



# WRAPAROUND MILWAUKEE

Child & Adolescent Services Branch

News – A Bi-Monthly Publication

January/February 2013

## From the Director...



### Professional Foster Parent Program

The following Summary Report was prepared by Pnina Goldfarb, Ph.D., our Program Evaluator through the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families. It paints a good picture of why this program works and is vital to what we offer at Wraparound Milwaukee to meet the needs of girls with very complex emotional and mental health needs, for whom so many other alternatives have failed.

Thanks you to Jennifer Wilder for her continuing commitment to this program and her overall direction and support of the professional foster parents.

Bruce Kamradt, Director

### **Professional Foster Parent (PFP) Program for Adolescent Girls - Summary Progress Report August 2007 – November 2012**

This is a summary of my third review of the Professional Foster Parent (PFP) program. This review was structured around criteria and information that had been requested by the Division of Safety and Permanence, Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF), to evaluate the PFP program. The focus of this evaluation was primarily on those girls that have disenrolled from the PFP program since its inception in August 2007. The State's response to the outcomes of this review has been very positive, leading to their continued support of the PFP program.

#### **About the Girls and the Program:**

In brief, the PFP program is designed to provide special care and support to girls ages 13-17, with serious emotional and mental health needs, and histories of chronic runaway behaviors. The program is intended to be an alternative for these young women being placed in residential treatment and correctional facilities.

A total of 30 girls have been served through the PFP program and have been disenrolled. An additional 8 girls remain in the program. The average age upon

entering the program is 15.1 years and the median length of stay in the foster home is 11.05 months.

These girls have glaring and extensive histories of trauma, abuse, neglect and abandonment, which sets the foundation for serious mental health issues, lack of trust and feelings of hopelessness. This group of young women has experienced multiple moves and transitions back and forth from foster care placements, group homes, residential care centers and hospitals. **Seventy-nine percent (30/38) of the girls that have been or are presently in the program were in a more restrictive environment (e.g. residential care center, hospitalization) prior to entering the PFP program. The average number of placements for each youth prior to entering the PFP program was 9, with a range of 1-35, yielding a total of 372 discrete placements for the entire population in the program.** This data substantiates the high level of instability and abandonment felt by these young women and why a program like the PFP program can be such a positive alternative and stabilizing influence.

Furthermore, the outcomes from the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessments strongly support the significant mental health needs exhibited by these girls. **Of the 10 girls who were assessed through the CANS, 55% reached a level 5 or 6.** Levels 5 and 6 are considered residential needs levels for placement. Since this program is designed as an alternative to group home and particularly residential care, these CANS scores support these higher levels of need for these girls, and yet they indeed are served in a community home setting. This is exactly the intended purpose of this program.

The centerpiece of this program is the foster care parent whose dual role of being both the treatment foster parent and the care coordinator for the Child & Family Team makes this program so unique. Through these 12 professional foster parents the program continues to serve an extremely high risk group of girls by providing consistency and immediate responsiveness that is essential in building trust and security.

Another intended outcome was for the PFP program to provide care at a lower cost than



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institutional placement. The average cost for girls in the PFP pilot has been \$6,687/month compared to the average cost for group home and residential care, which are \$7,876 and \$9,822 per month respectively, including care coordination.

### The Outcomes:

The overarching goal for young women that are in this program is to achieve permanency. Given the high level of personal trauma and family needs, the Permanency Plan is individualized and is defined as the *best sustaining placement*. This could be the family home, a permanent foster care placement, adoption or independent living. In addition to a sustaining placement, success is defined as a significant reduction in severity and chronicity of behaviors (e.g. violence, running).

Thirty percent of young women (9/30) obtained permanency, a better than reasonable outcome for this population. While not all girls achieved permanency, it is significant to note that the amount of time they remained in a stable environment were the **longest stays in their respective placement history (from 4 months to just about the one year mark)**. During these long stretches in the program, what was most important was that the young women were safe, experienced normal and improved family life, were not engaging in risky behaviors and were actively involved in school.

It cannot be overstated that all of the defined groups of girls would have most likely entered or remained in residential care centers without the PFP program. With the help of the PFP program, 14 of the girls either remained at the same level of care (i.e., foster care) or entered a lower level of care (i.e., home environment).

