

VSACT 17 May Meeting Notes

- Welcome
 - Discussion of Steering Committee meeting: we need more steering committee members! Please contact Katie Martin at Katherine.Martin@bellcounty.texas.gov if you're interested!
 - Brief introductions of everyone within the room
- Guest Speaker: Elizabeth Rains, Military Family Specialist II: Operation Strong Families at STARRY
 - Who We Are
 - STARRY itself has been around for a few decades
 - The mission at STARRY is to support kids and children, and families in crisis, while improving their situations. They also hope to prevent child abuse while building bridges of communication. STARRY strives for collaboration as well.
 - In regards to the Operation Strong Families grant, they do have a monthly military organization meeting (slated within their contract). Definitely reach out to Ms. Rains—contact information below—if you're interested in attending
 - Operation Strong Families started October 2016 at STARRY
 - Serves Bell County and outlier regions (Completely mobile and flexible: could meet a 6PM at a Chic Fil A, even)
 - No cost to clients: funded by DFPS
 - *Any military status or discharge (literally if the individual only served one day and is dishonorably discharged, can still qualify)*
 - Includes divorced spouses
 - Do require that there's at least one child in the home at least part-time for family therapy
 - Confidential
 - Completely confidential, of course, unless individuals are at harm to themselves or others or if there's instances of any type of abuse occurring
 - No referral
 - Depending on the needs of the family, could also combine services from Operation Strong Families as well as STARRY (play therapy, etc.)
 - *Free*
 - Parents as Teachers – main program that Operation Strong Families utilizes
 - Requires: Children at the prenatal age through 5 years old
 - Mobile personal visits
 - 3 parts to this visit:
 - Parent-child interaction, development-centered parenting (discuss the importance of sleep, routine, etc.; discussing how to address transitions), and family well-being (education, employment, referral to resources, etc.)
 - Assess for developmental delays

For additional questions, Elizabeth may be contacted at the following:

Elizabeth Rains, MA, LPC-Intern

STARRY

Military Family Specialist II: Operation Strong Families

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