



WRAPAROUND MILWAUKEE

Child & Adolescent Services Branch

News – A Monthly Publication

JUNE 2011

From the Director...

Professional Foster Parent Program

The following is a summary evaluation of the Professional Foster Parent program that was prepared for the Wisconsin Department of Children & Families' Services, to help determine their continued approval of State Waivers needed to continue this program. Because of the interest in this pilot program, we thought it would be newsworthy to share this summary of the full report prepared by Pnina Goldfarb, Wraparound Milwaukee's Evaluator.

Bruce Kamradt, Director

Professional Foster Parent Program for Adolescent Girls Progress Report August 2007 – April 2011

"When people ask me about becoming a professional foster parent, I tell them the most important thing is willingness to focus a lot of time and attention on the child. It's a choice I freely made."

- Professional Foster Parent

Program Description:

The Professional Foster Parent Program is designed to provide special care and support to female youth, 13-17 with serious emotional and mental health needs and histories of chronic runaway behaviors. The program is designed to be an alternative to these young women being placed in residential treatment and correctional facilities.

Each girl is matched with a foster care parent who is employed directly or contractually by a treatment foster care agency (St. Aemilian-Lakeside, St. Charles Youth and Family Services, Fresh Start Counseling Center and La Causa Inc.). The foster care parent, through their experience and specialized training also becomes the care coordinator for the youth. In this position, the foster parent assures that the Plan of Care that is designed by the Care Coordination Team is executed and becomes the youth's primary support person and advocate.

"I pick the young lady that everyone says is the worst girl. But I know that everybody has something good in him or her. You just have to see it – and then you have to show it to them."

- Professional Foster Parent

Population:

The young women must meet Wraparound's eligibility criteria including: 1) a DSM-IV diagnosis and meeting the State's definition for serious emotional disturbance (SED) 2) a history of chronic runaway behavior 3) there should be potential for achieving the permanency plan to return home or placement to a relative or to establish an independent living situation.

A total of twenty- five girls have been served through the PFC program. Eighteen girls have been disenrolled from the program. The average age upon entering the program is 14.96 and the median length of stay in the foster home is 7.4 months.

The referral sources for the Pilot include: Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare On-going Case Managers, Probation Workers with Delinquency and Court Services and Wraparound Milwaukee Care Coordinators.

Results:

Outcome Indicator/Results	n=18
Achievement of Permanency Plan	Sixty one percent (11 out of 18 girls), meeting the target goal of 60%
Improved School Attendance	The total of girls having good attendance in school is 55% (10/18). Forty- four percent (8/18 girls) sustained good school attendance after disenrollment.
Academic Progress	Seven out of the 18 girls (39%), report cards revealed good progress. Two girls made honor roll, one girl old enough to graduate, will graduate. 7/ 18 that achieved permanencies have been diagnosed with special educational needs. The overwhelming grade ranges for all girls were from C's to A's. Very few failures.
Clinical changes based on Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL)	Twenty five percent (4/16 girls) revealed some positive change in their respective clinical profiles. Evidence of "softening" of the clinical factors where both the foster care mother on the CBCL and the youth on the YSR (Youth Self-



Report) agreed that the severity of behaviors was less. No increase in severity while in program.

Reduction in the number of days and frequency of runaway episodes Runaway patterns did not decrease. Chronicity and severity levels appeared more contained with the group that achieved permanency.

Cost of Program The average cost for group home and residential treatment, including care coordination costs, are \$7,017 and \$11,407 per month respectively. **The average cost in PFC has been \$6.022/month.**

*"How do I help these young ladies progress? Rather than giving them just rules, I gives them expectations, allows them to make mistakes, and rewards success - but not all the time, to keep them on their toes. I teach that you may not always like the things you have to do in life - like going to a therapy session - but in the end, these things are necessary and beneficial."
- Professional Foster Parent*

Summary & Conclusions:

The greatest area of improvement for these girls was related to school. Across both groups, those who achieved permanency and those that did not, school attendance and academic achievement improved significantly. This is especially dramatic as 61% (11/18) have special education needs that, in- of- itself makes academic progress more demanding.

