

I. "No Wrong Door" Implementation of Wraparound in Montgomery County, Maryland  
Kiran Dixit, LCPC and Ayesha Bajwa, MS Ed.


II. Findings from the Wraparound Fidelity Index (WFI) & the Child & Adolescent Needs and Strengths Assessment (CANS)  
Bruno Anthony, PhD and Jennifer Mettrick, MHS  
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Systems of Care Research and Training Center  
21st Annual Research Conference  
February 25, 2008

I. "No Wrong Door" Implementation of Wraparound in Montgomery County, Maryland

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## Montgomery County

(location and demographics)



- Montgomery County, located just north of Washington, DC and southwest of Baltimore, Maryland is considered to be a part of both the Baltimore and Washington DC Metropolitan areas.
- With an estimated population of 956,000 in FY 2007, Montgomery County continues to be the most populous jurisdiction in Maryland.
- Montgomery County is a widely diverse jurisdiction with a growing international immigrant population.
  - International migration is second only to births as a component of Montgomery County's population growth.
  - Over 80,000 people born outside the United States moved to Montgomery County between 2000 and 2006.
  - Forty percent of Maryland's foreign born population lives in Montgomery County.


## Collaboration Council

- The Collaboration Council (510 c 3) is a state mandated Local Management Board (LMB) for Montgomery County supported by the Governor's Office for Children.
- Our mission is to improve the well-being of children, youth and families in Montgomery County through collaborative partnerships.
- The Collaboration Council plans, coordinates, funds and monitors specific interagency services to improve child well being in Montgomery County.




## "No Wrong Door"

- Montgomery County began developing a System of Care for children and adolescents in the early 1990s using state funds to return or divert RTC level youth from a higher level of care, this funding was focused on assisting youth at the top 5% of the needs triangle.
- 1999 Montgomery County received a SAMSHA funding for SOC that laid the foundation for a strong system of care including wraparound and an independent family support organization.
- 2005 Collaboration Council and Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services released an RFP for wraparound, Choices Inc. was awarded the contract to begin Maryland Choices.
  - Served two populations of youth
    - Return/Divert from Residential Treatment Center placements
    - Seriously Developmentally Disabled youth (Autism Spectrum)



## Developing a CME



- 2006 Maryland Choices became the Care Management Entity for both Montgomery County and Baltimore City through a joint RFP process.
  - Joined Fiscal and Clinical responsibility in accordance with system of care principles and wraparound values
  - Development of a Provider Network
- 2006 Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services secured funding to allow youth in the top 15% of the needs triangle to receive services through wraparound. Thereby creating – "No Wrong Door" for families to access services and care.
  - Expanded referral sources by allowing school personnel, community providers and parents refer youth for
  - Expanded eligibility offered wraparound to youth who were truant, having behavioral problems, gang involved, undocumented, and/or have one or more psychiatric hospitalizations

## Strategies for Outreach and Education about SOC and Wraparound

➤ **Consistent Outreach** - Although the community had been introduced to SOC principles and Wraparound Values through the SAMSHA grant, extensive work was done in partnership between the Collaboration Council and Maryland Choices to reach system partners and re-introduce/re-educate our referral sources about what was available for children and youth. Outreach efforts were made to:

- Child Welfare/DSS
- Department of Juvenile Services (DJS)
- Juvenile Court Judges
- State's Attorney
- Public Defenders
- School Social Workers
- Pupil Personnel Workers (School)
- Local Coordinating Council Members
- Residential Treatment Centers
- Mental Health Providers
- Community Centers



➤ **"Lunch and Learn"** This is a forum where system partners are invited to learn about and discuss their experiences on child and family team. Since our agency and community partners are essential to successful teams, we work hard to ensure they know what to expect as they participate in a high fidelity wraparound process and that they begin to understand that this is a needs driven not service driven process.

