

Wraparound in California:
 The Title IV-E Child Welfare Waiver
 Demonstration Project Evaluation

Charlie Ferguson, Ph.D.

Manager of Evaluation and Research
 California Institute on Human Services
 Sonoma State University

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**The Issues To Be Addressed By
 Wraparound in California**

1. Population of maltreated children with emotional/behavioral difficulties:
 - a. Dissatisfaction with group care and its effectiveness for a certain population of maltreated children
 - b. Group care living environment is too restrictive for some children
2. Cost of high-level group care

Wraparound in California

Wraparound is a two-pronged approach (planning process and service allocation) to accomplishing a change/management of behavior to allow children to live in the most family-like setting possible.

Specific interventions borne out of the planning process are designed to alleviate stressors that may factor in triggering the child's problematic behavior, or limit the family's capacity to manage the behavior.

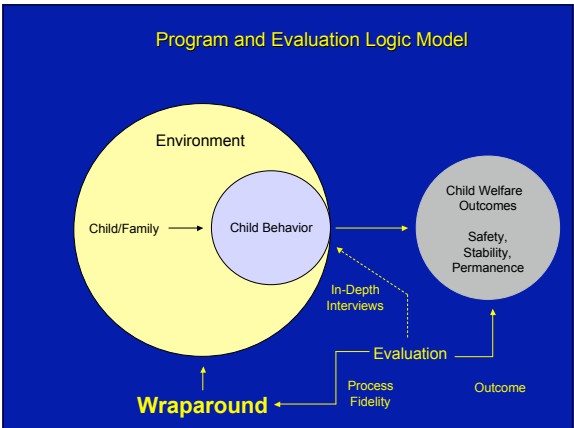
Practice Model:
 Professional team approach
 Working as a team with key people identified by the child/family

An Analysis of Wraparound

The Goal of Wraparound in California

To change or manage a child's behavior in order to improve foster care placement outcomes; specifically,

1. Target Population One: to allow a child to move from a more-restrictive placement setting to a less-restrictive placement setting,
- or
2. Target Population Two: to stabilize a current foster care placement, thereby preventing a placement into a more restrictive type of out-of-home placement, while keeping the child safe.



Study Methods

Data Collection Design
 Posttest-only Comparison Group Design

R	Tx	O	(Tx=Wraparound)
R	S	O	(S=Traditional Child Welfare Services)

Counties Included in Analysis
 Alameda County (Oakland, CA)
 Los Angeles County
 Sacramento County (Central Valley)

Study Population

1. Eligible for IV-E Foster Care funds
2. Dependents of county child welfare and eligible between 06/01/99 – 12/31/02
3. Intake criteria (two target populations)

Sampling

1. Behavioral criteria for enrollment
2. Initial referral and referral review process by counties

Random Assignment Process
 Ratio 5:3 treatment/comparison group
 If sibling group, one child randomly selected as study child

An Analysis of Wraparound Fidelity in Alameda County WFI—Results

Table : WFI Overall Score (%) (N = 79)

	n	M	Mdn	Min	Max	Range	SD
Project Destiny	49	78.08	80.00	42.00	99.00	57.00	11.34
Comparison	30	66.53	71.50	25.00	92.00	67.00	16.96

Satterthwaite Unequal Variance t(45) = -3.30, p = 0.0019.

Study Sample

Please see attachment.

Child Welfare Outcomes—Results

Outcomes

- Child Well-Being
 - Behavioral Measures
- Child Safety
 - Substantiated Maltreatment
- Placement Stability
 - Number of Placement Moves
 - Types of Placement Moves
- Permanence
 - Types of Placements
 - Exits from Care

Data Source

- In-Depth Interviews
- California's Case Management Data System (CWS/CMS)
- Additional sources as needed

Child Well-Being in Alameda County—Results

The children receiving Wraparound in Alameda County improved over a period of 12 – 18 months, in relation to the comparison group:

Variable (Instrument)	Respondent (Result)
Health Status:	Caregiver (+trend) Youth (p < .05)
Emotional Well-Being (SSP) :	Caregiver (p < .05)
Emotional Adjustment (SSP):	Caregiver (p < .05) Youth (p < .05)
Emotional/Behavioral (Ohio Scales):	Youth (p < .05)
Emotional/Behavioral Strengths (BERS):	Caregiver (+trend)
School Trouble Avoidance (SSP):	Youth (+trend)
Satisfaction (CSQ-18):	Caregiver (p < .05)

