



WRAPAROUND MILWAUKEE

Child & Adolescent Services Branch

News – A Monthly Publication

AUGUST 2009

From the Director...

Harvard University and Visionaries begin PBS Film in Milwaukee

Harvard University, through a contract with Visionaries, Inc., has begun producing a video about Wraparound Milwaukee to be aired by the Public Broadcasting System (PBS). The video will be part of the Visionary Series on PBS and features the most innovative programs across the country. The production team spent two days in Milwaukee on August 27th and 28th, and will return in September or October for another two days needed to finish the 30-minute video.

The film will focus on telling the story of Wraparound through our families and system partners. So far, Visionaries has filmed at Families United of Milwaukee and the Youth Council, followed the Mobile Urgent Treatment Team (MUTT) in the community, interviewed Judge Malmstadt and Judge Murray, and talked with a group of care coordinators.

The actual video will not be ready for release to PBS until April 2010.

Bruce Kamradt, Director

Wraparound Success Story...

Jimmy was enrolled in Wraparound Milwaukee at the age of 15. At the time of his enrollment, he was placed on probation due to his being observed on school grounds with a weapon. Prior to this incident, he had had other violations in his home and community, and would leave home for days at a time. It appeared that his parents were going to give up on him until he was enrolled in Wraparound Milwaukee. Upon enrollment, a child and family team was created, composed of Jimmy, his parents, his probation officer and a care coordinator. As time went on others were added to the team including a crisis stabilizer to assist Jimmy if he experiences an emotional crisis. The crisis stabilizer also interacted with him positively in the community, exposing him to age-appropriate recreational activities. He was able to obtain memberships at the YMCA and the Boys and Girls Club, and started to spend more time getting involved in sports.*

To meet his emotional and mental health needs, Jimmy and his family were provided with a therapist to assist the family with resolving issues that threatened their remaining as a unit. The therapist worked with the family on improved communication with each other, addressing Jimmy's feelings of being left out and how to work together as a family. As time went on, others were sought to help with getting Jimmy on track. Informal supports included a family friend who was able to spend time with Jimmy and his younger brother in the community, playing basketball – an activity that they liked to participate in. The crisis stabilizer also would spend time with both boys when at the home, working on ways that they could get along better and not get into altercations.

The family took full advantage of the community resources that were provided by the team. They became involved with the neighborhood church and participated in services as a family. The team also worked with the family on the importance of family time and would give the family weekly ideas on low cost community activities. As Jimmy spent more time at the YMCA and Boys and Girls Club, he was able to make better choices, avoiding friends who encouraged negative behavior. The team also assisted the family in creating a crisis plan that includes Jimmy calling to let his family know his whereabouts in the event he did leave without permission.

The team worked with Jimmy on choosing friends and understanding what real friendship means. The crisis stabilizer also worked with Jimmy on the weekend to volunteer at several community organizations. Jimmy could turn these community service hours into credit to have the citations that he received prior to his enrollment paid off. Jimmy and his family worked very hard and with the assistance of the team, he completed his probation.

The family now recognizes how much they mean to each other and that they will always be there for each other.

(* Name changed for confidentiality.)

Submitted by Aurora Family Service

Wisconsin State Fair

August 6th - 16th



State News...

State Legislature Authorizes Additional Funds For Mobile Urgent Treatment Team Expansion

The 2009-2011 Budget passed by the State Legislature and signed by Governor Doyle has put in additional funding to expand the Mobile Urgent Treatment Team (MUTT) for Child Welfare. The additional \$375,000 in State funds will provide for several additional crisis workers to allow MUTT to provide crisis services to treatment foster care homes, as well as court-ordered kinship care. The goal will be to stabilize more children in foster homes, to support foster parents and prevent unnecessary removal of those children from foster homes.

More details of the program expansion will be available in next month's newsletter. An article on the various new initiatives in Child Welfare was covered in the Sunday, July 26th, Crossroads section of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

Bruce Kamradt, Director

Determining Financial Eligibility for Enrollment in Wraparound Milwaukee and REACH

Since the new BadgerCare Plus program was initiated in February 2009, there has been some confusion related to who is covered by the program and who is eligible for enrollment in Wraparound Milwaukee.

BadgerCare Plus is a State/Federal program that provides health coverage for Wisconsin families. It replaced the former AFDC – Medicaid program, Healthy Start and BadgerCare program. BadgerCare Plus has three major health care benefit plans: Standard, Benchmark and Core.

The Standard Plan is the only plan that enrollees are eligible for participation in the Wraparound Milwaukee or REACH programs, unless the enrollment was under a court order. REACH families are definitely not eligible for enrollment in Wraparound Milwaukee under anything other than the Standard Plan, since the program is never court-ordered.

The Standard Plan is for families with income at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. While Standard Plan members can be asked to pay a share of the cost of services, currently all families are exempted for the Wraparound Milwaukee program.

