

Children Exposed to Domestic Violence:

UNDERSTANDING THE COMMUNITY SERVICE RESPONSE AND NEEDS IN TEXAS

Goals & Impact: Children & Parenting Services

Goal 1: Family Stabilization and Safety 		
SERVICES	SKILLS AND ACTIVITIES	POTENTIAL IMPACT
<p>Address basic needs The basic needs of parents and children seeking DV services are vast and include diapers, car seats, clothes, shoes, food, furniture, school supplies and technology. Agencies are providing these material resources for families; but the needs outweigh the resources available.</p> <p>Availability is moderate- many agencies offer this service but need outweighs demand.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: flex; justify-content: space-around; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;"> LIMITED MODERATE GOOD </div>	<p>DV agencies provide cash assistance, help with debt relief, vouchers for resources, direct supplies, and donated items to families.</p>	<p>Basic need provision allows youth and parents to focus on other aspects of their lives and achieve greater stability.</p> <div style="background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 10px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%; border: 1px solid #ccc;"> <p><i>“This is better than I expected from an agency that helps kids out. I am safe, they help us with food, clothing, and honestly, I don’t know how else they could help us.” - Youth</i></p> </div>
<p>Safety planning with both parents and children Agencies provide developmentally appropriate safety planning for youth, parents, and families that are inclusive of safety regarding DV and community-related concerns. Over 71% of DV staff surveyed report doing safety planning with youth.</p> <p>Availability is moderate- many agencies offer this service but capacity should be increased statewide as consistent agency practice.</p>	<p>Safety planning is done with youth and parents to address safety needs. Ex.</p> <div style="background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 10px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%; border: 1px solid #ccc;"> <p><i>“We ask them questions like, “Who do you trust? Who do you feel safe with?” “Why do you feel safe?” They’ll say what makes them feel safe. From that young age of four, they know. The mom’s part is, “Okay, who can you go to if you feel like you can’t go to the—” then that’s when we open up to the schools and talk about the police</i></p> </div>	<p>Safety planning increases family conversations about needs, provides skills to address harm, and can empower youth to increase protective factors.</p>

The full report reference is:

Wood., L., McGiffert, M., Wasim, A., Hairston, D., Backes, B., Baumler, E., & Faulkner, M. (2021). Children Exposed to Domestic Violence: Understanding the Community Service Response and Needs in Texas-Project Technical Report. Center for Violence Prevention; The University of Texas Medical Branch.

Contact Information: Please contact Leila Wood at leiwood@utmb.edu with questions or inquiries.