High rates of runaway behavior are endemic to this population. The present, updated data reveals that 47% of the girls did experience a runaway episode while in the professional foster care home.

Most important, however, is not that these girls ran, but what happened to these girls when they ran away. Previous to their participation in the PFP program, the running away behavior would result in a change of placement, typically into a more restrictive environment. This more restrictive placement would occur even though literature speaks to running behavior as a symptom of the underlying original traumas. In the PFP program, when these girls run away, they are returned to the home, conveying the message that they

are still wanted. **Through this program the cycle of running away followed by abandonment and punishment is broken.**

The summary data around educational outcomes since 2007 revealed 5 girls were the right age to potentially graduate from high school while they participated in the PFP program. **Of those 5, 2 actually graduated (40%) and 3 made progress, but did not actually graduate. The remaining 25 girls were still in school upon disenrollment from the program.** Additional school related questions were addressed in the previous evaluation of the PFP, revealing improved attendance and some gains in academic achievement (7/18 girls – 39%). Report cards revealed good progress, with a grade range of C's to A's and no failing grades.

### Summary:

Upon a close review, the PFP program continues to be a viable program for these young women who have had the most tumultuous and painful history, and have been exposed to extreme instability. Although always striving for better, achieving a 30% permanency rate is considered good by the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare, given the severity level of this population (CANS levels 5 & 6). In this program, success is defined in small incremental steps that include reduction in severity of behavior, the reduction of running away and increased success in school. The program is providing consistency and immediate responsiveness that is essential in supporting these girls and assuring that they actually survive to adulthood. The PFP program is a gender-responsive program that institutes a comprehensive approach, addressing physical and mental health needs, focusing on strengths rather than deficits, training caregivers to be responsive to the interpersonal nature of girls, serving as role models and meeting their physical, psychological and emotional safety needs.

Pnina Goldfarb, Ph.D.

*A Wraparound Success Story...* 

*Ms. Jones\* and her daughter Keesha\* have been involved in the Wraparound Milwaukee – REACH program with My Home, Your Home for the past 7 months. Keesha is described by her mother as being a very smart, beautiful, strong girl. At first, Keesha was very quiet during the Child & Family Team meetings, but grew to be a strong advocate for*

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*herself and respectfully spoke up often during team meetings. This gave her mother and the rest of the Team a better understanding of the trauma she experienced earlier in her life and how hard she was struggling to understand her feelings related to the trauma. The Team focused on helping Keesha feel more confident in herself, and connected her to the organization “Express Yourself” to help with this goal. Ms. Jones also agreed to give words of positive encouragement to her daughter on a daily basis, which helped to balance out some of Keesha’s negative “self-talk”.*

*Ms. Jones has proven to be a very strong, independent woman who wants what’s best for her daughter. Ms. Jones pointed out that over time, she “learned how to trust her daughter so she can grow and be a strong independent woman as well”. Despite some tough times, Ms. Jones never gave up on her daughter. Ms. Jones added some words of wisdom and helpful advice to families new to Wraparound, “Allow yourself to follow the Wraparound process and trust that your Team will help you make things better. My Team made me feel comfortable and feel that I could trust our plan to help us achieve our family vision. Please don’t be afraid to ask for help! That is the first step that we parents need to take in order to trust our Team and our family plan.”*

(\*Names changed for confidentiality.)

Submitted by My Home, Your Home - REACH



## Youth Council...

Dear Wraparound,

My name is Rebecca Sommerfield. I am the new Youth Council Advisor for the Wraparound Milwaukee Youth Council. I was also recently certified as a Peer Specialist and have begun working at Owen’s Place. I have been involved with Wraparound for about 4 years, beginning in the early stages of being in Wraparound myself and as an active member of the Youth Council. I have always believed that the youth need to feel like their voice is being heard and they need to feel like they are safe and allowed to have fun. That is what the Youth Council is all about.

When I was in Youth Council, everybody’s voice was heard. We all had something to say and our Youth Advisor paid attention to what we were saying and made it happen. Every youth who is a part of Youth Council will be heard and what they say is very

important. Everybody will have an opportunity to share their ideas and thoughts so that together we can decide on what activities to do, and anything else we discuss. Youth Council is a very big part of who I am and why I decided to become a Youth Council Advisor and a Peer Specialist.

