

Washington County Wraparound Demonstration
Lessons Learned
September 2011

Accomplishments

- Youth and family voice is meaningfully represented at Advisory Council and Quality Improvement committees (training, support and structure developed to support this).
- 2 Wraparound youth are serving on RFP review panel for mentoring program.
- Leadership in the County takes a solution focused approach.
- Conflict is seen as an opportunity for growth and moves our system forward. Several difficult situations over the past year became opportunities for local system development and growth.
- Crisis/respite services have been expanded which supports youth staying in the community.
- Our Family Finding program has connected many youth with extended family members and in some cases a permanent placement. The program is being expanded to include targeted foster care recruitment for ISA and Wraparound youth to avoid multiple moves due to system issues (criteria, length of contract, etc).
- Consistent communication with school districts occurs (quarterly meetings with administration and regular participation on child and family teams.)
- Over 10% of the first cohort is discharged from Child Welfare custody.
- Improved coordination and collaboration with Child Welfare for both Wrap and ISA youth and families.
- Opportunities identified for continued cross system education (i.e. Hotline Supervisors meeting with Care Coordination Team, etc.)
- Our ISA team has been trained in Wraparound and provides Wraparound-informed services (limited by caseload size).
- Washington County is experiencing a shift in focus on services to a focus on needs and has seen an increase in use of natural and informal supports.
- “Wraparound WORKS” –*Honorable James Fun.*
- “Family Partners and other Peer Delivered Services WORK” –*Family Member during Advisory Council meeting.*

Challenges

- Explaining the difference between ISA and Wraparound and why all kids cannot have Wraparound to community stakeholders. Some of the highest needs youth in the system are not eligible for Wraparound which is the most intensive care coordination service.
- Limited access to Wraparound based on the criteria identified for Phase One.
- Lack of funding to support needs of parents such as housing, addictions or mental health treatment, etc.
- Reluctance as a system to consider contact with family who was unsafe or had rights terminated in the past.
- Not enough funding to provide family partners to every family.
- Capitation does not completely cover the cost of care coordination.
- Getting community partners and stakeholders to attend system of care trainings.

Goals

- Blended funding.
- More flexibility in BRS program models to allow for variable lengths of stay and faster return to the community.
- Family members attending Review Committees when their family is being considered for Wraparound.
- Social Marketing campaign.
- Criteria expanded so that more youth can access Wraparound at the time when it would be most valuable rather than waiting until certain criteria are met.
- Track long term outcomes for youth involved in the project.

**The Washington County Casey Partnership (including representation from Child Welfare, Juvenile Court Judges, Citizen Review Board, Commission on Children and Families, Mental Health, Healthy Start and others) has identified one of their top*

priorities as “Expanding the criteria for Wraparound to allow youth to enter the program earlier in order to avoid multiple placements or require intensive services rather than waiting until they do.”