



# WRAPAROUND MILWAUKEE

Child & Adolescent Services Branch

News – A Monthly Publication

MAY 2010



## From the Director...

Say “O-YEAH!”

### for Older Youth and Emerging Adult Heroes

Remember being 17, 18 or 19, finishing high school and then thinking, what now? Do I know what to do? For most people, the transition from adolescence to adulthood was a bit scary and even a bit challenging.

It is so much more daunting for today's youth who are confronted with hard economic times and a complex, global society. Furthermore, adolescent brain research theory (Society of Neuroscience, Washington University School of Medicine: January 2007) has substantiated that cerebral maturation, including well developed reasoning and impulse control, is not complete until age 25. This all suggests that young adults, especially those with a serious emotional disturbance (SED), require supports far beyond the age of 18 so that they may experience success in navigating this transition to adulthood.

In response to the significant gap in service for youth who are aging out of the children's system of care, the Wisconsin Bureau of Prevention, Treatment and Recovery (BPTR) in partnership with Wraparound Milwaukee has received a five year Federal grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). This grant will create developmentally appropriate and effective youth-guided local systems of care that will improve outcomes for youth and young adults with serious mental health conditions. The focus of support includes the following domains of growth and development: Living (e.g. housing), Working (e.g. employment), Learning (e.g. school/training), Belonging (e.g. friendships), Healing (e.g. health) and Being Safe.

Wisconsin is one of seven states that have received this grant. As a continuance of a previous set of federally funded youth in transition grants, the simultaneous involvement on both the state and local levels will bring the entire field to a new understanding of how to best augment this “gap” in service. At the State level, the focus of work will be on enhancing communication and collaboration between systems (e.g. education and mental health, adult and child services)

and creating a platform for some statewide policy changes.

At the local level, there are two major components to this program that make it unique. They are the involvement of community agencies and services, and the nurturing of the *Youth Voice* as the program develops and evolves across time in the community.

*The Milwaukee Interagency Youth Transition Team (MIAYTT)* has formed and is represented by 13+ community agencies. Meeting several times, their first charge has been to clearly define the needs of these older youth and young adults and begin to take an inventory of the resources that already exist in our community. Identifying a myriad of tasks, a number of subcommittees are being formed to work on the domain of growth and development, program evaluation and quality assurance, coordination of adult and children mental health services, and youth as parents.

The youth voice is being actualized through the building of an *Older Youth/Young Adult Council* and a youth clubhouse/resource center. O-YEAH is a voluntary program and therefore the desires and concerns of our youth need to be heard and their active participation in directing their own lives is critical. One youth focus group has already been conducted. Their insights and experiences will help us frame our program to best address the priorities that these young adults have articulated. *The Clubhouse* (yet to be named by our youth), housed at Wraparound Milwaukee, will be a drop-in resource and support center. It will have a lounge, a cooking facility, computers, resource information, and will be a place to be and to have some recreational outlets (i.e., gym and bowling alley). It will be staffed with a resource specialist whose role is to build relationships, engage youth and strategically direct them to resources. The Clubhouse will be open to all SED youth, either through memberships or guest passes.

The overall program will have 3 tiers to meet the individualized needs of this population. For some, the clubhouse will be sufficient to meet their needs. For those that need more, they can choose to be involved with a *Futures Coach*. Finally, for those that have serious and continuous mental health needs, there will be a formalized transition into the adult service systems that now exist.



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The centerpiece of this program is the *Targeted Futures Plan* that is created and directed by each youth based on the individual vision that they have for their adult lives. With the help of a Futures Coach, the youth identifies their needs, strengths, strategies and the supports necessary to actualize their hopes and dreams. These plans will be first developed by the Wraparound Milwaukee Care Coordinators for all youth that have reached the age of 16½. This will help the youth and families focus their attention on transition to adulthood much earlier and could potentially support a gap-free, more effective continuum of care and service.

In year one of this five-year grant, we hope to serve 60 youth, ages 17 to 21, through the use of *Futures Coaches* and an open number of youth through the clubhouse. The outcomes that O-YEAH is striving for are:

- Reduced attrition from the system of care by older youth and young adults.
- Increased successful transitions to adulthood.
- Reduced rates of homelessness, joblessness, incarcerations and emotional and behavioral challenges.

O-YEAH is conceptualized as fluid and will continue to grow and evolve as the impact of this initiative is evaluated and the voices of the community and especially the youth themselves are heard. The program will officially begin mid-summer 2010. For more information about the program, contact Owen Felix, Transition Coordinator, at (414) 257-7158.

