

STRONGER FAMILIES MILWAUKEE

Public Policy Institute

Community Advocates



**STRONGER
FAMILIES**

Overview

Stronger Families Milwaukee is a voluntary program that provides resources to families to try and prevent further involvement with child protective services.

- Referrals are sent to SFM from CPS, initial assessment specialists.
- The family is contacted to confirm interest in joining the program.
- They are then assigned to an Engagement Specialist.
- Engagement Specialist sets up the first visit. (completion of enrollment forms and ASSM)

Charity Tracker

- **Personal Info**
 - Demographics, Enrollment Status, Assigned Workers
- **Notes**
- **Enrollment forms**
 - ROI, Family Contract, Service Plan, Termination policy
- **Relationships**
- **Assistance**
 - request/referrals and SFM assistance
- **Outcomes**
- **Assessments**
- **Alerts**
- **Appointments**

Peer Advocates

Neu Life Community Dev.	The Parenting Network
<ul style="list-style-type: none">-One Youth Peer Advocates-Speaks with parents about child's needs. Will refer out if NL isn't the best fit.-Brings family in for a site visit and completes enrollment. Discusses transportation.-All programs are available to them. They can attend as little or as much as they want.-Youth-staff positions-Connection to external resources (clothing & school supplies)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-One Parent Peer Advocate-Meets with parent(s) to go over goals/needs. Explains services and role.-Self-care bags-Contacts the department of the programs they are interested in. They call the parent to provide more info.-Keeps parents engaged by meeting with them weekly/as needed. How they are liking the services.-Continuing services after SFM exit

Assessment

The Arizona Self-Sufficiency Matrix (ASSM) is an assessment tool we use to measure each families progress in the program (20 domains, scale 1-100)

-helps the engagement specialist and parent(s) prioritize goals

Arizona Scores from all quarters

Quarter 1: no completions

Quarter 2: 8 of 9 families increased their ASSM score

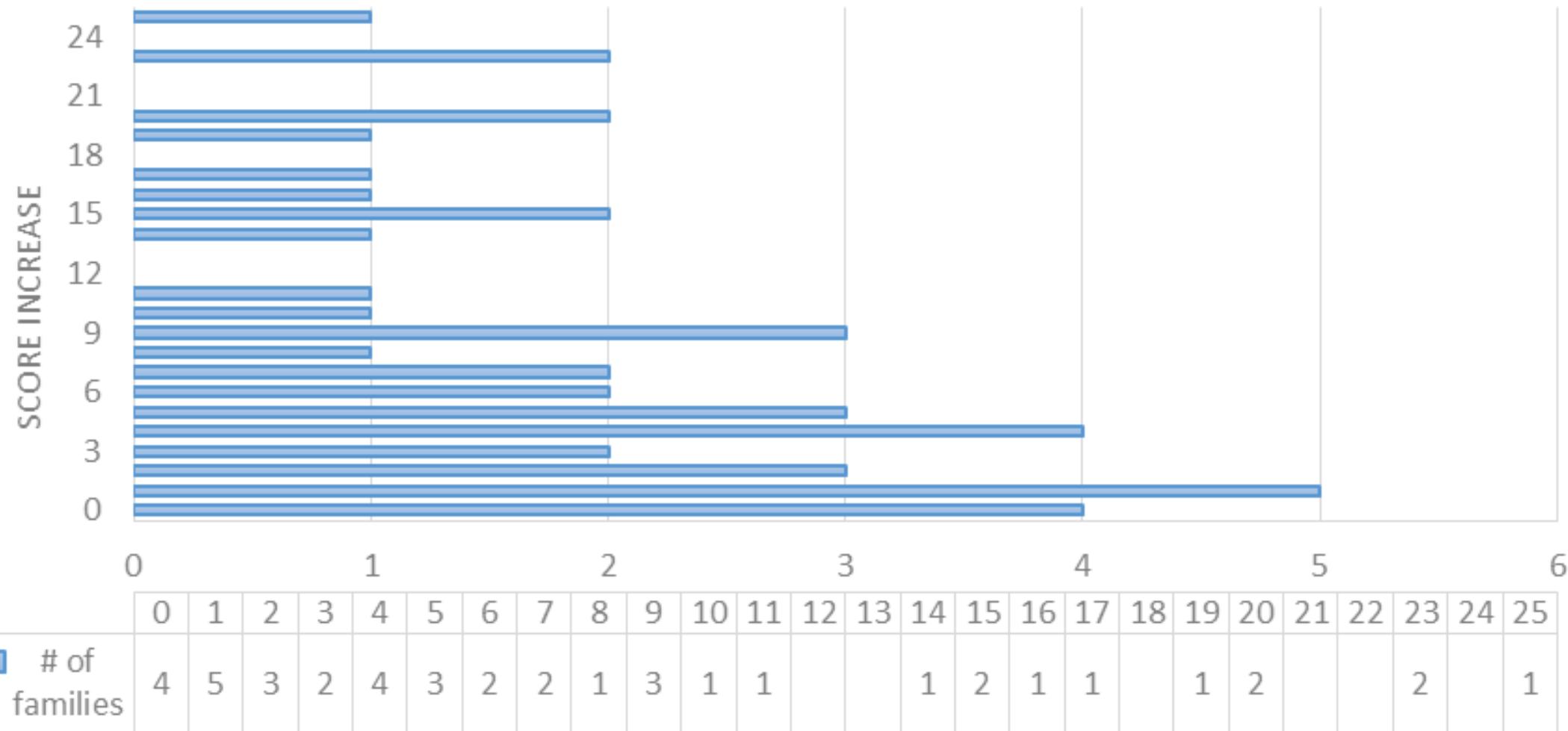
Quarter 3: 8 of 9 families increased their ASSM score