The Benchmark Plan provides more limited services than the Standard Plan, and applies to families with income above 200 percent of the federal poverty level, and for self-employed parents and caretakers. Benchmark Plan members are required to pay a share of the cost of services provided to them. Benchmark

covered members are not eligible for Wraparound Milwaukee as a benefit, nor are they eligible for Medicaid crisis services.

The Core Plan is for childless adults and is a new expansion of the BadgerCare Plus program that allows health care coverage for adults who do not qualify for other BadgerCare Plus plans or Medicaid. The Core Plan will actually replace the General Assistance Medical Plan (GAMP) in Milwaukee County. It is the most limited benefit covering primary care, preventive care and a limited number of prescription drugs.

Who is eligible for BadgerCare Plus? The plan is available for children under 19, pregnant women, parents and caretakers of children under 19, young adults leaving a foster care placement (foster care, treatment foster care, group home or residential treatment center) when they turn 18, parents with children in foster care and families at lower income levels who do not have health insurance.

For further information about eligibility, you can contact the Wraparound Milwaukee business office at (414) 257-6847. Chris Panek is the fiscal specialist in that office who does the BadgerCare Plus eligibility verifications for Wraparound Milwaukee.

Bruce Kamradt, Director



Arab World Fest
August 7th – 9th

Mobile Crisis

This month, the Mobile Urgent Treatment Team (MUTT) hosted a group from Saginaw, Michigan, who has recently created a mobile crisis team. The Saginaw team spent two days with us, and we shared our experience with them. Saginaw is a small city 90 miles North of Detroit, which has complex, urban issues like other municipalities. The economic challenges we all face have hit their city hard, as it is closely tied to the auto industry.

One of the great challenges the people of Saginaw face is for their caregivers and parents of youth to remain optimistic and steady in the face of change. Recently published data shows that about 20 percent of children have a diagnosable mental health issue, though only 5 percent have functional problems that are serious enough to warrant intervention. In recent years, anxiety type disorders have far outpaced other issues for children, almost 2 to 1. Youth are more apprehensive these days, and it shows. It is well known that if parents and caregivers can remain stable in changing times,

children respond as well. It is just as important for caregivers to develop strategies to meet their own needs, as it is for youth. And to do so is for the sake of our youth.

Dr. Chris Morano, Mobile Crisis Director

Irish Fest
August 13th - 16th



Quality Assurance

Valuable Resources

There are two resources that I recently explored that I feel are worth sharing. The Portland State University Research and Training Center on Family Support & Children's Mental Health (www.rtc.dx.edu) publishes a quarterly magazine called "Focal Point". The Summer 2009 edition focuses on youth empowerment and participation in mental health care. Back issues of "Focal Point" are available for free download from their website above. Check it out!

Another great resource is a website (www.teendiversophy.com) that provides learning tools, programs, products and resources for persons striving to build strong, healthy, inclusive, affirming environments for high school age students. They believe that culturally diverse school communities provide a rich forum for cognitive, socioemotional, behavioral and character growth. Really great learning tools!

If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to give me a call at (414) 257-7608 or email me at pam.erdman@milwcnty.com.

Pamela Erdman, QA/QI Director

Quality Quote of the Month

"Always remember that you are absolutely unique. Just like everyone else."

- Margaret Mead



Announcements

Positive Recognition Awards

The following have been recipients of "Positive Recognition" awards:

Dr. Earl Bracy – Bracy Psychological Service

Nominated by Anna VonRueden–My Home Your Home
"For your generosity and positive spirit... a team player... routinely delivers therapy logs on time..."

Ameera Mahfouz - Youth

Nominated by Anna VonRueden–My Home Your Home
"...has progressed tremendously... can maintain a positive and respectful attitude in difficult situations... is willing to work hard to achieve her goals!"

Daralyn Jedrzejczak – Shorehaven Behavioral Health

Nominated by Anna VonRueden–My Home Your Home
"For always keeping the best interests of [my client] at heart... for guiding the team professionally and helping us break those uncharted waters!"

Sheila Wasserman – Juvenile Probation

Nominated by Anna VonRueden–My Home Your Home
"...has always been a great team player...maintains her professionalism while being very passionate... truly cares for her clients and their well-being."

Youth Council Board

Nominated by Brian McBride – St. Charles Youth & Family Services

"...a big thank you for all their help during the bake sale. It was a huge success and we all appreciate your hard work and dedication. Outstanding Job!"

Wraparound Milwaukee & Care Coordination Agencies

Nominated by Brian McBride – St. Charles Youth & Family Services

"To everyone that helped at the [Youth Council] bake sale and who provided all the treats. Thank you. Your help in this event went a long way. Thanks so much!"