## Demographics of Youth Served

➤ **Average Age at Intake:** 13.7

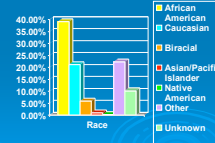
➤ **Gender:**

- Female: 30.9%
- Male: 69.1



➤ **Race:**

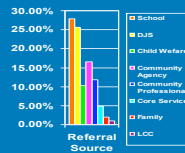
- 39.1% African American
- 21.2% Caucasian
- 5.9% Biracial
- 1.0% Asian/Pacific Islander
- 0.3% Native American
- 22.3% Other
- 10.2% Unknown



## Demographics of Youth Served

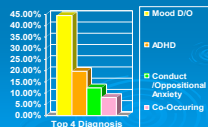
**Referring Agency:**

- 27.9% Mont. Co. Public Schools
- 25.6% Dept. of Juvenile Services/ DJS
- 10.3% Child Welfare/DSS
- 16.6% Community Agency
- 11.8% Community Professional
- 4.9% Core Service Agency
- 2% Family
- 1% Local Coordinating Council



**Diagnoses (Top 4):**

- 44.5% Mood Disorder
  - 19.8% ADHD
  - 12.4% Conduct/Oppositional/Anxiety
  - 8.1% Co-Occurring Disorder
- (2 or more Axis 1 Diagnosis 58.80%)



## Growth of Wraparound in Montgomery County

➤ **Started FY 2006**

- 4 youth returning from RTC
- 24 youth with Developmental Disabilities
- 2 service providers for RTC level youth
  - 1 Mentoring Provider
  - 1 Tutoring Provider



➤ **Ended FY 2007**

- 350 youth served in 2 years
  - 72 providers in an organized provider network
- Diverse network designed to meet the needs of youth and families as identified by the Child and Family Teams

## Outcomes for FY 2007

- **350** youth served of which **257** were new kids enrolled in FY07
- **88%** of youth remained at or reduced level of restrictiveness of placement
- **86%** of youth attended school at least 80% of the days school was available
- **72** Providers are contracted with Maryland Choices to provide services for families and children with mental health needs

## CANS & WFI

- Maryland Choices has imbedded the CANS into their treatment planning process with families. All families receive CANS assessments at intake with follow-up assessments at 90 day intervals.
- University of Maryland's Innovations Institute monitors Maryland Choices for fidelity using the WFI
- These two instruments together may provide Maryland Choices with greater information on ways to improve youth outcomes through improved fidelity.

## II: Findings from the Wraparound Fidelity Index (WFI) and the Child & Adolescent Needs and Strengths Assessment (CANS)

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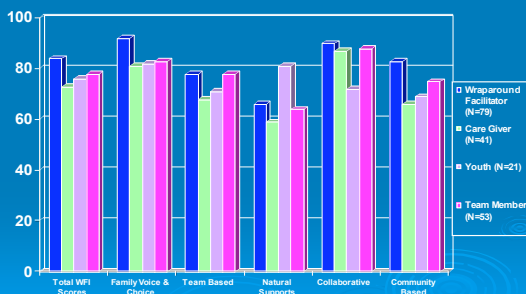
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## Purpose of WFI

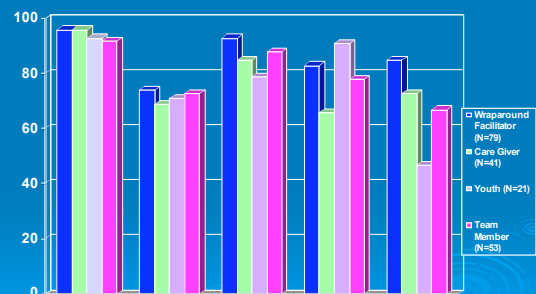
- The Wraparound Fidelity Index (WFI) is a set of interviews conducted with key informants who are involved in wraparound implementation
- Taken together, these interviews measure the quality or "fidelity" of wraparound implementation in a community, program, or site.
- The WFI-4 measures how well both the principles and core activities are implemented
- It is organized by the 4 phases of wraparound

### WFI Total & Element Scores

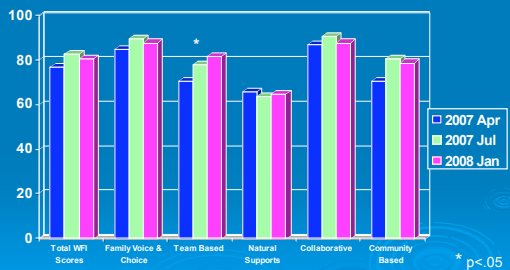
Data Collected Sept 2006 – December 2007 (N=102 Youth Teams)



