

## **STABLE Families**

651 Pennsylvania Ave SE  
Washington, DC 20003  
Phone: (202) 543-9355

Project Director  
Melissa Sellevaag, LICSW  
MSellevaag@whitman-walker.org

Project Evaluator  
Jeffrey Menzer  
jmenzer@metroteenaids.org

Sponsoring Organization  
Metro TeenAIDS  
Whitman-Walker Health

### **History & Overview**

STABLE Families was developed and implemented by Metro TeenAIDS (MTA), an award-winning community health organization dedicated to partnering with young people to end HIV/AIDS. Through education, support, and advocacy, MTA worked to prevent the transmission of HIV; promote healthy behaviors and relationships; and improve the quality of life for all young people, including those affected by HIV/AIDS. MTA envisioned an HIV/AIDS-free generation where young people thrive as healthy and safe members of a community free of stigma and barriers. After a long history of informal and formal partnership Whitman-Walker Health (WWH) and Metro TeenAIDS (MTA) entered into a new strategic collaboration to provide HIV and other health and wellness programs and services to young people and their families in the nation's capital. Effective February 1, 2015 MTA became part of Whitman-Walker Health. MTA employees joined WWH and brought their youth-focused expertise to the health center. MTA's programs and services, including the S.T.A.B.L.E Families program continued to operate out of the existing MTA site in Southeast Washington.

Whitman-Walker Health, established in 1978, is a non-profit comprehensive primary care health center specializing in HIV care and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender health care. WWH continues to care for all DC residents and is one of the largest nongovernmental HIV and AIDS medical and service organizations in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. The health center provides primary care to 2% of the District's population and HIV care to 19% of persons living with HIV/AIDS in DC. WWH offers an integrated service delivery model of care centered on a patient-centered primary medical home concept at two readily accessible sites in DC. The health center was recently recertified by HRSA as a Federally-Qualified Health Center Look-Alike, a federal designation that provides additional financial benefits to institutions that strengthen the overall care model. WWH is recognized as an important community leader and partner in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

### **Service Delivery Model**

STABLE Families is a community-based collaborative model that works across systems to ensure high-quality coordinated service provision to families affected by HIV and/or substance abuse. Enrolled families are wrapped in care to ensure that the entire family is supported and able to continue to provide for the safety and well-being of their children. Based on comprehensive assessments and the

results of completed inventories, families are linked to a menu of comprehensive family support services including those provided by the Project as well as those provided by our external partners. These include: therapeutic care coordination, mental health (adult, youth, child), parenting support group, legal services, access to medical services including treatment adherence support, peer social support (adult, youth, child), parent/caregiver education and educational supports. STABLE Families' staff work collaboratively with the family and other service providers involved with the family to create a case plan that is aligned across systems to ensure an efficient and seamless service delivery with the health and well-being of the family at the core.

### **Staffing**

STABLE Families is a collaborative community-based model. As such, the program has a small, on-site staff and many community partners to ensure that the needs of the family are met by the most appropriate provider. The program director (PD) provides overall leadership and direction for the program and builds relationships and partnerships among community providers. The PD is a licensed clinical social worker and provides clinical support to staff and families as needed. The family interventionists provide home-based services to families and coordination among service providers. Mental health services are provided by a licensed clinical social worker through a subcontract with the Wendt Center for Loss and Healing, a nationally recognized provider of trauma informed mental health services. Individualized mental health services are available for children, youth, and adults enrolled in the program. Through a subcontract with the Foster and Adoptive Parent Advocacy Center, the program coordinator, parenting coach and deputy director provide services to parents and caregivers, including the implementation of an evidenced-based program, parent/caregiver support groups and a peer-to-peer mentoring program. The program evaluator provides support with data collection and dissemination. Through community partnerships and MOUs additional supports are provided for families including legal services, afterschool programming, primary medical care, and educational services.

### **Community Collaboration**

Community collaboration is central to the STABLE Families program model. Service providers and community agencies across service systems have multiple opportunities for collaborative partnerships and involvement in the project. Through service alignment and case coordination, the family interventionists work closely with service providers involved with STABLE Families' families. This provides an opportunity for the service providers to collectively and collaboratively work with the families in the most efficient and productive manner possible. STABLE Families also works with community partners to ensure service alignment on a community level. Through engagement in community working groups and coalitions the Project is able to advocate for and work towards systemic level change for multi system involved families.

### **Evaluation/Outcomes**

The project evaluation measures the attainment of project goals and participant outcomes that include: engagement with medical, mental health, and substance abuse treatment; knowledge and skills in parenting; improvements in health, including viral suppression; and the establishment of permanency plans for children of parents/caregivers affected by HIV/AIDS. Additionally, the evaluation will assess changes and improvements in multi-system coordination and the ability to access needed services. Client and collaborator satisfaction will be assessed. The evaluation utilizes WWH's web-based application, Apricot, to collect and document client and service information and to facilitate collaboration among project partners.