

The PEI Library Project

By: Maria Vargas

Under the direction of District Chief, Sam Chan, DMH's Family and Community Partnerships Unit has entered into a partnership with Los Angeles County Public Libraries (CPL) to administer and deliver prevention services throughout Los Angeles County.

Muriel Cormier, LCSW is the Project Lead for this new and innovative Mental Health Parenting Program (MHPP) which offers a robust array of family-centric programs designed to cultivate a love of learning, unite families and provide early detection and management of child behavior problems.

The goal of this novel partnership is to offer opportunities for parents to strengthen both their parenting skills and their relationships with their children through three distinctive programs: Triple P (Positive Parenting Program) Family Place, and Parent Cafés.

By July 2013, The Triple P program, which draws on Social Learning, Cognitive-Behavioral and Developmental theories, will be offered at 50 libraries throughout Los Angeles County.

Triple P is a multi-level parenting program that assists parents/caregivers with a specific concern about their child's behavior. The pro-

gram promotes social competence and emotional regulation, while maintaining reasonable expectations and placing an emphasis on a positive parent-child relationship while taking care of oneself as a parent.

Triple P trained librarians promote parental self-sufficiency, increased parental effectiveness and



enhanced problem solving skills.

Family Place is an efficient and helpful program that introduces caregivers and their children ages birth to 4 to early reading in a friendly and interactive environment where play is recognized as a critical component of school readiness.

Currently, there are 40 Family Place programs throughout Los Angeles County library system. These library centers offer

early childhood information, parent education, emergent literacy, socialization and family support.

Family Place is a five week parent/child workshop which builds on the knowledge that good health, early learning, parent involvement, and supportive communities play an essential role in young children's growth and development.

The workshops feature local professionals, such as nutritionists, speech and language therapists and child development experts, who serve as resources



for parents.

The third component of the Library project are Parent Cafés, which are designed to strengthen the whole family. Parent Cafés consist of monthly meetings at participating libraries throughout the County and serve as a forum for parents to meet and discuss caretaking concerns, find solutions to problems and resolve difficult family issues.

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