



# WRAPAROUND MILWAUKEE

Child & Adolescent Services Branch

News – A Monthly Publication

DECEMBER 2008

## From the Director...



### Happy Holidays and a Great New Year

On behalf of all of the staff at Wraparound Milwaukee, our Care Coordinators, Leads and Supervisors, our many Providers and all the great families we work with, I want to extend best wishes for the coming holidays. It is also a time to thank all of you connected with Wraparound Milwaukee for your dedication, commitment and hard work that enabled Wraparound Milwaukee to effectively serve over 1300 youth and their families in 2008.

Of particular note in 2008, was the growth of the REACH program for non-court involved youth with serious emotional needs. The REACH program is now serving over 170 families. It was also a year that saw the development and implementation of the Safe Schools and Healthy Students program within the Milwaukee Public Schools and Wraparound Milwaukee's role in that program to expand mental health students within the 24 participating schools.

We look forward to the continued growth of Wraparound Milwaukee and REACH in 2009.

Again, Happy Holidays to all!

Bruce Kamradt, Director

## Wraparound Success Story...

*Dante\*, a youth with serious emotional and mental health needs, was enrolled in Wraparound Milwaukee in connection with a charge of first-degree sexual assault. Upon enrollment, reports indicated that he had severe problems in school, both academically and behaviorally. He was also having a hard time interacting with peers and forming positive friendships. He was living in the home with his mother and younger sister. Due to the seriousness of the charge, one of the first issues for the child & family team was to make sure that a safety plan was put into place. The team worked with Dante's mother to assure that the younger child in the home was not left alone with Dante at any time. Dante's Wraparound team facilitated his enrollment in a program that works with youth that have displayed sexualized behaviors and helps them to*

*realize the impact that their offense has, not only on the victim, but the whole family.*

*The team worked with Dante to address problems within the school setting. A crisis stabilizer/tracker was added to the team to work with Dante on ensuring that he attended all classes as scheduled. As team members began to meet with the school, it was discovered that Dante had serious problems reading. The team worked with his mother to have his Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) reviewed. As a result, it was modified to allow him more time to complete assignments. He began to improve in school. The team also worked to get him involved in more age-appropriate activities that was difficult to do due to his charge and his not being able to be unsupervised around younger children. His crisis stabilizer involved him in the Boys and Girls Club and spent time working with him on interacting better with peers and improving his social skills. A family therapist was added to the team to help address concerns within the home. The therapist was able to assist the family with communicating with each other, as well as work through some issues from the past that hadn't been dealt with. The family also started a "Family Night", wherein one night per week the family would decide on an activity to do together as a unit.*

*The team also worked with the family to bring in extended relatives to spend time with Dante. They would spend time with him in the community. When Dante was enrolled in Wraparound Milwaukee, one of the things that he was most worried about was that other family members would not want him around. But, after they found out about what efforts he was making, they were more supportive*

*Dante was able to move toward disenrollment after completing the program for sexualized behaviors. He displayed a positive change in school with his grades and attendance improving. He began to have friends and spend time with them in the community. Dante also obtained a part-time job, as he reached disenrollment. Dante shows that a good team and providing a comprehensive array of services can make a big difference in a youth's life.*

(\* Name changed for confidentiality.)

Submitted by Aurora Family Service

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## *Local News...*

### **Wraparound Milwaukee Participates in Safe Schools/Healthy Students Meeting**

Teams from 26 school districts across the Country who are participating in the Safe Schools Healthy Students grant program attended the “Leading Implementation for Systems Change meeting” in Albuquerque, New Mexico, December 3 & 4, 2008. The Milwaukee Team included Kristi Cole, Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) and Project Director, Jeannie Dorsey, Director of Parent & Student Services at MPS; Paul Dedinsky, Assistant District Attorney; Michael Jones, Chief of Training with the Milwaukee Fire Department; Greg Moore, Milwaukee Police Department Captain; and myself, as Director of Wraparound Milwaukee.

The meeting allowed participating teams to focus on how to measure and evaluate their logic model plans and review progress toward the stated goals. The Mental Health Liaison position being provided by Wraparound Milwaukee and Mobile Crisis Training Component are currently a strategy for improving student access to mental health assessment and treatment services. One area of mental health care where other school districts are significantly ahead of Milwaukee is in the development of school-based mental health clinics. Most of these clinics are staffed by local mental health authorities or private agencies. This area of need will be further looked at by our Care Management team. One area of strengths for youth with serious emotional and mental health needs has been access created to the new REACH program. About 20 youth from the 26 participating Safe Schools have been enrolled in that program this far.

Bruce Kamradt, Director

## *National News...*

### **Study Concludes the Detrimental Effects of Group Placement Services**

In a recent report entitled “Deviant Peer Influences in Intervention & Public Policy for Youth”, the Society for Research in Child Development (SFRCD) shares findings that rather than helping youth, current policies related to placement of youth in group and residential facilities may be having an adverse affect. The study concluded that at-risk adolescents’ propensity to become further unruly or delinquent is exacerbated through association with other anti-social individuals. Youth seek out others who are “like them” in a phenomenon called homophily.

