Exceptional Family Member Program

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I am evaluating the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP), specifically administered by the Marine Corps. The EFMP is a sub-element of Marine Corps Community Services (MCSS) which serves every Marine Corps installation with services designed to improve the quality of life for all Marines and their dependents. I have direct experience with the EFMP over a period of more than a decade, two countries and four military installations. Much of my evaluation will be looking at the overarching Service wide program, as well as directly with the Camp Pendleton, CA EFMP Branch.

The Mission of the Exceptional Family Member Program is to “improve the quality of life of families that support a member with a disability. Quality of life is improved through family support via Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS) programs provided aboard Marine Corps installations, and through contractual partnerships with public and private organizations.” (MCO 1754.4B, 2010). The EFMP focuses their services on the Exceptional Family Member or EFM, and they families that support the EFM. This program is mandatory for all military dependents which require a continuum of care which can include the spectrum of medical, therapeutic, educational, social, residential, rehabilitative and supportive needs of the EFM and their families.

I have an Exceptional Family Member (EFM), David who has been assigned a Level of Need 3 by the EFMP. There are four distinct levels of need within the program, 1 being the least care required and 4 being the most. My son’s diagnosis is primarily centered around his mental health and our families’ experience with the EFMP has predominately a positive one. As with any government administered program it is vital you are involved and educated about the processes and guidelines of a program in order to get the maximum benefit out of the program’s services. I am very interested in becoming an EFMP Case /manager one day to give back to the military community and use the knowledge and skills I have learned though experience and education such as this degree program.

References

MCO 1754.4B - United States Marine Corps. (2010). Retrieved September 17, 2017, from <http://www.bing.com/cr?IG=1AB43017E11C40249E7FC58DFC88CB89&CID=27DB4AF1CCEA68A8077B41F1CDEC697E&rd=1&h=f_nQ1RbV00lnZIkA49qiI1NkvoN9W6DdELdrRMShPGc&v=1&r=http%3a%2f%2fwww.marines.mil%2fPortals%2f59%2fPublications%2fMCO%25201754.4B.pdf&p=DevEx,5062.1>

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