The SPARK Center: Supporting Parents and Resilient Kids

The SPARK Center

The History of the SPARK Center

Hospital- affiliated (BMC/BUSM)   Department of Pediatrics, Infectious Diseases; Department of Psychiatry; Center for Multicultural Training in Psychology; BU Center for Global Health and Development

Community-based   Located in Mattapan, serving Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan, South End, South Boston, Hyde Park, Jamaica Plain, West Roxbury, and greater metropolitan Boston, as well as from farther communities within driving distance

Medically-specialized, therapeutic education and care center offering integrated, comprehensive care *across childhood*

Collaboration among many partners:
Boston Children's Hospital and EI Program, Next Step, Inc., area colleges and universities, MA Dept. of Public Health, MA Dept. of Early Education and Care and Dept. of Children and Services, Bureau of Nutrition, Boston Public Health Commission, private foundations and private donors

The History of the SPARK Center

A commitment to serving children who present with:

- complex, overlapping challenges, including but not limited to, medical, psychological, social

- needs that can't be met in other settings

- histories of trauma, abuse, neglect

- multistressed family systems

The History of the SPARK Center

Therapeutic Early Education and Care	→	Trauma/Developmentally Informed, Community-Based Outpatient Care

COVID-19 Pandemic

Programs at the SPARK Center

Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics

Provides services for:

- Ages 0-22 years
- Common referrals
  - Autism spectrum disorder
  - Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
  - Global Developmental Delay and Intellectual Disability
  - Learning Disability
  - Speech and Language Development Delay
  - Anxiety Disorders

Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics

Services Provided

- 3-Part Evaluation
  - Intake/history
  - Assessment/evaluation
  - Feedback
- Ongoing Follow-up

Multidisciplinary Team

- Developmental Behavioral Pediatricians
- Psychologists
- Nurse Practitioners
- Nurses

DBP Referrals

For evaluation:
PCP submits referral based on Team Up workflow
-For children ages 0-7 to Alyssa
-For children ages 8+ to general DBP

For ongoing follow-up:
PCP submits referral to general DBP
-If previously received care, will attempt to schedule follow-up with same clinician
-If prior clinician is unavailable or not previously seen in DBP at BMC, will be scheduled with one of the nurse practitioners

For Autism Behavior Clinic:
-Must be seen by a provider in DBP at BMC
-That provider can put in a referral for the family

DBP is currently limiting referrals to certain insurance plans
Change does not apply to Alyssa's Fast Track slots

Child Witness to Violence Project

Started in 1992, Grant Funded

Provides services for:

- Children 0-8 years old, CSP: 0-11years old
- Witness domestic violence/community violence
- Separation from a primary caregiver

Evidence-based practices:

- Child-Parent Psychotherapy
- Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy

DIRECT SERVICES   ADVOCACY   TRAINING

Child Witness Referrals

Department of Children and Families

Boston Medical Center

Domestic Violence Agencies

Boston Trauma Team

Self Referral

The Child Witness to Violence Project

Website:

[Child Witness to Violence Project - Home](#)

Referrals:

Both providers and families can make referrals by calling **617.414.4244**.

The Good Grief Program

Provides mental health services for:

- Children 0 – 18 years old
- Have experienced an important loss in their life
- Patients who get their primary care at BMC or an affiliated health center
- Residents of MA

We define loss in different ways:

- Death
- Incarceration
- Divorce
- Separation from a caregiver due to legal/immigration issues
- Anticipated loss

Our services:

- Caregiver consultations
- Short-term and Long-term therapy
- Grief training

Good Grief Referrals

Department of Children and Families

Boston Medical Center

Community Agencies (schools, health centers, mental health organizations)

Self Referral

Screen for eligibility

Collect information re: demographics, type of loss, need for services

Schedule clinical intake

Start services

Screening & Intake Process

The Good Grief Program

Website:

The Good Grief Program at Boston Medical Center

Referral by phone:

Both providers and families can make referrals by calling **617.414.4005**.

Epic Referrals:

Within Epic, providers can refer by sending a Staff Message to **Laura Ochoa**. Laura will then share access to a referral dotphrase that will be used to obtain needed information to process referral.