



It's A Wrap!

Butler County Community Wraparound

Butler County Family & Children First Council

September 2011

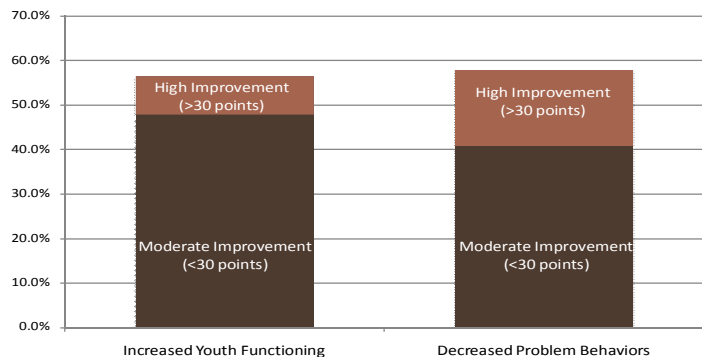
The Butler County Family and Children First Council offers Wraparound to families of children with complex needs. Wraparound is a planning process that follows a series of steps so that children and their families improve their well-being and realize their hopes and dreams. A Wraparound facilitator forms a team comprised of people who care about the family's long term success. Utilizing the family's unique strengths, team members problem-solve and plan in order to meet the needs of the family and the child.

Wraparound makes a difference!

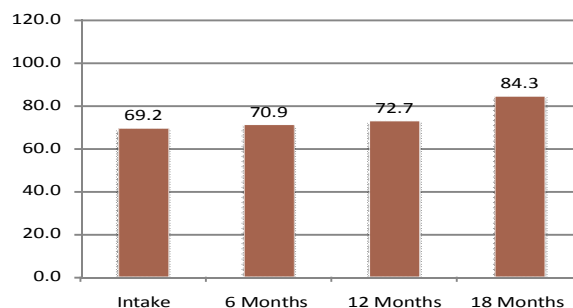
The Wraparound process involves a lot of hard work, time and dedication on the part of families, youth, professionals and others that care about a family's success. But it is not enough to work hard if families don't find that their lives are better as a result. It is critical to know that all of these efforts lead to positive change for families.

Outcome-based reporting measures changes and improvements resulting from participation in Wraparound. In FY 2011, Community Wraparound provided service coordination to over 200 Butler County families. Evaluation of program data indicate that families involved with Wraparound experienced the following outcomes:

- **Improved child functioning**
- **Improved family functioning**
- **Improved caregiver empowerment**
- **Successful treatment in least restrictive environments**
- **Improved family stability**
- **Decreased placement cost**



Youth showed clinically significant change on the Ohio Scales in both the improvement of functioning and reduction of problem behaviors.



Parents reported that their child's behavioral and emotional strengths (BERS-2) increased over the time they were involved with Wraparound.

“Wraparound is a great program. I don't know where our family would of been at without them.” - Parent

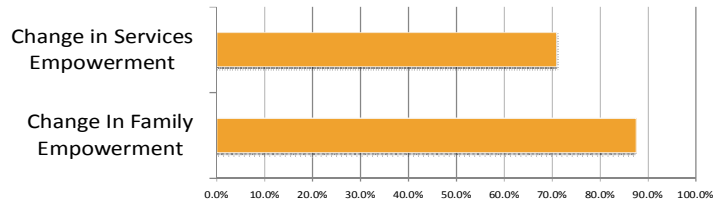
Improved Caregiver Empowerment

Outcome >>>

Families who participate in and complete Wraparound report improved empowerment related to their ability to meet the needs of their family and access

Measure >>>

Family Empowerment Scale



The Family Empowerment Scale showed the greatest degree of improvement for the following:

- ~ “I feel my family life is under control.”
- ~ “I am able to get information to help me better understand my child.”
- ~ “I believe I can solve problems with my child when they happen.”

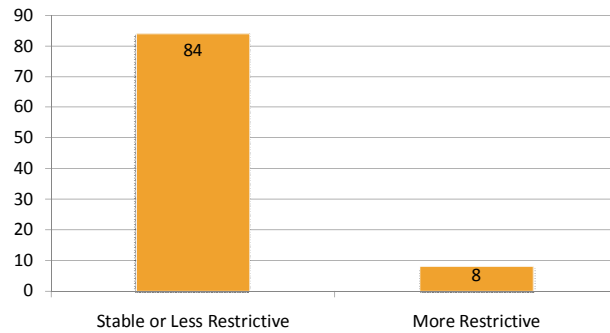
Least Restrictive Placement

Outcome >>>

Youth who participate in Wraparound are able to be successful in least restrictive settings

Measure >>>

Case Record



91% of youth were in a stable or less restrictive placement at case closing.

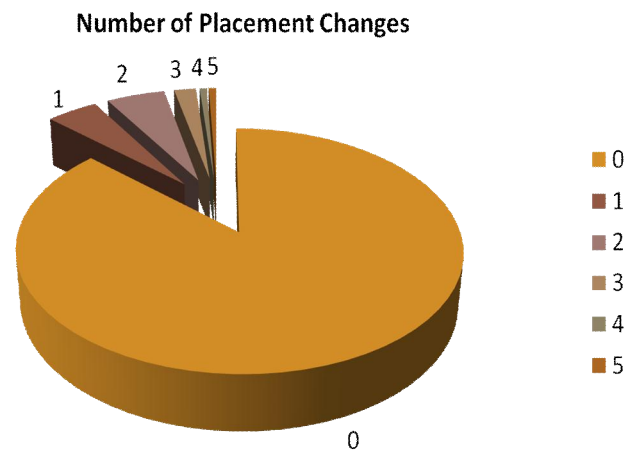
Improved Family Stability

Outcome >>>

Youth who participate in Wraparound experience few placement disruptions

Measure >>>

Case Record



Only 13% of youth experienced a placement disruption. Most placements were short term hospitalizations or incarceration at the Juvenile Detention Center.

