

United Way of Laramie County End-of Year Report

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Agency Name: Safe Harbor Program: Supervised Visitation/Supervised Exchange Program Reporting Period: Jan - Dec 20

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Agency Mission/Vision: The mission of Safe Harbor's supervised visitation program is to provide a safe, neutral and secure environment for parents and children to maintain and/or re-establish a connection with each other.

Community Issue Program Targets: Helping Children and Youth Achieve Their Full Potential

Program Target Population: Safe Harbor serves the entire community of Laramie County. Safe Harbor provides a safe and nurturing environment for supervised visitation and safe exchanges between children (0 - adolescents) and their parents (adult-child bearing age) when: ordered by the court system, following a divorce, foster care placement, or other legal actions separating children from their parents or individuals from each other. Supervised exchanges primarily occur when there are domestic violence issues or protection orders in place.

Program Significance to the Community
• Safe Harbor's Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Program primary focus is "Helping Children and Youth Achieve Their Full Potential." Our Supervised Visitation Program has a strong focus on increasing the parenting skills of the non-custodial parents that access the program. Our program provides services to non-traditional families who are either divorcing/divorced or who were never married but need to build safe, long lasting and healthy relationships with their children.
• Having a supervised visitation program in our community not only has the immediate results of children being safer and controlling potential violence they might witness but also has long term effect on society with lower crime rate, learned better communication skills/parenting for individuals and children having healthy role model for what parenting should be. Safe Harbor provides something not even traditional therapies does, "a chance to practices what has been taught in a safe and realistic setting (home like atmosphere) with the safety net of a professional to gently guide if needed."
• Safe Harbor's supervised visitation and safe exchange program is a research-based approach. The state of Wyoming has more than 8 supervised visitation and safe exchange programs in various locations and nationally, every state in the county has some type of supervised visitation programs.
• The program has grown to being open 5 days a week to being open nights and weekends with our hours of operation from 8 am to 8pm 7 days a week.

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Program Resources		Program Activities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff 2FTE, 3 contract workers and 1 volunteer 3 story Victorian home including 2 offices, 2 bathrooms, 1 kitchen, a living room, a conference room, a third floor family room and outdoor backyard. Items to simulate a home environment including, pots, pans (for cooking meals), paper goods, toys and interactive items for use at visit. Utilities to keep the house in working order including, lights, water, and phone. Collaboration with attorney's, GAL's, Judges law enforcement, domestic violence program. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information provide to community regarding services Intake and case assessment One on one supervised visitation with children and parents Safe Exchanges of children between conflicting parties Parenting assessment and information Information on divorce and it's impact on children Assisting in relationship building between parent and child 	
Outcome	Performance Measure	Method of Measure	
50 people will be given information assisting them regarding our services -25 families will be provided services -100% of clients will feel safe-free from Domestic violence while on grounds at Safe Harbor -Of the 25 families will service, all will be given parenting and communication information.	102 individual who called in were given information regarding our program. - 56 families have been provided services in 2009 -99% of the 56 families who received services in 2009 reported feeling safe and free from conflict while seeing and exchanging their child -100% of the 56 families serviced in 2009 were given parenting information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statistical record keeping(numbers) Record keeping on all incoming calls Verbal interviews at intake, 3 months and exit Observational data by supervisors Re-referrals by attorney's and Judges 	
Program Results		Results Analysis and Next Steps	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2009, we supervised 931 visits between children and their parent who for various reasons could not be alone with their child. This is seven times more than the number we provided last year. In 2009 we provided 372 supervised exchanges between children and their parents on court ordered visitation orders. This was 100 more than last year's numbers. Of those 1303 service units, we also provided, over 2,015 phone contacts with clients to arrange, coordinate and facilitate those visits and exchanges. Safe Harbor staff was asked to provide testimony 18 separate times relating to custody, divorce and modification of court orders. 5 families participated in the Parenting Coordination Program in 2009-a program to help divorcing parents co-parent their children without conflict. As a result of our intervention and services, high conflict individual were able to lean new ways of handing conflict when their child was present, learned the affects their conflict has on their child, were instructed in parenting techniques, were able to learn and practice new parenting skills in a safe nurturing environment with a trained facilitator and children were able to interact with their parents free from potential abuse and or conflict. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unfortunately, we see the trend for supervised exchanges increasing as more and more individuals are stressed due to economic losses. The family unit has also changes as more and more children are being born to unrelated (non married) individuals who, when the relationships ends are faced with a child in common. With this comes a new set of difficulty in that divorce is not an issue but custody and visitation is. Information regarding the legal system has become a new source of information we give out on a daily basis. Although we do not give legal advice, we are asked numerous questions regarding resources and where to go if they need to represent themselves. Developing pamphlets on legal resources to be given out to our clients is a priority in 2010. We see the need to increase our newest program of "Parenting Coordination." Parenting Coordination is similar to mediation but on a more specific level. Parents are taught to be "Co-Parents" in their child's life. Fine details such as bedtimes, movies they can watch and extracurricular activities are discussed and agreed upon in Parenting Coordination. We have begun a Judges Handbook to be given to Judges to provide education on when Supervised Visitation is necessary and under what conditions and the levels of supervision that may be needed. 	