The Connecticut Family and Community Partnership Wraparound Initiative

Demonstrating High-Fidelity Wraparound and System of Care Enhancement

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Project Description

The current initiative seeks to demonstrate high-fidelity Wraparound through comprehensive training, consultation, technical assistance and evaluation in two communities in Connecticut over the course of two years (Sept. 2008 – Sept. 2010).

Wraparound is an evidence-based process that is strength based and family-driven and seeks to ensure that families’ needs are efficiently and effectively met through the Child and Family Team meeting process.

Project Goals

• Reduce juvenile justice involvement by diverting youth (ages 6-14) at-risk for initial or further involvement with this system into appropriate community-based services and supports

• Train staff in multiple sectors (e.g., DCF, Probation, Schools, Behavioral Health) to apply the principles and practices of Wraparound in addressing youth and family needs

• Promote Family and Youth Involvement and family-driven and youth-guided care

• Improve collaboration between multiple systems on behalf of youth within a community

Two Communities

Selected through competitive process

Urban Setting:
– Bridgeport (largest city in Connecticut)

Non-urban setting:
– Bristol-Farmington Valley (includes 10 towns west of Hartford)

Five Selected Target Groups:
– Behavioral Health
– Child Welfare
– Juvenile Justice
– Schools
– Behavioral Health Emergency/Crisis Responders (non-urban site only)

Process

Coordinating Center Leadership Team

• Infrastructure Development
• Training
• Coaching
• QA
• Technical Assistance to community

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Infrastructure Development

• Needed to build off of the two existing Community Collaboratives
• Each at a different point of development
• Helped develop and provide support on:
  – Leadership
  – Decision making process (by-laws etc.)
  – Sub-committees
  – Training
  – Quality assurance
Infrastructure Development

- Governance structure
- Multi-system representatives
  - Behavioral Health
  - Child Welfare (DCF)
  - Juvenile Justice
  - School
  - Emergency Department/Crisis Services (non-urban site)

- Parent leadership
  - Parent Co-Chair - Community Collaborative
  - Parent support group development - Ad-hoc Committee
  - Parents facilitating own Wraparound meetings

Training, Coaching, and QA

Wraparound Practice Implementation
- Basic to Wraparound
- Crisis Safety Planning
- Running effective Team meetings
- Building Teams using Natural and Family Supports
- Engaging Families Using their Strengths

General System of Care Development
- System of Care 101
- Family Orientation
- Family Engagement
- Changing Agency Culture
- System and Provider Training
- Leadership in the System of Care

Quality Assurance
- Wraparound Fidelity Index
- Ohio Scales – problem and severity scales
- Process summary – implementation, barriers, successes, etc

Where are we?

- Referral sources-14 total
  - Primarily behavioral health (care coordination)
  - Also juvenile justice (3) and schools (2)
- Facilitators and coaches
  - 24 facilitators/coaches have been identified in Bristol-Farmington Valley and 30 facilitators/coaches in Bridgeport
- Training
  - 285 Community Stakeholders in training, coaching, and leadership activities, including: 42 separate agencies and 52 family members
  - 229 Community Stakeholders in training, coaching, and leadership activities, including: 38 separate agencies and 37 family members
- Parents as facilitators
  - Each community has trained parents to facilitate own meetings

Implementation Challenges

- Program translation
  - Basic training participation has been successful; "buying-in" to community-led coordination is more difficult
  - System variations in infrastructure and organizational culture (Behavioral Health, Schools, Child Welfare, and Juvenile Justice)
  - Developing multisystem partnerships
  - Initial implementation
    - Individuals in all systems reluctant to "jump in" to implementation
    - Practical/it/infrastructure challenges e.g., "productivity points", release time
    - Lack of buy-in and difficulty in linking Needs Assessment to Ensure that Needs remain a priority
  - Full Operation
    - Incorporation of Wraparound into the full system of care is underway, but slower than expected
  - Innovation
    - Individualizing Wraparound to each system – pro and con
  - Sustainability
    - Enhancing the Community Collaborative – Developing community-led oversight of Wraparound

Next Steps

- Increase referrals to the Wraparound evaluation
- Sustainability planning
- Identify additional funding
- Continue to identify and train facilitators, coaches, and trainers (Train the Trainer)

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