For the 61% of the girls that achieved permanencies (those who returned to family or stayed in the community), the amount of positive changes in all the indicators were as varied as for those that did not achieve permanency. In general, the permanency "success" group seemed to show improvements across all indicators even if it was simply a decrease of intensity or frequency of a negative behavior (e.g. lesser increase in runaway days than the "non-permanency" group).

When taking the qualitative data into account that was provided through the interviews, the true impact of this program is revealed. First, the severity of the emotional disturbance that is exhibited by these girls, and history of instability that they have experienced is immediately apparent. Second, one can feel the personal effort and commitment of the professional foster mothers. Third, one can also visualize the program in action on a daily basis. Finally, one can easily recognize that this program provides a stable home environment that ultimately contributes to positive effects/changes in the lives of

these girls irrespective of anyone of them reaching the goal of permanency.

Bringing together the following:

1. The outcome data, revealing some progress and stabilization of the girls.
 2. The support from research that the professional foster care model has the major elements necessary for success with girls.
 3. The fact that the cost is significantly less than either group home or residential treatment placement.
- provides a strong case for the continuance of the Professional Foster Care Program.

*"These are the main reason that I enjoy working as a professional foster parent. Because the program looks at the young lady as a whole and focus on her strength, it allows formal interventions and techniques to be used in conjunction with more informal interventions and techniques."
- Professional Foster Parent*

*" We never give up on them. We will receive them back no matter what they do. When they leave they know they are loved. That's why they stay in touch."
- Professional Foster Parent*

Please feel free to request the full report by emailing me at the following email address.

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Wraparound Success Story...

Shauna was enrolled in Wraparound Milwaukee in March 2010. She was almost 18 years old and pregnant with her first child, while living in a group home. Shauna was placed at the group home after her parents requested help from the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare. They felt they could no longer handle her behaviors and emotional needs.*

When Shauna was enrolled in Wraparound, the Child & Family Team worked diligently to assist with reunification with her adoptive parents. After a brief stay in the group home, Shauna was returned



home. Prior to returning home, the Child & Family Team worked to assist the family with reunification. A family therapist began working with Shauna and her parents. Through therapy, the family was able to express their feelings in a healthy and safe atmosphere. They were also able to process and talk through the issues surrounding the relationship with her biological family. Upon returning home, the team was faced with another hurdle. This was due to Shauna wanting to spend time with the father of her baby and her biological mother. In an effort to assist Shauna with her feelings of being between the two families, the therapist also reached out to Shauna's biological mother. Through these interactions, the therapist was able to help her understand that the adoptive parents and she needed to work together in the best interest of Shauna and her baby. Her biological mother was receptive to this and worked with the team. The team also worked to help Shauna realize that her parents were looking out for her well-being and safety, while at the same time validating her feeling that she is almost 18 and about to become a mother. Throughout the process, the team worked with the family, supporting and encouraging them as they rebuilt their relationship.

Shauna was referred to the family enrichment program through Aurora Family Service. Through this program she was assigned a prenatal home visitor who worked with her and the family in preparation for the new baby. The program also included a component for the father and both of them were able to participate in teen parenting groups. Once Shauna turned 18 she decided that she wanted to live with her mother. It was through working with the Child & Family Team that both families were able to communicate and work in the best interest of Shauna. When she decided that she wanted to live with her biological mother, her adoptive parents did not interfere; they gave her their blessing and told her that they would always be her family and that they loved her unconditionally.

(* Name changed for confidentiality.)

Submitted by Aurora Family Service

Mobile Crisis...

In May, the Mobile Urgent Treatment Team (MUTT) offered several trainings to partners and community groups. Dr. Steve Dykstra spoke with a group of Crisis Stabilizers at LaCausa, about the vital need for their connection to families, and some of the best ways to forge these relationships. Julie Lubbers

assisted at a Milwaukee Public Schools Resource Fair held at OW Holmes Elementary. MUTT also participated at Children's Court Center for a health fair aimed at highlighting working with families toward reunification. I had the opportunity to speak with a group of Community Advocates about mental health issues facing youth today and best practices in meeting their needs. I also spoke at the Medical College of Wisconsin's annual conference on Bioethics in June. This talk focused on the challenges, clinical, ethical and moral, inherent in community work with youth who have complex needs.

