audiences.

Some participants voted for the entire outcome area, while others placed their vote on individual outcomes under each area. The results are summarized below. The top four outcome areas receiving the most votes were: Increased parents knowledge of parenting skills and child development (40); family social network and connections (32); family self-sufficiency & self-reliance (25); and family management skills (20).

OUTCOMES	Total
Family Management Skill	20
Increased/maintained family stability	6
Improved family management skills	2
Increased knowledge regarding life skills	
Increased positive perception of their success & success of their children	
increased families perceptions of self-control for their lives	1
Family self-sufficiency & self-reliance	25
Increased families economic self sufficiency and self-reliance	11
Improved economic status	1
Increased assets	
Acquired employability	
increased earnings and income	
decreased public assistance	
increased at risk youth/young adults progress toward education goals	
<i>Added: Increased parents courage/resiliency</i>	
Ability to obtain health insurance and services	5
Enhanced ability to obtain health insurance and health services	3
increased access to private insurance	
increased dental visits	
increased or maintained immunization rate	
Family social network and connections	32
Increased individual or family support network	2
Increased social connections in the program/community	3
increased families perceptions of being valued in the community	4
Increased families perceived connections to their communities	
increased families perceptions that their communities have more to offer	1
<i>Added: Parent/families are empowered/build skills for natural leadership</i>	3
Knowledge of parenting and child development	40
Increased parental knowledge about parenting and child's development	16
Increased positive interaction between child and caregiver	5
Increased parents confidence in parenting	11
Young children are ready to enter school	10

Increased young children's school readiness:	6
<i>Added: increased social emotional competence of children</i>	3
increased school-age children success in school	1
<i>Access to network of services for children, youth & families</i>	14
Increased families access to community resources	
Increased youth/young adults engagement in activities that enhance/enrich learning	
<i>Leadership skills & capacity of youth ages 11-18</i>	4
Change in behavior (build & maintain friendships, reduce isolation)	3
Change in skills (improved listening, communication, problem solving, conflict management and helping skills)	1
<i>added: Community increased their support to families</i>	2
<i>Added: Increased community awareness of value of family support</i>	2
<i>Added: Empowering diverse communities to increase their leadership and civic engagement</i>	2
<i>Added: Efficient delivery of multiple services</i> (outcome relates to Increased families program satisfaction)	2