

It's A Wrap!

Wraparound

Quarterly Topic: Individualized

From the very first time families meet with Wraparound staff, we seek to understand what makes a family exceptional. No two families are alike. To be truly successful in supporting them, it is imperative that we take the time to create a customized plan of services, supports and strategies that builds on families' strengths, needs, abilities, and preferences. Each assessment and tool utilized in Wraparound allows teams to gain knowledge and discover how "help" really works for our families. These assessments answer questions such as who is already involved in that team of supports and who still needs to come to the table. This is what Wraparound is all about! Teams assess needs and brainstorm solutions, but they don't stop there. We

have learned that finding the right provider for youth and families is critical to ongoing success. Taking the time to find out what personality types work best, ensuring supports align with family's daily schedule, matching youth to mentors with similar interests and/or cultures, and taking the time to address barriers, like transportation, can make all the difference whether or not a plan will work. Here are just a couple examples of how individualized plans worked for our families: Sarah spent almost all of her time with professional supports who were at least twenty years older than her. She was accommodating in therapy, but really did not want to open up about issues going on at school or with peers. By matching her with a Miami student who was only six years older

than her and who shared similar interests and hobbies helped Sarah to feel like someone actually "got her." The relationship has been a huge success and Sarah is really opening up to all team members for the first time in years. Similarly, Joey refused to take his medications which led to many explosive behaviors towards others. Traditional rewards, punishments, and behavior charts didn't work. However, Joey is very devout in his faith and likes to follow the commandments of God. Working with his clergy, Joey was able to understand that being on medication, following the rules of his parents, and treating others with respect aligns with many of the Ten Commandments. Joey is now very compliant and stable with his medications.

Ohio Families Organizing for Change

In the Spring of 2009, the Family and Children First Council hosted a number of planning meetings in order to establish a Butler County parent network that serves individuals with emotional, physical, developmental, behavioral and mental health challenges and those involved in their care.

Three areas of importance were identified during those first few meetings: (1) parents need social support, a way to be with other families who can identify with their children's behaviors or needs; (2) parents need to change the way things work, so that the laws protect children and ensure their needs are met;

and (3) parents need respite care for their families. These three focal areas have become three committees of the group in order to separate and concentrate on each particular one. Each committee has met and established its primary goal. The following provide an update on the work of these committees.

Newsletter Date

March 2010

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Butler County Community Wraparound provides service coordination for families of children with behavioral health issues and who may be struggling in their home, school and/or communities. For more information or to make a referral, contact Tom Jenne at 513.887.5514.

Ohio Families Organizing For Change

The Social Support Committee, named Hearts and HANDS, wanted to create opportunities for families to build social networks. Having received a grant from the Butler County Board of Developmental Disabilities, social activities are now available for families at no cost to them. The Public Policy Committee is researching current laws in order to identify the changes needed to address families' concerns. For now, the group has decided to delay addressing respite. Though it is

understood that respite is a major need for families, there must be better clarity about specific respite needs of families in order to meet them. Also, people with the time, energy, and motivation to champion this issue is needed! In the meantime, a directory of resources is being compiled so that parents know about opportunities that are available in the community for respite.

The OFOFC meets at the Butler County Educational Service Center on the third Monday of each month

at 7:00pm and this meeting is open to the public. The purpose of this meeting is to inform everyone of the progress being made and to gather ideas. The needs of families cannot be met if we cannot identify them! For more information, contact Elena Graham at (513) 889-9391, Patty Young at (513) 642-0857, or find us on the web at <http://www.meetup.com/Ohio-Families-Organizing-for-Change>

Parent Advocate—Community Wraparound

The Butler County Community Wraparound Program serves families who have children with behavioral health needs using a team-based approach. A variety of people partner with families and contribute to the work of their team. One component of this partnership is the Volunteer Parent Advocates who provide support to families. These advocates bring with them life experiences and training that has uniquely prepared them to walk alongside caregivers being served by Wraparound.

The Volunteer Parent Advocates partner with caregivers to offer encouragement and education in order to equip and empower them to seek out what their family needs. They help families build partnerships with support from extended family members, close personal friends, churches, schools, support groups, service providers and other community-based organizations.

Volunteer Parent Advocates are there to support families at meetings and

by phone. They have a strong desire to help others and enjoy working with families.

There is always a need for Volunteer Parent Advocates. If you have personal, direct experience with a child with special needs as a caregiver or family member and would like to reach out to families in Butler County, please contact Lynda Coombs, Family Advocacy Coordinator, at 513-887-5519.

FCF Council—Family Civic Engagement

The ESC, in partnership with FCFC, applied for the Family Civic Engagement (FCE) grant. Development of a FCE plan is mandated in HB1 and all 10 districts have to develop a plan unique to their students' needs. The district's plans will then be the foundation for FCFC's next HB289 plan.

Butler County was one of 25 selected counties to receive an FCE grant.

Over the next 4-6 months, our communities will be mobilized to help develop strategies to effectively engage families and community partners. This process will create a shared vision and responsibility for the education and well-being of our children.

A countywide team with representatives from all districts is participating collaboratively in this

initiative. Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Miami University's Partnership Office, and Miami University's Center for Civic Engagement are also participating on the county team. FCFC has a unique leadership role in this process since family engagement is one of the core functions of councils. Two FCFC family representatives, Lara Osborne and Andrea Weaver, are serving on the county FCE team.