The adverse affects of care rendered in group settings, according to the study, occur because undesirable behavior escalates when youth with deviant behavior are grouped together. Aspiring to be successful with peers, these youth perceive that the behavior norms of the group are the bad behavior that brought the group together in the first place. This dynamic perpetuates patterns of bad behavior that are positively reinforced by the peer group.

A challenge for residential treatment centers is that this research suggests that peers are more likely to respond to a youth’s behavior than staff – giving peers more power to shape behavior.

The study suggests the following as the best alternatives to group and residential treatment placements:

- Family-based interventions that utilize behavioral principles.
- Family-centered treatments directed to individual youth.
- Intensive parent support.

The SFRCD study supports the utilization of wraparound approaches that emphasized individualized, community-based care for youth whenever possible and keeping residential placements shorter-term due to the adverse affects of peer influences on youth.

Bruce Kamradt, Director

## *Mobile Crisis News...*

In November, the Mobile Urgent Treatment Team (MUTT) continued to partner with Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) and participated in several trainings at various schools, as well as MPS Central Administration. Jeff Robinson and I addressed diagnostic teachers and supervisors on Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, about youth behavioral health and commonly used medications. The group was also updated on the REACH program, with the hope that MPS would continue working with families to access the program. I have also been working with Kristi Cole of the MPS Safe Schools/Healthy Students grant, to help Safe Schools understand and utilize a strengths-based approach. MUTT-MPS has also helped MPS with several trainings, most recently at North Division High School held November 19<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Steve Dykstra has been instrumental in collaborating with Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin (CHOW), to assist youth admitted there with co-occurring medical and behavioral health needs.

Finally, MUTT has 4 MSW graduate student trainees working with us this fall, all from the University

of Wisconsin. These trainees all have experience in the field of human services and are dedicated to helping families.

Dr. Chris Morano, Mobile Crisis Director

## Quality Assurance News...

### 2009 Policy & Procedure Updates

By now all Provider Agencies should have received their 2009 Policy & Procedure updates. Please carefully read the cover letter and the attached 2009 QA Policy & Procedure Sign-Off form. All Sign-Off forms are expected to be returned to the Wraparound Milwaukee QA Department no later than December 1, 2008. All policies go into effect on January 1, 2009. If you have any questions related to the policies, and/or believe you are missing a policy, please feel free to give me a call.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to give me a call at (414) 257-7608 or e-mail me at [paerdman@wrapmilw.org](mailto:paerdman@wrapmilw.org).

Pamela Erdman, QA/QI Director



#### Quality Quote of the Month

*"In all affairs, it's a healthy thing now and then to hang a question mark on the things you have long taken for granted."*

- Bertyrand Russell (1872-1970)

## Announcements...

### Positive Recognition Awards

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

#### **Mary Patterson – Foster Parent**

Nominated by Marshall Williams – Running Rebels

*"I want to recognize the extraordinary work of a most caring and compassionate foster parent... In a very short time, Mary Patterson has worked wonders with her quiet and sincere demeanor... She is truly an "earth angel" for the kids in her care."*

#### **Kurt Maurer – Willowglen Community Care**

Nominated by Ann Mateffy – Parent

*"Throughout the time in which my family and I have worked with Wraparound and Kurt Maurer, I have come to realize how Kurt will be missed... Kurt is extremely dedicated. He goes above and beyond... he always, always calls back, he helps with resources, education, therapies, most of all he hears us... Kurt is truly going to be missed. So, thank-you, Kurt and Wraparound. With much respect from the Mateffy family."*

## Upcoming Events...

### JANUARY 2009

- Jan. 1** **Happy New Year!**  
Office Closed
- Jan. 7** **DHHS Centralized QA Mtg.**  
9:00-10:30am BHD-Day Hospital – Room 212
- Jan. 8** **High Risk Reviews**  
11:00-1:00pm BHD-Day Hospital – Room 253
- Jan. 8** **Monthly Care Coordinator Mtg.**  
1:00-3:00pm CHP Auditorium
- Jan. 9** **Disenroll Reviews**  
9:00-2:00pm BHD-Day Hospital – Room 253
- Jan. 14** **Child Psych. Cons. – REACH-St.A's**  
12:00-1:00pm BHD-Day Hospital – Room 253
- Jan. 15** **Mgmt./Supervisors Meeting**  
8:15-10:00am at My Home, Your Home
- Jan. 15** **High Risk Reviews**  
11:00-1:00pm BHD-Day Hospital – Room 253
- Jan. 21** **Partnership Council Meeting**  
12:00-1:30pm BHD-Day Hospital – Room 212
- Jan. 22** **High Risk Reviews**  
11:00-1:00pm BHD-Day Hospital – Room 253
- Jan. 26** **Group Home Meeting**  
9:30-12:00noon BHD-Day Hospital – Room 416
- Jan. 28** **Child Psych. Cons. – MHYH**  
12:00-1:00pm BHD-Day Hospital – Room 253
- Jan. 29** **High Risk Reviews**  
11:00-1:00pm BHD-Day Hospital – Room 253

#### Editor

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



### Greater Milwaukee Major Events



12/5-12/6  
1/1

Christmas in the Ward  
Cool Fool Kite Festival

Historic Third Ward  
Milwaukee Lakefront

(414) 273-1173  
(414) 305-3145