(all other comparisons neutral)

Substantiated Maltreatment—Results

At Least One Substantiated Maltreatment During the Study Period

	Sample	Tx %	Comp %	OR \ RR	P-Value	Trend
Alameda	17 of 212	7.52	8.86		0.73	+
Los Angeles	15 of 102	18.46	8.11		0.16	--
Sacramento	16 of 188	9.40	7.04		0.57	--

Number of Placement Moves—Results

Number of Placement Moves During the Study Period—Logistic Regression (3 or less)

	Sample	Tx %	Comp %	OR \ RR	P-Value	Trend
Alameda	212			1.167	0.66	+
Los Angeles	102			0.683	0.66	--
Sacramento	188			1.426	0.39	+

Types of Placement Moves: Step Down—Results

RCL 12-14 Placement: Non-proportional Hazards Model of Stepping Down to Less Restrictive Care During the Study Period

	Sample	Tx %	Comp %	OR \ RR	P-Value	Trend
Alameda	30 of 42	75.00	64.29	1.596	0.53	+
Los Angeles	12 of 17	66.67	75.00	0.542	0.38	--
Sacramento	41 of 76	54.17	53.57	0.812	0.67	--

Types of Placement Moves: Step Up—Results

At Risk of RCL 12-14 Placement: Non-proportional Hazards Model of Stepping Up to More Restrictive Care During the Study Period

	Sample	Tx %	Comp %	OR \ RR	P-Value	Trend
Alameda	46 of 169	26.67	28.13	1.445	0.46	--
Los Angeles	10 of 70	13.64	15.38	0.740	0.74	+
Sacramento	16 of 49	28.57	38.10	1.796	0.53	--

Types of Placements—Results

Family-based vs. Institution-based Placement at Enrollment and End of Study—Logistic Regression

	Sample	Tx %	Comp %	OR \ RR	P-Value	Trend
Alameda	78/87 of 212	39.10 / 56.76	32.91 / 33.33	2.646	0.00	+
Los Angeles	42/67 & 47/68	50.94 / 69.77	44.12 / 68.00	1.134	0.82	+
Sacramento	28/61 of 146	20.00 / 41.38	17.86 / 42.37	0.940	0.86	--

Exits from Care—Results

Exit from Care Due to Incarceration

	Sample	Tx %	Comp %	OR \ RR	P-Value	Trend
Alameda	7 of 212	3.76	2.53		0.71	--
Los Angeles	2 of 102	1.54	2.70		1.00	+
Sacramento	4 of 188	0.00	5.63		0.02	+

Exits from Care—Results

Exit from Care Due to Permanency (reunification, adoption, guardianship)

	Sample	Tx %	Comp %	OR \ RR	P-Value	Trend
Alameda	7 of 212	2.26	5.06		0.43	--
Los Angeles						
Sacramento	3 of 188	2.56	0.00		0.29	+

Discussion

Overall, children receiving Wraparound, as compared to children receiving traditional child welfare services:

1. Do not have higher levels of child safety;
2. Do not have higher levels of placement stability;
3. Do not have higher levels of permanence.

Trends of findings do not show improved child welfare outcomes for children receiving Wraparound.

However, there were two significant findings in specific counties:

1. Alameda County: a larger proportion of children receiving Wraparound were living in family-based environments at the end of the study.
2. Sacramento County: a smaller proportion children receiving Wraparound exited care due to incarceration.

Discussion

Possible explanations for the neutral findings:

1. The various programs may have been evaluated prior to program maturity—implementation, enrollment, data issues.
2. The range of child characteristics and target populations, given the sample sizes, may have reduced the ability to measure Wraparound's impact.
3. The possibility exists that the comparison group received services similar in nature to Wraparound, reducing the potential differences in outcomes.
4. The distal nature of the outcomes: child behavior outcomes vs. child welfare outcomes. A possible missing programmatic element that more adequately addresses family functioning and stability.

Thank You



Questions and Answers

Contact Information:

Charlie Ferguson, Ph.D.
Manager of Evaluation and Research
California Institute on Human Services
Sonoma State University
707.508.5960
charlie.ferguson@sonoma.edu

