

POLICY AND PROCEDURE FOR SOCIAL SUPPORT GROUPS

POLICY: Social support groups are an opportunity for families to develop new skills and develop relationships with others that may share the same healthy interests. By families building relationships and networking with one another, this will lead to more friends, and less social and cultural isolation, thus increasing strengthening/protective factors in the prevention of ATOD and child abuse.

PROCEDURE:

1. Parent Surveys will be completed at the beginning of the year to gauge interest in the different types of support groups offered.
2. A social support group facilitator will be identified depending on the topic and the community.
3. The facilitator will schedule a support group based on the best times identified by the families.
4. The dates and times of the support groups will be publicized to the families in that community and the dates will also be given to the Community Development Manager.
5. Support groups will have 4-8 classes.
6. Priority for participating in support groups will be given to all UMCHS families and families in targeted revitalization neighborhoods.
7. At the completion of the support group, evaluations will be completed and turned into the Community Development Manager.

Social Support Group topics may include the following: Parenting the Difficult Child, Stress Management, Cooking, Scrapbooking, Auto Mechanical Services, Sewing/Quilting, Knitting, Simple Home Repair, Gardening, and Photography.