Michael Hopskins – Running Rebels

Nominated by Jacqueline Walker - Parent

"I would like to acknowledge the patience, guidance and understanding he has shown my grandson since working with him..."

Lavante M. Brown - Youth

Nominated by Natasha Brown - Parent

"Lavante is an honor roll student... is positive and very bright... is a positive role model for his younger siblings... is very respectful...loves to have fun."

Val Lura – Children's Service Society

Nominated by Mary Atkinson - Parent

"...has had a great rapport with Christine, whether Christine is in good spirits or feeling down. She also works well with me."

Shanea Washington- Human Development Center

Nominated by Mary Atkinson - Parent

"...has always been there when we needed her... kept tabs on Christine... Christine was always happy after outings with Shanea."

Jennifer Bosch – Family Options Counseling

Nominated by Kathy Ball - Parent

"...has helped Ethan a lot... has helped the family move on... is very nice and answers all our questions."

Aaron Skobel – Alternatives in Psychological Consultation

Nominated by Kathy Ball - Parent
"...has been very good for my grandson... he enjoys himself when he is with him."

Dr. Julius Agara – Sebastian Family Psychology
 Nominated by Noriselle Morales – Parent

Team Discovery
 Nominated by Taylor Karshna – St. Aemilian-Lakeside
"...has gone above and beyond to make an impact on the lives of the children and families they work with... we are lucky to have them shaping our youth to become positive, productive members of the community."

Chad Roper – Human Development Center
 Nominated by Andrew Schreier – Noah House
"...has been a positive role model for a current resident... a great asset to the team... an outstanding influence on this youth."

Guy Pauletti – Integrity Family Services
 Nominated by Andrew Schreier – Noah House
"... has done an excellent job providing services to a current resident... has been at every POC meeting... has helped [resident] during a crisis..."



Milwaukee A La Carte
 at the Zoo
 August 20th - 23rd

Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER 2009

- Sep. 2** DHHS Centralized QA Mtg.
9:00-11:00am WM – Room 212
- Sep. 3** Mgmt./Supervisors Meeting
8:15-10:00am WM – Room 212
- Sep. 3** High Risk Reviews
11:00-1:00pm WM – Room 253

- Sep. 3** Monthly Care Coordinator Mtg.
1:00-3:00 Adm. Panel – McCarty Park
- Sep. 7** **LABOR DAY**
WM Office Closed
- Sep. 9** **Child Psych. Cons. – Parent**
12:00-1:00pm WM – Room 253
- Sep. 10** **High Risk Reviews**
11:00-1:00pm WM – Room 253
- Sep. 15** **CC Trg. – Mod.1 - Day 1**
8:30-4:00pm WM – Room 4156
- Sep. 16** **CC Trg. – Mod. 1 - Day 2**
8:30-4:00pm WM – Room 416
- Sep. 16** **Provider Meeting**
10:00-11:30 CHP Auditorium
- Sep. 17** **Mgmt./Supervisors Meeting**
8:15-10:00am at LaCausa
- Sep. 17** **High Risk Reviews**
11:00-1:00pm WM – Room 253
- Sep. 22** **CC Trg. – Mod. 2**
1:00-4:00pm WM – Room 416
- Sep. 23** **CC Trg. – Mod. 3**
8:30-12:30pm WM – Room 416
- Sep. 23** **Child Psych. Cons. – R-St.A's**
12:00-1:00pm WM – Room 253
- Sep. 24** **High Risk Reviews**
11:00-1:00pm WM – Room 253
- Sep. 29** **Provider Orientation**
9:00-11:30am WM – Room 212
- Sep. 29** **CC Trg. – Mod. 4**
9:30-2:00pm WM – Room 416

Editor
 Debra Jansen, Consumer Relations Coordinator - (414) 257-6532.
 For more information on Wraparound Milwaukee, go to our
 Website at www.county.milwaukee.gov and search using the
 keywords "Wraparound Milwaukee".

Mexican Fiesta
 August 21st - 23rd



Greater Milwaukee Major Events

9/3-9/6	2009 Milwaukee Rally	Dealerships in Milwaukee	(800) 554-1448
9/9-9/13	Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival	Jefferson Fair Park	(608) 868-2505
9/11-9/12	TosaFest	Wauwatosa	(414) 453-2330
9/11-9/13	Indian Summer Festival	Henry Maier Festival Park	(414) 604-1000
9/11-9/27	Oktoberfest Weekends	Heidelberg Park	(414) 462-9147
9/19	Milwaukee River Challenge	Pere Marquette Park/River	(414) 223-6901
9/19-9/20	Cedarburg Wine & Harvest Festival	Historic Downtown Cedarburg	(800) 237-2874
9/25-9/27	Harvest Fair/World Beef Expo	Wisconsin State Fair Park	(414) 266-7000
9/26-9/27	Fine Furnishings Milwaukee Show	Midwest Airlines Center	(414) 908-6001