<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">LIMITED</td> <td style="width: 33%; background-color: #d9ead3;">MODERATE</td> <td style="width: 33%;">GOOD</td> </tr> </table>	LIMITED	MODERATE	GOOD	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>or goin' to—findin' a code word to say—and talk with the parents or makin' up a code word.” -Staff</i></p>	
LIMITED	MODERATE	GOOD			
<p>Housing Housing stability is one of the primary needs that staff, parents, and youth identified. The lack of affordable housing, especially for single parents with multiple children, is a critical issue across the state. Over 84% of agencies surveyed offer emergency shelter for families and 53.8% have other housing programs.</p> <p>Availability is limited- some agencies offer this service but need far outweighs demand.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%; background-color: #d9ead3;">LIMITED</td> <td style="width: 33%;">MODERATE</td> <td style="width: 33%;">GOOD</td> </tr> </table>	LIMITED	MODERATE	GOOD	<p>DV agencies are able to provide families short-term shelter stays and longer-term housing for some families. Housing remedies offered include shelter, rapid rehousing (RRH) vouchers, long-term permanent supportive housing, and transitional housing, often with supportive case management/advocacy for parents and some services for children.</p>	<p>Agencies that provide long-term housing to families have the potential for significant positive impact on the youth that they serve developmentally over time. Housing is a powerful violence prevention tool for families.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“I need a place for me and my son to stay. As far as parenting needs right now, that’s about the only thing that I’m needing.” -Parent</i></p>
LIMITED	MODERATE	GOOD			
<p>Childcare Childcare is the second most requested service and the hardest one to access. Access issues intensified during COVID-19. Just over 40% of DV agencies surveyed offer any type of onsite childcare program.</p> <p>Availability is limited- some agencies offer a linkage to childcare vouchers or referrals but need far outweighs demand.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%; background-color: #d9ead3;">LIMITED</td> <td style="width: 33%;">MODERATE</td> <td style="width: 33%;">GOOD</td> </tr> </table>	LIMITED	MODERATE	GOOD	<p>Comprehensive childcare is typically not available in DV agencies. Affordable, trauma-informed childcare options that understand the dynamics of DV and impacts on children are greatly needed in communities across Texas.</p>	<p>When DV agencies are able to provide childcare or link families with affordable, trauma-informed care in their communities, it is life-changing.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“I get childcare. That’s a big thing for me... that’s pretty huge because I have the two-year-old, and I do have my children on virtual, so they can go up there and get help when I’m not feeling well.” -Parent</i></p>
LIMITED	MODERATE	GOOD			
<p>Orientation to services for children and parents Orientation briefs children and parents about services available, access to resources, and conduct rights and responsibilities. Nearly 60% of DV staff report offering this service to residential youth clients.</p>	<p>Orientation methods vary based on setting, but typically involve written and verbal information and initial conversations about goals and needs.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“Some of the typical things that will happen is meeting with that parent, meeting with the kiddos, helping meet their basic needs. If it’s</i></p>	<p>Orientation to services can be done with parents and children together and can lead to a greater understanding of the services offered. Taking the time to orient children to their options helps mitigate the fears they may have about accessing services or going to a shelter.</p>			

Availability is **moderate**- many agencies offer this service, but capacity should be increased statewide as consistent agency practice.

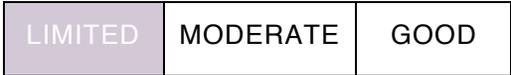


anything related to toiletry items and clothes to social, emotional needs, they may be paired up to do some one-on-one mentoring some one-on-one, just helping them process and talk about what it is that has brought them into shelter. Doing some safety planning with them.” -Staff

Onsite school and academics

Only 9% of surveyed DV agencies offer schooling onsite for children in their services. However, 55% of agencies surveyed offer after school tutoring and learning support for shelter residents and 15% for nonresidential clients. 20% of DV agencies with transitional housing also provide these services. During COVID-19, many agencies pivoted their educational and respite care programs to serving children learning online.

Availability is **limited**- a few agencies offer this service but need far outweighs demand.



Schools and educational services are typically offered in a trauma-informed approach, recognizing the role of DV and other harm in youth educational experiences.

“I can really tailor what I’m doing in the classroom to what that child is ready to learn so that child can be successful, and so that we can build those skills that he or she is going— even if their basic skills that they didn’t get because of what they were experiencing before at home, they need those skills in order to move on and be successful in that grade is my philosophy. I think that experience of success in the classroom will help them have a better attitude going into their next classroom as well.” -Staff

The flexibility of having multiple school options for families helps them seek safety and stability and having choices is important to survivor parents and their children.

“...sometimes 'cause I am virtual too, they'll have a place where we can go and sit quietly and do our work for half of the day, then we go home. Oh, yeah, they help us with school.” - Youth