As we move into the New Year, my goal as the Youth Council Advisor is to expand our horizons and build the Youth Council from the ground up. I am reaching out to all the Care Coordinators and Agencies and asking them to please get at least one youth from your Agency involved as a board member for the Wraparound Milwaukee Youth Council. We are looking for youth who demonstrate positive leadership qualities and are willing to dedicate their time. If you have more than one youth from your agency that wants to be involved, we welcome everyone! I want our youth to take a more active role in their community and therefore I am looking forward to a community service day in April. Our youth should have fun while they are participating and feel good about themselves and their community. Please help us in making this a successful year for Youth Council. Together as a team we can provide a sense of accomplishment, self-worth, and leadership skills to our youth. Please join me in building this Youth Council and work together to encourage our youth to become involved.

I am very excited to meet all the youth that join Youth Council and I am looking forward to getting to know all of you as well. Thank you for your time, your cooperation, and your support. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at [wraparoundyc@gmail.com](mailto:wraparoundyc@gmail.com) or stop on by Owen’s Place for a Youth Council event.

Respectfully,

Rebecca Sommerfield



The Project O’YEAH - Owen’s Place clubhouse welcomes back the Guaranty Bank – Money Smart Program. This will be a 4 week mini course for young adults on budgeting, financing and ways to be smart with your money. The program begins Thursday – February

7<sup>th</sup> from 4:40 to 5:30 p.m. and runs every Thursday in February. To find out more information and to sign up, please call Shannon Smith, Resource Coordinator, at (414) 810-7780.

Owen's Place is also hosting "College Prep Night" for Application and Financial Aid Help for young adults on Wednesday – February 13<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. and "Independent Living Skills Building" for young adults on Wednesday – February 27<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-7:00 p.m. If you are interested in attending either of these special nights, or would like more information, please call Shannon Smith.

Last, but certainly not least, save the date! The **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Council Talent Show** has been scheduled for Wednesday – April 17<sup>th</sup>. For more information or a Talent Show Rehearsal Schedule, please contact Rebecca Sommerfield or Shannon Smith.

Brian McBride, O'YEAH Program Coordinator

## Mobile Crisis...

With the holidays over, we all get back into our routines. Yet, this time of year always brings the feeling that maybe something could be different now. It's important to take a step back and examine what we've done, how we've impacted others and how things might take a new shape. There is a lot of passionate discussion these days about how to nurture, protect and bring out our children's potential. This dynamic conversation is all to the good. As we work hard to forward ideas and strategies for our families and youth, I just want to offer a couple of things to keep in mind.

First, children learn and live what they see, hear and feel. This sounds fundamental, but it can be so elusive in our daily interactions with children. We forget that how we talk to them becomes their own inner voice, their own picture of how they see themselves. Yes, peers, culture and society have a tremendous impact, but more as kids get older. Early on, when their self-concepts are so sensitive, reactive, vulnerable and impressionable, we must surround them with messages and experiences that enrich.

The second key concept is that it's not just the content of what you say to a child – it is how you say it. Your tone of voice, body language, assuredness and other non-verbal messages mean so much in creating a sense of worth and security in a child. Stay passionate about the needs of our children, but remember to wrap them in warm, safe, supportive, realistic and wholesome messages.

Dr. Chris Morano, Mobile Crisis Services Director

## Finance...

### Training for Provider Invoicing

Training for Provider Invoicing has been scheduled for 2013. There will be four dates scheduled throughout the year. Each session will be 1.5 hours long and questions about the Invoicing process will be answered. Each session will be limited to 20 people, so please reserve your spot in the desired training session by the Registration Date shown below.

2013 Provider Invoicing Training Schedule	
All training sessions will run from 10-11:30 in Rm. 212	
Date	Registration Date
February 8, 2013	February 1, 2013
May 10, 2013	May 3, 2013
August 9, 2013	August 2, 2013
November 8, 2013	November 1, 2013

Providers can register by calling me at (414) 257-7597.

