



WRAPAROUND MILWAUKEE

Child & Adolescent Services Branch

News – A Monthly Publication

NOVEMBER 2009

From the Director...

Characteristics of REACH Youth

For this month's Newsletter, Pnina Goldfarb, our new Program Evaluator from the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families, has examined some of the characteristics of the youth served in Wraparound Milwaukee's REACH program versus those served in the regular Wraparound Milwaukee program.

While some of the differences between the two populations are more the result of the manner in which they enter the program, there are some clinical, educational and age differences that are worth noting and may help contribute to our overall understanding of these two Wraparound programs. A special thank you to Pnina for doing this analysis.

Bruce Kamradt, Director

Understanding the Youth of REACH

One year after launching REACH, the staff are moving beyond the initial implementation stage based on theory and program design. They are asking the harder questions that come with working with a population for a while. The staff want to know more about the characteristics of the youth of REACH and how they compare with the youth of Wraparound.

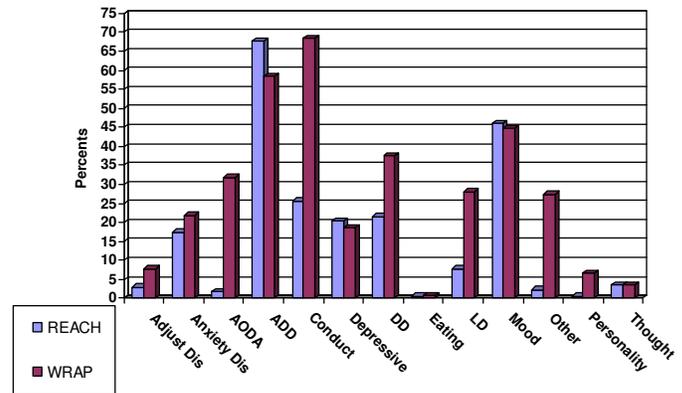
One central question that has emerged is, "Are the children and youth of REACH and Wraparound different?" We know by definition and design that one difference between the two programs is how the youth and their families are referred: a referral and court finding for Child Welfare or Juvenile Justice youth for regular Wraparound versus no court order and voluntary enrollment process for REACH. We also know that to be accepted into either program, the child or youth must meet Medicaid criteria for seriously emotionally disturbed (SED). But what else might differentiate the youth enrolled in the two programs? Do they tend to have different needs? Do they have different family histories or experiences? Do these youth exhibit different clinical profiles? Is either group more severe than the other? The answers to these questions may result in further understanding of their needs, which can evolve into further programmatic refinement.

Below is a chart that summarizes the areas of investigation that will garner some greater clinical understanding of this population.

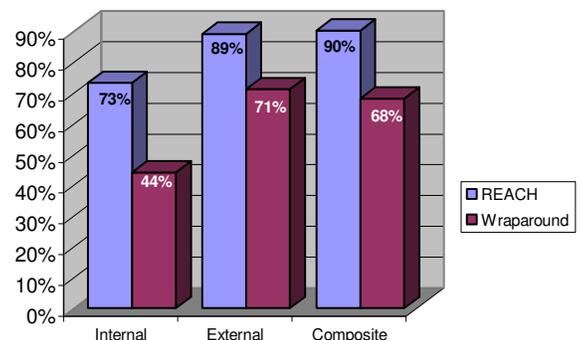
Area	Question	REACH	Wraparound	Outcome*
Age	Who is younger?	5-18, mean 12.2	6-18, mean 14.3	Although the same range, REACH is younger
Gender	Who has more females?	27% female	25% female	No difference
Presenting Child Problem	Are there differences in the top 3 problems?	1. School/community concerns 2. Severe aggressiveness 3. ADHD	1. School/community concerns 2. Severe aggressiveness 3. ADHD	No difference
Education	How many receive special education services?	78% have IEP's	66% have IEP's	Significantly higher number in REACH
Diagnostic Categories	Are there frequency differences for the most prevalent diagnoses?	> Attention Disorders	>AODA >Conduct Disorders, >Developmental Disorders >Learning Disorders	Significant**
Ranking of Diagnostic Categories	What are the most prevalent diagnoses?	1. Attention Disorder 2. Mood 3. Conduct 4. Developmental	1. Conduct 2. Attention 3. Mood 4. Developmental	Differences in ordinal positions only
Clinical Severity	Which population enters with more severe emotional difficulties?	90% composite score in clinical range on CBCL	68% composite score in clinical range on CBCL	Significantly** higher in REACH
Medication	Is the medication trend following the clinical severity?	77% have been prescribed medication	53% have been prescribed medication	Matches the clinical severity