Goal 2: Healing from Trauma and Adverse Events



SERVICES	SKILLS AND ACTIVITIES	POTENTIAL IMPACT
<p>Child, Parent and Family Counseling</p> <p>Counseling (or therapy) is both the most offered and the most needed service. These are the services that parents request for their children the most and what staff perceive children need. Over 78% (n = 51) of surveyed agencies offer counseling for youth.</p> <p>Availability is moderate- many agencies offer this service but need outweighs demand.</p> <div data-bbox="159 699 724 773" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: flex; justify-content: space-around; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;"> LIMITED MODERATE GOOD </div>	<p>Counseling is used to help heal from trauma symptoms and to gain protective strategies. Staff may use evidence-based counseling approaches such as EMDR; TBRI, CBT; play therapy.</p> <div data-bbox="800 423 1310 695" style="background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 10px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;"> <p><i>“At least just finding him some type of counseling, some type of support with his mental health, and just overall in general, just trying to help him, because I don’t want him to go to school and think a lot of the stuff that he’s seen or have heard is okay.” -Parent</i></p> </div>	<p>Staff, parents, and youth overwhelmingly report counseling as helpful to healing, especially long-term.</p> <div data-bbox="1409 370 1955 451" style="background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 10px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;"> <p><i>“I go to therapy, they help me there... it’s very useful for me.” -Youth</i></p> </div>
<p>Child, Parent, and Family Support Groups</p> <p>Support groups are offered typically by age or topic, mostly for pre-teens and teens. Some are provided with parallel classes for parents and children on similar topics. Many of these services stopped or went online during COVID-19. The majority of DV staff (72%) report offering support groups to residential clients.</p> <div data-bbox="191 1101 699 1372" style="background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 10px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;"> <p><i>“Because the whole purpose of a peer class, whether it’s for adults or children, is that you have other people there that have been up through the same kind or similar experience as you that can speak life into that and their experiences.” -Staff</i></p> </div> <p>Availability is moderate- many agencies offer this service, but capacity should be</p>	<p>Support group models for youth vary, typically using peer and/or therapeutic models to reduce isolation and increase skills.</p> <div data-bbox="800 919 1310 1349" style="background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 10px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;"> <p><i>“We do a children’s group for the children that are present. It is a educational group. If the adult’s group is learning about trauma, and how it affects them, and how it manifests itself in their life, then the children are doing the same thing in a child-friendly version. When the parent and the child get out of those classes, they can—they’re gonna be talking about the same thing, it’s just one of ‘em is in a child-friendly language” -Staff</i></p> </div>	<p>Support groups were identified as having as positive impact by staff and youth participants.</p> <div data-bbox="1409 894 1955 1474" style="background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 10px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;"> <p><i>“With hearing the other people’s stories. I don’t wanna say stories, backgrounds, there you go, backgrounds of what’s happened to them. I’m just like, oh, I can relate to that. I see why they act they do because of how they grew up. I can’t blame people for how they grow up and how they act now, because they’ve been taught one type of way of love and respect, and that’s what they grow up with...unless they grow out of their environment and see that there’s not just, oh, that’s not how love is supposed to go, or that’s not how respect is given or received. Then they learn. I guess <peer support program> shows that, it</i></p> </div>

<p>increased statewide as consistent agency practice.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="163 204 724 269"> <tr> <td>LIMITED</td> <td>MODERATE</td> <td>GOOD</td> </tr> </table>	LIMITED	MODERATE	GOOD		<p><i>could show this, and you think, oh, so there is a different way than what I've seen in my household." -Youth</i></p>
LIMITED	MODERATE	GOOD			
<p>Child, Parent and Family Case management/advocacy</p> <p>Child advocacy services operate both on an individual child level, addressing the goals of youth, and on a system level, supporting children exposed to domestic violence and their needs in the community. Nearly all (96.9%) of surveyed agencies offer this service.</p> <p>Availability is good- nearly all agencies offer this service- but more staff is needed specifically focused on long-term family needs.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="163 857 724 930"> <tr> <td>LIMITED</td> <td>MODERATE</td> <td>GOOD</td> </tr> </table>	LIMITED	MODERATE	GOOD	<p>The DV service model is a voluntary model that allows for agency and choice in programming engagement. Youth advocacy models focus on voice, inclusion, education, and youth goal-making. Ex.</p> <p><i>"I take every opportunity I'm able to include the children in that conversation, whether this is a 2-year-old or a 10-year-old or a 15-year-old, and it think—I hate talking to mom about kids, especially when those kids are right there. I like engaging with the children and modeling that with mom as much as possible, and I like hearing and trying to create spaces for them and create sometimes even breaks for mom where you just go deal with you and let us talk to the kids and see what's going on with the kids.</i></p> <p><i>-Staff</i></p>	<p>Advocates work to secure basic needs and educational remedies for youth, and help navigate larger systems such as schools, disability and mental health services, and court systems. They also work to meet youth goals. One youth explained that her advocate,</p> <p><i>"...stays on me about my grades. Yeah. It's really helped me get to my goals. It really did. Yeah." A parent shared "...Whatever the children's needs are, they have an advocate that will meet with them and try and help 'em get their goals met.</i></p>
LIMITED	MODERATE	GOOD			