Dr. Chris Morano, Mobile Crisis Services Director



Quality Quote of the Month

*"The beginning of Wisdom
is to desire it."*

- Solomon Gabierol - poet (1021-1058)

Announcements...

Positive Recognition Awards

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

Marijayne Poch – Alternatives in Psychological Consultation

Nominated by Charmaine Ness - Parent

"Truly, I have never met such a dedicated worker. She is true, kind, helpful and is not one to put things off... a dream of a worker... deserves 'top honors' for all her work... never gives up... Thank you, Mary, you are my worker, my friend and my dream case worker!"

LS Transportation

Nominated by Michelle Vieth - LaCausa

"I would like to thank LS Transportation for making sure that youth get to their appointments on time and for being flexible when needed."

Bethany Schindhelm, Roger Asija, and Terry Hoyt - LaCausa

Nominated by Brenda Anderson – Parent

"The changes in our household are due to the continuing work and support through the Wraparound program. Mitchell has learned to turn his life, steering in a different direction. As far as we can tell from his continuing behaviors and actions, he is meeting his daily challenges... Thank you for helping my son get his life back. I could never thank you enough. I thought I lost my son forever. I know he will stumble and fall, but we will be there to pick him up and help him start again."





Upcoming Events...

JULY 2011

- Jul. 5** **ARB Meetings**
9:00-1:00pm WM – Room 253
- Jul. 6** **QA Meeting**
9:00-11:00am WM – Room 212
- Jul. 6** **New CC Training**
9:00-12:00pm WM – Room 416
- Jul. 7** **Mgmt./Supervisors Meeting**
8:15-10:15am @ St. Charles Youth & Family
- Jul. 7** **New CC Training**
8:30-11:30am WM – Room 416
- Jul. 7** **High Risk Reviews**
11:00-1:00pm WM – Room 253
- Jul. 7** **Monthly Care Coordinator Mtg.**
1:00-3:00pm “Cancelled”
- Jul. 8** **New CC Training**
9:00-11:00am WM – Room 212
- Jul. 11** **New CC Training**
8:30-12:30pm WM – Room 416

- Jul. 13** **Achenbach Trg. – St. A’s**
9:30-11:00am WM – Room 212
- Jul. 13** **Child Psych. Cons. – Aurora**
12:00-1:00pm WM – Room 253
- Jul. 13** **FAMILY ORIENTATON**
6:00-7:30Pm WM – Room 416
- Jul. 14** **High Risk Reviews**
11:00-1:00pm WM – Room 253
- Jul. 18** **Provider Meeting**
1:00-2:00pm @ St. Aemilian-Lakeside
- Jul. 18** **APR Meetings**
2:30-4:00pm WM – Room 212
- Jul. 19** **ARB Meetings**
9:00-1:00pm WM – Room 253
- Jul. 20** **Partnership Council Mtg.**
11:30-1:30pm WM – Room 212
- Jul. 20** **Achenbach Trg. – Alt.**
10:00-11:30am WM – Room 212
- Jul. 21** **Mgmt./Supervisors Meeting**
8:15-10:15am @ St. Charles Youth & Family
- Jul. 21** **High Risk Reviews**
11:00-1:00pm WM – Room 253
- Jul. 21** **APR Meetings**
10:30-3:45pm WM – Room 212
- Jul. 22** **APR Meetings**
9:30-12:00pm WM – Room 212
- Jul. 28** **High Risk Reviews**
11:00-1:00pm WM – 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 and search using the
 keywords “Wraparound Milwaukee”.

Greater Milwaukee Major Events

6/2-9/28	Jazz in the Park	Cathedral Square Park	(414) 271-1416
6-/8-8/24	River Rhythms	Pere Marquette Park	(414) 276-6696
6/29-7/10	Summerfest	Henry Maier Festival Park	(414) 273-3378
6/25-6/26	Cedarburg Strawberry Festival	Downtown Cedarburg	(800) 237-2874
7/3	Downtown Milwaukee Fireworks	Milwaukee Lakefront	(800) 554-1448
7/4	Wauwatosa Ind. Day Parade	Wauwatosa	(414) 479-8988
7/14-7/17	Bastille Days	East Town	(414) 271-1416