Quarter 4: 13 of 15 families increase their ASSM score

33 families that completed enrollment in the 22-23 program year

-Completed-neutral: 4

-Completed-successful: 29



Post-Completion

- **Surveys**
 - **Early exit**
 - **End of Enrollment**
- **DMCPS checks for screen in post completion**
 - **3 months**
 - **6 months**
- **Focus groups**
 - **1-2 per year**

Yearly Data

PROGRAM YEAR (APRIL 2022-MARCH 2023)

Total families referred in program year=220

Quarter 1 (April-June 2022) =**56**

Quarter 2 (July-Sep 2022) =**47**

Quarter 3 (Oct-Dec 2022) =**49**

Quarter 4 (Jan-March 2023) =**68**

49 Families enrolled in SFM in this program year

-Families that completed enrollment (prior to 3/31/23) =**33 families**

-16 families early exited

Year one-families that completed enrollment and returned to DMCPS (verification completed by DMCPS)

3 Months from discharged date

1 family received a screen in report within 3 months post discharge. No action was taken (assessment completed and case closed)

0 families referred for IHS or Ongoing Services 3 months post program completion

0 families referred for IHS or Ongoing Services 6 months post program completion

Identified Needs

Top 3 Need Identified in all 4 Quarters:

- 1. Housing**
- 2. Parenting Support**
- 3. Counseling Services**

Behavioral Issues/ Anger Management

- Evaluations**
- Parenting Support**

Challenges

- **Housing**
 - **Affordable/quality**
 - **landlord connections**
- **Motivating parents to attend classes**
- **Transportation**
- **Time-restrictions**
 - **Servicing families in 4 months**
- **DV resources**
 - **Shelter space**
- **Therapy**
 - **Access to mental health in a timely fashion**

Accomplishments

- 32 of 33 families avoided re-entry into child welfare system
- Getting parent enrolled into college courses (EPP @ Marquette)
- Relocating family out of state
- Housing (relocation) effect on child's behavioral health
- Sealing eviction judgements
- Bus passes/car repair
- Securing employment
- Nevermore Batterers program
- Developed a group led by two parents to teach new parenting techniques and give general support/advice.

Ronda, her partner, and their five children were all staying in a one-bedroom apartment. With this overcrowding situation there was no such luxury as personal space, which would in any home cause friction amongst family members. This held true and they needed more space.

During her involvement we were able to help her satisfy a three-year-old eviction that was never closed due to a remaining judgment balance and court processing. Paying one of these judgements is confusing, expensive, and even hard to justify when a person is trying to save money to relocate, but without satisfaction even landlords who accept evictions may not move forward with rental applications. This was obstacle we experienced while searching for a place large enough for her family.

After this resolution and towards the end of her enrollment, she independently applied to move into a larger house with her family and was accepted. I sent her resources through St. Vincent DePaul and the Salvation Army to help her further furnish their new home. This family was able to change the situation that may have caused their initial involvement with Child Protective Services through support and guidance from The Stronger Families Program. I am excited to continue to help families move forward.

Goals for Year 2

- Increase number of families that agree to services
- Decrease number of early exits
- Mental health referrals/connections
- More focus groups and peer led discussions
- Increase participation in Neu life services
- Increase referral numbers of The Parenting Network

Thank You