Goal 3: Building Healthy Connections		
SERVICES	SKILLS AND ACTIVITIES	POTENTIAL IMPACT
<p>Parenting classes</p> <p>Some DV agencies offer parenting class, which focus on the needs of children and families in the aftermath of DV. Many classes transitioned online during COVID-19. The vast majority of reported parenting classes were offered in the context of CPS involvement. 66% of DV agencies surveyed provided parenting classes.</p> <p>Availability is moderate- many agencies offer this service but need outweighs demand.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: flex; justify-content: space-around; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;"> LIMITED MODERATE GOOD </div>	<p>Classes focus on parenting skills needed after DV; trauma recovery; addressing behavior related to violence exposure; family bonding and attachment; parental rights, and reengagement after separation.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%; background-color: #f0f0f0;"> <p><i>“The stress that comes is normal. Stress in life and parenting is. To have a support system, and for us to feel lucky enough to be part of their support system—the bonding and relationships that can happen in this program are amazing.” -Staff</i></p> </div>	<p>Parenting classes offer skills, support, and stability.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%; background-color: #f0f0f0;"> <p><i>“...just the fact that we’re stable. We’re stable. I don’t have a support system, and the group is my support system, you know? I didn’t know where we would be sleeping, where we would be eating, and I don’t have that worry anymore because I know it’s being taken care of. That’s the big one for me.” -Parent.</i></p> </div>
<p>Help-seeking support</p> <p>Staff helped parents and youth engage with potential informal and formal support networks to get needs met.</p> <p>Availability is moderate- many agencies offer this service, but capacity should be increased statewide as consistent agency practice.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: flex; justify-content: space-around; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;"> LIMITED MODERATE GOOD </div>	<p>Skills that help build family and youth ability to seek help include locating trusted sources; education about service availability; and identifying safe informal support networks.</p>	<p>Youth support in help-seeking has long-term benefits of building a safety net.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%; background-color: #f0f0f0;"> <p><i>“One goal of getting kids in services is to have a template of formal help-seeking support so when they are older they can use it again.” -Staff</i></p> </div>
<p>Youth recreation and development activities</p> <p>Several DV agencies offer some type of youth development and recreation programming, including after-school care, summer programming, and field trips. Activities typically center on youth but may involve parents. During COVID-19, these activities all but stopped. Over 55% of</p>	<p>Youth programming has multiple benefits of creating opportunities for positive youth and academic development, for play, which is vital for children’s healing from trauma, and offering respite care for parents. Ex.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%; background-color: #f0f0f0;"> <p><i>“We also have a summer program, a pretty extensive summer program that we offer. If we have families in</i></p> </div>	<p>In addition to providing care, development and recreation programming reduces isolation and builds connection.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%; background-color: #f0f0f0;"> <p><i>“Really trying to balance it to just be fun, but also hopefully exposing them to some things that they might not have typically been able to do just because of the violence that’s</i></p> </div>