Kenyatta Matthews, Finance Coordinator



## Announcements...

### Positive Recognition Awards

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

#### **Theresa Morgan – Alternatives in Psychological Consultation**

Nominated by Anna Brown - Parent

*"She is very understanding, always gave me positive advise... I would like to keep working with her..."*

#### **Lynn Dusold – Pathways Counseling Center**

Nominated by Anna Brown – Parent

*"Please don't leave our family. You're real, honest, truthful, and understanding. You're a great counselor."*

#### **Kari Schwartz – Alternatives in Psychological Consultation**

Nominated by Anna Brown – Parent

*"She always has time to help me thru all my problems... she is very awesome and a great listener."*

#### **Haneef Chestnut – Human Development Center**

Nominated by Lannyce Butcher – Parent

“...he is very outstanding... always available whenever I am having a problem with my son... always helps my son see the error of his ways... has become a part of my family... will be missed dearly.”

**Francine Dixon – Dominion Behavioral Health Services, LLC**

Nominated by Lannyce Butcher – Parent

“...she is a very outstanding person... she is respectful, always prompt, flexible... helps me when I am struggling with my son... I love her very much... she will be missed dearly.”

**Ellis Hooker – LS Transportation**

Nominated by Becky Horwitz – Alternatives in Psychological Consultation

“Mr. Ellis has gone above and beyond to help out with transportation needs... has accommodated many requests on very short notice.... His positive attitude is much appreciated!”

**Kristin Parulski – Family Options Counseling, LLC**

Nominated by Sharon Betthausen – Parent

“She has helped my son Nathan through a very rough time and he has made great progress.”

**Dr. Dennis Kozel – Wraparound Milwaukee**

Nominated by Carolyn Logan – Grandparent

“Dr. Kozel really works so good with my grandson... he’s the best... “Best Doctor Ever”... thank you for all you have done for my grandson.”

**William Brooks – MSSW, LCSW**

Nominated by Carolyn Logan – Grandparent

“...the best doctor I have ever seen that works with kids. My grandson has come a long way... he’s the best.”

**Angela Curasi – Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare**

Nominated by Carolyn Logan – Grandparent

“Ms. Curasi needs a reward for caring and giving of herself... she has done a beautiful job for our family... she is for real about what she does... thank you...”

**Verneesha Banks – Wraparound Milwaukee Consultant**

Nominated by Carolyn Logan – Grandparent

“Ms. Verneesha is such a beautiful person... she got things done when everybody else said they couldn’t... I just want to thank her from the bottom of my heart...”

**Lisa Rizzo – St. Charles Youth & Family Services**

Nominated by Carolyn Logan – Grandparent

“This lady puts her all into her cases... she has gotten [my grandson] the help he needs... I just love her, she’s caring and does her job...”

**Rosalind Metcalf – Crisis Stabilizer**

Nominated by Monica Ly – Parent

“I want to recognize Rosalind Metcalf for her dedication and hard work... represents someone who loves her job and cares about her clients... It’s been a pleasure working with her.”

**Jessica O’Halloran – Alternatives in Psychological Consultation**

Nominated by Amanda Hernandez - My Home, Your Home - REACH

“Jessica is always on top of her role as a crisis stabilizer... make[s] sure the family is getting all their needs met... always available... GREAT JOB!”

**Lola Burns – Alternatives in Psychological Consultation**

Nominated by Amanda Hernandez - My Home, Your Home - REACH

“Lola is AWESOME! She is able to get the youth calmed down... always brings fresh new ideas to the Team. Most importantly, the family can always rely on her! Keep up the Great Work!”

**Angel Malave – Youth**

Nominated by Amanda O’Day – Running Rebels

“Despite being faced with several recent challenges, Angel has remained resilient and patient. During a recent outing, Angel used his personal allowance/Christmas money to spend on those who did not have any to play laser tag... He was adamant about sharing with others rather than all on himself. I was very proud of this kind gesture.”

**Kurt Maurer – Wraparound Milwaukee Consultant**

Nominated by Geneva McKinley – Commissioner – Children Court Center

“Kurt has an excellent work ethic, he thinks outside the box... always prepared for Court... When Kurt is on a CHIPS case, I am confident that all possible services that are requested or needed for a child have been attempted or achieved.

**Lola Burns – Alternatives in Psychological Consultation**

Nominated by Hasina Liphford – Parent

“I just want to say I love Ms. Lola Burns... She’s always helping me out with my child... so friendly, kind and very nice and loving... glad she’s part of the family!!!”

