



WRAPAROUND MILWAUKEE

Child & Adolescent Services Branch

News – A Monthly Publication

FEBRUARY 2010

From the Director...



Progress Report on Professional Foster Parent Program is Favorable

The Professional Foster Parent Program, now three years underway, is the subject of an evaluation and progress report by Wraparound Milwaukee and Wisconsin Council on Children and Families (WCCF) Evaluator, Pnina Goldfarb, Ph.D. The Professional Foster Parent Program is designed to provide special care and support to female youth, ages 13 to 17, with serious emotional and mental health needs, chronic histories of runaway behavior and many failed previous placements. It is designed as an alternative to residential treatment, group home and correctional placements.

Each girl is matched with a foster care parent who is an actual employee of the foster care agency and who provides foster care services, and through their experience and training, also become the girl's care coordinator.

The impetus for this model comes through research over a number of years suggesting that there is a need for unique and different strategies for girls than boys. For example, many existing programs have focused on controlling girls' runaway behavior through institutionalizing them in residential treatment centers or correctional facilities rather than providing effective community supports to help them move beyond the trauma that fuels running.

Much of the additional impetus for the Professional Foster Parent Program comes from the work of Jan Wilberg, Ph.D., in her report "Connections – Re-Thinking Strategies to Connect Delinquent Girls to Success" (2006). Jan suggests the need in her paper for: 1) relationship reconstruction with the natural parents; 2) interventions establishing sustaining positive relationship with one person; 3) skill building, promoting and academic success; and 4) caretakers possessing specific training and orientation to the needs of these girls. These are roles assumed by the Professional Foster Parent in this new model.

The Professional Foster Parent Program is limited as a pilot initiative to 10 girls at a time. To date, 18 girls have been enrolled (December 2006 to December 2009). The study done by Pnina Goldfarb looked at the 10 girls discharged so far from the

program. The average age of the girls upon entering the program is 15.1 years, with the girls staying in the placements ranging from 2 to 25 months.

Overall, 50% of the girls achieved permanency. The overall number of days for these girls in more restrictive placements like group homes or residential treatment decreased significantly from an average of 105 days to an average of 3.3 days. For the girls that did establish permanency, the data revealed no increase in the number of runaway episodes and only a small increase in the number of runaway days (27%). Forty-four percent of the girls increased their school attendance. While actual clinical improvement as measured on the Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL) was only significant for one girl and most girls evidenced no change, the foster parents themselves reported improvement when surveyed.

Four professional foster parents were intensively interviewed by Pnina for the study. Some of the successes identified by the foster parents were: "she (enrolled girl) acquired a sense of belonging in the world: "developed respect and some acceptance of herself", "this girl is now ready for high school," "parent and child overcame their fears", "she (the girl) seems happier and more confident". As to disappointments for the foster families, those ranged from "the girl needed more time, then family would have been ready to receive her", "tried to work toward permanency, but family didn't really want her", "child needed counseling day by day, incident by incident", "could not control her running".

Asked to describe the foster care arrangements, there were a number of responses that could be summed up as "when they (girls) leave, they know they are loved. That's why they stay in touch" (professional foster parent).

From a cost perspective, as compared to all service costs for girls placed in group homes and residential treatment centers, the average cost for a girl in a professional foster home is over \$1,200 less per month than a group home and nearly \$2,200 less per month than a residential treatment center.

One consistent part of the survey has been the high praise for the work of the program coordinator, Jennifer Wilder, without whom this program would not be as successful. Special thanks also goes to the Treatment Foster Care agencies for this project – St.

Charles, St. Aemilian's, LaCausa and Fresh Start, who recruit, license and help oversee this unique set of Professional Foster Parents.

Wraparound Milwaukee will continue to monitor this Pilot Program and will continue to collect data for evaluation and analysis of the program. Thanks to Pnina Goldfarb, Ph.D., for her very thorough analysis of the Professional Foster Care Program. The complete Progress Report to date on the Professional Foster Care Program is available from Ms Goldfarb by email at pnina.goldfarb@milwcnty.com.

New Safe Schools Liaison

Mara Youngbauer, M.S., a nine-year veteran with the Wraparound Milwaukee and REACH programs and most currently working with LaCausa's REACH unit, is the new Safe Schools/Healthy Students Liaison for Wraparound Milwaukee. Mara will work with the 39 Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) in the five-year initiative to identify and assess students for enrollment in the Wraparound REACH program or other non-Wraparound mental health services, consult on the CST teams, link students and families to Mobile Urgent Treatment Team services and will provide other support services to the various schools in the initiative. A major goal of Safe Schools is to better identify and provide access to mental health services for youth with serious emotional and behavioral needs.