*Tests of Significance in all cases are between p<0.002 & p<.0001 **See graphs below

Diagnostic Category Representation



CBCL Scores REACH/Wraparound at Intake



So with all the above probing of the data, can we answer definitively if the populations are different and, if so, what does it mean to us programmatically? The answer is, as one would expect, a resounding “yes” in some areas and “no” in other areas. In summary, the conclusions are as follows:

- REACH youth are generally younger. The literature supports the notion that earlier diagnosis and treatment impacts on prognosis. Our hope is that REACH will prevent formal system involvement and progression toward more serious problems.
- Given the higher rate of special education for REACH children and youth, it will be particularly important to focus on school related needs. It is also helpful to be aware of the special education diagnosis as it allows for understanding of how a youth processes information, interprets social situations and grasps abstract ideas.
- The data of the clinical diagnosis categories revealed the most interesting results, as the top four diagnoses were the same for both the Wraparound and REACH populations. This suggests that REACH youth do not exhibit wholly different clinical pictures than the Wraparound population. Furthermore, the frequencies of individual diagnoses are lower. However, even though the frequency of any specific category, other than Attention Deficit Disorder is lower, REACH youth appear to exhibit a greater overall severity level as indicated by the CBCL comparison upon entrance into the program.
- A significantly higher percentage of REACH youth on medications may suggest that the REACH population exhibits more severe emotional problems, especially when considered in conjunction with the CBCL outcomes. However, the data may be confounded as REACH children and youth are seen in our medication clinic while Wraparound youth are not exclusively seen through this clinic. The possible implication is that in REACH there is easier client access to medication management and this could contribute to the outcome data, the percentage receiving medication.

The data that has been presented sharpens our focus about these youth and their needs. I encourage you to take a second look at the data above and perhaps you will glean additional ideas. As always, after the development of generalizations and theories, it is the careful and reflective thinking process about each and every youth that will make the difference.

If you are interested in the expanded report with all the colorful pictures, please email me at pnina.goldfarb@milwcnty.com.

Pnina Goldfarb, Program Evaluator

Wraparound Success Story...

“She was living a life of prostitution, unbalanced, unstructured and had no one to look up to. Her decisions were made poorly and mistakes were taken seriously. Abandonment, lack of love, negative peers and a world of deception is what my kid was living. My child knew the system, my child didn’t see the light at the end of the tunnel, but in her heart she had hope, she believed in a power higher than her own.”

Three months, 12 weeks, 90 days were all the same to her because she was sitting in jail and knew that she was going to be there for a long time. She prayed, she asked God for a miracle that could change her life. She said, “God, I’m not asking you to forgive me from my wrong doing, but to guide my life to what is best for me. Please let me see a miracle. I will accept what you bring to me.” It was that date, the date she had to face the Judge and a room full of people that wanted her to be “locked up”. She was facing not one year or 3 years; she was facing 5 years. No one believed her, no one wanted to give her another chance. Judge Carroll saw what no one else saw in her, Judge Carroll gave her a “miracle”. Probation time came out of Judge Carroll’s mouth and she couldn’t believe what she had just heard. Judge Carroll gave her probation and ordered her to be put in a wonderful, strict foster home with Wraparound services. As she walked out of the courtroom her attorney told her, “You just witnessed a miracle.” She too believed that she had just witnessed a miracle, the miracle that she asked God to give her and at that moment she promised God that she was not going to waste His miracle.

