



The Osiris Group

THE OSIRIS GROUP

## PROVIDING HOME BASED CLINICAL SERVICES

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



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

# The OG Perspective

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## The Osiris Group Model: Why It Works

I have long believed that urban Black and Latino families were not responding well to traditional Euro-Centric models of stabilization. Traditional models had providers going into homes, sitting around the kitchen table and asking family members questions about how they felt or what they were feeling. Most family responses were always the same: "Everything is fine."

Three years ago, I introduced a non-traditional model to the Department of Social Services. My contention was that Black and Latino families would respond best to a task/activities-based model anchored in teaching. It was obvious to me then that the current models could not teach parents new skill sets by visiting them only once a week or once a month; people learn by repetition.

The Osiris Group has designed its support model to work with families who are culturally and environmentally traumatized. It is our realization that many of our parents and children have poor social skills. We realized that many families, which comprise the working poor (often female single-parent households) are forced to raise their children within intra-family violence, community violence, sexual and physical abuse, coercive discipline, emotional neglect, poor education, betrayal, death, over-



Larry Higginbottom, CEO/  
Founder of The Osiris Group

crowded living conditions, poor communication skills, poor education, high unemployment, drugs and gangs; not to mention that many of these families are missing fathers altogether. Any family-wealthy, poor, of any ethnicity, skin color, religion or skill level would have problems raising their children within these daily conditions.

The Osiris Group model provides comprehensive support services and was created to address the needs of the entire family. By utilizing a team approach, which consists of a Family Clinician and Family Child Mentor, the Osiris Group model distinguishes itself from all other providers. Unlike many family stabilization models, which only respond to families once or twice

a week, (rarely evenings, weekends or holidays) our flexible schedule allows team members to make themselves available whenever our **families need us**. Parents and children love the fact that if tension or conflict arise, their personal team coach is only a phone call away.

There are three situations which a parent or referring agent should consider using the Osiris Group: 1) **Stabilization**; if a parent is over stressed or overwhelmed, by a child's behavior, the parent, their Clinician or DSS Social Worker may want to place a stabilization team in the home to assist the parent get a handle on things. 2) **Diversion or to Prevent out of home placement**; if a parent is having difficulties with their child and is considering child removal, the parent, their Clinician or DSS Social Worker might need to put a team in place to prevent that child from being removed from the home. 3) **Reunification**; if a child was actually removed from the home, the parent, their Clinician or DSS Social Worker may consider using our services to ensure a smooth transition during the child's return home.

For more information about the Osiris Group, visit us on-line at [www.osirisgroup.org](http://www.osirisgroup.org). Our language capacity is English, Spanish and Haitian Creole.

## The Osiris Group Partners With the NE Informer



**Doreen Wade**  
 Publisher and CEO of  
 The New England  
 Informer

The Osiris Group has formed a partnership with the New England Informer, a Black owned print publication and on-line magazine. The New England Informer is a premier source for readers seeking Afro-American news, interests and stories.

Publisher and CEO of The New England Informer, Doreen Wade is excited about working together with the Osiris Group. Doreen first heard about the OG on WILD

1090AM while listening to the Sunday afternoon program, *Families Do Matter*. Inspired by the radio show's content, she decided to contact Larry Higginbottom and connect. "The Osiris Group program was unlike anything I had been hearing on the air," Doreen recalls. "The more I listened, the more I wanted to know about the work that Osiris Group was doing with families." The rest, as it is often said, is history.

Given that both Larry Higginbottom and Doreen Wade are Black entrepreneurs in highly competitive markets, the two can relate to both the struggles and the success. "We are crashing the party," Larry often jokes. "We are bringing new ideas to the table. That brings both risk and opportunity." While media and human services are separate industries, both Doreen Wade and Larry Higginbottom share the common interest in serving the community.

Visit on-line: [www.neinformer.net](http://www.neinformer.net)

*"Families Do Matter is one of the most important shows on the radio. It's real talk about our people and how we can get better."*

## Radio Listeners Believe Families Do Matter

The Osiris Group weekly Sunday afternoon broadcast, *Families Do Matter* is garnering thoughtful reviews from listeners. Thankfully, the WILD 1090 AM sister station was not part of the 2006 transaction between media conglomerate Entercom and WILD FM. Particularly enthusiastic are the growing listeners of the Osiris Group radio show. The OG

CEO/Founder Larry Higginbottom hosts the radio program which features an open dialogue format and welcomes live call-in participation. Each week, Larry invites panelists to discuss meaningful topics related to Black and Latino family dynamics and urban life. Subject matter often includes powerful views on parenting, poverty, racism, and sociologi-

cal debates about community and survival. *Families Do Matter*, first aired in early spring 2006. As one listener believes, "Families Do Matter is one of the most important shows on the radio. It's real talk about our people and how we can get better." The show also attracts area fans who acknowledge the virtual void of Black voices on the air.