*Upcoming Events...*



**MARCH 2013**

<b>Mar. 5</b>	<b>ARB Meetings</b>
9:00-1:00pm	WM – Room 253
<b>Mar. 5</b>	<b>Youth Council Meeting</b>
4:30pm	Owen’s Place (Clubhouse)
<b>Mar. 7</b>	<b>Sups/Leads ReCert. Training-Part 2</b>
9:00-11:30am	WM – Room 416
<b>Mar. 7</b>	<b>Com. Safety/Resource Dev. Consults</b>
11:00-1:00pm	WM – Room 253
<b>Mar. 7</b>	<b>Monthly Care Coordinator Mtg.</b>
1:00-3:00pm	CHP Auditorium

**Mar. 12** ARB Meetings (Tentative)  
9:00-1:00pm WM – Room 253

**Mar. 12** Runaway Committee Meeting  
11:00-1:00pm WM – Room 212

**Mar. 13** Family/Provider Advisory Group  
10:30-12:00pm WM – Room 212

**Mar. 14** Com. Safety/Resource Dev. Consults  
11:00-1:00pm WM – Room 253

**Mar. 15** Provider Training  
9:00-3:00pm WM – Room 416

**Mar. 19** ARB Meetings  
9:00-1:00pm WM – Room 253

**Mar. 19** Youth Council Meeting  
4:30pm Owen's Place (Clubhouse)

**Mar. 21** Mgmt./Supervisors Meeting  
9:00-11:00am @ St. Charles Youth & Family Svcs.

**Mar. 21** Com. Safety/Resource Dev. Consults  
11:00-1:00pm WM – Room 253

**Mar. 26** FOCUS Meeting  
10:15-12:00pm WM – Room 416

**Mar. 28** Com. Safety/Resource Dev. Consults  
11:00-1:00pm WM – Room 253

**Apr. 9** ARB Meetings (Tentative)  
9:00-1:00pm WM – Room 253

**Apr. 11** Com. Safety/Resource Dev. Consults  
11:00-1:00pm WM – Room 253

**Apr. 16** ARB Meetings  
9:00-1:00pm WM – Room 253

**Apr. 16** Youth Council Meeting  
4:30pm Owen's Place (Clubhouse)

**Apr. 17** Partnership Council Meeting  
11:00-2:00pm WM – Room 212

**Apr. 18** Mgmt./Supervisors Meeting  
9:00-11:00am @ St. Charles Youth & Family

**Apr. 18** Com. Safety/Resource Dev. Consults  
11:00-1:00pm WM – Room 253

**Apr. 19** Provider Training  
9:00-3:00pm WM – Room 416

**Apr. 28** Com. Safety/Resource Dev. Consults  
11:00-1:00pm WM – Room 253

**APRIL 2013**

**Apr. 2** ARB Meetings  
9:00-1:00pm WM – Room 253

**Apr. 2** Youth Council Meeting  
4:30pm Owen's Place (Clubhouse)

**Apr. 4** Sups/Leads ReCert. Training-Part 3  
9:00-11:30am WM – Room 416

**Apr. 4** Com. Safety/Resource Dev. Consults  
11:00-1:00pm WM – Room 253

**Apr. 4** Monthly Care Coordinator Mtg.  
1:00-3:00pm CHP Auditorium

**Apr. 6** FAMILY ORIENTATION  
11:00-12:30pm 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](http://www.county.milwaukee.gov) and search using the  
keywords "Wraparound Milwaukee".



**Greater Milwaukee Major Events**

2/7-2/10	Milw. Nari Home Improvement Show	State Fair Exposition Center	(414) 266-7300
2/16-2/17	Cedarburg Winter Festival	Downtown Cedarburg	(800) 237-2874
2/20-2/24	Tripoli Shrine Circus	U.S. Cellular Arena	(414) 908-6001
2/23-3/3	Greater Milwaukee Auto Show	Delta Center	(414) 908-6001
3/6-3/10	Milw. Journal Sentinel Sports Show	State Fair Exposition Center	(414) 266-7300
3/9	Blarney Run/Walk	Village of Wauwatosa	(414) 479-8900
3/9	Downtown St. Patrick's Day Parade	Downtown Milwaukee	(414) 276-6696
3/9-3/10	Indian Summer Fest Winter PowWow	State Fair Exposition Center	(414) 604-1000
3/15	2013 Realtor's Spring Show	State Fair Exposition Center	(414) 266-7300
4/19	Gallery Night and Day	Downtown Milwaukee	(414) 273-1173