



WRAPAROUND MILWAUKEE

Child & Adolescent Services Branch

News – A Monthly Publication

MARCH 2011

From the Director...



How Governor's Budget affects Wraparound Milwaukee

Here is what we know so far from Governor Walker's 2011-2013 Biennial Budget and how it affects Wraparound Milwaukee. From the perspective of our largest funding source, Medicaid, the State will be looking for \$400 million in savings over the next two years. States, like Wisconsin, are allowed (if experiencing a budget deficit) to lower eligibility limits and drop coverage to 133% of the federal poverty level. Wisconsin increased eligibility two years ago to 200%, mainly to cover the remaining uninsured families with children and more recently added certain childless adults. So, if the State cannot achieve savings from several other strategies, they would eliminate coverage for those groups over 133%, which totals about 70,000 enrollees.

The reduction in BadgerCare Plus eligibility would affect some of our REACH families and perhaps some of the youth aging out of foster care. If the State would move forward on this option, it would occur beginning in July 2012. While fully funding Family Care for the elderly and developmentally disabled, the State will "freeze" enrollment limits at the current levels. This would most likely mean that Wraparound Milwaukee will also remain at the current 900 enrollment limit.

The State is looking at developing some new models of service delivery, such as the medical home model to take advantage of the 90/10 federal funding ratio to develop these models. This is a type of approach Wraparound Milwaukee was developing several years ago in partnership with another HMO for the Child Welfare population. But in general, the model has most currently been promoted for regular, fully integrated (medical and behavioral) HMO models.

As to the rest of the Budget Bill, most people are familiar with the reduction of shared revenues to cities and counties (\$36.5 million statewide and estimated at \$8-\$9 million for Milwaukee County). The Governor's budget closes Ethan Allen School for Boys and Southern Oaks for girls effective July 1, 2011, which was not totally unanticipated. But the bill unfortunately cuts

10% out of the Youth Aids funding to counties, which could mean a loss of \$1.8 million for Milwaukee County. These funds support juvenile delinquency services in the County.

Child Welfare fared better in the budget, getting an increase in community aids funding of \$2.4 million in fiscal year 2012 and 2013. It also provides additional funding for kinship care in the State (\$21.7 million) and supports the Child Welfare Program Improvement Plan to enhance the Child Welfare system (\$608,000 in fiscal year 2012 and \$1.3 million in 2013).

Obviously, the Biennial Budget makes drastic cuts in school aids (nearly \$900 million), while greatly enhancing the school choice program, by eliminating parents income ceilings and allowing the expansion of school choice to parochial and private schools.

Finally, in a separate action, collective bargaining rights of public employees were greatly limited.

Wraparound Milwaukee will be monitoring the State Budget closely and will keep our staff, providers and families informed of further changes.

Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare Releases 2010 Annual Performance Report

On March 11, 2011, the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare (BMCW) released the 2010 Annual Performance Report. The following are some of the significant data and findings released in that report.

- For 2010, the number of children in out-of-home care continued to decline. There was a 6.9% decrease in the number of children in out-of-home care as of December 31, 2010, compared to December 31, 2009 (2,034 versus 2,184). More children exited care (1,218) than entered care (1,151).
- The majority of children entering care are four years of age and younger (47%). The percentage of children entering care between the ages of 5 to 11 decreased by 3%. The percentage of children entering care 16 years of age or older increased from 9% in 2009 to 11% during 2010. The youth that Wraparound Milwaukee most frequently serves (average age being around 14) continues to be a significant challenge for the child welfare system.



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- On a positive note, fewer children are staying in out-of-home care longer than 24 months.

The BMCW's department wide performance management approach called KIDSTAT continued to show improvement in 2010. This was particularly true around improvements in the timely handling of initial contacts and assessments, and children receiving initial health screens. BMCW met its standard that at least 39% of all children be reunified within 12 or fewer months in two of three BMCW regions (only Region 1 fell short). While not reaching the placement stability measure (88% of children experience 2 or fewer placements while residing in out-of-home care), they improved, and actually Region 3 met the standard at 90%.