<p>agencies report offering after school programming.</p> <p>Availability is moderate- many agencies offer this service but need outweighs demand.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="191 326 697 402"> <tr> <td>LIMITED</td> <td>MODERATE</td> <td>GOOD</td> </tr> </table>	LIMITED	MODERATE	GOOD	<p><i>shelter during the summer and they have school-aged kids, then we'll do a longer day of some academic enrichment and then social rec, which might include field trips, fun trips to pools or parks, movies, things like that." -Staff</i></p>	<p><i>happening at home, the isolation that might have been happening at home. The isolation that might have been happening at home. We'll try to create opportunities for them to do some things that they might not have been able to before." -Staff</i></p>
LIMITED	MODERATE	GOOD			
<p><i>Mentoring</i></p> <p>Some agencies are providing mentoring opportunities for children. Children are matched with a staff or volunteer mentor to build supportive connections and develop new skills. Agencies may partner with existing mentoring programs to provide this service. Over 35% of DV staff surveyed reported mentoring services are available at their agency for youth in residential services.</p> <p>Availability is limited- a few agencies offer this service, but need far outweighs demand.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="191 992 697 1068"> <tr> <td>LIMITED</td> <td>MODERATE</td> <td>GOOD</td> </tr> </table>	LIMITED	MODERATE	GOOD	<p>Youth exposed to DV need trusted adults and mentors that understand the unique context of abusive relationships and understand trauma and safety concerns.</p> <p><i>"they may be paired up to do some one-on-one mentoring some one-on-one, just helping them process and talk about what it is that has brought them into shelter." -Staff</i></p>	<p>Mentorship builds connection, reduces isolation, and builds strengths.</p> <p><i>"They have supported me, and they have helped me to improve my strengths." -Youth</i></p>
LIMITED	MODERATE	GOOD			

Goal 4: Prevention of Future Violence



SERVICES	SKILLS AND ACTIVITIES	POTENTIAL IMPACT
<p>Prevention programming DV agencies provide healthy relationships and violence prevention in schools, youth serving agencies, in juvenile detention centers, and with children living in their residential services. The vast majority (95%) of surveyed agencies offer some type of prevention programming. Over 72% of DV staff report offering healthy relationships education.</p> <p>Availability is moderate- many agencies offer this service, but capacity should be increased statewide as consistent agency practice.</p> <div data-bbox="163 706 724 779" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> LIMITED MODERATE GOOD </div>	<p>Programming approaches vary from established multi-session evidence-based curriculums like Safe Dates or Expect Respect, to agency-developed programming and one-time sessions aimed at awareness building. Prevention programming focuses on healthy relationships, conflict resolution, and identifying abuse.</p>	<p>Prevention efforts strive to prevent the first instance of violence (primary prevention) or preventing violence from happening again (secondary/tertiary). An example of program impacts</p> <div data-bbox="1411 376 1955 586" style="background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid #ccc;"> <p><i>“Our leader really gives us good insight on how to go about building a healthy foundation in a relationship and how to know when it's becoming too much and when it's becoming dangerous.” -Youth</i></p> </div>
<p>Comprehensive civil legal aid This involves remedies that use legal systems to prevent future violence. Divorce, custody, protective orders (POs), and immigration aid are the most common forms of support. While more and more DV agencies are providing these services; they often have long waiting lists and the demand outweighs the availability.</p> <p>Availability is moderate- many agencies offer this service but need outweighs demand.</p> <div data-bbox="163 1226 724 1299" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> LIMITED MODERATE GOOD </div>	<p>Legal aid focused on children centers on safety related to the partner/parent using violence, family protection, and preventing eviction or deportation. Frequent skills used by DV staff include assistance with getting protective orders that also protect the children, getting safe child support, access and visitation orders around custody, and assistance with U and T visas.</p> <div data-bbox="800 1062 1310 1365" style="background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid #ccc;"> <p><i>“We do have our legal department and it's actually on the other side of the shelter, but they do work closely with our clients. Especially, if they're undocumented, if they want a protective order, and custody. We do have lawyers or attorneys that assist with that.” - Staff</i></p> </div>	<p>If survivor parents can get a PO or other civil remedies for themselves and their children, it can help with family safety and stability.</p> <div data-bbox="1411 902 1955 1112" style="background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid #ccc;"> <p><i>“we are good now because the whole process of the violence is almost over. They have helped us a lot here, but for my partner and my son, I placed a restraining order for the children and me.” -Parent</i></p> </div> <div data-bbox="1411 1174 1955 1446" style="background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid #ccc;"> <p><i>“The child support, <DV staff names> helped advocate for me to get the lawyer there at the battered women's shelter. I had <lawyer name> represent me...even though I had the protection order already—I officially got sole custody of my kids now. I have that.” -Parent</i></p> </div>