“Thank you for helping our son & our family to quickly locate the supports we needed so our son could avoid a residential placement. Now a year later he continues to make progress, live at home, and has new long term supports in place.” - Parent

Online Gaming Safety

With proper use, online gaming can be both safe and entertaining. To make sure that it stays that way, monitor your child's use of online gaming services and keep your eyes out for the items below.

Things to Watch For

1. **Addiction.** MMO (Massively Multiplayer Online) games are more difficult to quit than standard console games because kids work with others in a constantly evolving world that never ends. Video game addiction is real and growing.
2. **Advertising.** There are about 29 million kids between the ages of 8 and 14 with a combined purchasing power of \$40 billion. This means that companies have a vested interest in selling to kids as well as entertaining them. Make sure kids have the knowledge they need to know when they are being targeted by advertising.
3. **Online predators.** Just like any online social environment, kids playing online games are at risk of being targeted by internet predators. Make sure to talk to your kids about what information is private and shouldn't be shared online and establish rules about online friends.
4. **Netiquette.** Some kids spend more time making fun of others online than they do advancing the game. Make sure you talk to your kids about what to do if they see something inappropriate online, establish basic rules of netiquette, and enforce consequences for irresponsible internet use.
5. **Inappropriate content.** There are games that contain fun, age-appropriate content for kids of all ages. But be sure to check the ratings or play games before your child does. Many popular games contain excessive amounts of

violence, disrespect, and sexually explicit content.

6. **Sharing.** Be aware that kids can share just about anything online, including videos, audio, and even games that they have developed themselves. These things are difficult to control for content so be very clear about your expectations for what your child shares and views online.

The online gaming world is expanding rapidly and new advances in technology mean new things to watch out for. Keep the lines of communication with your child open even when engrossed in a game and be sure to encourage positive decision-making by continuing to teach your child positive values.

Find this article and more at Search Institute's website for parents at www.parentfurther.com.

Parent Advocacy in Community Wraparound

A very important component of Wraparound is the availability of a parent advocate or parent partner. Families can request a parent partner at the beginning of or at any point in the Wraparound process. Butler County has a Parent Advocate Coordinator who provides direct service to families and recruits and supports volunteer parent partners from the community. Volunteer parent partners are trained by the Parent Advocacy Connection (PAC), a grassroots organization that operates throughout the State of Ohio. PAC is overseen by the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Ohio (NAMI) and is funded by the Ohio Departments of Mental Health, Job and Family Services, Drug and Alcohol Addiction Services, and Youth Services. In addition to PAC, NAMI offers other trainings and resources to local communities. The following article describes one such program.

In Our Own Voice (IOOV) is a program presented by two individuals who have received NAMI-provided training and are willing to share their personal stories about living with mental illness and the road to recovery. IOOV presentations are given to consumer groups, students, law enforcement officials, educators, health care providers, faith community members, politicians, professionals, inmates, and interested civic groups. This program also provides an opportunity for those who have a mental health condition to gain confidence and to share their individual experiences of recovery and transformation.

Throughout the IOOV presentation, audience members are encouraged to offer feedback and ask questions because the more audience members become involved, the closer they come to

understanding what it is like to live with a mental illness and stay in recovery. Through IOOV presentations, many individuals also learn of resources available to them or others in their circle of family and friends.

IOOV presentations also help reduce stigma that too often prevents people from seeking proper treatment and support. Understanding mental illnesses as treatable, biological conditions allows people to relate these illnesses to other chronic, but manageable, illnesses such as diabetes or heart disease.

All presentations are offered free of charge. Groups or organizations interested in scheduling a presentation may contact Suzanne Robinson at suzanner@amiohio.org.

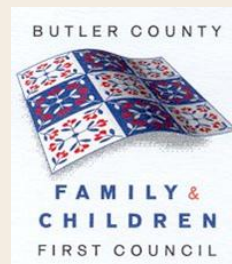
Butler County Community Wraparound provides service coordination for families requesting a planning process to create action steps to support them and their children. For more information or to make a referral, contact Tom Jenne at 513.887.5514.

Upcoming Events

- **The Kinship Navigator Program** is available to families in Butler County that are newly caring for 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 help is available. Call Melissa Ruffner for more information and dates of the upcoming support groups and events at 785-6881.
- **Kids In Care Of Kin (KICK)** group is open to all kinship caregivers who are not being 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.
- Next **Family & Children First Council** meeting is **Wednesday, December 7, 2011 @ 10:00** at the Butler County ESC.



Butler County Educational Service Center
Fiscal Administrative Agent for the Butler County Family & Children First Council



Community Wraparound

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We update the newsletter quarterly and it can be found at the website listed below. Click on the Family & Children First Council tab.

www.bcesc.org

