



The OG Perspective

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 17

DECEMBER 2008

PROVIDING HOME BASED CLINICAL SERVICES

- Behavior Management
- Individual Counseling
- Family Counseling
- Group Counseling
- Psychological Testing
- Case Consultations
- Staff Development
- Cultural Research

FAMILIES Do Matter
WILD AM 1090 Radio
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 Sunday's at 1:00 pm

Approved by NHP-Mass Health to provide (FST) Family Stabilization Team services for families in Metropolitan Boston, and for the following organizations:

- DMH
- DSS
- Chapter 766 Schools
- Group Homes
- Residential Homes
- Hospital Emergency Referrals

Don't Blame The Teacher

By Larry Higginbottom

In my seven years of providing in home stabilization supports to our families, I, along with other members of the Osiris Group, have attended many school conferences with parents as the teacher expresses grave concern over a child's poor academic performance. As the teacher reports that the student has not turned in many or all of their homework assignments, and does nothing during class, and is on the verge of failing again, I have begun to ask myself this question: Whose responsibility is it to make sure that your or my child retains or masters each lesson's content? Is it the school system? The teacher? The parent or the student? There was a time I believed that the responsibility of insuring that our children retain and mastered their lesson content was the responsibility of the school system, teacher,



skills and object matching etc. If you think about it, these young minds enter day-care and pre-school already behind, and furthermore they do not possess any mental reference of having achieved any academic success during the home training phase of their early life. These young minds have been devoid of early learning opportunities, so imagine, you are three or

four years of age and in day-care and all or most of your fellow students can count to fifty, know their colors, shapes, ABC's, possess words of expression and you cannot. How did some parents teach their children these skills sets? Through repetition? Repetition is how content is retained and is internalized. Repetition is a parents responsibility early in the learning process; to introduce their child to this critical concept,

parent and the student themselves. I no longer hold that view. What continues to undermine our children's ability to retain and master lesson content, occurs during the formative years (birth to age five) when parents set the stage for how their children will respond to the learning process. Simply put, many of our parents are not using this critical time to introduce their children to the wonders and joy of learning, like teaching them shapes, colors, how to count, developing pre-reading skills, and pre-math

Osiris Group Testimonials

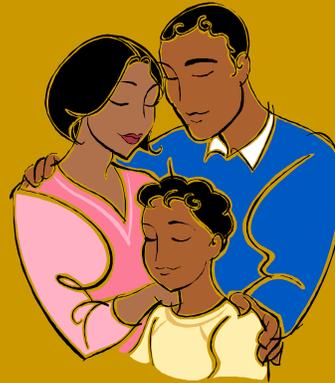
Since 2002, The Osiris Group has serviced hundreds of families in Massachusetts. The management team, staff, mentors and clinicians work hard to maintain Osiris as the leading family stabilization and home-based service provider. Below, families who have worked with the Osiris Group share their unique experiences!

“ I would recommend Osiris services to any family struggling with finding peace at home.”

-Dorchester

I didn't know much about Osiris. My social worker told me about the program and thought it would be a good fit for my family. She was right! I really liked the people from Osiris...they were friendly and professional. My oldest son is thirteen and he enjoyed having a mentor... My son's father is incarcerated so having a positive black male role model was good for my son. The clinician was good for me, too. I learned how to be more patient with the kids. Overall, Osiris was very positive for my family.

-Hyde Park



My son was in a residential treatment facility for a little less than a year. When he came home, my family was assigned a Osiris Group team to help with the transition. I was definitely concerned about my son coming home because before he was removed from my house, his behavior was off the hook. The Osiris Group was very helpful. I think the extra support was good for my son. I would recommend Osiris services to any family struggling with finding peace at home.

-Dorchester



God Bless the Osiris Group! I was really struggling with my kids. I have three girls and two boys from ages 4 to 16. My fifteen year old daughter was acting out for a good while...she was causing problems at school and her mouth was completely out of control. It was to the point where my husband and I considered placing her in a residential program. What I appreciate about Osiris is not only did the team work with my daughter, they interacted with all the kids. The only problem I had with the Osiris program is that it ended! I am so grateful to Osiris...I know my kids are too.

-Brockton



LEARN MORE ABOUT OSIRIS ON-LINE!