Written by: Pnina Goldfarb for this month's article from the Director



## Wraparound Success Story...

*B.B.\* was enrolled in 2008 in Wraparound Milwaukee at the age of 8. At that time he was on a CHIPS (Child in Need of Protective Services) order and was living in a Treatment Foster Home. Prior to his placement in the Treatment Foster Home, B.B. was placed at several other foster homes. B.B. was placed in a day treatment program for school due to behavior issues that were displayed in the school setting. B.B. was then also having supervised visits with his biological parents. However, the visits were very inconsistent and as a result of the inconsistency, B.B.'s behavior issues would re-occur.*

*B.B.'s team put strategies in place to assist B.B. with managing his behavior in a most appropriate manner. B.B. was provided with an individual therapist who met with him on a weekly basis to discuss his behaviors and worked with him to address family concerns. B.B. was also provided with a crisis stabilizer who worked with him on a weekly basis, engaging him in age appropriate activities and who was also available to respond to crisis situations in the home. The Child and Family Team made an effort to ensure that B.B. was involved in and participated in community recreational activities. B.B. was also provided with a psychiatrist who prescribed medication for him. In the beginning it was very difficult for B.B. to maintain good behavior. He would have crises at school and at home on a weekly basis. At one point the treatment foster care parent talked about giving the team a 30-day notice to have B.B. removed from her home because of his behavior. The team worked hard and consistently supported the family and encouraged them to continue with the plan. B.B. transitioned from day treatment to a regular school and the team worked to get an individualized education plan for B.B. The team stayed in close contact with the staff at school in an effort to offer support and assistance for issues that would arise. B.B. had a smooth transition and began to obtain good grades in the school setting. The team also worked very hard with B.B. in the home and with his biological family. His biological family noticed the improvements, but decided that they could not provide B.B. with what he needed, so they voluntarily terminated their parental rights.*

*Although his parents terminated their rights, B.B. still maintains a relationship with his older brother, who spends time with him. The team talked with the treatment foster care parent regarding adopting B.B. and after much thought, and with B.B. moving in the right direction regarding his behavior, the treatment foster care parent agreed. B.B. was adopted by this treatment foster care parent on January 5, 2010. He has changed his name and is doing well in the home, as well as the school setting. B.B. told the team that he feels a lot better being part of a family, which is evident in all of his accomplishments.*

(\* Name changed for confidentiality.)

Submitted by Aurora Family Service



## Youth Council...

The Wraparound Milwaukee Youth Council held it's 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Talent Show on April 21, 2010! The Youth Council had 25 performers that showcased their talents in front of over 200 people who attended the

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event. The performances included singing, dancing and poetry and artwork were displayed around the room. Each participant did a wonderful job and the event was a total success! The Youth Council wanted to display each individual's talents and strengths and through this event they were able to do just that! The Youth Council would like to thank everyone for making this a special evening!

The Youth Council continues to grow and has become a very vocal and active part of the lives of youth enrolled in the Wraparound Milwaukee program. Through the Youth Council, youth are learning ways to use their leadership skills to promote positive changes in their teams, as well as in their own lives. New opportunities are being offered for youth to take on leadership roles in the community and in their own families. In April, one youth went to Annapolis, Maryland to participate in the Youth in Transition planning meetings. This four-day event allowed this youth to participate with other youth from across the country and showcase leadership abilities.

Watch for more news on May's event – "Cultural Food Night!"

Brian McBride, St Charles Youth & Family

## National News...



### **BadgerCare Plus Benchmark Limits Eliminated for Mental Health & Substance Abuse Treatment**

I have been asked how the new parity legislation affects eligibility for Medicaid's Benchmark Program. Effective for date of service on and after January 1, 2010, the BadgerCare Plus Benchmark service limitations for mental health and substance abuse treatment services have been eliminated. Benchmark Plans are for persons over 200% of the federal poverty level and are not the "Standard Plan" enrollees that are part of the Wraparound Milwaukee eligibility group.

So the lifetime \$7,000 limit on AODA services and mental health services is eliminated, as are the dollar limitations for inpatient AODA and mental health care. The change is the result of the new federal mental health parity laws.

But, just to be clear, the following services are not covered:

- Community Support Program Services.
- Wraparound Milwaukee.
- Crisis Intervention.
- Intensive In-Home Mental Health for Children.

Covered Services that families may now receive, however, as an alternative to Wraparound Milwaukee enrollment include:

- Child & Adolescent Mental Health Day Treatment.
- Inpatient Hospitalization.
- Unlimited Outpatient Mental Health Therapy.
- AODA Day Treatment for Adults and Children.

