

SERVICE DESCRIPTION

FAMILY ADVANCEMENT

DESCRIPTION:

The service provides early intervention, prevention and other support activities for children and families experiencing stress, parenting challenges, or early signs of abuse, neglect or other risks to child well-being. The service is available on Galiano, Mayne, Pender, and Saturna Islands.

HISTORY:

The Ministry for Children and Families began this service on the less populated Southern Gulf Islands in 1990 as a response to an increasing need to have community-based early intervention and prevention resources for families in these remote island communities. SSICS has provided the service since its inception.

POPULATION SERVED:

The service is available to children, youth and families who live on Galiano, Mayne, Saturna and Pender Islands.

GOALS AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

1. Improve parenting skills for parents.
2. Improve self esteem, communication, relationships, coping and problem solving skills for children, youth and their families.
3. Improve social and community functioning for children and youth.
4. Improve family functioning.

SERVICE DELIVERY PHILOSOPHY AND PRINCIPLES:

1. The climate of service delivery will be caring, respectful, safe and open.

2. People will be treated with dignity and respect.
3. Services will be provided in a discreet and confidential manner.
4. Effective service includes empowerment, advocacy, and information.
5. Service will be person and family-centered. This includes individualized flexible service. The person/family served will be involved in setting the direction of service.
6. Service will be responsive and timely.

SERVICE DELIVERY ACTIVITIES:

1. **Individual Counselling.** Person-centered and solution-focused counselling that is strength-based.
2. **Family Counselling.** Family-centered and solution-focused counselling that includes the entire family system and is strength based.
3. **Development of Individual Goals and Plans.** Develops with the person, the areas to work on based on their input, ideas, thoughts, and feelings about their needs.
4. **Life Skills Training.** Provides life skills and behavioural management training to persons served.
5. **Advocacy.** Acts on behalf of the person served to obtain needed resources and services.
6. **Conflict Resolution and Mediation.** Helps resolve or settle differences by acting as an intermediary between two conflicting parties.
7. **Referral.** Refers the person served to other internal or external services as needed.
8. **Information, Prevention and Education.** Provides education and information to individuals, families, schools and the community that is relevant to their needs.

9. **Groups.** Develop groups as requested by persons served, schools, families or other community-based agencies or groups.

LOCATION:

Service is provided on Mayne, Pender, Galiano and Saturna Islands. The service has confidential meeting and office space in each community. Service may be provided in community locations including home, school.

HOURS:

The service is available 8 am to 3 pm Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Specific hours on specific islands may vary depending on caseload needs and priorities.

STAFF RESOURCES:

One counsellor provides services and coordinates the various aspects of the program. The counsellor reports to the Director of Child and Youth Services.

ACCESS TO SERVICE:

Service may be accessed through Salt Spring Island Community Services at 537-9971 or directly through the Family Advancement counsellor at 1-250-222-0025 (cell). Referrals are received from MCFD, schools, physicians, community agencies or directly from families.

FUNDING/SPONSORSHIP:

The service is funded by the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development.

STANDARDS/REFERENCES/BEST PRACTICES:

1. CARF standards
2. Child and Youth Mental Health Plan for BC
3. BC Guidelines for Provision of Youth Services

PARTNERSHIPS/KEY CONNECTIONS:

1. School District #64
2. Ministry for Children and Family Development
3. RCMP/Victim Services
4. Physicians and Community Nurses