
The Grow Clinic Coop Experience

— By: Sara Flynn, Human Services —
Sum2/Fall 2019

About the Clinic



- Founded in 1984 by Dr. Deborah Frank
- Serves a diverse population, with a large population of low -income families
- Multidisciplinary team
 - Pediatricians, Nutritionists, Social Workers, Outreach Workers
- The clinic works with patients referred for Failure to Thrive

Family Highlight

Cammy & Yarse



About the CHW



- Founded in 1998 by Dr. Deborah Frank
 - Measures the impact of public policy changes and the impact on the health and wellness of children
 - Publish peer reviewed journals, policy reports, and action briefs
 - Currently 5 research sites
 - Boston, Baltimore, Little Rock, Philadelphia, & Minneapolis
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Program Highlight: Housing Prescriptions as Health Care

“Previous research by Children’s HealthWatch links multiple moves with increased risks of fair or poor child health and developmental delay. Families who are behind on rent are also at risk...”



My goals

1. Learn more about the interventions that staff are implementing with the families they work with in order to move toward their shared goals.
 2. Make patient interactions an opportunity to learn and build connections with the patients.
 3. Learn more about how the social workers function on this team and about the preparation that goes into each appointment with the families.
 4. Continue to build practical skills that aim to assist the social work team in implementing interventions or providing resources.
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How did I spend my time?

- Assist team with Clinic flow
- Prepare developmentally appropriate activities for patients
- Enter patient growth data and appointment attendance into Access
- Calling families to schedule future appointments
- Assist social work team in navigating resources for patients & their families
- Shadow providers during BMC, home, and school visits
- Conduct interviews in Pediatric Emergency Department for CHW

Project Highlight: Thanksgiving Voucher Project

- Number of Families Impacted: **157**
- Envelopes given in Clinic: **62**
- Grocery Store Breakdown:
 - Shaws/Star Market: **\$800**
 - Market Basket: **\$1,520**
 - Stop & Shop: **\$5,180**

TOTAL GIVEN TO FAMILIES:

\$7,500



Project Highlight: Resource Guides

Immigration

Family Incarceration

Homelessness

Coping with Grief

Depression & Mental Illness

Different Emotions

ADHD

Autism Spectrum

Asthma

Starting School

Bullying

New Baby in the Household

Challenges

- Transition into role and unique work environment
 - Witnessing office politics
 - Navigating difficult/uncomfortable situations
 - Advocating for myself and professional development goals
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Key Moments

- Addressing Concerns
- Home Visits
- Conferences & Rounds
 - Immigration
 - Substance Exposed Newborns
 - Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
 - Sickle Cell Disease
- Child Protection Team Meetings
 - Sexual Violence
 - Foster Care System
- Lunch with Social Work Team

Growth

(Heh, get it?)

- Ability to advocate for myself and my goals!
 - Ability to more openly reflect and talk through challenges
 - Gained a LOT of medical, nutritional, and developmental knowledge I did not previously have
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Academic Reflection

Inequality & Policy

- Health Care
- Housing
- Immigration Status

Moving Forward!

Continuing to explore...

Next Semester:

- Medical Advocacy Intern at BARCC
 - Taking an Individual & Group Counseling course
 - Taking Nonprofit Communication course
 - Search for a third (likely international) co -op
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