

County celebrates completion of Family Services Center

By Carrie Walsh

The official ribbon cutting and open house marking the completion of the Family Services Center was held on Thursday. The six-acre campus features two buildings that house 15 community organizations who have committed to an integrated client service model.

In our increasingly interconnected world, addressing social services requires a strategic and multifaceted approach. The Family Services Center will provide a centralized location for local governments and nonprofit organizations to take on pivotal roles in supporting individuals and families, particularly when it comes to addressing trauma and its far-reaching effects. Collaborating not only enhances effectiveness and efficiency of services, but also fosters resilience and stability within the community. By working together, clients achieve stability much faster.

Every agency at the Family Services Center has committed to a trauma-informed approach to assisting clients. Each day, our partners and staff see the widespread impact of trauma and seek to understand, recognize, and respond appropriately to its effects. We have worked to make this campus welcoming and emphasize safety, trustworthiness, collaboration, empowerment and cultural sensitivity in delivering services. Historically, local government agencies and nonprofit organizations have often operated in silos, with limited communication and collaboration. This fragmented approach can result in an impersonal experience with duplicated efforts, gaps in services and inefficient use of resources. Moreover, it fails to address the interconnected nature of social issues, including trauma, which requires a holistic and coordinated response.

By collaborating and co-locating on one campus, local government agencies and nonprofit organizations can leverage their respective strengths and resources to provide more comprehensive and effective support to our residents in need. Nonprofits often possess specialized expertise, community connections, and flexibility in service delivery, while local governments bring institutional support and infrastructure. Together, they now offer a system of care that addresses the diverse needs of our county, which is reflected in our shared purpose: Strengthening the fabric of our community by empowering people to help themselves and each other.

With the completion of the second building, space is available for additional leased partners. Organizations are invited to submit an application for consideration of tenancy at the Family Services Center for the purpose of integration with other health and human services organizations. The selected organizations will join 15 other agencies delivering coordinated services to youth, families, seniors, disabled adults and veterans. Space is limited. Applications and requirements are available on the Family Services Center page on the county website at www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov/FSC.

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