

## Whole Child Leon-Gadsden/Leon PACT

Parents, Providers and Community Advocating for Children Together

The Gadsden/Leon PACT is an initiative to bring together parents and caregivers of young children (birth through age 8 years) with staff from agencies providing services and supports for these children and their families to provide integrated, evidenced-based services in their community. PACT is a family driven, community based and culturally and linguistically competent system of care in which service and support programs see parents and caregivers as the expert on their child and then work with the family to understand how to improve child and family well-being together.

#### **Gadsden/Leon PACT Goals**

The goal of the Gadsden/Leon PACT (Parents, Providers & Community Advocating for Children Together) is to improve social, emotional, behavioral, developmental and physical well-being of young children and their families by:

- Working with parents and caregivers to:
  - Increase parental awareness on what early childhood well-being means and how to ensure that children are healthy at age one, school ready by age 5, connected to services when needed and have a positive early childhood experience
  - Provide training and support to become parent advocates, family mentors and certified peer specialists so that parents can assist other parents in understanding and navigating the system of care
  - Establish family and youth support groups
- Working with service providers and agencies to:
  - Provide staff training on how to work with the parents and caregivers of young children to assist them in ensuring the social, emotional, behavioral and physical well being of all children from birth through age 8 years
  - o Increase collaborative leadership to ensure integrated and evidenced-based services are accessible to all children and their families in our community
  - Improve the medical community's understanding of the connection between physical wellness and the social, emotional, behavioral and developmental wellbeing of children and their families.
- Working with community leaders to:
  - Increase community-wide awareness of the importance of child and family well-being to improve community wellness
  - Provide activities for youth and families designed to improve the well-being of children and families in our community.

# What agencies are currently involved?



### **CONTACT US**

If you have any questions or concerns about your own child or want more information about how you can get involved with Gadsden/Leon PACT, please contact one of the individuals listed below.

#### Frank Platt, L.C.S.W.

Gadsden/Leon PACT Coordinator Department of Children and Families <u>Frank.platt@myflfamilies.com</u>

#### Courtney Atkins, MA, LPC, CEAP

Co-Chair, PACT Coordinating Council Executive Director, Whole Child Leon <a href="mailto:eaphelp@netzero.com">eaphelp@netzero.com</a>

#### **Theresa Parsons**

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