

COMMUNITY INTERVENTION TEAM

A Program of the Center for Structural Equity

813 N. Tatnall Street

Wilmington, DE 19801

Phone: (302) 476-8902

CIT website: <https://citwilm.wixsite.com/citwilm>



GREAT OAKS CHARTER SCHOOLS STUDENT IDENTIFICATION AND LEARNING POD PROPOSAL

Prepared by The Community Intervention Team

October 12, 2020

About Community Intervention Team

The mission of the Community Intervention Team is to empower and equip individuals and communities to respond to structural violence and authentically engage the community in systems transformation that promote structural equity by addressing social determinants of health. Structural violence is a form of inequity where some social structure or institution harm people by preventing them from meeting their basic needs (e.g., access to adequate education, safe and affordable housing, violence free communities, healthy food, and livable wages).

The Community Intervention Team (CIT) has a long history in the City of Wilmington and the State of Delaware, for its work to connect marginalized communities to social support services, provide opportunities that promote positive youth development, and challenge structural conditions that lead to the manifestation of gun violence in the most vulnerable communities. CIT has earned a reputation for being able to engage those labeled “the hardest to reach,” due to their commitment to employ trusted, respected and credible members of the community. These individuals house a tremendous amount of social capital.

Student Identification

The Community Intervention Team is prepared and well positioned to support Great Oaks Charter Schools in identifying families and students that have been disengaged from the school system since the COVID-19 pandemic. They can leverage their credibility and trust in the community to locate and make direct connections with students and their families with the intention of reconnecting them to Great Oaks Charter Schools’ staff. This includes supporting families in completing necessary paperwork, identifying needs that are creating barriers to engagement and encouraging families to utilize the Learning Pod program provided by Great Oaks Charter Schools. CIT’s staff can go door to door with Great Oaks Charter Schools staff when an address is known, and work to identify a current address when the available information is unknown or inaccurate.

Learning Pod

The Community Intervention Team can provide Learning Pods at two accessible locations in the City of Wilmington: 1) 813 North Tatnall Street and 2) 1009 Sycamore Street. In total, we have capacity to serve up to 30-40 students between the two locations.

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Learning Pods will follow the CDC guidance to slow the spread of COVID-19, including wellness checks before entering the facility, a requirement to wear face masks while in the building, following of social distancing protocols, installment of desktop plexiglass sneeze guards, availability of hand sanitizer, and regular cleaning of the facility.

Learning Pods will be accessible between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and will be staffed at a ratio of 1 adult per 8 children. Below is a tentative daily schedule.

| Time | Middle School | High School |
|------------------------|---|---|
| 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. | Arrival, wellness checks, breakfast, morning meditation, downtime | Arrival, wellness checks, breakfast, morning meditation, downtime |
| 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Instruction | Instruction |
| 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. | Lunch, downtime | Instruction, lunch |
| 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. | Enrichment activities, departure | Enrichment activities, departure |

The Community Intervention Team staff is prepared to provide individualized support to students to assist them in the virtual learning process, which includes helping students with navigating technology, ensuring they are signed in and engaged in class time activities, managing behaviors during class time, enforcing CDC guidance, providing academic support, engaging families in the learning process, and communicating with Great Oaks Charter Schools staff when students and their families are experiencing any issues that create barriers to learning.

Case Management

The Community Intervention Team is committed to supporting the student and their family. Each student and their family will receive limited case management support which includes an assessment to determine if additional or any social services are needed. The Community Intervention Team will work with families when applicable to connect them with appropriate social service providers.

Enrichment Activities

The Community Intervention Team can provide enrichment activities to students enrolled in the Learning Pod. This includes mentoring, the provision of evidence-based prevention programs, board games, and gym time (at the Sycamore Street location). Enrichment activities will be identified based on the needs and interests of students.

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Past Experience

The Community Intervention Team has informally provided a Learning Pod experience to students enrolled in their youth violence intervention and prevention programs. Some of their participants are able to successfully complete their virtual learning at home and receive homework support after class in their office. Other students complete their virtual learning in the office where Wi-Fi and a supportive staff is available. All students are subject to daily check-ins with staff to provide an update on their progress. This allows staff to translate content learned in class into more culturally relevant concepts that students can better understand.

The one-on-one attention provided by their staff has proven to benefit the students engaged in their program. For example, CIT had one student who failed most of his classes before enrolling in our program. CIT was able to provide him individualized attention throughout the summer to complete his academic recovery. CIT found that prior to their help, he was using online applications to find answers to questions. Their staff was able to sit down, talk through each question, teach and reinforce existing comprehension and test taking skills. With that level of support, the student went from F's to A's. He found great pride in his ability to receive an A on exams without using an online application to tell him the answer.

CIT also have found that many of their students are simply submitting incomplete work in order to remove the flag that they have a missing assignment. Doing this, they could say "I did all my work," but if there isn't someone there to look closely at the assignment, you wouldn't know that the work was never complete. From this experience, CIT has learned that some students need reinforcement and accountability. They also need someone who has the necessary technology skills to know how to go into different systems to look for red flags that their student may be behind or struggling with work. This is something CIT's staff can provide and also teach parents to help them be involved in their students' learning.

Many of the students CIT work with experience immense trauma that impacts their ability to learn. For example, CIT had one student who was a victim of a violent crime. After the incident, he understandably struggled to concentrate and keep up with his school. CIT's staff was able to assist him in processing the incident and identify a plan to catch up on the work he missed. With the intense support provided to him, weeks later he was back on track and proudly receiving A's on Chemistry assignments.

Lastly, the beauty of the CIT programming is that the youth hold each other accountable as a group and support each other when they are struggling. It is not uncommon for the youth to tutor each other and process content they learn in class during their down time. This type of peer learning and support is extremely important and encouraged in the CIT program.

Needs

The greatest need Community Intervention Team is access to transportation for students who need assistance getting to and from the Learning Pod Sites. As well, we do not have capacity to provide meals to students.

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Evaluation

Value your input on this matter

Timeline

Immediately

Fee for Service

All fees are open to negotiation.

Respectfully submitted,
Darryl Chambers