If there are any questions, please let me know.

Bruce Kamradt, Director



## Mobile Crisis...



In April, the Mobile Urgent Treatment Team (MUTT) conducted self-concept discovery groups with Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) students at the 35<sup>th</sup> Street School. The MUTT staff, Ken White, Diana Johnstone, Terri Carson and Joanne Kemnitz used a multi-modal art approach to help the children think about how they related to the world.

On April 30<sup>th</sup>, MUTT staff Mike Maletis, Teresa Watkins, Kellie Anthony, Courtney Matthews and Julie Lubbers completed the Children's Service Society of Wisconsin 5K Walk/Run for adoption. This walk highlighted the needs of youth awaiting adoption and helped raise awareness of the issue.

In May, I will have the privilege of traveling with a group of core managers from the MPS Safe Schools/Healthy Students for a conference on sustainability of the program.

Dr. Chris Morano, Mobile Crisis Director

## Announcements...



### **Positive Recognition Awards**

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

#### **Michelle Vieth – LaCausa, Inc. REACH Program**

Nominated by Sylvester Thompson – Parent

*"Michelle helped me with everything... she did it in less than 30 days, something I could not do in the 16 years of my son's life – We love you Michelle Vieth!"*

#### **Lynn Wagner – Blessed Hope**

Nominated by Melanie Fleischmann - Wraparound



“Lynn has very honest – strengths-based communication with her clients! She’s a tremendous advocate for her families.”

**Damien Smith – Human Development Center**

Nominated by Chantel Jones – Servant Manor II

“Damien is always professional... is available to respond whenever [youth] is in crisis at the group home or school...”



*Upcoming Events...*



**JUNE 2010**

**Jun. 3** Mgmt./Supervisors Meeting  
8:15-10:00am WM – Room 416



**Jun. 3** High Risk Reviews  
11:00-1:00pm WM – Room 253

**Jun. 3** Monthly Care Coordinator Mtg.  
1:00-3:00pm “Cancelled”

**Jun. 9** Child Psych. Cons. – Parent  
12:00-1:00pm WM – Room 253

**Jun. 10** High Risk Reviews  
11:00-1:00pm WM – Room 253

**Jun. 16** Child Psych. Cons. – Willowglen  
12:00-1:00pm WM – Room 253

**Jun. 17** Mgmt./Supervisors Meeting  
8:15-10:00am WM – Room 416

**Jun. 17** High Risk Reviews  
11:00-1:00pm WM – Room 253

**Jun. 18** Resource Fair  
10:00-2:00pm Zoofari Conference Center

**Jun. 23** Child Psych. Cons. – R-LaCausa  
12:00-1:00pm WM – Room 253

**Jun. 24** High Risk Reviews  
11:00-1:00pm WM – Room 253

**Jun. 30** DHHS Centralized QA Mtg.  
9:00-11:00am WM – Room 212

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

**Greater Milwaukee Major Events**

6/2-8/25	River Rhythms	Pere Marquette Park	(414) 276-6696
TBA	Suzuki Motorcycle Weekend	Elkhart Lake-Road America	(800) 365-RACE
6/3-9/30	Jazz in the Park	Cathedral Square Park	(414) 271-1416
6/4-6/6	RiverSplash!	Downtown Milwaukee	(414) 297-9855
6/6	Miller Lite Ride for the Arts	Downtown Milwaukee	(414) 276-RIDE
6/6	Scottish Fest/Milw. Highland Games	Hart Park, Wauwatosa	(262) 796-0807
6/11-6/13	Bead & Button Show 2010	Midwest Airlines Center	(800) 554-0197
6/11-6/13	Milwaukee Air & Water Show	Bradford Beach	(414) 554-1448
6/11-6/13	PrideFest	Henry Maier Festival Park	(414) 272-FEST
6/12-6/13	Dairylicious Hoedown	The Elegant Farmer	(262) 363-6770
TBA	Chicago SCCA June Sprints	Elkhart Lake-Road America	(800) 365-RACE
6/18-6/20	Lakefront Festival of Arts	Milwaukee Art Museum	(414) 224-3854
6/18-6/19	NASCAR Weekend	Milwaukee Mile	(800) 554-1448
6/18-6/20	Polish Fest	Henry Maier Festival Park	(414) 529-2140
6/19	Juneteenth Day	Martin Luther King Drive	(414) 372-3770
6/24-7/4	Summerfest	Henry Maier Festival Park	(414) 273-3378
6/26-6/27	Cedarburg Strawberry Festival	Downtown Historic Cedarburg	(800) 237-2874