Goal 5: Advocacy and Education in broader systems for trauma informed and equity focused support



SERVICES	SKILLS AND ACTIVITIES	POTENTIAL IMPACT
<p>Information and referrals DV agencies cannot provide everything and will most likely not be in families' lives long-term. Because of this, referrals to other services are vital to help build community, support and break isolation. During COVID-19, many services were halted or reduced, negatively impacting families. Over 72% of DV staff surveyed report working with youth to identify resources. Availability is moderate- many agencies offer this service, but capacity should be increased statewide as consistent agency practice.</p> <div data-bbox="153 704 735 781" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> LIMITED MODERATE GOOD </div>	<p>Information and referrals to community resources, such as mental health and psychiatric resources, are vital for survivor parents and their children.</p> <div data-bbox="800 386 1310 724" style="background-color: #d3d3d3; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid #ccc;"> <p><i>"...if there's something in terms of needing to connect them to counseling or psychiatry services or getting them enrolled in school or being referred to any other agencies out in the community that might be able to provide them some support as well. Doing a lot of information and referral to the parent." -Staff</i></p> </div>	<p>Staff and parents identified successful referrals as ones where staff supported families by going with them to connect with resources, had direct knowledge about how resources work, and/or had a connection at the referrals source.</p> <div data-bbox="1413 440 1955 553" style="background-color: #d3d3d3; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid #ccc;"> <p><i>"I would say <agency name> gave me a lot of great referrals. I don't need too much more." -Parent</i></p> </div>
<p>CPS work More and more families seeking DV agencies services are CPS involved. Agencies have developed specialized services and intensive advocacy programs as well as MOUs and CPS liaisons to help navigate this system. During COVID-19, the number of referrals from CPS decreased. Availability is moderate- many agencies offer this service but need outweighs demand.</p> <div data-bbox="170 1198 716 1274" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> LIMITED MODERATE GOOD </div>	<p>CPS work involves enhanced CPS liaisons, parenting classes, education and advocacy with survivor parents within and about navigating the CPS system (with investigations, family-based safety services, alternative response, and conservatorship), subject matter expertise within CPS services such as family team meetings, and training CPS staff.</p>	<p>CPS work aims to give survivor parents voice in the process, educate CPS on DV dynamics, and improve whole family safety. As one staff described,</p> <div data-bbox="1413 927 1955 1073" style="background-color: #d3d3d3; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid #ccc;"> <p><i>"If we enhance the adult victimized parent's safety, it's automatically going to enhance the child's safety and well-being for the future." Staff</i></p> </div>

Educational Advocacy

DV agencies provide advocacy and linkage with schools on behalf of survivor parents and their children. Safety issues, homeless rights, included in the McKinney Vento Act for homeless children, and disability rights are areas of concern for parents. During COVID, DV agencies had to shift how they support children with their education to online formats and reported decreased collaboration with schools.

Availability is **moderate**- many agencies offer this service but need outweighs demand.



One staff described school-based advocacy:

"We do have a good partnership with our local school district. Their housing homeless youth program works very closely us, especially at our shelter. We're collaborative members in a coalition together, so we do a lot of monthly check-ins."

Through school-based advocacy, parents and youth are given information and tools to advocate for needs and resources, and address family safety concerns. School-based advocacy supports academic engagement for youth and increases the support network for families.