Stacy Kozel, M.S.W., who has worked on the Safe Schools program and is also one of our Quality Assurance Coordinators, will work with Mary Jo Meyers, Deputy Director, on the REACH program. She will also continue to work with the child psychiatry fellows providing consultation to two of the identified Safe Schools – Hi Mount and Wedgewood. Stacy will also continue to work on credentialing of clinical providers.

Mara Youngbauer assumed her new responsibilities on February 15, 2010.

Bruce Kamradt, Director



Wraparound Success Story...

In January 2010 Michael became a permanent part of his family when guardianship was granted to his maternal aunt and uncle. Michael's*

journey to permanency was long, but the success at the end was great.

Michael was enrolled in Wraparound Milwaukee in May 2007, as part of a CHIPS order that was set to expire on his 18th birthday in October 2017. Upon enrollment, Michael had been placed in a residential treatment facility for stabilization before he was able to return to the home of his paternal uncle and his wife. Michael's two siblings were in the process of being adopted by the same relatives at this time. Michael had a very difficult time dealing with the adoption of his siblings, while he remained in residential care. The team worked to get Michael returned to the relative placement, and was able to achieve this on the same day that his siblings' adoption was complete. Michael seemed to be doing well in the home and there were no reports of serious incidents or behaviors.

A few months into his return home, Michael's aunt found out that she was pregnant and that resulted in the family deciding that he would be too much for them to deal with, along with the expectation of a new baby. The family submitted a thirty-day notice of removal and the team immediately began looking for a treatment foster care placement. After a visit to a potential foster parent, which went well, the team reported to Michael's aunt that the visit went okay and an overnight visit was planned for that weekend. The next day Michael ended up, with all his belongings in garbage bags, being dropped at his Child Welfare worker's office. He was placed in temporary respite and the move to the foster home was expedited. This placement lasted for roughly nine months, but ended up not being a good placement for him. Michael had constant issues in school due to his escalating behaviors.

It was January 2009 Michael received a breakthrough. During the time he was in the foster home, a maternal aunt found out that he was no longer living with the paternal uncle and came forward and expressed interest in having Michael come and live with her. This was a long process, but Michael's aunt and her husband remained dedicated to him and he was successfully transitioned to the aunt's home. Michael tested the aunt and uncle for the first couple of months, but their unconditional love and dedication won him over and he became very stable. The aunt and uncle engaged him in different activities in the community and introduced him to family he never knew. Michael's behavior in school went from almost being expelled to not having one suspension yet this school year. The aunt was eventually granted guardianship of Michael and the judge immediately

terminated his CHIPS order and his Wraparound order. The family was happy with the result and Michael was finally able to feel like he was a “normal kid” with a “normal family”.

(* Name changed for confidentiality.)

Submitted by AJA Counseling Center

Mobile Crisis...



In February, the Mobile Urgent Treatment Team (MUTT) began assisting youth and families in treatment foster care (TFC). MUTT-TFC will offer its first training and collaboration with TFC parents on February 25th at Fresh Start. As requested, the topic will center around intervening with complex and high-risk youth in TFC.

MUTT-MPS completed a time response study in late 2009, and determined that on average it took just over 20 minutes to arrive at a school following an initial call. This is well within expectations of other service-related systems, such as law enforcement. MUTT-MPD also received positive feedback from families and school staff. One family wrote, “MUTT and the crisis stabilizer have been a life-saver for my son and I.” Gregg Wilis, Assistant Principal at Rufus King offered, “MUTT has proven to be a valuable asset when some of the most difficult situations present themselves.” We hope to continue to be a support for families and schools in the future.

Dr. Chris Morano, Mobile Crisis Director

Quality Assurance...



Wraparound Cultural Diversity Committee Update

Happy 2010 from the Wraparound Cultural Diversity Committee!

We had a successful year in 2009, as it relates to the committee’s dedication to promoting and encouraging cultural competence and celebrating one’s strengths and individualism. In 2010 we would like to continue to offer cultural diversity training opportunities to the Wraparound Milwaukee Provider Network agencies. Efforts are made to tailor the training to specific needs of your agency/staff. We offer an interactive experience that promotes self-awareness and cultural sensitivity.

If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity and/or would like to schedule a training, please call Janet Friedman at (414) 257-7597.

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

“Faith is taking the first step, even when you don’t see the whole staircase.”

- Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968)

Announcements...

Positive Recognition Awards

The following have been recipients of “Positive Recognition” awards:

Cornelius Smith – Human Development Center

Nominated by Bruce Christianson – St. Aemilian-Lakeside

“Cornelius has been very effective with out client. Cornelius has provided the team with great insight into the behaviors of our client and has had a very positive affect on our client’s self-esteem.”

Charles Owens – Human Development Center

Nominated by Skyla Roper – AJA Counseling Center

“Charles continues to be a great support for this family. He is reliable and consistent with the service he provides which has proven to be a benefit for the young man he works with. The youth and foster parent continuously praise Mr. Owens for his outstanding service and dedication to helping this youth be successful.”

Ellis Hooker – LS Transportation

Nominated by Thavone Munesy-Delgado – AJA Counseling Center

“Mr. Ellis Hooker has always gone above and beyond to help our agency get the children to their appointments on time. The driver would go to the door and encourage the children to attend school, programs and other services.

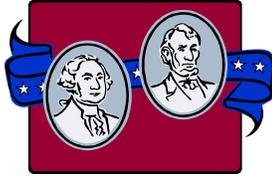
Craig Michelson – Aurora Family Service

Nominated by Cheryl Peterson - Wraparound

“An Ongoing Case Manager reported at Central Staffing that Craig had done an ‘outstanding job’ in his work with this family, that the team was ‘great’ and had helped in ‘so many ways’! She said that having Craig involved with the family was one of the reasons she had been so confident about returning this sibling to the home. Thank you, Craig, for the great efforts given and the wonderful teamwork you have inspired. It is clear that you had an immense positive impact upon this family. We appreciate your work, skills and ability to

motive the team for the benefit of the families you serve. It was wonderful to be the Wraparound representative at the Central Staffing panel when your work was described and praised!

President's Day – February 15th



Upcoming Events...



MARCH 2010

- Mar. 2** **New Care Coor. Trg. – M2**
8:30-12:30pm WM – Room 416
- Mar. 3** **DHHS Centralized QA Mtg.**
9:00-11:00am WM – Room 212
- Mar. 4** **Mgmt./Supervisors Meeting**
8:15-10:00am WM – Room 416
- Mar. 4** **High Risk Reviews**
11:00-1:00pm WM – Room 253
- Mar. 4** **Monthly Care Coordinator Mtg.**
1:00-3:00pm CHP Auditorium
- Mar. 5** **WM/BMCW Mtg.**
1:00-3:00pm WM – Room 253
- Mar. 9** **New Care Coor. Trg. – M3**
9:00-12:30pm WM – Room 416

- Mar. 10** **New Care Coor. Trg. – M4**
8:30-1:30pm WM – Room 416
- Mar. 10** **Child Psych. Cons. – Parent**
12:00-1:00pm WM – Room 253
- Mar. 11** **High Risk Reviews**
11:00-1:00pm WM – Room 253
- Mar. 16** **New Care Coor. Trg. – M5**
9:00-2:00pm WM – Room 416
- Mar. 18** **Mgmt./Supervisors Meeting**
8:15-10:00am WM – Room 416
- Mar. 19** **New Care Coor. Trg. – M6**
9:00-2:30pm @ Children's Court – Rm. 1260
- Mar. 23** **New Care Coor. Trg. – M7**
1:00-4:00pm WM – Room 416
- Mar. 24** **Child Psych. Cons. – R-LaCausa**
12:00-1:00pm WM – Room 253
- Mar. 24** **Provider Meeting**
10:00-11:30am WM - Cafeteria
- Mar. 25** **New Care Coor. Trg. – M8**
8:30-12:00pm WM – Room 416
- Mar. 25** **High Risk Reviews**
11:00-1:00pm WM – Room 253
- Mar. 31** **New Care Coor. Trg. – M9**
8:30-11:30pm 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".

Greater Milwaukee Major Events

2/11-2/14	2010 Realtors Spring Show	Wisconsin Exposition Center (414) 778-4929
2/13-2/14	Cedarburg Winter Festival	Historic Downtown Cedarburg (800) 237-2874
2/20-2/28	Greater Milwaukee Auto Show	Midwest Airlines Center (414) 908-6001
3/13-3/14	Indian Summer Fest. Winter Pow Wow	Wisconsin State Fair Park (414) 604-1000
3/13	Blarney Run/Walk	Village of Wauwatosa (414) 479-8900
3/13	Downtown St. Patrick's Day Parade	Downtown Milwaukee (414) 276-6696