December 7, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been a Home Visitor for the Family School Connection through the Middletown Board of Education since we were awarded the grant for this program. Let me begin by stating I took this position coming from programs that were strictly based on intervention. When I saw the opportunity to involve myself in a program such as the Family School Connection that gives individuals like myself the opportunity to come into a families life and become a prevention based program, and prevent some of the traumatic things that I have seen in my career with families, and children I jumped at the chance to be a part of this program.

Upon taking this position, I have seen the direct effect that this program has on the families we serve by providing resources in desperately needed areas of their lives, being an extra support system in their lives, and most of all initiating the process of helping the families find strengths in all aspects of their lives that they never knew that they had. Taking these steps with the family has such a huge effect on the families as a whole. Parents have found employment, families have made the decision to further their education, everyone in the household has a voice and an appreciation for one another.

Most recently I was assigned a family that had truancy issues with the target child. We as a team worked together to create an action plan that targeted this area. The mother admittedly stated that consistency on her part was an issue, but through creating this action plan, and stressing the importance of the target childs education we were able to see a dramatic turn in this childs attendance. Since then the family has remained consistant, and the target child has had no issues of truancy.

All of these factors have made for great outcomes not only for the families in the home but for the target children in school behaviorally, and academically. Students are coming to school more frequent, and on time. Students have made tremendous strides academically, and test scores are steadily increasing.

I do believe that by making cuts to programs that provide services for families in need would be detrimental not only to the families in need but increase the likelihood of families, and children taking steps backward instead of making the progress we have seen, and all that they are capable of.

Thank you,

Thomas A. Baggiero
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