In general, BMCW continued to make significant progress on meeting the requirements of the Jeanine B. Settlement under the suit filed in 1993 by Children's Rights. This was noted by Children's Rights at the meeting held on March 11, 2011.

So, we congratulate the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare on the continued progress made on behalf of Milwaukee County children and families.

Bruce Kamradt, Director

Wraparound Success Story...

Tim will soon be turning 18 years old and will be graduating in a few short months. Academically inclined and driven, he has obtained acceptance into a University for the fall of 2011. It goes without saying that his team has taken great pride in his accomplishment! Prior to this planned transition into adulthood, Tim completed a journey which included separation from his family, treatment and reconciliation.*

Tim and his family were referred to Wraparound Milwaukee in 2007. They had endured much abuse at the hand of an individual who is no longer involved. The family was understandably fragile and distrusting. Due to the effects of these experiences, Tim was moved to an out-of-home placement. His siblings were also removed from their home and his mom moved away for a period of time.

Tim incorporated the lessons of his treatment and was safely moved to a group home to be closer to his family and continue to progress. While at the group home he began to work again with his therapist and mentor. He was relieved to be attending a public school and continued to achieve a grade point average of 3.0 or better. During the days that passed, it became

apparent that Tim and his family would not experience reunification under the same roof. Through a collaborative process of participation, a home setting was coordinated for Tim.

Tim's community-based team consists of his mother, brother, aunt, uncle, grandparents, therapist, treatment foster care parent, child welfare and several other members. His aunt and uncle have been involved, especially on the holidays. He has been able to vacation with his grandparents and participate in other family events. He continues a therapeutic process with his mother and brother. Tim will undoubtedly achieve his goals within college, as his internal strength of academics and commitment are well supported by his extended family.

(Name changed for confidentiality.)*

Submitted by Alternatives in Psychological Consultation



**Daylight Saving Time
begins March 13th**

Mobile Crisis...

The Mobile Urgent Treatment Team (MUTT) wishes to congratulate the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare and its partners on the progress made in assisting youth in foster and kinship care. Recent data shows that there are far fewer youth in out-of-home care, and gains are being made in many aspects of that care, as well as in reunification. MUTT is pleased to be a part of the community wide effort at addressing the needs of children in care.

Also, with the recent tragic disaster in Japan, it seems useful to discuss basics of preparing children for natural and other disasters. First, let children speak freely about what scares or confuses them. This will require the adults around that child to be sufficiently composed themselves before listening to youth. Be prepared to discuss what a disaster is, and be concrete in responding to questions. Tell children that a disaster is something that could hurt people, and cause damage, or cut off utilities. Talk about typical changes that happen in a disaster, like stopping phone service or electricity. Discussing disaster ahead of time, and planning for it, reduces anxiety and helps coping.

Teach children that there are many people who help them in a disaster, like the Red Cross, police, firefighters, neighbors and others. Train them on how to get help, from calling 911 to contacting out of town support. If possible, help them to memorize phone



numbers or write them down on an index card for reference. Explain that when people know what to do in an emergency, we all take better care of ourselves and each other. Discuss first steps to finding each other and being most safe in such times. Disaster planning, like Wraparound crisis/safety planning, makes everyone feel safer and healthier in the long run.

Dr. Chris Morano, Mobile Crisis Services Director

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY



Announcements...

Positive Recognition Awards

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

Tiffany Wilhelm – LaCausa, Inc.

Nominated by Michelle Vieth – LaCausa, Inc.

"Thank you to Tiffany for working so hard and being so patient with the families that she works with. Tiffany is great at following through with the family's plan."

Homme Home

Nominated by Tina Sabo – Aurora Family Service

"Homme Home staff have been professional, helpful and knowledgeable with assisting my youth with a smooth transition back to the community."

Lori Ann D'Acquisto – My Home, Your Home – Treatment Foster Care

Nominated by Anna VonRueden – My Home, Your Home

"Lori Ann puts our youth first and worked diligently to find/secure placement for my young man by motivating others to follow the Wraparound philosophy. Lori Ann maintains a positive attitude, follows up and ensures the homes she licenses are safe and up-to-date."