During her probation time, with support and guidance from her child and family team, a plan was formed and services such as a job coach, parent assistance, counseling and transportation to see her mother were put in place. A year later, she is now the Head Manager at a fast food restaurant. She continues to have visitation with her mother. She is on her way to obtaining her high school diploma. She got her own place and is saving money. She is enrolled in ACT classes (with a goal of scoring in the 30’s). She is looking forward to her future and, most importantly, she didn’t waste her miracle. She says, “I have done this with the help of everyone on the team. Without you guys, Judge Carroll and God, I don’t know where I would be right now.”

(* Name changed for confidentiality.)

Submitted by St. Aemilian-Lakeside



Youth Council...

The Wraparound Milwaukee Youth Council has started many new projects that are aimed at spreading the word about the Youth Council. These projects are aimed at getting feedback from youth enrolled in Wraparound Milwaukee, as well as getting literature out to help explain the mission and give details about the Youth Council. A survey has been sent out to all enrolled Wraparound youth, asking for ideas for future events, as well as to give us an idea of their knowledge of the program. Changes to the Youth Council webpage have also been made to make information more available to everyone. The webpage can be found by going to www.county.milwaukee.gov, search "Wraparound Milwaukee", then scroll down and click on "Wraparound Youth Council".

In the month of October, the Youth Council held two planning meetings to discuss ideas for future events and to discuss what changes the youth would like to make to these meetings. The Youth Council also sponsored a Halloween event that was well attended and provided everyone the opportunity to experience the Haunted House at the State Fair Park.

Over the next month, the Youth Council will begin to plan activities for the next couple of months, as well as make an effort to get more participation and insight from other enrolled youth.

Brian McBride, St Charles Youth & Family



Happy Veteran's Day
November 11th

Mobile Crisis...

In October, the Mobile Urgent Treatment Team for Foster Families (MUTT-FF) began a system of taking referrals from Region 3 of the Milwaukee Bureau of Child Welfare (BMCW), involving foster and kinship care youth who may be at risk for disruptive behavior. What makes this arrangement unique is that these youth are being targeted by caregivers and staff before they show significant signs of disruption. MUTT-FF can then initiate work with child and family teams to prevent problems for those youth and families.

There is also planning in process for MUTT-FF to see an increasing number of youth after they are screened at the Child Protection Center. MUTT has had several productive meetings with the BMCW and

Treatment Foster Care agencies to identify needs in treatment foster care and establish protocols to help.

Dr. Chris Morano, Mobile Crisis Director

Provider Network...

Fee-for-Service Agreement Renewals

The Wraparound Milwaukee Provider Network is currently processing Fee-for-Service Agreement renewals for 2010. Network providers are reminded to read the new Agreement carefully as it contains a number of new requirements. As an example, all providers are required to have a comprehensive Emergency Preparedness Plan that can be implemented in the event of a natural or man-made disaster. The plan must identify strategies that the provider will use to assist clients in obtaining or transferring services to another agency, in the event that provider is unable to maintain normal business operations. Wraparound Milwaukee considers the following: case management, crisis stabilization services, residential and group home care to be "essential services". Providers of these services would need to have a plan for continued operation in the event of an emergency.

An overview of the changes to the 2010 Wraparound Milwaukee Fee-for-Service Agreement was offered to providers on November 3rd. The PowerPoint training from this session can be found on the Provider Network page of the Wraparound Milwaukee website at <http://www.wraparoundmilwaukee.org>.

Agencies are asked to return their 2010 Agreement by November 23rd.

Jeannine Maher, Provider Network Coordinator

Announcements...

Positive Recognition Awards

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

Jessica Bliss - Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare
Nominated by Melanie Fleischmann- Wraparound
"Jessica works quite diligently with our mutual family. She has great communication with the team."