## The Osiris Group Finds A New Home

The Osiris Group new location at Hibernian Hall



184 Dudley Street

In October 2006, The Osiris Group found a niche at Hibernian Hall in the heart of Roxbury's historic Dudley Square. Over nearly five years, Larry Higginbottom has seen The Osiris Group grow exponentially. Larry developed the OG

concept during his first year of internship at Simmons School of Social Work while assigned to the now non-operational Morton Street DSS office. With creative and emotional support from his wife, Deborah, Co-Founder and President of The OG, Larry put his concept into practice as a one

man enterprise. As results for the model bared success, Larry began partnering with colleagues, building a membership that today is forty strong. Early membership meetings took place in a rented space at the Roxbury Multi-Service Center. The Osiris Group now has a home of it's own.

# The Power of Touch by Lemuel Mills, Family Mentor—The Osiris Group

In our convoluted and harried world, most of us are so self-absorbed with our own issues that we have created disconnects from our loved ones. It is not intentional, but the effect is devastating to the development of healthy and happy relationships, especially within our families.



through the power of hugging or touch. We all need to know that we are loved.

It serves as an impetus for personal growth; emotionally, psychologically and physiologically. The comfort we derive from embracing provides a sense of safety and source of

strength that can be used on a daily basis to help thwart the obstacles which life hurls at us everyday.

Open communication (active listening), taking inventory of each other needs (learning) and unabashed affection (hugging, i.e. love) are the tools required to reunite and stabilize families.

Remember, if we want harmony within ourselves, our families and our communities, it starts with love. **So reach out and touch someone** and watch love grow, hearts heal and peace pervade.



*“The key is that parents must learn to avoid trying to raise perfect children and instead raise the children they have.”*

# The Ideal Child by Elizabeth Charles, Family Clinician—The Osiris Group

No child is perfect. Parents will find themselves struggling more and more frequently with their children, particularly adolescents, when they confront behaviors based on ideal expectations. Parents who project such lofty hopes onto their child yield two results: frustration for the child and disappointment for the parent. Consider a parent who is becoming increasingly frustrated

with a child’s academic performance. The child consistently brings home C’s and D’s and the parent scolds the child for not receiving A’s and B’s. The parent is wasting energy by focusing on a reality that may not exist. Although the child’s effort is questionable, it is possible that the child’s best effort produces average grades. If this is true, the child is not behaving inappropri-

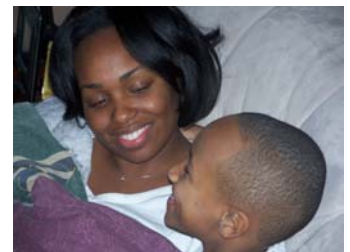
ately, but to the contrary is being who they are. A parent in this situation is better off recognizing their child’s limitations and provide the necessary support or encouragement the child needs to survive. The key is that parents must learn to avoid trying to raise perfect children and instead raise the children they have. The ideal child does not exist.

# Lessons Learned by Malika Arty, Family Mentor—The Osiris Group

There have been many eye opening experiences working with the Osiris Group. I have met wonderful people and although sometimes there are very challenging moments, the Osiris Group has taught me so much. The biggest lesson I have learned in the field is that there are many families of color dealing with mental illness, drug addiction, sexual abuse, physical

abuse, runaway children, CHINS, warrants, the court system, DSS, DYS, DMH...right in my neighborhood! Being allowed in people’s homes and sharing some of their hardest moments has made me a more patient person. I smile more at people I might not have acknowledged before. I am more patient with the lady bank teller with an attitude and I remember to tell her

to have a wonderful rest of her day. We are all struggling and working hard. We all have tough battles to face trying to raise our families. You never know what a passing stranger is going through., A smile can go a long way.



Visit The Osiris Group on-line: [www.osirisgroup.org](http://www.osirisgroup.org)

## Inspirational Words of the Month

“Emancipate yourself from mental slavery. None but ourselves can free our minds.” -Bob Marley

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Questions or comments  
about The Osiris Group?

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The Osiris Group has a current staff of forty (40) members which consists of clinicians and mentors who are able to service one hundred (100) families per month. Our clinicians and mentors coach parents and children in techniques such as; 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!

## Who is The Osiris Group?

The Osiris Group was formed to offer Black and Latino communities culturally competent mental health practitioners who practice their craft by relating to the shared knowledge and values of Black and Latino societies as well as urban issues and paradigms. The Osiris Group believes that certain psychological, emotional and spiritual needs can best be served by individuals who reflect the ethnicity of the client served. The practitioners of the Osiris Group teach family members to focus on living in the present without allowing past human deficits to become permanent stumbling blocks in self-development.



### The OG Perspective

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