<http://www.osirisgroup.org>

<http://www.osirisinstitute.com>

Reflections Of A Mentor by Lamont Thomas, Family Mentor-The Osiris Group



As I sit at home blessed with the life that I have made

for myself and my family, I have to ask myself what are some of the teachings that the families I service need, and what are some of the lasting effects I hope to accomplish. I thought about several questions that are asked in my field, and I want to share the questions and my responses with fellow members, the readers and the families that we serve. *1. What advice have I recently given to a family? Did my advice make a impact?* Answer: I worked with a family that has a habit of arguing over the most minor subjects, and as they argue they throw dagger-like insults to one another. During one of those arguments, I pulled the mother to the side and asked her, "When you get into conflict with your kids, do you get any satisfaction by yelling at the kids and insulting them the way you do?" The mother responded that although she realizes her comments may hurt her children, she does get satisfaction at times from what she says. I then re-

mind the mother that her kids follow her lead, her behavior...if and when the kids take that same behavior into the community and on the streets, this behavior could be putting her children's lives in danger. The impact that this conversation had on the mother was significant. Despite the problems with her children, she really loves her kids and does not want to see harm come to them. Therefore, mom made an effort to control her comments that she makes when she is upset. *2. What issues do you notice that continue to hinder our families from making progress?* Answer: One of the issues that continues to hinder our families is the belief that they cannot accomplish what some of us see as basic life goals. Many of our families get caught up in a hopeless cycle, brought on by the environment that they live in. That is why it is important, as service providers, to take our families out of the surroundings that they are used to, I have also found that those surroundings can be something as small as going to a park or restaurant... it is more about showing the family that there is life outside of our neighborhoods. It gives you an opportunity to engage in heart to heart conversations

with your client, experiences which are invaluable in our field. *3. What is the most important aspect to you about being a Family Mentor?* Answer: The most important aspect about being a family mentor is making a difference in the lives of the families that I work with. In my own personal life I grew up around negativity that you would not believe...or maybe you would... in any event, I was blessed with the opportunity to be pulled out of a destructive life by some positive brothers in my community, and I love that God has given me the blessing to reach out and help others. Just a few days ago it was raining really hard and I had an appointment with one of my clients after school. As I approached the school I observed the Boston Police Community Coordinator standing in the rain across the street from my client's school. I parked my car and went over to stand in the rain with this officer, who turns out is one of the gentleman that helped me when I was a kid, my mentor. It was a pleasure to stand in the rain with this officer...this is the thing that is most important to me about being a mentor, passing on the blessings that were given to me.

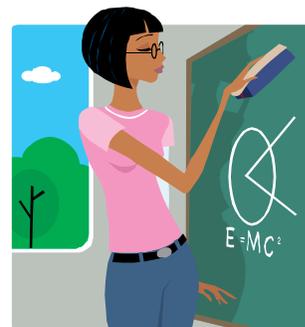
Don't Blame The Teacher by Larry Higginbottom, Founder/CEO-The Osiris Group

(CONTINUED FROM FRONT)

without repetition a student will not develop self-confidence as a learner. What is truly undermining many of our children from being successful in the classroom occurred long before kinder garden or their first grade teacher, too

many of our homes have failed to become their child's first classroom experience, long before this child entered the fifth or six grade...the learning had already stopped, because it never started. The forma-

tive years are extremely important to our children getting off to a good start, and early learning all begins in the home, so please "Don't Blame the Teacher" for something that parents are responsible for.



Inspirational Words of the Month

“Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love.”

- Hamilton Wright Mabie

The Osiris Group

PO Box 190259

Roxbury, MA 02119

Phone: 617.442.2002

Fax: 617.442.4002

<http://www.osirisgroup.org>

Questions or comments about The Osiris Group?

Send email to:
Larry Higginbottom
larry@osirisgroup.org



Larry Higginbottom
CEO/Founder
The Osiris Group

The Osiris Group has a current membership which consists of Family Clinicians and Family Mentors who are able to service more than one hundred (100) families per month. Osiris Group members specialize in reunification and stabilization of the family unit. Mentors and Clinicians coach children and parents techniques in behavior modeling, advocacy and support, seeking community linkage, relationship building, social skills, job searching and other self-development methods that enhance whole life skills. Our flexible team can structure its schedule to accommodate each family. All team members reside within the communities served and can respond immediately to a family in crisis. We have an open referral process, encouraging recommendations from social workers, group and residential homes. Coverage options range from Sunday to Sunday for three months to year-round comprehensive services. Have questions? Contact us today!

Happy Holidays



From the Osiris Group!



The OG Perspective

PUBLISHER

THE OSIRIS GROUP
LARRY HIGGINBOTTOM
CEO/FOUNDER
DEBORAH HIGGINBOTTOM
PRESIDENT/CO-FOUNDER

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

HARRY HARDING

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

LARRY HIGGINBOTTOM
HARRY HARDING
LAMONT THOMAS