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Families First for Mississippi | “Making the Connections Between Family Services”

Impacting the Whole Family

Jackson, MS, (9/12/16) – Over the years, Families First for Mississippi has successfully served the State by providing Youth Development and Parenting/Life Skills education. These services are delivered by two community organizations: The Mississippi Community Education Center (MCEC) and the Family Resource Center of Northeast Mississippi (FRC). MCEC and FRC have provided Families First for Mississippi services jointly for over 19 years. The program seeks to strengthen families of all backgrounds and life circumstances by providing youth development and parent education through seminars, workshops, classes, and presentations. The program is in locations such as schools, community centers, churches, and state agency offices. Families First has created a tremendous positive impact across the State, and is now launching additional components to provide more dynamic programs.

MCEC and FRC are excited to announce that Families First for Mississippi is expanding its core services. It is designed to stimulate employment through job readiness, support family financial stability, promote literacy, and increase graduation rates while continuing to support positive youth development, decreasing teen pregnancy rates, promoting positive father involvement, parenting education and parenting skills development. The “whole family” concept will involve all ages as well as utilize partnerships with state and community organizations to fill any gaps and eliminate duplications between services.

Executive Director of MCEC Jackson, Dr. Nancy New and Executive Director of FRC Tupelo, Christi Webb explain, “*Our main goal for Families First for Mississippi is to impact the entire family by offering direct services and connecting the dots between all of the Mississippi family programs.*” This is the program’s largest challenge. It is crucial to join together the existing services to help accomplish the mission and purpose of Families First for Mississippi. MCEC and FRC are reaching out to other providers such as community colleges, higher education, non-profits, state agencies, churches, schools, businesses, and other leaders in the community in order to bridge the gap. Together these partnerships will strengthen families and highly impact the well-being of the State of Mississippi.