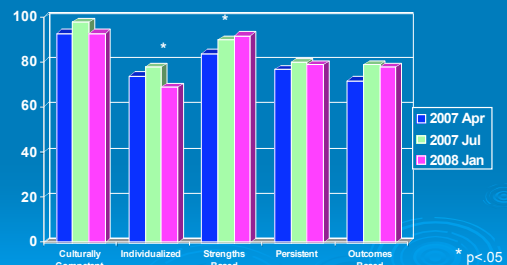
### WFI Total & Element Scores



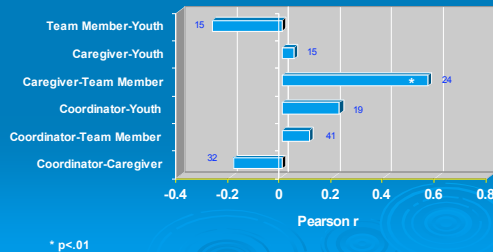
### Changes In WFI Total & Element Scores Overtime



### Changes In WFI Total & Element Scores Over Time



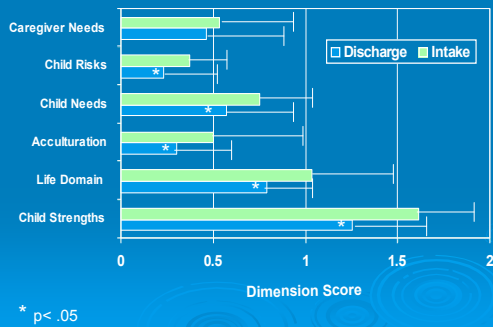
### Correlations Between WFI Total Fidelity Scores for Different Respondents



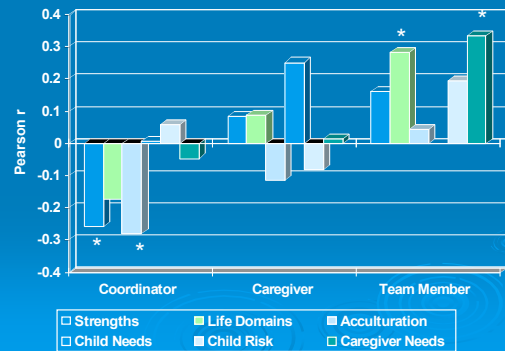
### Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths Assessment (CANS) Dimensions

- Provides a structured assessment of children and families along a set of dimensions relevant to service planning and decision making.
  - Child Strengths
  - Life Domain Functioning
  - Acculturation
  - Child Behavioral/Emotional Needs
  - Child Risk Behaviors
  - Caregiver Needs and Strengths

### CANS Changes: Intake to Discharge



### Relations Between Total WFI Score and Discharge CANS Scores for the Different Domains



### Summary

- Overall "good" fidelity to Wraparound was obtained
  - Facilitator ratings tended to be higher than other respondents
  - Higher fidelity ratings for key elements of Wraparound: Family Voice and Choice, Collaborative, Cultural Competence, Strength Based
  - Lower ratings for Natural Supports
  - Different levels of agreement among respondents
- Improvement in most dimensions of child needs and strengths over course of wraparound treatment
- Relation between levels of child and family functioning and fidelity may be complex and may vary by respondent.

### Resources

- CANS
  - [www.BuddinPraed.org](http://www.BuddinPraed.org)
  - Lyons, J.S. (2004). *Redressing the Emperor: Improving Our Children's Public Mental Health System*. Westport, CT: Praeger
- WFI
  - <http://depts.washington.edu/wrapeval>
  - Bruns, E.J., Suter, J.S., Force, M.D., & Burchard, J.D. (2005). Fidelity to the wraparound process and its association with outcomes. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, 14, 521-534.
  - Bruns, E.J., Burchard, J.D., Suter, J.C., & Force, M.D. (2005). Measuring fidelity within community treatments for children and families. In Epstein, M., Duchnowski, A., & Kutash, K. (Eds.) *Outcomes for Children and Youth with Emotional and Behavioral Disorders and their Families*, vol. 2. Austin, TX: Pro-ED.