Puerto Rican Family Institute, Inc.

About PRFI

The Puerto Rican Family Institute, Inc., (PRFI), founded in 1960, is a non-profit, multi-program family oriented Human Service agency whose primary mission is to prevent family disintegration and enhance the self-sufficiency of the Latino community.

Treatment, Prevention, Education, and Outreach Programs

Promoting Families’ Emotional Well Being
Each of the Institute’s mental health clinics and service programs promote individual and family emotional well being through provision of outpatient diagnostic and treatment services within a bilingual and bicultural milieu. The Institute’s bicultural approach and treatment strategies, which include case management services, psychiatric intervention and supportive social services, combine to strengthen family functioning and promote overall wellness within the Latino community.

Mental Health Clinics
Services provided by the 5 Mental Health Clinics include individual and group psychotherapy, marital and family counseling, psycho-pharmaceutical therapy, crisis intervention, and case management. Outpatient treatment services are provided to children, adolescents, adults and their families at state licensed clinics that operate in Manhattan, Bronx, Brooklyn and Queens. In Jersey City, NJ, the Institute established the PRFI Jersey City Mental Health Clinic in 1999 as a separate non-profit organization affiliated with the Institute in New York. The PRFI Jersey City Mental Health Clinic also operates the Bridges Program providing specialized mental health services for people living with HIV/AIDS. It also operates outreach programs for Diabetes (Horizon Foundation), the Homeless, and an Education and Prevention HIV/AIDS federal project aimed at minority college students in the states of New Jersey and New York.

Child Placement Prevention Program
Services are designed to prevent initial placement of children and adolescents, avert re-entry, and to reduce the time a child spends in placement, as a result of child abuse or neglect. The Institute’s four city wide prevention programs combine casework, psychiatric counseling and treatment with a variety of proven support and concrete services to frame interventions that support the Latino family and strengthen communities plagued by multiple social and economic stressors. PRFI provides parenting skills training utilizing a bilingual and bicultural curriculum that it has developed that promotes parent-child bonding and improves the parent’s child rearing skills and knowledge of child development.

Home Based Crisis Intervention Program
Operating since 1991, this program provides immediate hospital diversion and stabilization to severely emotionally disturbed youth. This Brooklyn based program provides four weeks of intensive, home-based interventions aimed to diffuse crises and prevent recurrent hospitalizations.

Intermediate Care Facilities
For the past 27 years, PRFI has provided services to the developmentally disable and mentally retarded population through the provision of quality community based residential services which aims to provide skills that will enable him or her to live as independently as possible. It operates 4 Intermediate Care Facilities and an Individual Residential Alternative facility.
Case Management Programs
In 1993, PRFI established the Children’s Intensive Case Management Program now serving 132 severely emotionally disturbed children and their families in need of clinical case management and supervision. Concurrently PRFI began operating an Adolescent Supportive Case Management Program now serving 80 severely emotionally disturbed youth and their families in need of clinical case management and therapeutic services. In 1994, PRFI established the Blended and Supportive Case Management Program providing a continuum of adult supportive services to homeless mentally ill individuals throughout New York City to help improve their functioning in their communities. In total it serves 1,128 clients making it the largest in NYS.

Head Start
The Head Start Program currently serves 1,396 children through its 35 centers located in Brooklyn and the Bronx, New York and San Juan, Puerto Rico. Launched in 1997 and expanded in 2005, the PRFI Head Start Program is a center-based, full day program designed to provide pre-school children of low-income families with a comprehensive child development program to meet their educational, emotional, social, health and nutritional needs.

Universal Pre-Kindergarten
PRFI operates four full day UPK classrooms serving over 60 children in Brooklyn and the Bronx.

Seniors
The Life Line Center for Latino Seniors is serving an often marginalized and underserved segment of the Latino Population. Based at the Brooklyn Mental Health Clinic, the program offers seniors counseling, assistance with obtaining financial entitlements, referrals for medical services, food stamp assistance, and other community resources and group and peer support.

Education and Awareness
PRFI provides ESL and GED ABLE services and referral helping many of Latino individuals learn English, passed their GED and learn about Job Readiness. PRFI also provides Immigrant help with applications, and legal referrals.

Other Programs such as the Facilitated Enrollment Program assist families and children with proper Medicaid enrollment procedures and other entitlements.

PRFI also operates a Diabetes Education and Prevention program reaching out to thousands in needs of this service. PRFI also maintains a food pantry program providing food for families and children in need.

For more information about PRFI, call 212-924-6320 - www.prfi.org

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