Ryan Delaney – LaCausa - FOCUS

Nominated by Cheryl Peterson – Wraparound Milwaukee

"I want to take a moment to make you aware of the great work being done here by Ryan, as a FOCUS Screener/Team Consultant... it seemed that the FOCUS staff became less dedicated to Wraparound philosophy. Ryan identified the issue and took the lead in offering positive suggestions and implementing recommendations to address this issue. Ryan has worked long and hard to regain the collaborative/ Wraparound-directed focus of

the program. His efforts have fostered the establishment of a very different program today that what we were experiencing last year. Ryan has become a point person for FOCUS related issues, starting at the team level and going all the way up to the program level! Ryan has also made himself available to teams as a Team consultant for our FOCUS enrolled youth. He saw the need for an ongoing link between the unit and care coordinators, and he stepped up to meet that need! Ryan facilitates the FOCUS meetings and is constantly working to help them to remain a strengths-based, solution-focused collaborative team. FOCUS residential staff and care coordination staff are working together now better than ever, due directly to Ryan's efforts. Ryan's initiative and willingness to assist and support others in working as a team has reaped enormous benefits to the young men involved in this program...!"

Christin Firkins – Integrity Family Services LLC

Nominated by Teresa Marie Schaubel – Parent

"...Chris is the best crisis worker we have had... She knows her job and how to do it right... She is a very hard worker..."

Sandy Seiler – Foster Parent

Nominated by Stacey Bronk - Parent

"Sandy worked as hard as she possibly could with my daughter... Sandy was very open and very easy to work with... When my daughter left her home, I was saddened..."

Rene Burgoyne – Red Oak Counseling

Nominated by Stacey Bronk - Parent

"I loved Rene the moment I met her. She is very sincere and caring. I wish she worked with adults!"

Nakeita Patterson - LaCausa

Nominated by Stacy Bronk - Parent

"I really felt Nakeita had a real feel for my child and was able to really understand [her]. She chose to get to know [her] personality, rather than go by face value."

Taylor Karshna – St. Aemilian-Lakeside

Nominated by Julia Perkins - Parent

"Very committed to her job and service to the children and their family, and tries to keep everyone comfortable. She does a good job and works well with [my son]...tries to get him on the right track."

James Hilliard – Alternatives in Psychological Consultation

Nominated by Deborah Mills – Parent

"Mr. James Hilliard is very professional with his job, he shows that he cares and provides great services to me and my child's needs. We couldn't ask for anyone better..."



Upcoming Events...

APRIL 2011

Apr. 5 **ARB Meetings**
9:00-1:00pm WM – Room 253

Apr. 6 **QA Meeting**
9:00-11:00am WM – Room 212

Apr. 7 **Mgmt./Supervisors Meeting**
8:15-10:00am St. Charles Youth & Family

Apr. 7 **High Risk Reviews**
11:00-1:00pm WM – Room 253

Apr. 7 **Monthly Care Coordinator Mtg.**
1:00-3:00pm CHP Auditorium

Apr. 9 **Family Orientation**
11:00-12:30pm WM – Room 416

Apr. 12 **ARB Meetings**
9:00-1:00pm WM – Room 253

Apr. 13 **Child Psych. Cons. – AJA**
12:00-1:00pm WM – Room 253

Apr. 14 **High Risk Reviews**
11:00-1:00pm WM – Room 253

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

Apr. 20 **Partnership Council Meeting**
11:30-1:30pm WM – Room 212

Apr. 21 **Mgmt./Supervisors Meeting**
8:15-10:00am St. Charles Youth & Family

Apr. 21 **High Risk Reviews**
11:00-1:00pm WM – Room 253

Apr. 27 **Child Psych. Cons. – R-St. A's**
12:00-1:00pm WM – Room 253

Apr. 28 **High Risk Reviews**
11:00-1:00pm WM – Room 253

Editor

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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

3/25-4/3	2011 Realtors Home & Garden Show	Wisconsin Exposition Center	(414) 778-4929
4/15-4/16	Gallery Night and Day	Downtown Milwaukee	(414) 273-1173
4/23	Egg Day at the Zoo	Milwaukee County Zoo	(414) 256-5514
5/8	Nat. Night Out Pancake Breakfast	Village of Wauwatosa	(414) 479-8900

