

The Alabama Network of Family Resource Centers (ANFRC) is an organization of non-profit agencies or programs that provide a wide array of services designed to *protect children and strengthen and support families in Alabama*. The purpose of the Alabama Network is to support the *development, growth, and continuation of these services by providing technical assistance, training, advocacy, resources, and networking opportunities*. Membership in the Alabama Network is approved by vote of members after examination of the applicant agency's policies, procedures, and practices, which must be in keeping with the philosophy in the Alabama Network's values statement.

THE ANFRC VALUES STATEMENT

We believe that children belong with their own families when they can live safely at home in a nurturing, healthy, and stable environment. We believe that all children need to experience permanence in their lives and need family and community connections, even when it is not possible for them to live at home. In an effort to protect children from abuse and neglect, to strengthen families, and to assist families in securing needed supports, services are individualized, community-based, and goal-directed in keeping with the following ideals:

1. We treat families as partners in parenting and protecting their children.
2. We focus on the strengths of the family as a whole, while showing respect for family members as individuals.
3. We seek to meet identified needs of families, which may vary in levels of intensity needed to keep children safe.
4. We provide collateral contact among agencies to meet the multiple needs of children and their families.
5. We deliver services in culturally sensitive ways.
6. We ensure that staff is accessible to children and families.
7. We assist families in accessing needed services through partnership with community agencies and through direct services of the ANFRC program sites.
8. We are responsive to unmet services needs in the geographic areas where programs exist, and seek to develop services that are necessary to maximize child and family well-being.
9. We are committed to the development and provision of services that are preventive in nature and that seek to equip families with the knowledge and resources they need to nurture and rear their children in a safe, stable home environment.

THE ANFRC 25 STANDARDS

In May 2000, the Alabama Legislature passed into law ANFRC's 25 standards for family resource centers. This major milestone protects the integrity of Alabama's family resource center model and ensures the highest quality of service for Alabama families. These standards provide oversight of service delivery, fiscal management, and center administration and accountability. A full list of standards can be viewed at www.anfrc.com.

STRATEGIES

- Case Management
- Information and Referral
- Employability Skills Training
- Job Search
- Post employment services
- Employment Networking
- Emergency Services
- Parenting Education and Support Services
- Marriage and Relationship Skills Training
- Life Skills Training
- Family Literacy
- Early Care and Education
- Youth Empowerment Programs
- After School Programs
- Home Visitation
- Adult Educational Programs (e.g., G.E.D., language, etc...)
- Counseling (e.g., victims of crimes, etc...)
- Health and Wellness Programs

NOTED TOP SUCCESS MEASURES

- Family Resource Center Specific
 - Consumers have access to needed services.
 - Employment - Jobs
 - Families make progress and/or achieve goals.
 - Families are empowered.
 - Children are safe, ready to learn, and stay in school.
 - Adults are healthy, self-sufficient community members.
- The ANFRC Specific
 - Increased collaboration exists among community partners.
 - Community needs are met.
 - Sufficient staff available to fulfill center's goal and carry out programs and services.
 - Increased awareness of ANFRC within Alabama's communities

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

- Interagency collaboration
- Community Education and Training
- Public Presentations
- Committee Memberships and Partnerships

THE ANFRC IMPACT

- Ensure Alabama identified as a national leader for accountability.
- Assist in Alabama meeting federal expectations and mandates.
- Enhance inter-agency partnerships, reducing duplication of services, and maximizing funding dollars.
- Ensure Alabama's citizens receive quality services.
- Increase Alabama' ability to leverage outside dollars.

Family Resource Center Model

Attributes for Successfully Helping Families

Comprehensive & Flexibility

Individualized Support

Strengths-Based & Prevention-Focused

Collaboration Across Systems & Disciplines

Family Focused

Relentless Problem Solving

Figure 1: ANFRC Operating Model