Cross Systems Training Committee

The Butler County Cross Systems Training Committee (BCCST) is a workgroup of the Family and Children First Council. The members work together to develop ways to support social service staff from various agencies in order to better understand each other and the resources available to support families and children in Butler County.

In November, the BCCST held its third "New Worker

Orientation." This two day event targeted social services and school staff who work directly with families and who are either new to Butler County or new to their organization (less than 1 year of service). Participants received information about available social service resources through presentations from and visits to 19 different organizations and systems.

Currently the BCCST is developing a

cross systems and training website that will be available to share information about professional development events, services and support options for families and to provide a forum for sharing changes and updates to the social services landscape in Butler County. If you would like more information about the work of this committee, please contact Heather Wells at wellsh@bcsc.org or 513-887-5534.

Asset Builders' Network

The Asset Builders' Network (BCABN) is a Butler County initiative with the vision that "All of Butler County will intentionally build assets in youth." Based on the Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets (www.search-institute.org), this workgroup has been actively working on several projects to promote the Asset message throughout the community.

Recently, the training team of the BCABN held a seminar called "Sharing

the Asset Message." This four hour workshop is designed to help participants develop a plan to talk about Assets with others.

Another project of the BCABN is the "You've Been Caught" cards. These are to be given to food service establishments (restaurants and groceries) that hire youth and where positive interactions between the management and the youth employee have been observed. This initiative's

goal is to support workforce actions that help youth to be successful in the workplace.

If you would like to learn more about Developmental Assets, an introductory seminar called "Everyone's An Asset Builder" will be held on Thursday, April 15th. If you would like more information about upcoming seminars or the Asset Builders' Network, please contact Heather Wells at wellsh@bcsc.org or 513-887-5534.

Mom's Monkey Bread!

By Leah Draut

Spending time in the kitchen is one of the best ways that parents and their children can bond and have fun together. Kids love to cook and they enjoy all aspects of the process. It is a great time to talk about the day or just time to get messy together and have fun. I know that my little one enjoys the simplest aspects of time spent in the kitchen. He enjoys learning the skills of pouring, measuring, and mixing along with the sense of accomplishment when he gets to eat and enjoy what he has made. Most of all, he loves being a helper and the praise that I give him for doing a good job. Here is a quick and simple recipe that we make together on the weekends. It is definitely a crowd pleaser for kids of all ages!

Ingredients:

2 cans refrigerator biscuits (about 20)
1 tablespoon ground cinnamon
1/4 cup butter
1/2 cup white sugar
1/2 cup brown sugar, packed
1/4 cup pecans, raisins and/or coconut, if desired (they are just as good without!)

**Feel free to cut the recipe in half if this makes too much for your family.

Instructions:

Cut each biscuit into 4 pieces.
Pour sugar and cinnamon into a plastic bag and mix.

Add biscuit pieces, several at a time; shake to coat well.

Place pieces in a buttered tube or Bundt pan until all are used.

Sprinkle layers with nuts, raisins or coconut.

Bring brown sugar and butter to a boil in saucepan. Cool 10 minutes, then pour over top of biscuits.



Bake at 350°F for 35 to 40 minutes (until the tops are golden brown). Allow to cool 15 minutes before removing from pan. Turn upside down to serve.

Community Wraparound

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Upcoming Events

- Next **FCFC Administrative Council** Meeting June 2, 2010, 10:00 am at the Janet Clemmons Center. Call (513) 887-5510 for more information.
- **Parent 2 Parent Series**—connect with other parents to gain unique and insightful strategies to confront the challenges parents and their children face everyday. All are welcome to participate this free informative 4 week program. Contact Tammy Simpson at 513-615-1917.
- **Asset Builders' Roundtable** - meets the second Tuesday of each month from 2-3:30 pm at the Butler County ESC. Contact Heather Wells at (513) 887-5534 for more information.
- **The Mental Health Association of Greater Cincinnati** is hosting a support group for parents of children (up to age 18) who have a serious emotional disorder or a child who has been diagnosed with or exhibits symptoms of a neurobiological brain disorder or mental illness. Grandparents and other caregivers are welcome. Please call Sheila at (513) 721-2910 ext. 12 for more information about meeting dates and times.
- **The Kinship Navigator Program** is available to families in Butler County that are new to taking care of children other than their own. The Kinship Navigator can help you “navigate” the many community systems and access available resources. Taking care of another’s child can be fulfilling and rewarding and helps is available. Call Melissa Ruffner for information and dates of the upcoming support groups and events at 785-6881.
- **Ohio Families Organizing for Change** has a Drum Circle scheduled for March 12, (location to be determined) and an informational meeting scheduled for March 15th. Please contact Patty Young at (513) 642-0857 for questions or details on either event.
- **Peer Support Group** meets the Second Tuesday of every month at the Janet Clemmons Center, (282 North Fair Ave., Hamilton, Ohio 45011), from 6-8 pm. Please contact Victoria Chitwood at (513) 828-5116 or victoriachitwood@yahoo.com for more information.
- **Parenting Education Classes** through Catholic Charities: for Hamilton, Thursday evenings at 7pm/ Mondays at 7pm; Middletown, Tuesdays at 7pm/Thursdays at 7pm weekly. Call (513) 863-6129 or (513) 424-2072 to register or for more information.
- **Kids In Care Of Kin (KICK)** group is open to all members who are no longer able to be served by the Kinship Navigator program. Meetings are held the Third Thursday of each month from 6:30-8pm at the Janet Clemmons Center (211 Fair Ave, Hamilton, Ohio). Contact Barb Brock at (513) 939-8271 for more information.