Ashley Fagnan - Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare
Nominated by Melanie Fleischmann - Wraparound
"Ashley has great communication with the team. She has created a lot of change with and for the family."

Kim Nowak - AJA Counseling Services
Nominated by Lisa Perry - Parent

“...my heartfelt appreciation for the excellent care and the genuine concern Kim Nowak showed toward my son... [for] never giving up on [him] when everyone else did... very committed and really cares...”

Eddie Rhane – Alternatives in Psychological Consultation

Nominated by Samaria Norman – Willowglen Community Care

“ a consistent presence in my client’s life since the day he was assigned... a great rapport with [my client and family]...”

Theresa Morgan – Alternatives in Psychological Consultation

Nominated by Samaria Norman – Willowglen Community Care

“...she’s more like a relative than she is a provider... will do everything in her power to be there...has truly been a blessing to this family!”

Latoya Sims – St. Charles - FOCUS

Nominated by Melinda Hardge - LaCausa

“...one of the most resilient workers... diligently handles her case load, while attending to groups for AODA and monthly, weekly team meetings... Great job!”

Lysandra & LeDerek Coleman – Mother & Son

Nominated by Melinda Hardge - LaCausa

“...a very positive young man, honor roll student... Ms. Coleman is very supportive and always encouraging. I really enjoy working with this youth and his family.”

Joseph Clayton – Human Development Center

Nominated by Melinda Hardge - LaCausa

“ gives his unselfish service to our youth... We are very fortunate to have him in our midst. Thank you for your dedication to service.”

Zedrick Wiggins – Human Development Center

Nominated by Melinda Hardge - LaCausa

“ provides great services to our youth... We are very fortunate to have him in our midst. Thank you for your dedication to service.”

Janell Perry - Parent

Nominated by Melinda Hardge - LaCausa

“...[she] should be congratulated on her outstanding job that she has done raising her son... will go the extra mile, attends all team meetings with a positive disposition.”

Curtez Williams - Youth

Nominated by Melinda Hardge - LaCausa

“... an amazing young man... has done remarkably well in Wraparound... an honor roll student... I am very proud of him.”

Theresa Dawson - LaCausa

Nominated by Mary Jo Meyers – Wraparound Milwaukee

“For going above and beyond the call of duty to support

a young woman’s success and celebrate her life. Thanks, Theresa, for being such a great example to all of us.”

Upcoming Events...

DECEMBER 2009

- Dec. 2** WM/BMCW Training
8:30-12:00pm WM – Room 416
- Dec. 2** DHHS Centralized QA Mtg.
9:00-11:00am WM – Room 212
- Dec. 2** Provider Network Meeting
9:30-1:30pm WM – Room 253
- Dec. 3** Mgmt./Supervisors Meeting
8:15-10:00am WM – Room 416
- Dec. 3** High Risk Reviews
11:00-1:00pm WM – Room 253
- Dec. 3** Monthly Care Coordinator Mtg.
CANCELLED
- Dec 5** Family Orientation
11:00-12:30pm WM – Cafeteria
- Dec. 8** Crisis Stabilization Meeting
10:00-12:00pm WM – Room 212
- Dec. 9** Child Psych. Cons. – Parents
12:00-1:00pm WM – Room 253
- Dec. 10** High Risk Reviews
11:00-1:00pm WM – Room 253
- Dec. 16** Holiday Luncheon
12:30-2:30pm WM - Cafeteria
- Dec. 17** Mgmt./Supervisors Meeting
8:15-10:00am at St. Aemilian-Lakeside
- Dec. 17** High Risk Reviews
11:00-1:00pm WM – Room 253
- Dec. 23** Child Psych. Cons. – R-LaCausa
12:00-1:00pm WM – Room 253
- Dec. 24** FURLOUGH DAY
WM Offices Closed
- Dec. 25** MERRY CHRISTMAS
WM Offices Closed



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

12/4-12/5

Christmas in the Ward

Historic Third Ward

(414) 273-1173